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# Star SPORT

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## Did U Know?

Paceman Navedul Hasan (9-0-77-1) earned a dubious distinction of conceding most runs in an innings for Pakistan against West Indies. The great Imran Khan had conceded 76 runs without taking any wicket from eight overs at Port-of-Spain in 1987-88.



## Talk Turkey



**Inzamamul Haq**  
(Pakistan cricket captain)  
"When he's getting runs his team must win."  
On Brian Lara's brilliant century in a VB Series match.



**What to Watch**

**ESPN**  
Australia v Pakistan  
VB Tri-Series  
Live at 11.30 am  
South Africa v England  
First ODI  
Same Day Delay at 8.30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Football Extra  
Live at 9 am  
Australian Open  
Mixed Doubles Final  
Live at 11 am  
Australian Open  
Men's Singles Final  
Live at 2 pm

## Munna's condition deteriorates again

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Monem Munna's condition deteriorated yesterday when the former Bangladesh football captain suffered a bout of pneumonia.

Munna, 38, now at the Intensive Care Unit of Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital in Dhanmondi suffering from multi-organ dysfunction, regained consciousness on Friday.

Doctors at the hospital informed he has been given antibiotics for the pneumonia. But they were not certain whether it would help the ex-Abahani centre back improve because his white blood cell count was still lower than normal.

It was also learnt that his blood-culture report was okay, meaning that his septicaemia (blood infection) was improving. Munna was still in conscious state when this report was being filed.

**Altat replaces Raja on PCB**

**REUTERS/AFP, Karachi**

Pakistani cricket underwent radical changes on Saturday as President Pervez Musharraf appointed a director of cricket operations and an ad-hoc committee.

The changes came after Musharraf, patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), expressed concern over the team's poor performances in Australia.

"The appointments have been approved by the chief patron of the board after consultations with the chairman of the board Shaharyar Khan," PCB spokesman Abbas Zaidi told Reuters.

Saleem Altat, a 59-year-old former fast bowler who played 21 Tests for Pakistan between 1968 and 1978, will look after cricket affairs as director of operations and will represent Pakistan at meetings of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

Altat, who also played six one-day internationals, replaces former Test captain Rameez Raja, who

# Job is only half done

**SPORTS REPORTER**

**Citycell Zimbabwe**

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar said they have just done half the job after levelling the five-match series 2-2 against Zimbabwe by winning the fourth match by 58 runs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

"We are still in a must-win situation when we go into the last game to fulfil our dream of the first ever one-day series victory," said a delighted Bashar at the post-match briefing.

The Tigers skipper expressed satisfaction over his team's overall performance in the match and said that they were now quite confident to win the fifth and final one-day against the Africans on Monday.

"The way we fought back in the series is something rare in our cricket. We made some mistakes in the previous matches, even in the third one-day which we won by 40 runs. But I must say we have had a much better show today," he said.

The captain had special words of praises for his two left-arm spinners Manzarul Islam and Mohammad Rafique who turned the day-nighter on its head by evenly sharing eight wickets between them.

"There is no doubt about the ability of Rafique, but Manzarul really surprised us with his brilliant performance," he said.

Manzarul, who also became the first Bangladeshi to win successive man-of-the-match awards, was delighted as well but he said that he was looking forward to the last game.

"I will be a happy man if I contribute something for my team in the series decider," said the soft-spoken spinner.

"Giving the breakthrough was important but I think taking the wicket of (Tatenda) Taibu was vital," he added.

Taibu, the Zimbabwe captain who now has to regroup his side in the series decider, admitted that the two Bangladeshi spinners made the difference.

"But I believe that everything is not lost yet. We can still win the

series from here," said the wicketkeeper.

Toss has so far been playing a 'decisive role' in the series and teams that have called the coin right and batted first have won in the first four games.

32-year old Bashar responded with a big smile when he was asked about the coin factor.

"So far the teams batting first after winning the toss have been successful in the series. Of course, we were lucky enough today to win the toss because it was a big advantage in the day-night match. But we are not scared to batting second if needed," he said.

Replying to a question, the premier Bangladesh batsman said that at no point of the game were they in a position to lose the match even when the two Zimbabwean openers were going great guns.

"Their opening pair batted brilliantly, but we were confident that the match would turn in our favour once we got the breakthrough. It was difficult to bat against the spinners under lights," he said.

## PREVIEW: MEN'S FINAL

# Who's destiny's child?

## Australian Open

**AFP, Melbourne**

Destiny figures strongly in the thinking of Lleyton Hewitt and Marat Safin as they shape up in Sunday's Australian Open tennis men's final at Melbourne Park.

Both have paid their Australian Open dues over the years and now comes the pay-off for one of them in a final match-up hardly anyone expected after Safin's showstopping win over world number one Roger Federer in the semifinals.

Safin is determined to ensure he won't be tagged a three-time Australian final loser after reaching his third Australian final in four years.

On the other side of the net Hewitt is aiming to become the first Australian to win the Open since compatriot Mark Edmondson's title triumph in 1976.

