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# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 27, 2005, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

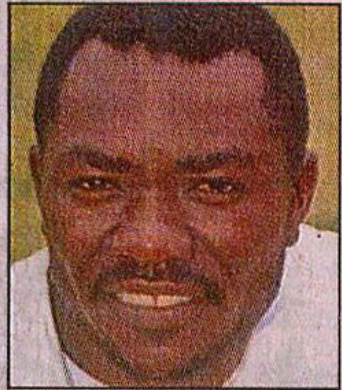
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## Did U Know?

A badminton shuttle travels easily up to 180 kilometres per hour. It is one of the fastest objects in sports.



**Steve Tikolo**  
(Kenya's star cricketer)  
"It was a deliberate conspiracy to bring down Kenyan cricket. It is all one and the same thing." On the crisis Kenya Cricket Association is facing now after the sacking of its governing board.



**What to Watch**

**ESPN**  
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe Second ODI  
Taped version at 12:00 pm  
Football Crazy  
Football Magazine  
Live at 5:00 pm  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
Pakistan v West Indies  
VB Tri-Series  
Live at 4:55 am (Friday)

**STAR Sports**  
Australian Tennis Open  
Women's Singles Semifinals  
Live at 8:30 am  
Men's Singles Semifinal  
Live at 2:30 pm  
Sportsline  
Sports News  
Live at 8:00 pm

## Selectors wait on Rafique

SPORTS REPORTER

The national cricket selectors will wait on Mohammad Rafique's fitness before announcing the squad for the last two one-day internationals against Zimbabwe.

The squad was to be named yesterday but it was delayed by a day as the committee wanted to be confirm whether the ace left-arm spinner was fully fit.

Rafique, injured during the Test series, will go through a fitness test today and if he receives the green signal, the champion bowler will replace Abdur Razzak for the remaining matches in Dhaka on January 29 and 31. Rafique played in both the Tests but was rested for the first one-dayers.

The Bangladesh and Zimbabwe teams return to the capital today from Chittagong.

## GP PACER HUNT Eight bowl the fastest

SPORTS REPORTER

Eight pace bowlers impressed with an average of 80 mph or above speed in the national final of the GrameenPhone Pacer Hunt programme at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Zahidul Hasan Khan from Gazipur, who had clocked 81 mph in the preliminary rounds, rattled the speedometer with an 86 mph delivery while Washkurney Ahmed Palash from Comilla followed him with an 85 mph ball.

Having recorded his quickest at 82 mph in the preliminaries, Imran Hossain from Khulna achieved the same speed in the final trial.

The other bowlers to be selected were Robilul Islam (Satkhira), Abed Ali (Rajshahi), Shuvashish Roy (Rangpur), Al-Amin (Dhaka Metro) and Mahbulul Alam (Dhaka Metro).

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## Bowlers impress, batsmen don't

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar was a relieved man after the 40-run win over Zimbabwe yesterday that kept the Tigers in the five-match series. But Bashar was still unsatisfied with the batting effort of the side.

"We should have had another 25-30 runs," said Bashar before adding, "We committed the same mistakes in the middle-order like we had done in the first two games."

Bashar was however impressed with the way the bowlers went about their job.

"They bowled brilliantly in the final ten overs and never allowed the Zimbabweans to get away. Our bowling at the death was much better than in the previous matches also."

"The first spells of Mashrafe (Mortuza) and Nazmul (Hossain) also helped us take the initial upper hand and the control of the match. That made our win

easier." The Bangladesh skipper was now hoping that the same intensity would carry on into the last two ODIs in Dhaka and did not want to dwell on the toss factor. In the first three matches, the toss winning side had batted first and won.

"The next game will be a different match but another must-win encounter. We were lucky with the toss today but if we want to win the series, we have to learn to chase as well."

Bashar's counterpart Tatenda Taibu said that he was not unduly worried at the loss.

"We are still leading 2-1 and one win from the next two matches will give us the series. We can do that in the fourth game," said Taibu.

Taibu attributed yesterday's defeat to the failure to maintain the asking run rate.

