

**FedEx squash**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Bhola Lal Chauhan of Sonargaon Hotel defeated Biman's Ram Jagadish 9-3, 9-6, 9-5 in the Open Division final to retain the Bangladesh Open Squash Championship at the Gulshan Club yesterday.

Dilu of Gulshan Club prevailed over Masud Rana of Dhaka Cantonment 10-8, 9-3, 9-6 to lift the title in A Division while Johnny Ram of Chittagong Club became Junior Division champion taming Raju 9-7, 4-9, 9-0, 2-9, 9-4.

In the Senior Division, Dhaka Club's Anisul Haque got the better of Gulshan Club's Ershad on way to his title with a battling 9-5, 9-4, 1-9, 9-2 win. Besides, in the third-place decider Swapan Parvez of Bogra Cantonment Club won 9-6, 9-4, 9-6 against Bishu Nath of Gulshan Club.

State Minister for Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Kamrul Islam witnessed the finals and gave away prizes. Gulshan Club's president ABM Kamal Uddin was the special guest while Tanvir, managing director of sponsors FedEx, was also present during the function.



Players and officials of Viqarunnissa School and College pose with Jute Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed (8th from L, standing) after the final of the Delta Life handball tournament yesterday.

**SA seek bite in bowling**



AFP, Johannesburg

South African captain Shaun Pollock could forfeit his opening role in the first Test against Sri Lanka which starts here on Friday, as selectors look at bolstering the national squad's bowling attack.

Selection convenor Omar Henry said bolstering the efficiency of South Africa's bowling attack was a prime objective when he announced a 13-man squad for the Test at the Wanderers, including two additional pace or swing bowlers.

Henry did not say whether the reorganisation of the bowling resources could include a switch for Pollock but said it was an option.

Pollock, 29, renowned as one of the steadiest bowlers in Test cricket, is third in the latest world bowling rankings but has failed in recent seasons to bowl at the pace which he had when he started his Test career seven seasons ago and there has been speculation for some time that he might be asked to relinquish the new ball.

Pollock, who has taken 263 wickets in 64 Tests, admitted after his side crushed Bangladesh in two Tests last month that a change in bowling order was a possibility, although he indicated he still believed he could play a new ball role.

"It could work to go for out-and-out pace at both ends but it is also a good thing to have someone with

experience and accuracy at one end with sheer pace at the other."

The recall of Steve Elworthy could mean that he would share the new ball with Makhaya Ntini, with Elworthy a steadier option than Mornantau Hayward, whose pace is offset by a tendency to bowl a large number of loose deliveries.

Elworthy and Ntini opened the bowling in the third and final one-day international against Bangladesh. Pollock bowled as first change.

In such a scenario, Pollock and all-rounder Jacques Kallis would take up the attack when the ball has lost some of its shine. Elworthy was not picked for the Tests against Bangladesh.

Kallis is under a minor fitness cloud after missing the South African domestic five-day final last weekend because of a hamstring strain. He is expected to play but his fitness will be assessed Thursday.

If Kallis cannot play, his likely replacement is all-rounder Andrew Hall, who had match figures of 11 for 99 with his swing bowling when unfancied provincial team Easterns upset favourites Western Province in the final.

Hall, who played in two Tests against Australia, could play in any event if the selectors opted for an all-pace attack.

The Wanderers is no longer the fast bowlers' paradise it used to be but it is nonetheless unlikely to offer much assistance to the spin bowlers.

In the absence of the unorthodox Paul Adams, left-arm spinner

Claude Henderson played against Bangladesh with only modest success.

Henderson was retained in the South African squad but had a disappointing performance for Western Province in the final, taking only three wickets in 73.3 overs in the second innings as Easterns ground out a winning total.

Sri Lanka will provide South Africa with their first major challenge in a home season which will culminate in the World Cup in February.

The key bowler for Sri Lanka will be off-spinner Muralitharan, who lost his place at the top of the world Test bowling rankings to Glenn McGrath following McGrath's recent performances against Pakistan.

Muralitharan has taken 70 wickets in 11 Tests against South Africa and only Gary Kirsten of the current South African team has scored a century against Sri Lanka when Muralitharan has been playing.

Sri Lanka have a stable batting order and their key batsmen all made runs in two warm-up matches in South Africa.

Russell Arnold, who made 98 against the Rest of South Africa in Lenasia Monday, looks set to open with Marvan Atapattu, with skipper Sanath Jayasuriya batting at number five behind Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jaywardene.

It is Sri Lanka's third tour of South Africa in six seasons and all the top order batsmen have played in South Africa previously.

**'Excuse me!'**



AFP, Auckland

Sir, writes one hopeful, I wish to make myself available to represent the New Zealand cricket team against India this summer.