There has not been a five-set Australian Open final since Swede Mats Wilander's win over home hope Pat Cash in 1988, but there is every indication the first night men's final here will rectify that.

It is an intriguing contrast of styles: Safin's volatility, fierce serve and groundstrokes and maverick personality up against Hewitt's combativeness, unquenchable fighting spirit and seemingly bottomless reserves of fitness.

Safin makes no bones about his disappointment of not winning in his two previous finals here.

The 2000 US Open champion could not go with Federer in last year's final, running out of gas after a debilitating lead-up of five-set wins in the quarters and semis, but he was crestfallen after going down to Sweden's Thomas Johansson in the 2002 final when considered the favourite.

"Yeah, I believe in the destiny. Let's put it this way. I believe in what I achieve goes a little bit further than that. I will be in the final third time, supposedly I have to win," Safin said Saturday.

"But I think just everything that happened before to me, it had to happen. I really believe in that. I couldn't change it if it was meant to be this way."

Hewitt also believes this is his chance to realise a long-held dream of winning the national open, stemming back to his younger days

coming from Adelaide to Melbourne Park watching his boyhood idols, Wilander and Cash.

"I used to go to a lot of Pat Cash's matches, Mats Wilander, they were my favourite players. I went out to a lot of their matches. I saw a lot of tennis here," said Hewitt, the 2001 US Open and 2002 Wimbledon champion.

"I love this place. You know, every time I walked in here, I wanted to come back in and watch more."

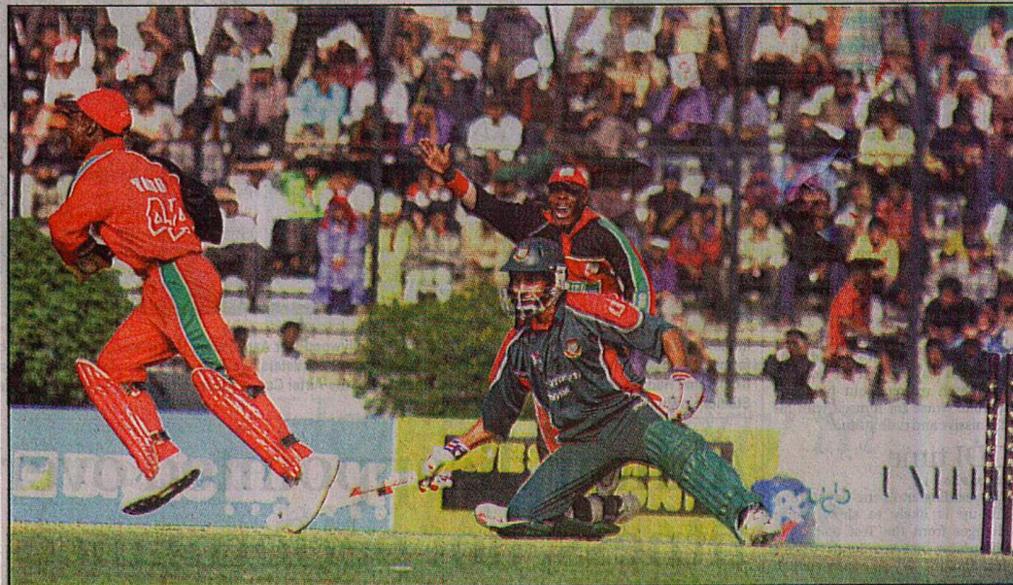
"I would have given anything to be in this position, to have an opportunity to play one match for the title here in Melbourne."

"Now part of that dream's come true. I get an opportunity on Sunday night. I know as well as anyone that I'm going to have to go out there and play one of my best matches to get up against Marat."

Safin goes in as favourite after his momentous win over Federer, ending the Swiss champion's unbeaten 26-match run stretching back to last August and his quest to land his third straight Grand Slam crown.

"It's a different match. It's another day. You cannot play all the time the same game. You have to changesome things," Safin said.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



(Top) Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu (L) starts to celebrate after making a smart stumping against his Bangladesh counterpart Habibul Bashar. (Bottom) Opener Nafees Iqbal (L), who gave the home side a flying start, pulls one over mid-wicket while Khaled Mashud (R) applies the finishing touch to the innings in the fourth one-day International at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

# She toughed it out

## Australian Open

**REUTERS, Melbourne**

Professional misery and personal heartache over the past two years drove Serena Williams right through the pain barrier to the Australian Open crown, the American said on Saturday.

The seventh seed staged a stunning comeback to beat Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 at Melbourne Park before saying she had been through too much in the past two years to consider giving in to a back injury which struck at the start of the match.

The 2003 champion suffered the injury in the opening game of the final but bravely fought back to defeat world number one Davenport in a display of heart and determination.

"She was killing me in the first set but I just thought, 'Enough... I'm not going to lose,'" Williams said.

"Lindsay had me on the run, I was running for a ball on my backhand and my back went out. I'm not as young as I used to be," the 23-year-old smiled.