"We didn't play good. But I think we also couldn't keep up the pace during batting. There were no good partnerships building and wickets fell at regular intervals."



TIGERS' INSPIRATION: Young fans clad in Bangladesh colours liven up the stands at the MA Aziz Stadium during the third one-day international yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN/SIKDER

## No Leeway for Windies

AFP, Adelaide

The West Indies started like a tornado but ended in the doldrums once again, petering out to a 73-run loss to Australia in the tri-series one-day international at the Adelaide Oval on Wednesday.

Australia scored 269 for 8 off 50 overs before dismissing the West Indies for 196 off just 44.5 overs in reply.

The Australians, celebrating their national day, showed plenty of character in a backs-to-the-wall innings which saw bowler Brett Lee and tailender Jason Gillespie put on a crucial 73-run partnership for the ninth wicket when their side was floundering at 196 for 8.

Their nemesis had been left-arm quick Pedro Collins, who had removed much of the Australian top

order to finish with career best one-day figures of 5-43 off 10 overs.

At one stage Collins took four wickets from 16 deliveries and the Australians seemed headed for a humiliating total on an excellent batting wicket.

But Simon Katich led the Australian fightback with a solid 76 from 86 deliveries. Katich, aided by contributions of 31 from Andrew Symonds and 32 from wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, helped lead the home team before pace bowlers Lee and Gillespie weaved their magic with the bat to add the morale-destroying runs.

Not content with their cameos with the bat Lee and Gillespie also took the bowling honours for Australia, the former earning man-of-the-match when he claimed 4-38 off 10 overs.

Gillespie was slightly less successful with 2-25 off 6.5 overs.

"It was a great day. The Australians played very well," Lee said.

"I love playing for Australia, especially on Australia Day."

Lee, who showed far more control with his bowling than usual, said he had honed his skills by spending hours in the training nets.

The renowned quick was twice on a hat-trick, the first after removing opener Wavell Hinds for a duck with the last ball of the opening over and Chris Gayle for two with the first ball of his next.

Gayle's dismissal was completed by a brilliant one-handed catch by Haddin diving to his right, after he gloved a short ball down the leg-side. That took the visitors to three for two and Shivnarine Chanderpaul narrowly survived Lee's first hat-trick ball after a big appeal for lbw.

Chanderpaul with 55 and Ramnaresh Sarwan who made 39, steadied the West Indies with a 92-run third-wicket stand, before spinner Brad Hogg removed Sarwan.

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BRILLIANT BRETT! Australian firebrand Brett Lee slices one towards the point boundary during his quickfire 38 against the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Captain's best moment

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

England captain Michael Vaughan said Tuesday that completing a series win over South Africa was the highlight of his captaincy.

England had a scare when they lost three quick wickets on the last afternoon of the fifth and final Test at Centurion Park but Vaughan batted for more than two hours until the game ended in a draw.

"South Africa are a very difficult team to win against," said Vaughan.

"The last session was the story of the whole series. We had to fight all the way. This was the best moment since I've been captain."

England lost three quick wickets

after being set to make 185 to win off 44 overs. They finished on 73 for four when bad light ended play with 16 balls remaining.

England won the series 2-1. They became the first team other than Australia to win a Test series in South Africa since the host nation returned to international cricket in 1991.

England's next major Test series is at home against world champions Australia later this year. Vaughan acknowledged: "Australia are by far the best team in the world and they seem to be getting better. We have to be realistic. We'll have to be at our very best to beat them."

South African captain Graeme Smith said England would have to produce a better team effort than they did in South Africa if they were to beat Australia.

Both teams had a few key per-

formers in this series but against Australia you need your whole team to perform. My money is still on Australia."

Smith said the series had been evenly fought. "The last afternoon at the Wanderers probably cost us the series," he said, referring to the fourth Test when South Africa lost all ten wickets after lunch on the last day.

But Smith said he was confident that his young team had the potential to be among the world's best within two years.

"We've learnt a lot of things. This side has got a lot of potential. Everyone needs to be patient with this team."

Vaughan agreed that the series had been close. He said different individuals had "put their hands up"

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## Monem Munna in critical condition

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national football captain Monem Munna was admitted to the Kidney Hospital and Dialysis Centre in Dhanmondi yesterday in a critical condition.