With New Zealand's first class cricketers on strike, Owen Ferrier-Kerr and dozens of others are resurrecting boyhood dreams of representing their country, while keeping their tongues firmly in their cheeks.

"I am 43 years old, slightly overweight and a genuine number 11," he wrote in the letters column of the Dominion-Post.

"However, I can promise to make an effort as a medium slow (and getting slower) bowler. I will field wherever the captain puts me without complaint."

His letter, and an undercurrent of bitterness about the perceived greed of top players, is being mirrored across the country where touch rugby is now a bigger summer sport than cricket.

"I will never leave a tour with a feigned injury because the coach is being mean to me and play country cricket the next week," promises

Ferrier-Kerr, in a swipe at temperamental New Zealand bowler Chris Cairns.

The dispute is essentially an old-fashioned union brawl pitting management in the form of New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) Martin Snedden against workers, the Cricket Players Association (CPA) headed by Rob Nichols and supported by 128 first class players.

Nichols has made a series of demands, mostly about pay, which Snedden has said NZC cannot afford. CPA has in turn demanded to see the NZC accounting books, angering Snedden with the implication NZC cannot be trusted.

The dispute came to a head on Tuesday with the two sides far apart and the NZC insisting they were not planning any more talks to resolve the matter.

Sports commentator Jo Romanos told Radio New Zealand that with the country's team hovering just above minnows Bangladesh and Kenya, the question of who will face India barely matters.

Meanwhile the elder statesman of New Zealand cricket, 87-year-old Walter Hadlee issued strong criticism of the players.

"These players are already getting a very fair cut of the total

income. I can only put it down to greed," he said.

In the rugby-mad country where first class cricket is mostly played in empty stadiums and where most of the 94,000 registered players are children, the dispute is causing deep consternation in the media.

"New Zealand is facing a farcical cricketing summer with a virtual club-strength side being pitted against the might of India," the Dominion-Post said Wednesday.

The New Zealand Herald, in a front-page story, said the scramble was on to find any team that could face India in the first Test match starting December 12.

Although New Zealand law recognises the right of collective bargaining, Snedden, a lawyer and former first class cricketer, has made it clear he will scrape together a team to face India by going around the CPA.

"It won't be a club side but if we have to use players from outside the top group then we will," he told the Dominion-Post.

"This tour is going ahead, cricket will be played in New Zealand this summer and it just remains to be seen by which players."

The players have demanded a 60 percent or collective 2.7 million dollar (1.35 million US) pay increase but NZC's upgraded response was 450,000 dollars or about nine per cent.

The New Zealand Herald says the dispute is about more than money. The players are also demanding more say in how the game is run and for NZC to pay the association's running costs, estimated at 300,000 dollars per year.

The NZC have rejected the demands out of hand and have even prevented top players such as Cairns and Daniel Vettori receiving NZC medical treatment.

**BFF pick 25 for**

FROM PAGE 13 The selected players are: Biplab Bhattacharjee, Aminul Haque, Titumir Chowdhury Tito (goal-keeper), Rajani Kanta Barman, Nazrul Islam, Mohammad Sujon, Mahmudul Hasan, Mizanur Rahman, Hasan Al Mamun, Feroj Mahmud Tito, Masud Rana (defender), Abdul Qaiyum Sentu, Manwar Hossain, Arman Miah, Faisal Mahmud, Arif Khan Joy, Rokonzaman Kanchan, Parvez Babu, Saifur Rahman Moni, Mehdi Hasan Ujjal, Alfaz Ahmed, Majibur Rahman Ritu, Ariful Kabir Farhad, Murad Ahmed Milan and Saiful Islam (forward).

**Taibur leader**

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Taibur Rahman Sumon took a solo lead in the Open FIDE Rating chess tournament with maximum points after the end of the sixth round at the chess room of NSC yesterday.

In the round he defeated Shawkat Hossain Pallab who, along with Saifuddin Lavlu, Arman Monir, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin and Moniruzzaman Khan, was in the second place with five points each.

Lavlu beat Khorshed Alam, Shakil beat Nasir Uddin Mahmood, Arman beat Uten, Robin beat Kazi Rashed Dinayet and Moniruzzaman beat Khandaker Aminul Islam.

The seventh round games start today at 3:00 pm at the same venue.

**JU cricket**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Geography recorded a 72-run victory over Geology in the inter-department cricket championship of Jahangirnagar University (JU) at the Central playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Geography batted first and made 162 runs for six wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Mahmudul scored highest 41 runs while Kawser and Rana made 29 and 23 runs respectively.

Rashed claimed four wickets for 31 runs.

In reply, Geology were all out for 90 in the 20.2 overs.

Alam was their highest contributor with 33 runs.

Babu and Sanjib grabbed three wickets each for 19 and 28 runs respectively.

**Zim's WC status undecided yet**

REUTERS, London

A security delegation from the International Cricket Council (ICC) will arrive in Zimbabwe later this month to help decide whether the country should be allowed to stage World Cup fixtures next year.

The delegation, headed by ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed, will spend three days in the country after arriving on November 26. Zimbabwe is due to host six World Cup group games in Harare and Bulawayo.

ICC president Malcolm Gray stressed on Wednesday that the only issues would be security and safety for teams and officials.

"The ICC and its members are only concerned with cricket-related issues," said Gray in a statement.

"The political issues surrounding Zimbabwe are matters for politicians." He said while some countries had imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe "no government in any part of the world has identified sporting sanctions as an appropriate tool to achieve a political outcome".

The Australian team refused to tour Zimbabwe in March after their government advised its citizens not to travel, citing fears of possible election violence.

**A draw most**

FROM PAGE 13 giving the impression that every ball is there to be defended. The game is all but heading for a draw unless the final day produces a sensational twist. The match will resume at 9.15 am, half an hour ahead of schedule.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard on the third day of the four-day Challenge Trophy match between Bangladesh national team and the Bangladesh A team at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday:

**NATIONAL TEAM:** First innings 328 all out in 105 overs (Hannan 83, Kapali 52, K Mahmud 34, Al-Shahriar 35; Ashrafur 5-104, Alamgir 2-59, Alamgir 2-48)

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings (overnight 231 for 675 overs) Mehrob b Monjurul 4

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monjurul	20	10	25	3
Taposh	14	2	44	0
Rafique	19.1	8	54	3
Talha	19	6	50	0
K Mahmud	17	8	27	3
Alok	11	1	52	0
Sanwar	7	2	24	0
Bashar	1	0	2	0
Anwar	6	2	24	0

**NATIONAL TEAM:** Second innings Hannan lbw b Alamgir 16

Al-Shahriar batting 39  
Javed batting 15  
Extras: (lb-7, nb-6) 13  
Total: (For 1 wicket in 26 overs) 83  
Fall of wicket: 1-34

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alamgir	6	0	26	1
Hasilul	7	1	24	0
Aminul	2	0	3	0
Enamul	5	0	12	0
Ashrafur	5	2	10	0
Ehsanul	1	0	1	0

**Buddhism his inspiration**



REUTERS, Bangkok

Asia's top tennis player, Paradorn Srichaphan, is looking to the power of Buddhist prayer and a smattering of superstition to propel him into the world's top 10.

The 23-year-old Thai, dubbed the "Buddhist bomber" by some opponents after his rise from 120th in the world at the start of the year to 16th, says devout religious beliefs have given him the mental strength of a champion.

"These days I pray before going to bed every night," Paradorn told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday. "It makes me much cooler during the games. Without it, I wouldn't have come this far."

Paradorn also believes in luck. He pulls on his favourite red shirt for the closing stages of a match he thinks he will win and insists on always using just one dressing cubicle which he picks out at the beginning of each tournament.

Paradorn, who finished an extraordinary year with two ATP titles, said he was eyeing a top-10 ranking in 2003 but stopped short of saying he would win a grand slam next year.

"I hoped to be in the top 20 rankings this year and I did. So next year I will try to reach a single-digit ranking," said Paradorn who reached the Paris Masters semi-finals at the weekend.

"It is basic psychology that if you tell yourself 'I can do it', then you

can. There is nothing human beings can't do."

After a good start to the season when he reached the semi-finals in Chennai, India, and his first ATP final in Brest, Paradorn's form dipped during the claycourt season when he suffered three consecutive first-round defeats.

Everything changed at Wimbledon, however, where he produced one of the biggest shocks of the year to crush Andre Agassi in



PARADORN SRICHAPHAN

straight sets in the second round. Paradorn beat Lleyton Hewitt in the quarter-finals of the \$800,000 (500,000 pounds) Japan Open last month but then lost to the world number one on Saturday in Paris.

Despite his two victories in Long Island and Stockholm this year, Paradorn, whose modesty and good manners have made him a crowd favourite from Paris to Tokyo, said it would be "very difficult" for him to win a grand slam next year.

Unlike other top players who surround themselves with an entourage of physiotherapists, psychologists and fitness trainers, Paradorn travels just with his coach, Chanachai, who also happens to be his father.

Paradorn dismisses suggestions that he should find a professional to replace his father, his coach since the age of six.

"I've heard these suggestions for four years but my father's work has proved itself as I've moved up from 500th rank to 18th," said Paradorn, who turned professional in 1997.

"My father and I have worked closely together. He's my best coach."

