

## Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib led the table with 6.5 points after the seventh round game of the Shahjalal Bank International Rating Chess tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

Shafiq Ahmed and Moniruzzaman Khan were jointly in the second position with 5.5 points each.

Following are the seventh round games results: Rajib beat Arman, Shafiq beat Ranadev, Lavlu beat Chapal, Utan beat Sohel, Amir beat Main and Mostafa beat Aminul. Monir got walk over against Aminul.

## Rios, Sanchez face-off

AFP, Vina Del Mar

Chile's homegrown Marcelo Rios was due to meet unseeded Spaniard David Sanchez in the final of the 345,000-dollar ATP tournament here on Sunday.

Third seed Rios defeated Argentina's Gaston Gaudio, also the top seed, 6-3, 6-2 on Saturday to set up the final against Sanchez, who beat fellow Spaniard Albert Montanes 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-1 in the first semi-final.

This is the fourth time Rios has reached the final at this event but he has never been champion.

## Warne instigated?

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take, it's important to learn from it."

Warne said he was extremely ignorant in his younger days.

"I'm not saying I know everything now but I know a hell of a lot more – and I'm enjoying it," he said.

"It's only been in the last 18 months that it's started to happen but I'm finally feeling like I'm Warne again."

If found guilty this week 33-year-old Warne faces a possible two-year ban from cricket, a blow that would almost certainly kill off his international career.

## An adopted

FROM PAGE 16

switch on a radio.

"My wife rang on the way home and said, 'Are you listening to this?' and I said no and she told me that I was being silly.

"We kept driving and she rang me again and said, 'Turn on the radio, he's on 96'.

"I got home when he was on 106 and watched the end of his innings.

"But my wife taped it and I'm going to lock myself in the school hall put it on the big screen, put the lights down and watch it by myself – and she is happy for me to do that.

"Now that is a true Valentine's gift."

## CUP DIARY

FROM PAGE 16

## DOT BALL CLUB

A group of 20 'entrepreneurs' have begun a new trend. Instead of holding up '4' and '6' placards when a boundary is struck, they hold up yellow placards with a large, black dot on them whenever no run is scored. They are statisticians who have worked out that in 90 per cent of one-dayers it is the team that bowl most dot balls who win. They have even gained official sanctioning from Bacher, who said: "In a game that traditionally prides itself on statistical data, it is surprising that the dot ball has, until now, not been accorded the recognition it deserves."

## India

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came down heavily on captain Saurav Ganguly, who has been struggling with form, scoring just 128 runs in his last 10 one-dayers.

"I have to enter a formal protest against the television coverage of Saurav Ganguly at the crease. TV should not be allowed to do any replays of Saurav's batting, or playing, or swishing, or whatever he is doing after he wins the toss."

Ganguly had perished caught behind trying to get to a wicket ball, something he has been seen doing often in recent matches, and new sensation Virender Sehwag too had followed in the same manner.

"It is embarrassing to watch the Indian captain go back and forth, back and forth when the ball is in some other district. In fact these TV sadists should be ordered to show Saurav only in fast forward mode," Akbar wrote.

"Sehwag, I think, has got his priorities right. He knows that obedience works. If the Boss can convert a wide into a catch, well, so can he. Can't upset the Boss."

## League resumes today

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Victoria Sporting Club take on Brothers Union Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in one of the day's two matches as the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League resumes today after a weeklong Eid break.

The other fixture pits title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club against an emerging Uttara Sporting Club at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Although Victoria – also the defending champions – have an all-win record in their four matches, they have so far collected 20 points. Since one of their wins was against the BCB Development Squad, they got only two points from that match. Generally a team earn six points from a win.

Brothers on the other hand have been having a rough ride in the

league so far as they have won only one game out of four.

Both Mohammmedan and Uttara are in the second position along with City Club and Abahani with each having 18 points.

