

## RU cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Management moved into the final with a six-wicket victory over Law and Justice in the inter-department cricket tournament of Rajshahi University at the varsity ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Law and Justice batted first and scored 104 runs all out in 23.4 overs.

Samu made highest 25 runs. Sanwar claimed 3 wickets for 25 runs.

In reply, Management reached the target of 105 runs losing four wickets in 19 overs.

Shohag scored highest 33 while Polash contributed 26 runs.

Moni and Babu claimed 3 wickets each for 32 and 20 runs respectively.

Earlier on Sunday, Finance and Banking reached the final beating Marketing in the first semifinal.

## Goodwin feels for Zimbabwe

REUTERS, Melbourne

Former Zimbabwe batsman Murray Goodwin hopes World Cup matches will go ahead as planned in his country next month, but he believes the game is suffering there because of its poor administration.

The 30-year-old Goodwin, who last August turned down an offer to play for the country of his birth in the World Cup, has described the game in Zimbabwe as "unprofessional" and fears for its future if the matches are moved elsewhere.

"I think they must play there (in Zimbabwe), otherwise cricket will be pretty much a non-event in years to come," he told The Sunday Age newspaper.

"It's an absolute dog show -- what's happening there -- and it's not good for the cricket."

"But I also think it (a World Cup boycott) would be good in the sense that it would send a message to the (Zimbabwe) government to jolt their ideas up about the country."

"That's the catch-22 situation but I think, as far as cricket development goes in the country and the financial situation, they must play there."

Both the British and Australian governments have raised concerns about playing World Cup matches in Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe's regime has attracted widespread criticism for its land reform programme.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is scheduled to meet in London on Tuesday to decide whether the England team should play their match against Zimbabwe in Harare on February 13.

Six of the 54 games in the February 9 to March 23 tournament, which is being staged mainly in South Africa, are scheduled to be played in Zimbabwe. Kenya is hosting two.

Goodwin, who played 19 Tests and 71 one-day internationals before returning to Western Australia for the 2000-01 domestic season, believes the administration of cricket in Zimbabwe has become too political.

"I do have regrets at the way players are treated over there," he said.

"A little bit has changed now, but it had to take a few of us to retire and leave the team in a bit of bother, I suppose."

"It (the game) is struggling and a lot to do with that is the way it's run. It's very political."

## Murali

FROM PAGE 13

1-36 from his 10 overs.

India paceman Javagal Srinath is next in the line to make the 300 club with 297 wickets and has a bright chance to get there as his side meet New Zealand in the last of the seven-match one-day series Tuesday.

## Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 13

Taqril batting 10  
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-5, w-1) 15  
Total: (For 4 wkt in 69 overs) 251

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-73, 3-108, 4-210.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Al-Amin 16 3 65 1  
Russell 10 1 43 0  
Razzak 17 4 46 1  
Rana 14 3 65 1  
Jamaluddin 12 3 23 0

## Ganguly

FROM PAGE 13

strike bowler Shane Bond, who is suffering from an ear infection.

Paul Hitchcock is expected to join the squad as a back-up for Bond.

## TEAMS

**NEW ZEALAND** (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Mathew Sinclair, Chris Harris, Chris Cairns, Scott Styris, Lou Vincent, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Andre Adams, Daryl Tuffey, Shane Bond, Daniel Vettori.

**INDIA** (from): Saurav Ganguly (captain), Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Sanjay Bangar, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Javagal Srinath, Ashish Nehra, Dinesh Mongia, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Parthiv Patel, Venkatesh Lakman, Rakesh Patel.

## Muralitharan box

## Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Factbox on Muttiah Muralitharan after the Sri Lanka off-spinner took his 300th one-day wicket on Monday:

Born: April 17, 1972. The world's leading bowler in Test history according to cricket bible Wisden as well as the most controversial due to his unique action.

ODI debut: Aug 1993 v India, Colombo. ODIs: 202.

Test debut: Aug 92 v Australia, Colombo, 437 wkt at 23.52. 78 matches.

Third in the all-time Test wicket-taking list, behind Courtney Walsh and Shane Warne and fourth in the all-time one-day list, only two wickets behind India's Anil Kumble on 302.

Named by Wisden as greatest Test bowler of all time (and 7th in the one-day list). Prodigious turner of the ball, combining finger spin and wrist rotation as well as unbridled aggression.

Began playing as a medium pacer. Dad ran a sweet business in Kandy. Loves rugby.

Called for throwing (straightening arm during delivery) during tours to Australia in 1995-96 and 1998-99. Action cleared by ICC, cricket's world governing body.

1998, took match figures of 16 for 220 against England, the 5th best in history.

Oct 2000, took his ODI best of 7-30 v India in Champions Trophy. Claimed 75 Test wickets at 19.51 in the calendar year, a record for a spin bowler.

Aug 2001, took 8-87 against India in the 3rd Test, including a ball compared with Shane Warne's 'Ball of the Century' -- pitched outside leg stump and caught the off to dismiss opener Sadagopan Ramesh.

