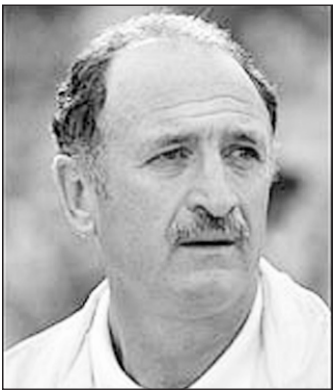


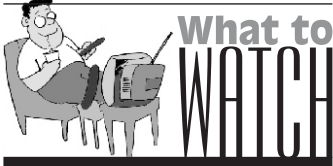


Did U Know?

Chess ace Niaz Murshed won the Bangladesh championship at age 12 years and 309 days, becoming the youngest winner of a national championship. He also won it at age 13, 14, and 15 as well. His is the first Grand Master (1986) from Bangladesh and also in the Indian sub-continent.



Luiz Felipe Scolari
(Portugal's Brazilian soccer coach)
"I want players who are as keen to play for their country as their club. If you can play with a knock for your club, you can do it for your country."
Issuing a warning to young star Cristiano Ronaldo.



ESPN
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 2:30 pm
Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
Fifth ODI
Highlights at 4:00 pm
Sportline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 211
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm May 7, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who is Bangladesh's fastest woman?	Iva	Chumki	Sabrina
2. Who is Zimbabwe's cricket captain?	Taibu	Streak	Olonga
3. Name the man-of-the-series in the India-Pakistan Test series.	Sehwag	Dravid	Kumble
4. How many runs did Brian Lara score in the first innings of the final Test against England?	400	388	380
5. Who won the Singer 30th national			
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			



GP Corporate Cricket League
Acme vs Aktel
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
ARAF vs CityCell
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Shahriar turns up heat

SPORTS REPORTER



Shahriar Hossain could not think of a better way to prepare for the West Indies tour when the national opener hit the first century of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League (CCL) at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Appearing in his last match of the newly launched competition Shahriar smashed 107 off 126 balls to throttle GrameenPhone to an emphatic eight-wicket win over Gazi Tank. The experienced right-hander will return to Dav Whatmore's camp on May 3 before the Tigers fly out to the West Indies on May 6 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Shahriar's parting shot also enabled fancied GrameenPhone to shrug off their defeat in the previous match against Bangladesh Biman. It was the third win for the leading cellular phone operators against a defeat and a tie in five games.

Shahriar apart, former national captain Khaled Mahmud, Alok Kapali and new face in the 15-member Bangladesh team Abdur Razzak also played their last match in the league yesterday.

Biman, the only proven giants in domestic cricket featuring in the meet, however continued to pros-

per.

The national flag career all but confirmed a berth in the Cup phase with fourth straight win, yesterday inflicting a three-wicket defeat on BCB Development Squad at BKSP ground in Savar.

In the day's other match at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, MM Ispahani Limited snatched an 11-run win over a pointless BADC.

Biman lead the Group A with maximum eight points, followed by GrameenPhone (7 points), Bashundhara (6 points from four matches) and Ispahani, who have four points from as many games.

GRAMEENPHONE V GAZI TANK

Shahriar made the most of an inexperienced Gazi Tank attack to score 107 off 126 balls as GrameenPhone raced to 176-2 after restricting their under-strength opponents to 173 for nine in a reduced 46-overs-a-side match. The match got off to a delayed start due to early morning shower.

Not among the runs in the last
SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

POINTS TABLE						
	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	NR	Pts
Group-A						
Biman	4	4	0	-	-	8
Grameen	5	3	1	1	-	7
Bashundhara	4	3	1	-	-	6
Ispahani	4	2	2	-	-	4
Gazi Tank	4	0	4	-	-	0
BADC	4	0	4	-	-	0
*BCB	3	1	1	1	-	-
Group-B						
Partex	4	3	1	-	-	6
CityCell	3	2	1	-	-	4
ARAF	3	2	1	-	-	4
Acme	3	1	2	-	-	2
Aktel	3	1	2	-	-	2
BEXIMCO	4	1	3	-	-	2

Development cricket
Tanvir stars in
Khulna win

SPORTS REPORTER

Tanvir and Shimion Bala shared seven wickets between them to guide Khulna Division to an impressive 87-run victory against Dhaka Metro Blues in the BCB Age group Development cricket tournament yesterday at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP).