A total of 13 teams including the BCB Development (Under-19) Squad are taking part in the first round from where top six teams will

## POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	T	B	Pts
Victoria SC	4	4	0	0	1	20
City Club	3	3	0	0	0	18
Abahani KC	4	3	1	0	0	18
Uttara SC	4	3	1	0	0	18
Mohammmedan	4	3	1	0	0	18
Orient SC	4	2	2	0	0	12
Brothers	4	1	3	0	0	6
Surj Tarun	4	1	3	0	0	6
Birman	4	1	3	0	0	6
Y Pegasus	3	1	2	0	0	6
Kalabagan	4	0	4	0	0	0
Indira Road	3	1	2	0	1	2
Dev Squad	3	1	2	0	0	0

## No one else to blame

## ICC Cricket World Cup

SOUTH AFRICA 2003

INTERNET, Melbourne

Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath believes teammate Shane Warne brought his potential cricketing downfall upon himself and should have known the risks of taking a pill containing unknown substances.

McGrath said the Australian team was always kept well-informed about drugs and that given his experience, Warne was naive about accepting a pill from his mother.

As Warne awaits his hearing with the Australian Cricket Board's anti-doping committee after testing positive to a banned diuretic, McGrath endorsed captain Ricky Ponting's comments that Warne had acted without thinking.

"We talk about drugs before the start of every season and a guy from ASDA (Australian Sports Drug Agency) comes out and has a bit of a chat so it isn't like we aren't all informed.

"Getting things checked is just part and parcel of what we do."

"At the end of the day and as much as the whole team is 100 per cent behind him, Shane has brought this on himself."

McGrath said Warne was lost for

words when he told his teammates he had tested positive and that the team was in "shock and huge disappointment" on receiving the news.

Meanwhile, a top Australian sports lawyer has argued that Warne's "vanity" could be used to counter his doping charges, as his looks are not explicitly linked to his on-field performance.

Warne has long been the butt of jokes from the media and opposition fans over his sometimes sizable girth.

After a lay-off for a shoulder injury, the 33 year-old master leg-spinner made a remarkable recovery to be available for the Australian World Cup squad. Having recovered from the injury, Warne was sensationally sent home for taking a banned diuretic contained in a slimming pill.

According to Aussie lawyer Michael Rowe, who is also chairman of Tennis Australia's anti-doping committee, the desire to show off his slim-side could get Warne out of trouble when he pleads his case.

"He could argue that he took the tablet on the insistence of his mother to aid his appearance and make himself look thinner," said Rowe.

On his arrival at Melbourne Airport last week, Warne claimed he had taken the tablet on his mother's insistence that he look good for the millions of fans who would be watching the World Cup.

He denied taking the pills as a masking agent for other performance enhancing drugs.

"That's got nothing to do with trying to improve his capacity to play cricket," said Rowe.

Richard Bevan, managing director of the Players' Cricket Association, about the political, moral and safety issues involved.

"Nothing I've heard or seen since has altered my opinion.

"The fact of the matter, though, is that the ECB and the players made their decision on safety and security grounds alone."

Hussain said the players were told by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) that they potentially stood to lose millions of pounds if there was a major split in world cricket.

He stressed that the team were starting to get very confused because they knew they also had responsibilities to the ECB and to English cricket in general.

"If the Zimbabweans weren't sure, how could we make a judgment?" said Hussain.

"When I spoke to Flower on the phone recently, he said that he had his own decision to make, and we now know what that was – to issue the statement he did on Monday with Henry Olonga."

Hussain said he had seen a Channel 4 documentary on Zimbabwe and, by chance, met the director of the programme just before the February 8 World Cup opening ceremony in Cape Town.

"Face to face I asked him if the situation in Zimbabwe justified my throwing away not only four points but, in effect, the most important six weeks of our cricketing lives.

"He clarified what he thought was going on, about people being starved on account of the party they had voted for. He stated even worse atrocities and felt we were doing the right thing."

Hussain added: "Obviously as captain, I had a part in preparing the players' statement, released by

Richard, the Boston Red Sox.

Poor form has to end somewhere and there has to be a fall guy – just ask British tennis player Greg Rusedski, who played the role at Wimbledon in 2000 when he came up against America's Vince Spadea.

Spadea had gone into their first round match with a 22-game losing run weighing him down.

However, Court One worked its magic as Spadea clinched victory in a five-set thriller.

Flamboyant failure doesn't always mean a permanent life in the gutter.

In 1976, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers finished their NFL season with a record of 0-14 but consigned that to history with a 48-21 win over the Oakland Raiders in the Super Bowl this year.

Neither is failure limited to the human world.

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