Complained during tour of England in June of lack of support from rest of Sri Lanka's bowlers. "There is so much pressure on me because I have to take all the wickets. I can't bowl a miracle spell every time."

Has taken 10 wickets in a match for a world record 11 times.

Nov, undergoes hernia operation, making comeback in one-day match against Australia in Jan 2003.

Dec, named by cricket bible Wisden as the best bowler in Test history.

Jan 2003, returns to Sri Lanka team for triangular one-day series tournament against England and Australia in Australia after missing the first three matches because of injury.

Takes 2-44 in his comeback match in Sydney against Australia on January 9 as the tourists win their first game of the series, by 79 runs.

In the next match, against England in Sydney four days later, Muralitharan dismisses England's Jimmy Anderson to become the fourth player to reach 300 wickets in one-day internationals.

perverse and inequitable that cricket is expected to make what amounts to no more than a token and symbolic gesture when there have been no international sporting sanctions applied against Zimbabwe, and they haven't been expelled from the Commonwealth.

"We don't believe that cancelling one cricket match will help to put food into people's stomachs and fuel into people's cars."

"I fail to understand that playing in Harare means we are supporting the regime in Zimbabwe -- any more than playing in Sri Lanka means we are supporting the Sinhalese stance towards the Tamils, or playing in Pakistan means we are condoning military rule in preference to democracy."

Both the ICC and ECB have repeatedly said that the only reason for calling off the Harare match and the five other World Cup fixture in Zimbabwe would be on safety grounds.

The ICC made its decision after sending an inspection team to Zimbabwe in November but on Saturday announced the creation of a new committee to monitor the situation.

Lamb, who was a member of the November party, added: "The neatest solution to all of this, ironically, was if the security situation were to deteriorate and the ICC were to revisit their decision."

"They have said they were prepared to do that if there was a danger or a risk to players and officials in Harare and Bulawayo."

The bulk of the 54 World Cup matches in the February 8 -- March 23 tournament are due to take place in South Africa.

Contingency arrangements are in place to move fixtures there in the event of cancellations in Zimbabwe and/or Kenya, where another ICC inspection team is due to arrive next week to see if it is safe to go ahead with the two matches due to take place in Nairobi.

Concerns about Kenya's safety and security as a venue were raised in the wake of terror attacks in Mombassa in November.

The ECB expect to pay up to one million pounds (1.6 million dollars) to the International Cricket Council (ICC) if they refuse to play in Harare on political grounds.

And the ECB are also concerned

by bowling slow and wide, accidentally got the last wicket.

Becomes youngest and quickest to take 400 Test wickets in 3rd Test v Zimbabwe, taking 30 wickets at 9.8.

Controversy over action flares again in Feb when Bishen Bedi, interviewed by Wisden, likened him to a "javelin thrower".

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## Nat'l junior chess Parag heads G-27

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion Mehdi Hasan Parag headed a group of 27 players on two points in the 24th National Junior Chess Championship yesterday.

The players are Ejaz, Javed, Liza, Sagar, Mostafa, Saleheen, Obaidul (Shahin), Robi, Bari, Razzak, Belal, Zia, Masud, Iqbal, Elzin, Meraj, Aman, Nazrul, Rajib, Tarif, Shahin, Arifeen, Bilash, Alam and Ali.

In the second round Parag beat Kamrul, Ejaz beat Prodip, Robin beat Jahan, Javed beat Sifat, Liza beat Mamun, Sagar beat Shahjahan, Mostafa beat Amin and Saleheen beat Erfan.

Third round games start at 3 pm. Meanwhile, the selection phase for the 24th National Women's Championship begins today. Eight players will qualify for the final phase.

They will join holder Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, IWM Rani Hamid, Zakia Sultan and Shamima Akhtar Liza play directly in the final round.

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Plans to move World Cup fixtures from Zimbabwe have been shelved for the time being, tournament organisers said on Monday.

However if the International Cricket Council (ICC) were to withdraw its support of the six matches being played in the politically charged country, then they could still be moved to South Africa where the bulk of the tournament is to be staged, they added.

England and Australia, who are scheduled to play first round games in Zimbabwe, are under pressure from their governments not to play in the country on political grounds.

The prospect of teams refusing to play in Zimbabwe prompted speculation that the matches would be moved.

"The contingency had been in place for quite a while, but it was overtaken after the International Cricket Council (ICC) ruled that the matches could go ahead," World Cup communications director Rodney Hartman told Reuters.

"If the ICC decides to move the six games, then the contingency plan can be resurrected," Hartman said. "Nothing has changed to suggest those matches will be moved."

Both the ICC and ECB have repeatedly said that the only reason for calling off the Harare match and the five other World Cup fixture in Zimbabwe would be on safety grounds.

The ICC made its decision after sending an inspection team to Zimbabwe in November but on Saturday announced the creation of a new committee to monitor the situation.

Lamb, who was a member of the November party, added: "The neatest solution to all of this, ironically, was if the security situation were to deteriorate and the ICC were to revisit their decision."

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