Tanvir, who was adjudged man-of-the-match, grabbed four wickets for 31 while Shimion took 3-21 to shoot out Dhaka Metro for a meagre 62 in 24.1 overs.

Earlier, Khulna were all out for 149 in 49.1 overs with Ahad (29) topscoring.

Enamul, Manjarul
get rookie contract



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday signed young left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr and all-rounder Manjarul Islam Rana under its 'rookie contract'.

"This will encourage talented youngsters in the future," said BCB's Cricket Committee chairman Mahbub Anam while talking to the Daily Star.

"They will get a basic salary per month which will be less than a senior player's scale in the payroll. But all contracts are valid for six months. We will evaluate their performance during the next six months and if they do well, they

might be included under our regular payroll," said Mahbub.

Enamul made his Test debut in the home series against England last year and was the highest wicket-taker in the last ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup. Manjarul, also a left-arm spinner, has already become an important member of the Bangladesh team with his resolute batting.

Mahbub also informed that Test cricket's youngest centurion Mohammad Ashraful put pen to his contract yesterday.

Ashraful's inclusion in the payroll was reward for his return to form after a slump. The BCB now has 12 players under contract.

The players, who will tour West Indies next month but do not have a contract, also signed their tour contracts yesterday.

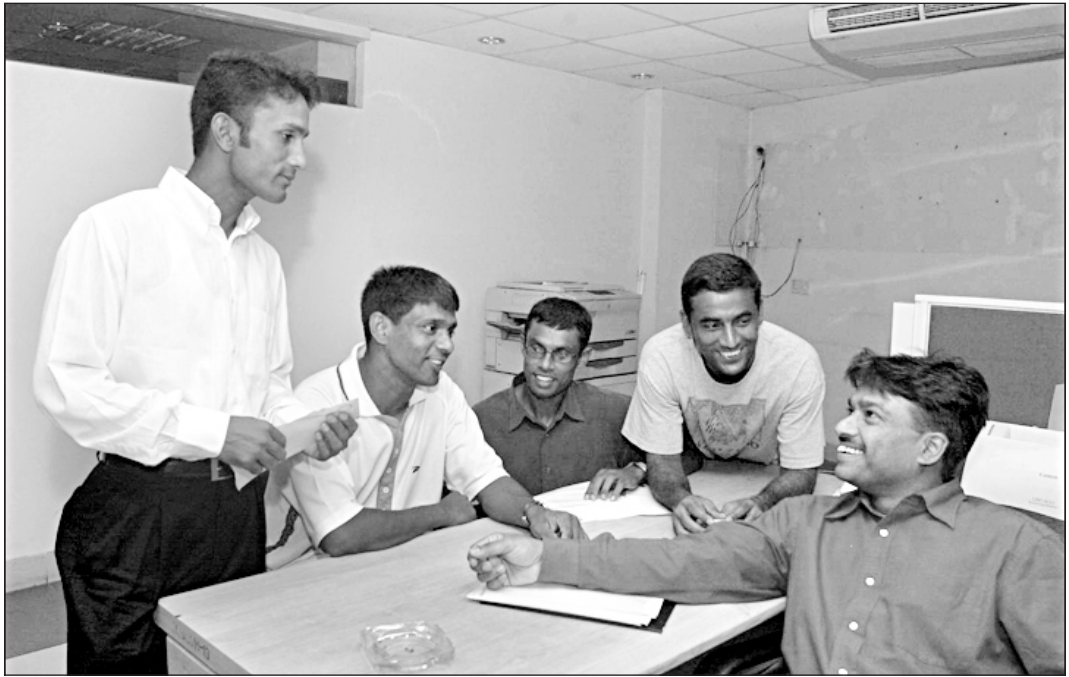


PHOTO: STAR

National cricketers (L-R) Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Faisal Hossain and Shahriar Hossain having a chat with chief selector Faruque Ahmed, who has been named tour manager for Bangladesh's trip to the West Indies, at BCB's Gulshan office yesterday evening.

