

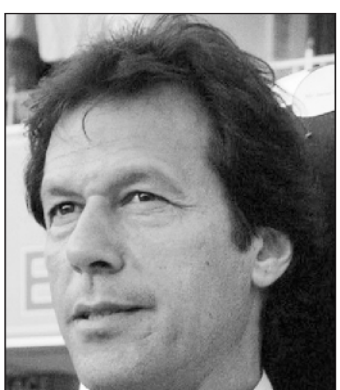


## Did U Know?

Nine Sri Lankan batsmen were dismissed on nought in the Chandigarh Test in 1990-91 against India.



**ESPN**  
Football Focus  
Football Magazine  
Repeat at 12:00 pm  
Celtic v Porto  
UEFA Cup Final  
Repeat at 1:12 pm  
**England v Zimbabwe**  
First Test, Day One  
**Live from 3:42 pm**  
Sportscenter Hindi  
Sports News  
Live at 11:00 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Futbol Mundial  
Football Magazine  
5:00 pm  
Gillette World Sports Special  
International Sports News  
5:30 pm  
**Sportslive Tonight**  
Sports News  
**Live at 8:00 pm**  
Best of Harsha Online  
Cricket talk Show  
8:30 pm & 11:00 pm



**Imran Khan**  
(Pakistan cricket legend)  
"Pakistan must invite India immediately and more importantly, India should accept the invitation."

**Star WHIZZ KID**  
**COMPETITION 193**  
Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
**Competition closes at 8 pm**  
May 30, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

|  |               |      |        |
|--|---------------|------|--------|
| 1. Who clinched the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National chess title?        | Niaz          | Zia  | Reefat |
| 2. Who became man-of-the-match in the Sharjah Cup final?                     | Youhana       | Sami | Taufiq |
| 3. Who will lead Sri Lanka's one-day side?                                   | Tillekeratne  | Vass |        |
| 4. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the TVS Cup triangular tournament? |               |      |        |
| Name .....   |               |      |        |
| Class. ....  | Roll No. .... |      |        |
| School Address .....   |               |      |        |
| Phone: (If any) .....  |               |      |        |

## Australia 198 for 4

**STAR SPORT MONITOR**  
Australia were 198 for four in the 40th over after being put into bat in the third one day international of the seven-match series against the West Indies at St. Lucia yesterday.  
Andrew Symonds had scored 75 while newcomer Michael Clarke was batting on 40.  
Australia already lead the series 2-0.

# Asghar backs selectors



**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar yesterday said that the selection committee won't be changed any time soon.

The cricket supremo took a stance in favour of the three-member selection committee headed by Aliul Islam despite growing discontent among the country's cricket fraternity and his own advisors. The 12 advisors of the Board had reportedly vented their dissatisfaction with the way the selectors have handled the process so far in their meeting on Tuesday.

"There is no such thinking going on. However the selection committee will now work in cooperation with new coach Dav Whatmore," said Asghar while talking to the Daily Star Sport.  
The BNP lawmaker added that

Whatmore has been given a free hand to work and that in effect means that the Australian will also be a part of the selection process.

When asked to comment on another burning issue the probe committee report regarding



**ALI ASGHAR**  
Bangladesh's miserable showing in

the World Cup Asghar appeared frustrated at the delay in submission of the findings.

"I haven't had any contact with them (probe committee) for the last few days. You should ask them directly when they plan to make the report public. So far the board has not received the report," Asghar said. Pressed, he suggested that BCB's assistant director of development Shafiqul Haque, who is the coordinator between the board and the committee, might be knowing more about the latest state of the report.

When contacted Shafiqul Haque informed that the report was in the final stages of editing.

"Hopefully it would be out by the end of this month."

Asghar had formed a two-member probe committee headed by Commodore (Retd.) Mujibur Rahman in March. It was asked to submit its report in three weeks. However, two months on the findings are still to see light.

# Lord's Test for novices



**AFP, London**

Zimbabwe may be the underdogs for Thursday's first Test against England at Lord's but the tide could yet be turning in the Africans' favour.

England will go into the opening match of this two-Test series with one of their most inexperienced attacks of recent years.

Injuries to pacemen Andy Caddick and Darren Gough in the build-up to this match were compounded Tuesday when seam-bowling all-rounder Andrew Flintoff withdrew with a shoulder injury.

Craig White and Paul Collingwood, both candidates to replace Flintoff, were already out of contention because of injury, hence the call-up of the previously

uncapped Anthony McGrath, a decision born of desperation as much as any faith in the Yorkshire captain's abilities.