Munna, one of the finest defenders the country has ever produced, has been suffering from kidney diseases for some time despite undergoing transplantation in India a few years ago.

A medical board was due to be set up for the treatment of the famous footballer yesterday night. His family members have requested fans and well-wishers to pray for the quick recovery of Munna.

The 38-year-old is also the manager of Abahani where he played from 1986-98 before retiring from club and international football.

## 3RD BD-ZIM ODI SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third CityCell one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Wednesday:

BANGLADESH	
Saleh c Ebrahim b Chigumbura	77
Iqbal b Mpofo	24
Aftab b Utseya	38
Bashar c Ebrahim b Taylor	26
Ashraf b Rogers	11
Manzarul c and b Utseya	6
Mashrafe c Hondo b Panyangara	21
Mashud not out	11
Mahmud b Taylor	9
Nazmul b Panyangara	2
Enamul not out	4
Extras: (lb-2, w-6, nb-6)	15
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	244
Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-147, 3-147, 4-164, 5-178, 6-206, 7-220, 8-236, 9-239	
Bowler	
Panyangara	9 1 59 2
Mpofo	8 1 37 1
Hondo	4 0 22 0
Rogers	10 0 40 1

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## FED CUP FOOTBALL 5 to enter final round directly

SPORTS REPORTER

The Federation Cup tournament committee has decided to give automatic final round berths to five teams instead of four in this year's competition.

Traditionally, only the semifinalists get direct entry into the final round of the curtain raiser of Dhaka's domestic football season and four teams progress from the qualifiers.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

## BCCI in complete chaos

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

A month before India hosts Pakistan's cricket team, there is confusion over venues, broadcasting rights are embroiled in a court tussle and the proposed dates clash with school and college examinations.

Worse, India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar, recovering from an elbow injury, is unsure if he will be fit to play.

Who cares? Certainly not the bean counters. The tour is assured of raking in millions of dollars with sponsors lining up to lend their names to the most high-profile event in the cricket calendar.

Pakistan are scheduled to play three Tests and five one-day internationals during a seven-week tour, returning the visit after India crossed the borders for their first Test series in Pakistan in 15 years in early 2004.

The unprecedented hype generated by last year's tour reportedly

netted the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) a profit of 20 million dollars, a record outside the four-yearly World Cup.

The host broadcaster on that tour, the Dubai-based Ten Sports, charged a whopping 10,000 dollars for each 10-second advertising spot as millions of cricket fanatics on both sides of the border watched Tendulkar face up to Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar.

Media analysts predict lower returns this time since an India-Pakistan clash is no more a novelty -- the rivals have faced off in four one-day internationals since July -- but large corporates are still expected to be generous with their seemingly unlimited resources.

Nothing sells like cricket in the sub-continent.

"The rates will be lower this time, but what is certain is that every inch of advertising space will be taken," said Sam Balsara of Madison Media.

For that to happen, however, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) needs to get its act together quickly.

The TV rights issue -- described by one marketing analyst as "a mess" -- is before the Supreme Court following a dispute between Zee Telefilms, who won the original four-year bid for a record 308 million dollars, and ESPN-Star Sports, a joint venture of Disney and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

The BCCI cancelled Zee's bid and sold two recent home series against Australia and South Africa and a one-off international against Pakistan, to national broadcaster Doordarshan.

The revenue earned by Doordarshan from the ad hoc arrangement, estimated to be around 23 million dollars, has been deposited with the Supreme Court pending a final settlement of the case.

In case the court is unable to settle the wrangle before the Pakistanis land here on February 25, the BCCI will again be forced to have an ad hoc arrangement with Doordarshan since both Zee and ESPN-Star are temporarily out of bounds.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Last Australian standing

Australian Open

AFP, Melbourne

Lleyton Hewitt prevented an Australia Day of disappointment at the Australian Open Wednesday with a battling victory, lifting the gloom after compatriot Alicia Molik was dumped out.