Eng forced to tour: Lamb



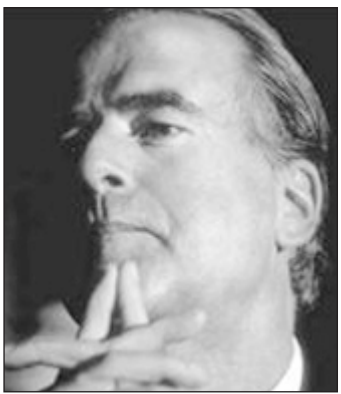
REUTERS, London

The threat of suspension from international cricket was a last-minute change to the sport's regulations put in to force England to tour Zimbabwe, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive Tim Lamb was quoted as saying.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said last month it would suspend any country refusing to fulfil its tour obligations for anything other than security reasons and would also levy a 2-million-dollar fine.

Lamb was quoted as saying the decision to introduce the sanctions as changes to ICC regulations was taken at the last minute before an ICC board meeting in New Zealand in March.

"I think certain members of the ICC, who...were concerned about England not completing the tour (to Zimbabwe), discussed what could



TIM LAMB

be done and saw a change in regulations as rather an elegant way of putting pressure on England," Lamb was quoted as saying in Thursday's Guardian newspaper.

Lamb said a meeting of ICC chief executives in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in February had approved tabling a motion at the meeting in Auckland that would ensure countries fulfilled their tour obligations.

The motion did not mention changing the regulations to include the penalties of suspension and fines, and this was raised only one day before the board meeting, he said.

"It was not until 11th-hour discussion on the eve of the meeting itself that it was proposed as a change to the regulations," said Lamb.

"The ICC president and chief executive had no idea on the eve of the meeting it was going to happen."

The ECB has been embroiled in a political battle over whether to tour Zimbabwe, after the British government said it has serious concerns about the human rights record of President Robert Mugabe's government.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

GrameenPhone's Shahriar Hossain celebrates his century against Gazi Tank with a six in yesterday's CCL match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mandela on
WC mission

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa is sending its most respected representative, Nelson Mandela, to Trinidad on Thursday to promote its 2010 World Cup bid.

The 2010 tournament has been promised to an African nation and the main bidders are Egypt, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia with football's world governing body FIFA announcing the winner on May 15.

"Former president Nelson Mandela will depart today for Trinidad in the Caribbean Islands. The purpose of the visit is to promote the 2010 World Cup soccer bid," Mandela's office said in a statement, adding that he will return Monday.

South Africa came close to being awarded the bid in 2000, but New Zealander Charles Dempsey controversially ignored a mandate from Oceania to back South Africa once England were eliminated for the 2006 vote.

His abstention from the third round gave Germany a 12-11 victory, but had Dempsey followed instructions and tied the ballot at 12 votes each, FIFA president Sepp Blatter would have had the decisive vote and he had publicly backed South Africa.

Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected leader, met with Blatter in Switzerland in October last year to push the South African bid.

No early
release
for Eng players

REUTERS, St. George's

England coach Duncan Fletcher says none of his players will be sent home early from the Caribbean, even though their one-day series against West Indies has been heavily disrupted by torrential rain.

Three washouts in four games have scuppered Fletcher's hopes of testing his inexperienced squad at the highest level, but he said allowing some players to return home to play for their counties was not an option.

"It's important that we play some cricket," Fletcher told reporters after the fourth one-day international in the seven-game series was washed out in Grenada on Wednesday.

"But the guys that are not playing are really covering for someone else. They could be needed, so we can't really let them go home."

After England's two-wicket victory in the opening match in Guyana, both games in Trinidad were washed out last weekend. More rain is forecast for St Lucia, the venue for the fifth and sixth matches in the series on Saturday and Sunday.

"The difficulty is that we have to be ready to play some form of game at an hour's notice," Fletcher added.

"We wanted to have a look at everyone in this series and we haven't been able to, so we haven't learned much."