However there was a good news for the hosts after fast bowler Matthew Hoggard has been declared fit for the Test.

England captain Nasser Hussain told a news conference on Wednesday: "He has declared himself fit and is available for selection."

Hussain must decide whether to go into the game with an all-seam attack or opt for spinner Ashley Giles.

"If you believe there will be five days of cricket, in those conditions you need a spinner," said Hussain. "If you feel it's not going to be a full game, you might not."

Weather forecasts suggest more rain over the weekend, which may convince Hussain to go for an inexperienced front-line attack of

James Anderson, Steve Harmison, James Kirtley and Hoggard.

Much will rest on the shoulders of 20-year-old Lancashire quick James Anderson who is all set to make his Test debut after impressing in England's triangular one-day series in Australia and at the World Cup.

Also in England's squad is Kirtley who, unfortunately for the Sussex seamer, is known primarily for having a suspect action which was reported to international cricket chiefs.

Yet the departures suffered by Zimbabwe since they last played in England three years ago put England's current problems into perspective.

Back in 2000, Zimbabwe had top order batsmen Murray Goodwin, Alistair Campbell, Andy Flower and all-rounder Neil Johnson in their

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# 'I will not return'



**AFP, Karachi**

Former Pakistan pacer Wasim Akram Wednesday said he had been overwhelmed by expressions of support since his decision to retire from international cricket, but stressed that the decision was final.

"I am thankful to all my colleagues, coaches and fans around the world for their support throughout my career and want to tell them that my decision to quit is final," Wasim, who announced his retirement on Sunday, told this news agency in a phone interview from England.

"Since my announcement I have received tremendous feedback and fans and friends called me, sent e-mails and requested me to play a last time for Pakistan in

England next month or play against India.

"But I think my days are over and, maybe, I will do commentary



**WASIM AKRAM**

on a Pakistan-India match when the ties are restored."

The celebrated left arm pacer took 502 wickets in 356 one-day matches both world records in a career spanning 19 years. He also took 414 wickets in 104 Tests.

But his glittering record was not enough to save him from being axed in a mass clean-up following Pakistan's embarrassing first round exit in the World Cup two months ago.

Wasim, 37 next month, also pledged to clear his name of match-fixing allegations.

"Some people tried to unnecessarily drag me into a match fixing controversy, but I have forgiven all of them and will clear my name," he said.

Wasim was fined 600,000 rupees (around 10,344 US dollars) and barred from captaining Pakistan after a match fixing inquiry in May 2000 found that his behaviour was

## 26th National Cricket Narayanganj, Satkhira in final round

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Narayanganj and Satkhira moved into the final round of the 26th National Cricket Championship after winning their respective zonal finals yesterday.

Narayanganj made it to the 12-team final round with a 30-run win over Manikganj in Faridapur.

In a reduced 25-over a side match, Narayanganj scored 115 for eight in 25 overs.

In reply, Manikganj were all out for 85 in 22.1 overs.

Away in Jhenidah, Satkhira posted a five-wicket win over home side Jhenidah.

Chasing Jhenidah's 114, Satkhira reached 117 in 29.1 overs with five wickets in hand.

The other match of the day, a zonal final between Dhaka and Faridpur, was washed out due to rain at the Mymensingh Stadium.

The match has been rescheduled today.

Meanwhile, the tournament committee has split the 12 teams in four groups for the robin league of the final phase that would be held in Comilla and Chittagong from May 25.

Defending champions Biman, Dhaka University and Nilphamari have been drafted into Group A while Chittagong, Narayanganj and Jhenidah are placed in Group B. Matches of both the groups will be held in Comilla.

Group C consists of Barisal, Comilla and the winners from the Dhaka-Faridpur match while Sylhet, Rajshahi and Satkhira will play in Group D.

The group winners will qualify for the semifinal which will also be held in Comilla and Chittagong while the final will be in Chittagong.

# CCDM's funny declaration MSC, City made joint-runners-up



**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Dhaka cricket this year can be best remembered for all the wrong reasons apart from a fantastic feat by Victoria Sorting Club, who retained the coveted title in style.

Although Victoria hogged the spotlight, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) is lucky to complete the league without getting a goose bump despite skating on a non-descriptive playing condition and by-laws.

It was clearly evident yesterday when the CCDM announced both Mohammedan Sporting Club and City Club as joint runners-up of this year's Premier League.

Interestingly, it was a bizarre ruling especially when there was no particular law in place to help the CCDM to decide who would be Victoria's bridesmaid.

"The first phase of the Premier

Division Cricket League was a one-day competition while the Super League was a four day competition. Since there were two types of format it is not logical to enforce either the net-run rate or the ICC prescribed law. That is why we have declared both teams as joint runners-up in terms of points they have earned," said the press release signed by the secretary of the Premier Division Cricket League Jamil A Satter and member secretary Faizur Rahman.

This is not only a situation where the by-laws cannot help. There is not even any clear indication what would have happened had two teams finished on equal points at the top of the table.

The case of deciding the relegation play-off is even funnier. Funnily, it said the net-run-rate would come to the play if teams finished on equal points, but it did not explain what would be the case if a team refused to play.

"This is an incomplete by-law and the ruling can be as fickle as

village cricket," said club official.

"I have not seen such poor playing conditions in my years of experience in Dhaka cricket. I have seen a few games in Super League and was amazed noticing matches finishing without a second innings being played," said the club official.

Aggrieved Mohammedan cricket secretary Lufur Rahman Badal even claimed the last Super League match between Victoria and City Club was an arranged affair.

"It is a shame for cricket to see Victoria allegedly being involved in an apparent fixed match. It was because they rested some of their key players, but can somebody explain how left-arm spinner Razzak who bowled 35 overs without a break against us, was hardly bowled against City Club."

He also termed the present CCDM officials as amateurs at the highest level and questioned their ability to run events.

# One and only Ronaldo

**INTERNET, Monaco**

Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo became the first man to collect two Laureus Statuettes in the same year as the 2003 Laureus World Sports Awards were announced in Monte Carlo tonight.

First he received the Laureus World Comeback of the Year award following the goals he scored in the 2002 World Cup for which he won the Golden Boot as leading goalscorer. Then, on behalf of World Cup winners Brazil, he picked up a second Statuette for

the Laureus World Team of the Year award.

Ronaldo, who had flown in from Madrid during the afternoon, received an enthusiastic reception from an audience of sports stars, past and present, and sporting enthusiasts from the world of entertainment. The Awards Ceremony has a worldwide TV audience of 320 million.

It was also a night of triple American celebration in Monte Carlo's Grimaldi Forum as their sportsmen and sportswomen scooped three Laureus Awards.

Lance Armstrong, the American cycle star who won the Tour de France for the fourth successive time in 2002 after beating cancer, was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year. It was the second Laureus Statuette Armstrong had won. In 2000, he won the Laureus World Comeback of the Year award.

Serena Williams, who currently holds all four grand slam tennis titles, was honoured as Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year. There was additional delight for Serena, as it was her sister Venus

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**PHOTO: AFP**

**COMEBACK KING:** Brazilian superstar Ronaldo shows his trophy to the audience in Monaco on May 20 during the Laureus World Awards.

| THE WINNERS LIST  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>World Sportsman of the Year:</b> Lance Armstrong                     |  |
| <b>World Sportswoman of the Year:</b> Serena Williams                   |  |
| <b>World Team of the Year:</b> Brazil                                   |  |
| <b>World Comeback of the Year:</b> Ronaldo                              |  |
| <b>World Newcomer of the Year:</b> Yao Ming                             |  |
| <b>World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability:</b> Michael Milton |  |
| <b>World Alternative Sportsperson of the Year:</b> Dean Potter          |  |
| <b>Lifetime Achievement Award:</b> Gary Player                          |  |
| <b>Sport for Good Award:</b> Arnold Schwarzenegger                      |  |



**PHOTO: INTERNET**

**England captain Nasser Hussain bats in the nets at Lord's cricket ground in London on May 20.**

# Take Zim seriously



**AFP, London**

England captain Nasser Hussain warned his side not to underestimate Zimbabwe ahead of Thursday's first Test here at Lord's.

"We expect to win. But we'll only do that if we are thoroughly professional and play as we can," Hussain told reporters at Lord's on Wednesday.

"Otherwise we could come unstuck against a spirited Zimbabwe side as we did at Trent Bridge three years ago (when the Africans had the better of a draw).

Zimbabwe, who have lost several key players since their 2000 tour of England have been written off by some pundits as the weakest team to visit England in over 40 years.

But England's build-up to Thursday's match has been disrupted by injuries to fast bowlers Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick and Andrew Flintoff, all of whom are out of who are out of contention.

Yorkshire paceman Matthew Hoggard, who is in the squad, has been struggling with an abdominal injury. But Hussain said: "Hoggard is fit and available for selection."

Even if Hoggard is fit, England are still likely to go into Thursday's match with one of their most inexperienced attacks of recent years.

Lancashire quick James Anderson, who impressed at the World Cup, James Kirtley and Anthony McGrath primarily a batsman but who can bowl

medium-pace are all set to make their Test debuts.

Hussain said: "There are three or four guys in the team who could be making their debuts at Lord's. It's very exciting when a young player does well. There's no better feeling for a senior player."

"But there are times when the guys are on their own and there will be some real tests of character over the next few days."

He refused to say if England would play four seamers and leave out specialist spinner Ashley Giles from their starting eleven, as has tended to be their policy since Test matches started being played in England this early in the season three years ago.

However, added he was concerned by the fact that so many English pace bowlers were injured currently. "It is just a worrying situation for English cricket in general."

"It's not just the centrally contracted players it is Chris Silverwood (Yorkshire), Richard Johnson (Somerset) and Alex Tudor (Surrey)."

"It's something to do with the amount of cricket played."

Asked if English bowlers were refusing to play through injuries as their predecessors had, Hussain replied: "They say JK Lever (former Essex and England left-arm swing bowler) used to jump in the bath and get on with it."

"But some of the injuries I've seen, I'm not sure the old-timers could have played through."

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## ACB bids to buy Bradman's cap

**AFP, Sydney**

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said on Wednesday it was donating 10,000 dollars (6,500 US dollars) towards a campaign to have Don Bradman's baggy green cap returned to Australia.

The 1948 cap, which cricket legend Bradman wore when he led the 'Invincibles' on an undefeated tour of England, has been put up for sale by Melbourne-based auction house Ludgrows.

Bradman wore the cap through

**SEE PAGE 14 COL 4**

## 8 Bangladeshis to play rating chess in Nepal

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Six men and two women chess players from Bangladesh will participate in the 1st International Rating Chess Tournament, organised by Makhan Chess Sports Club of Nepal, which will be held over May 24-30 in Kathmandu.

The players are: Sawkat Hossain Pallab, FM Abu Suafian Shakil, Arman Monir, Shafiq Ahmed, Debaraj Chatterjee, Kazi Rashed Dinayet, Masuda Begum and

# Ban on Shoaib



**AFP, Dambulla**

Pakistani paceman Shoaib Akhtar has been banned for two one-dayers for tampering with the ball during a triangular one-day series here, match-referee Gundappa Viswanath announced Wednesday.

Akhtar was also fined 75 per cent of his match-fee, said Viswanath.

The fast bowler was charged with changing the condition of the ball during the last league match of the ongoing tri-series against New Zealand here on Tuesday.

Akhtar grabbed three wickets late in the New Zealand innings to help his team win the game by 22 runs.

The match-referee's verdict means that Akhtar will miss Friday's final against New Zealand here and the opening game of his team's three-match series in England in June.

The news-making Akhtar, whose career has been dogged with suspect bowling action, injuries and disciplinary problems, is only the world's second bowler after compatriot Waqar Younis to be suspended for tampering with the ball.

Younis served a one-match ban during a triangular one-day series, also involving South Africa and Sri Lanka, at Colombo in 2000.

Akhtar, who twice broke the 100mph-barrier, has so far bagged 140 wickets in 85 one-day internationals since making his debut against Zimbabwe in 1997-98.

Viswanath, a former India batsman, said Akhtar was charged with breaching the ICC Code of Conduct by on-field umpires Daryl Harper (Australia) and Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka) along with the third-umpire Gamini Silva (Sri Lanka).

"He was charged with breaching Level 2.10 of the ICC Code of Conduct for players in that he interfered with the surface of the ball, taking action which is likely to alter the condition of the ball," said Viswanath.

"Tampering with the ball is contrary to the laws and the spirit of the cricket," Viswanath said in a statement.

"It is unfair to attempt to gain any advantage by altering the condition of the ball. I consider this offence to be of a serious nature and the penalty imposed reflects this view."

The disciplinary hearing was attended by Akhtar, Pakistani captain Rashid Latif, manager Haroon Rashid, the umpires and the match-referee.

"Evidence was heard from Akhtar concerning the appropriate penalty to be imposed and the player's previous disciplinary record was taken into account," the statement added.

Akhtar had already served a one-match suspension for throwing a plastic bottle at spectators during a one-day match in Zimbabwe before the recent World Cup.

He was also warned by his country's cricket chief Tauqir Zia that the Sri Lankan tri-series was his last chance to revive his career.

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