Paradorn's emergence as one of the game's most exciting young players is a major boost for the men's game which is sometimes accused of lacking characters.

In his native Thailand, Paradorn fever grips the country, giving a boost to tennis-related businesses.

The Yonex tennis racket Paradorn uses has become a scarce commodity in Thailand and across Asia, according to distributors.

Thai parents are queuing up to enrol their children on tennis courses in the hope that they will emulate Paradorn.

"I'll try to improve my performance to be a good role model for children, to be a hero in their hearts," Paradorn said.

Most Thai people are given a nickname at birth and Paradorn was appropriately called "Ball".

After this year's feats, Thais are already calling him "Super Ball".

**Ashes to burn again**

FROM PAGE 13

gled while bowling in the three-day Test leadup game with Queensland here.

Flintoff looked out of condition during training, heightening concerns that England's bowling attack - hammered for 582 by Queensland last weekend - wouldn't have enough out and thrust to bowl out Australia twice on the Gabba track.

Former England captain Michael Atherton, writing in a British newspaper, has blasted the medical side of England's cricket as "amateurish" and lagging, by definition, behind the professional set-up of the Australians.

Steve Waugh's Australians are supremely confident, yet respectful of England's capabilities, as they look for an eighth consecutive Ashes series' victory in Test cricket's traditional contest.

England has been badly mauled by Australia in recent Ashes series. Last year Australia won 4-1 in England and in the corresponding series here in 1998-99 it was 3-1. In the last 27 Test encounters, Australia have won 17, England six with four draws.

"I see the first day of the Test as important to get on top early," skipper Waugh said on Wednesday.

"Nasser Hussain feels as if England haven't played their best cricket against us, but that has happened for a reason because we've played good cricket."

"There's no doubt that they have some very good players, we have a lot of respect for them."

"They've obviously had some players who've done very well for the last 12 months, but this is an Ashes contest, we've won the last seven series in a row and I see a lot of pressure will be on those younger guys to perform against Australia."

Fletcher, who along with Hussain

is plotting on ways of upsetting Australia, said his team was disappointed at how they played against Australia in the last Ashes series in 2001.

"I must say that we had four major injuries, whether they would have made a difference I don't know," Fletcher said on Wednesday.

Fletcher said England had studied match videos of New Zealand's tour here last summer when the unfancied Kiwis held the Australians to three drawn Tests.

"We had a look at their strategy, certain areas they bowled, field placings to see if it was the same strategy we used against the Aussies in the UK."

"We just want to confirm if we're going down the right lines or if there is anything we can learn (from NZ), you can always learn in this game."

Fletcher said opener Marcus Trescothick and Michael Vaughan had to set their team a platform from which to build big totals to put Australia under pressure.

"That's where we have improved considerably, those two young guys have gone out there and have developed into a highly-effective opening pair and this will be their first Test away from home against a really good bowling side," he said.

"There are always expectations with an Ashes series, that's why it is always such an important series, it's the one the guys really want to win, they expect a lot from themselves and they appreciate the expectations from their supporters."

**TEAMS**

**AUSTRALIA:** Steve Waugh (captain), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Andrew Bichel, Glenn

**A Sarwan**

FROM PAGE 13

Drakes	10	1	62	1
Hooper	10	2	46	1
N'mootoo	8	0	45	1
Gayle	2	0	16	0

**WEST INDIES**

W Hinds c Dravid b Nehra	93
Gayle c Yadav b Agarkar	7
Samuels b Kumble	51
Sarwan not out	83
Hooper c Yadav b Sehwaq	4
Chanderpaul c Ganguly b Nehra	23
Jacobs run out	0
Nagamootoo not out	1
Extras: (b-2, lb-5, w-16)	23
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	285

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-114, 3-201, 4-206, 5-277, 6-279

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nehra	9	1	50	2
Agarkar	9	1	42	1
Yadav	4	0	22	0
Harbhajan	9	0	68	0
Kumble	7	0	48	1
Sehwaq	10	0	37	1
Yuvraj	2	0	11	0

**Result: West Indies won by four wickets.**

**Man-of-the-match: Ramnaresh Sarwan.**

**Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Avi Jayaprakash (India).**

**Second ODI: Nov 16, Nagpur.**

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- |                               |                          |                 |                                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Disposes of, gangster-style | 41 Requisite fan's setup | 2 Lose bane     | 22 Military observation, for short |
| 5 Chart                       | 45 Sign up again         | 4 Beetle amulet | 24 Low island                      |
| 8 Showed up                   | 49 Vies                  | 5 He'll fix     | 25 Tribute in verse                |
| 12 After-bath applica-        | 52 First victim          | 6 Pas wagon     | 26 Seaside-ness                    |
| 13 Psychia-                   |                          |                 |                                    |