"You take a guy like (Anthony) McGrath who hasn't played a game all winter. We can't get the guys experience."

Truce in Zimbabwe?



REUTERS, Harare

Zimbabwe's rebel players have agreed to make themselves available for selection, the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) said on Wednesday.

"It has been agreed between the ZCU and the 15 cricketers who have up to now been unavailable for selection that... (they) will be at practice with effect from April 30," said the ZCU.

The players had demanded the reinstatement of Heath Streak as captain, a new selection panel and for the ZCU to acknowledge transgressions the players say were committed by officials.

But the dispute, sparked on April 2 when the ZCU installed Tatenda Taibu as captain after Streak questioned the composition of the selection panel, is set to continue at arbitration.

"The 15 cricketers will be communicating through their legal practitioners to the ZCU's legal practitioners a proposal for a dispute resolution

procedure, which the ZCU will consider when received," the ZCU statement said.

One of the players, who declined to be named, told Reuters the saga was not over.

"We have agreed to go back on Friday but we're certainly still trying to push for arbitration," the player said. "It's definitely not the end of all this."

"We're trying to show good faith once again and we're going to practice but if certain things aren't sorted out we're going back to square one."

The rebels will not play in the fifth and final one-day international against Sri Lanka in Harare on Thursday but, barring further fall-outs with the board, they will be available for first of two Test matches in Harare from May 6.

Zimbabwe had to select an under-strength squad for the one-day series and Sri Lanka won the first four matches.

AFP's earlier reports add, the ZCU issued a statement on Wednesday suggesting a breakthrough in the near month-long stand off.

Lanka keep it clean



REUTERS/AFP, Harare

Muttiah Muralitharan took five wickets as Sri Lanka completed a 5-0 whitewash over a weakened Zimbabwe side in the final one-day international in Harare on Thursday.

Sri Lanka won the match by 25 runs with master off-spinner Muralitharan taking five for 23.

The visitors scored 246 for seven after winning the toss and choosing to bat on a sluggish pitch.

Zimbabwe replied with a respectable 221 for nine, with Brendan Taylor scoring a circumspect 74.

Russel Arnold made Sri Lanka's top score, an urgent 51 off as many deliveries with five fours and a six.

Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 246

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-93, 3-128, 4-137, 5-146, 6-162, 7-233

Did not bat: Herath, Muralitharan

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hondo	7	1	37	1
P'gara	8	1	49	1
Mupariwa	10	0	44	2
Nkala	2	0	10	0
Utseya	7	0	39	0
Taibu	10	1	42	2
M'yere	6	1	15	0

ZIMBABWE
M'yere st Dilshan b M'tharan 37

Taylor c Jayantha b Herath 74

Ebrahim b Herath 6

Taibu c Dilshan b M'tharan 26

Maregwede c Herath b Chandana 4

Nkala c Herath b Chandana 11

Chigumbura c J'dene b M'tharan 19

Utseya c Chandana b M'tharan 8

Mupariwa not out 12

Hondo b M'tharan 5

Panyangara not out 2

Extras: (lb-2, w-10, nb-5) 17

Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 221

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IM Chess
from May 7

SPORTS REPORTER

Thirteen foreign players have so far sent entries for the 7th United Insurance International Masters Chess Tournament, which starts in Dhaka from May 7.

The tournament is open to all Grand Masters and International Masters but the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) was yet to receive entries from foreign GMs.

It was learned that 12 players from India including three IMs Raktim Bannerjee, Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Sriram Jha and Pakistani IM Mahmud Lodhi have confirmed participation in the competition.

The BCF is expecting that around 50 players including 20 foreigners will take part in the competition. The federation is also trying to include players from Vietnam and Uzbekistan.

Apart from GMs and IMs, local players with rating above 2150 points, the top three players of the National men's and women's championships and junior and sub-junior champions will appear in the meet.

Local chess players have been requested to send their entries by May 5.

There will be US\$ 2000 prize money for the 11-round Swiss League meet, sponsored by United Insurance Company Limited.

Zimbabwe paceman Douglas Hondo (L) celebrates taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Saman Jayantha during the fifth and final one-day international at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AP