Hewitt advanced to a semifinal meeting with second seed Andy Roddick after battling through the pain barrier to defeat Argentina's David Nalbandian 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6,

10-8 in an epic 4hr 5min duel on the Rod Laver Arena.

The third seed's victory raised the roof after Melbourne Park fans had watched Molik suffer a heart-breaking 6-4, 4-6, 9-7 loss in her quarterfinal with world number one Lindsay Davenport.

Prior to this season, Hewitt had never gone further than the fourth round of his home Grand Slam in eight previous attempts and is bidding to become the first Australian winner of the singles crown since Mark Edmondson in 1976.

The 23-year-old former world number one had been nursing a hip

injury going into the quarterfinal and looked to be heading for defeat as the problem flared again allowing Nalbandian to level at two sets apiece.

But Hewitt dug in for victory and is now looking forward to Friday.

"Last year I was beaten on Australia Day," Hewitt said. "Thank Christ I came away with a win tonight. It's a long way to the title but I'm hanging in there."

Hewitt had attracted criticism in the build-up for his aggressive on-court behaviour, roaring and pumping his fist even in response to errors by opponents.

There was no toning down of his act against Nalbandian, and tension simmered between the two players throughout, stoked by some controversial line calls.

Earlier, Roddick reached the semifinals for the second time after 26th-seeded opponent Nikolay Davydenko of Russia retired with breathing difficulties as the American led 6-3, 7-5, 4-1.

Roddick has spent a total of 7hr 42min on court en route to the last four and said he was feeling fresh.

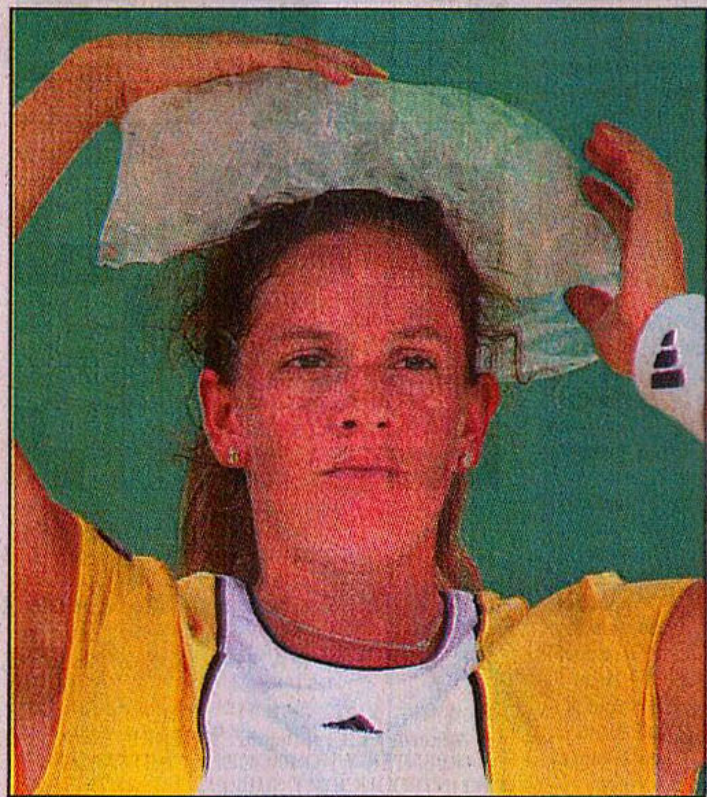
"It's been pretty smooth sailing so far as much so as I've ever had being in this position in a Grand Slam. I don't have many miles on me so far this tournament," he said.

Davydenko frequently called on the trainer and tournament doctor for treatment during changeovers. He used an inhaler several times and donned an ice vest to help cool down during changeovers in the second and third set.

Earlier, Davenport had thrown a dampener on Australia's holiday mood to defeat Molik and set up a semifinal with France's 19th seed Nathalie Dechy as fierce heat disrupted play again.

Both women's quarterfinals were halted for 10 minutes after the second set to allow players a respite from the heat as the mercury soared past 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit).

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CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT! Switzerland's Patty Schnyder puts an ice pack on her head during the Australian Open quarterfinal against Nathalie Dechy of France in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP