



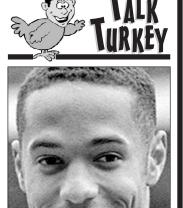
The Olympic Hymn, played when the Olympic Flag is raised, was composed by Spyros Samaras and the words added by Kostis Palamas. The Olympic Hymn was first played at the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens but wasn't declared the official hymn by the IOC until 1957.



English Premier Football League Liverpool vs Sunderland Repeat at 8:30 am Western Union World Football Repeat at 12:30 pm Cricket Programming Legends Of Cricket Repeat at 7:00 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm STAR Sports

Australia vs England Second Test, Day Two Live at 6:27 am Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm

Australia vs England Second Test, Day Two Hiahliahts Same Day Delay at5 8:30 pm



### **Thierry Henry**

# **Selectors strike balance** Naimur, Mahmud surprise-struck

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Tests.

Former national captain Naimur Rahman, young batsmen Mohammad Ashraful and Ehsanul Hague returned to the national fold vesterday for the Coca-Cola oneday series against the West Indies A three-member selection panel

headed by Aliul Islam appeared to have done a lot of homework before announcing the 14-member Bangladesh squad yesterday.

West Indies are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on November 25 to play in three one-day internationals and Two Tests.

It was however an unexpected nod for Naimur in the senior team since he lost his job both as captain and player after the Test series against Zimbabwe last year. "He is the best available offspinner among the lot. We felt that he would be effective against the left-hander dominated West Indies," said the chief selector in front of a

full house reporters at the BCB's Bangabandhu national Stadium office Ashraful returns to the side after he was dropped from the Bangladesh's tour of South Africa. The youngest Test centurion however impressed the selectors with his talent, not by any outstanding performance in the Challenge Trophy.

"He is a talented player and we do not want to keep him out of the team for a long time. He did not score a lot of runs but he bowled very well in the Challenge Trophy," said Aliul

Ehsanul Haque also got a deserving recall after he was axed playing only a Test match against Sri Lanka in July.

"He is a good batsman and we feel that he would do well as a toporder batsman." said Aliul. adding that he was certainly a better batsman than Javed Omar in one-day cricket.

But the maiden selection of Aliul's committee that included former national all-rounder Omar Khaled Rumi and left-arm paceman GM Nowsher Prince sprang a real surprise when they axed all-rounder Khaled Mahmud along with three other players who toured South Africa last month.

Mahmud's omission was a bolt from the blue for the cricket followas the outsy all-rounder had been a consistent performer in the national team. But the selectors stood by their decision pointing out that Mahmud did not fit in their

strategy for the one-dayers and the tions." said Aliul.

He also said that they preferred "We have decided to be specialist bowlers to all-rounders in equipped with a spinner all-rounder selecting the team. "We need to bowl 50 overs than a seamer all-rounder that we

deemed more useful on this condiagainst a guality team like West



THE LONG WALK BACK: A visibly rattled national all-rounder Khaled Mahmud

leaving the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday after the squad for the one day internationals against the West Indies was announced. Mahmud, who had been to ground to practice, was apparently shocked to find his name omitted from the 14-man squad to face the Windies.



Indies. I do not think Mahmud is capable of bowling ten overs against a top class opponents. Besides, the condition here suits spinners than a medium pacer," he observed.

Mahmud apart, the selectors also dropped experienced opener Javed Omar, Anwar Hossain Munir and Rafiqul Islam from the one-day squad.

Young opener Rafiqul, who sustained a head injury in a road accident, was however ruled out of the series. Javed and paceman Munir still managed to have their places on the stand by list along with former national captain Aminul Islam.

The selectors kept seven players in the stand by list. The long list also included off-spinner Fahim Muntasir, middle-order batsman Mazharul Haque and young wicketkeeperAnwarHossain.

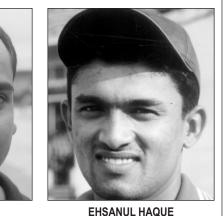
"The seven players will train together with the selected fourteen and a few of them will certainly be picked for the Test squads," said the chief selector. He also confirmed that Aminul is all set to make a Test return after being dropped from the South Africa squad.

Though Aminul's 135 in the Challenge Trophy final impressed the selectors, but the other two experienced campaigners Akram Khan and Minhazul Abedin failed to earn the nod.

### SQUAD

Khaled Mashud (captain), Al-Shahriar, Hannan Sarker, Ehsanul Haque, Habibul Bashar, Sanwar Hossain, Alok Kapali, Mohammad Rafique, Taposh Baishya, Talha Jubair, Monjurul Islam, Mohammad Ashraful, Naimur Rahman and Tushar Imran.

Stand-by: Anwar Hossain wicketkeeper), Aminul Islam, Mazharul Haque, Anwar Hossain Munir and Javed Omar Belim.





BCB chief selector Aliul Islam (C) and his deputies GM Nowsher Prince (R) and Omar Khaled Rumi listen to a reporter's query during a press conference yesterday.

India survived a dramatic mid-

innings collapse to post a series-

leveling three-wicket victory over

the West Indies in the crucial sixth

one-day international here on

India, chasing 202 to win, were

strongly placed at 147-3 before

slipping to 148-6 in the space of 11

deliveries in a major slide engi-

neered by fast bowlers Vasbert

India were indebted to unher-

alded left-arm spinner Murali Kartik

AFP, Jodhpur

Thursday

Sunday

# Bangladesh play Myanmar today

### **SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh national football team will take on the Myanmar under-23 side in a friendly match at the Youth Training Centre in Yangoon today afternoon

Although Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) had said that Bandladesh's two friendly matches in Yangoon would be against the Mvanmar national team, it was confirmed by the BFF executive secretary Sankar Sikder yesterday evening that both the matches will be played against the under-23 side.

These matches have been arranged as part of Bangladesh's preparation for the forthcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship to be held in Dhaka from January 10 to 20.

for restricting their opponents. The second friendly match will be Kartik finished with 3-36 off 10 overs held at the same venue on November for his best effort in four matches 24. The team is scheduled to return home on the following day.

29th national Chess 31 leaders **SPORTS REPORTER** 

## India draw level Cricket "We had our backs to the wall

but the boys responded well," said stand-in India captain Rahul Dravid. "Our bowlers, especially spin-

ners, did a good job by restricting them to 201. That was the key and then Bangar kept his nerve in a tight situation to see us home.

The West Indies did not give up easily and had a chance to put more pressure on India, but Ricardo Powell dropped Bangar at mid-off off part-time spinner Marlon Samuels when the total was 169.

Bangar went on to add 39 with Mohammad Kaif for the seventh wicket, which proved vital in the first low-scoring match of the series.

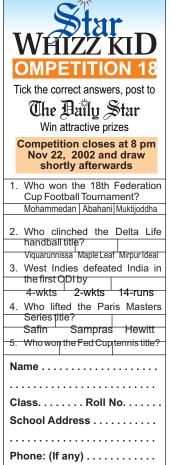
Drakes and Corey Collymore. "It was criminal not to last 50 Sanjay Bangar (32 not out) then overs," said West Indies skipper held his nerve under pressure to Carl Hooper whose team was help India win with 22 balls to spare. bundled out in the 47th over after The seventh and decisive onebeing put in to bat. dayer will be held at Vijaywada on

"I think 15-20 more runs would have made a difference because the pitch was slow and the bounce was a bit inconsistent."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



(French soccer superstar) "When I see a player like Raul who has never won the Ballon d'Or (European Footballer-of-the-Year award) I'm pretty surprised.



## Women's soccer W Bengal due on Dec 23

UNB, Dhaka

A 24-member West Bengal women's football team will arrive here on December 23 to play an exhibition match against Bangladesh on the occasion of "Sports Week" in Bangladesh.

The touring team may also play some exhibition matches against local teams on their way to Dhaka from Kolkata by road.

Bangladesh Football Federation arranged the tour programme for the West Bengal team to popularise women's football in the country and fulfil theAFC and FIFA requirements

**MD ASHRAFUL** 

AFP, Adelaide

Michael Vaughan cashed in on a

disputed catch ruling to score his

fifth century in nine Tests and lift

England's spirits on the opening day

of the second Ashes Test at

The Yorkshire right-hander

scored 177 -- the highest score by

an Englishman in a Test in Australia

for 27 years -- as England hit back

after going down by 384 runs in the

England finished the day at 295

for four after winning the toss,

thanks in part to some uncharacter-

istically poor fielding by Australia

minutes into the day when Vaughan.

The pivotal moment came 45

Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

first Test in Brisbane

with five catches dropped.

### Wagar loud in mates' praise Cricket **INTERNET**, Bulawayo

Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis voiced pride at his side's improved performance after leading them to a 2-0 Test series win in Zimbabwe this week

The team was under pressure to raise its game following a recent three-Test whitewash at the hands ofAustralia

And Waqar got the response he was looking for as they wrapped up the second Test by a 10-wicket margin, having won the first Test by 119 runs the week before. "We have come through a very bad patch, and it's good to see the

boys playing well and winning 2-0," he said. "The bowling and the batting were brilliant but we need to work on

our fielding, especially with the onedayers coming up." Waqar took four for 78 as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 281, SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Murali goes down under for surgery AFP, Melbourne

Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has arrived here for a hernia operation, putting him in major doubt for this season's triangular one-day cricket series, the Sri Lankan Cricket Board said on Thursday.

Muralitharan, who has moved to third on the all-time list of Test wicket-takers. flew into Melbourne after the Sri Lankans' tour of South Africa and will undergo surgery within davs.

A Sri Lankan Cricket Board spokesperson confirmed the freakish off-spinner would have an operation but could not say how long he would be out of cricket

"He has flown to Australia from South Africa to undergo an operation for a hernia," the board spokesperson told the Australian Associated Press.

NAIMUR RAHMAN

three sixes.

n Melbourne in 1974-1975

Lord's last May, back-to-back hun-

Lord's and Nottingham, and then

195 in the fourth Test against India

# Lucky Vaughan's big ton

at The Oval in September. on 19, refused to walk as the Australians celebrated what they "That's probably the best century," Vaughan said of Thursday's thought was a diving catch by Justin Langer in the covers off Andy Bichel. knock. The verdict went to the third

"The Australians are always asking questions, they have a umpire Steve Davis, who after repeated viewings of replays, gave Vaughan the benefit of the doubt. fantastic attack and those hundreds in the summer were great but to Vaughan was finally out three score a hundred against Australia in Australia has to be the pinnacle."

balls before scheduled stumps when he edged Bichel to Shane After the day's play, Vaughan Warne. He batted for 371 minutes, defended his actions in standing his faced 306 balls and hit 22 fours and ground during the disputed catch drama and waiting for the third His knock was the highest by an umpire

Englishman in Australia since Mike "At first I thought I was gone," Denness scored 188 in the final Test Vaughan said. "But there was a suspicion in my mind that the ball It continues a sensational six had touched the ground, that's why l months for 28-year-old Vaughan, stood my ground. who scored 115 against Sri Lanka at

"The umpire asked for the replays and they suggested the ball dreds (100 and 197) against India at had touched the ground. SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Cricketers Taposh Baishya (M) and Alok Kapali check-in at the Purbani Hotel after learning that they have retained their places in the national squad to play West Indies yesterday.

lead in the Dhaka Metropolis gualifying round of the 29th national Chess Championship at the end of second round at the NSC chess room yesterday afternoon.

On the second day of the nineround qualifying round, Kazal, Bobby, Uten, Labu, Alam, Taher, zahid, Kithu, Sujan, Hanif, Naser, Matiur, Kashem, Mohan, Alamgir, Mowla, Mujibur, Shamim, Zainal, Lipon, Hirak, Moni, Shamim Khan, Ilyas, Masud, Anwar, Zahid, Firoz, Mamun, Meser and Himel registered their second successive wins and remained atop the 132-player qualifying round table with two points each.

The third round begins at the

same venue today at 3 pm.

# Magura soccer

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT**

Shafiq Smriti Sangsad blanked Madanpur Harizan Smriti Sangsad 3-0 in the Econo First Division Football League at the Magura Stadium vesterday.

Tayeb scored two goals in the first half while Liton netted one in the second half for the winners.

AH Khan Smriti Sangsad take on New Star Club today at the same venue.

PHOTO: AFP

were drawn up following a deal with

the ruling body's marketing partner

Global Cricket Corporation (GCC)

Test countries, particularly endorse-

ment-rich Indian cricketers, are

opposing them as they feel it will

affect their commercial endorse-

ments with companies seen to be in conflict with official World Cup

In New Delhi, Speed has met

with World Cup sponsors and the

Board of Control for Cricket in India

(BCCI) president Jagmohan

Dalmiya on Wednesday over the

move forward. We had discussions

today and moved the process

forward," Speed said after his

"We have a fairly long process to

But leading players from many

worth 550 million dollars.

Stand-in India captain Rahul Dravid, who scored team highest 58, here pulls one during the sixth one-day international against West Indies in Jodhpur yesterday.

# Indians can solve it

## Cricket

#### **REUTERS**, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) feels Indian players still remain key to resolving a vexed contract issue which could affect next year's World Cup in South Africa.

"Apparently Indian players are more affected than those from other countries," ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed told reporters on Wednesday.

He was asked whether he still regarded Indian players as the key to resolving the problem.

"We understand fully what the positions are. We are moving for-. ward." he said.

PHOTO: STAR

Speed and a set of ICC officials are meeting with official World Cup sponsors in New Delhi to find ways

to sort out a dispute over the ICC's participation contract, mainly its controversial player images and ambush marketing clauses.



MALCOLM SPEED

meeting with Dalmiya. The player terms, which will An ICC official involved in the apply for all ICC events until 2007, SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

sponsors.

last two days.