The remarkable comeback gave Williams her seventh Grand Slam title and her first since Wimbledon in 2003.

It was soon after that victory that Williams endured a bleak period in her life which included the death of one of her elder sisters, the separation of her parents and an extended lay-off after knee surgery.

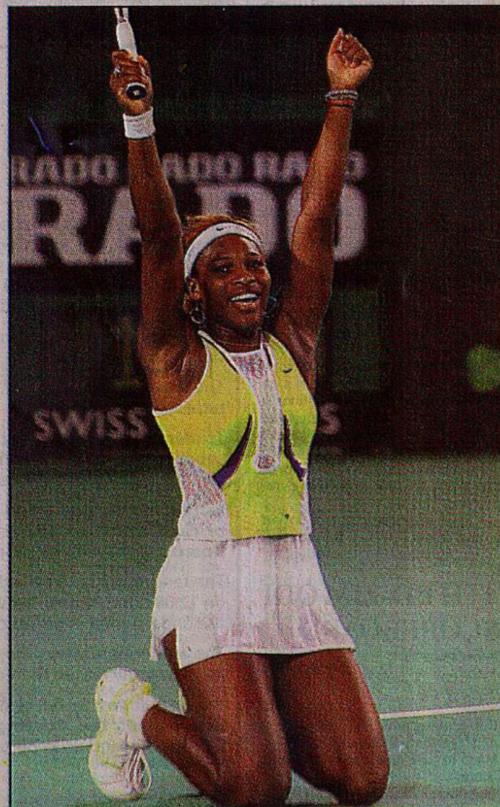
She won tournaments in Miami and Beijing after her comeback last year but also endured the disappointment of being beaten in the finals of Wimbledon and the season-ending WTA Championships, losing to Russian teenager Maria Sharapova both times.

Williams said those experiences had made her more determined to battle back and that she drew strength from them in the final.

"It means a lot to me. I went to a few finals last year and I went so close and didn't win, so I really didn't want it to happen again," she said.

Davenport, the 2000 champion, raced to a 4-0 lead in the first set after only 11 minutes, with Williams

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



**NO PAIN, NO GAIN:** Serena Williams falls on her knees after overcoming Lindsay Davenport in the Australian Open women's final yesterday.

## 4TH BD-ZIM ODI SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth CityCell one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on Saturday:

**BANGLADESH**

Saleh c Hondo b Mpofo	2			
Iqbal c Matsikenyeri b Utseya	56			
Aftab run out (Chigumbura/Taibu)	44			
Bashar st Taibu b Hondo	16			
Ashraf c Matsikenyeri b Mpofo	35			
Mashud c Utseya b Taylor	51			
Mashrafe c Matsikenyeri b Panyangara	8			
Rafique lbw b Taylor	1			
Mahmud b Taylor	0			
Manzarul not out	15			
Nazmul not out	6			
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-9, nb-2)	13			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	247			
Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Saleh), 2-85 (Aftab), 3-123 (Iqbal), 4-132 (Bashar), 5-196 (Ashraf), 6-217 (Mashrafe), 7-226 (Mashud), 8-226 (Rafique), 9-227 (Mahmud)				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Panyangara	8	1	36	1
Mpofo	8	0	39	2
Hondo	7	0	40	1
Rogers	10	0	40	0
Taylor	7	0	54	3
Utseya	10	0	36	1

**ZIMBABWE**

Matsikenyeri b Manzarul	50			
Rogers lbw b Rafique	49			
Ebrahim c Mahmud b Manzarul	0			
Masakadza b Mashrafe	33			
Taylor c and b Manzarul	1			
Taibu lbw b Manzarul	0			
Chigumbura b Rafique	7			
Panyangara lbw b Rafique	5			
Utseya c and b Rafique	6			
Hondo run out (Saleh)	17			
Mpofo not out	2			
Extras: (lb-9, w-5, nb-5)	19			
Total: (All out in 47.2 overs)	189			
Fall of wickets: 1-102 (Matsikenyeri), 2-105 (Ebrahim), 3-114 (Rogers), 4-117 (Taylor), 5-117 (Taibu), 6-133 (Chigumbura), 7-146 (Panyangara), 8-158 (Utseya), 9-169 (Masakadza), 10-169 (Hondo)				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Mashrafe	9	0	39	1
Nazmul	6	0	28	0
Manzarul	10	0	36	4

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

# Gilly wary of opponents

**AFP, Perth**



Pakistan's volatility and the self-belief of the West Indies are the unknown factors facing unbeaten Australia as they head towards the triangular VB Series finals, Australia's vice-captain Adam Gilchrist said Saturday.

Gilchrist, who will rejoin the Australian team for their final qualifying match against Pakistan at the Western Australian Cricket Association Ground on Sunday, said both teams had the ability to upset the host nation.

Australia have already qualified for the best-of-three-finals which start next Friday but their opponents will be determined by the result of the final round-robin

match between Pakistan and the West Indies in Perth on Tuesday.

"It's really difficult to know who would be the more difficult opponent," said Gilchrist, who will open the batting for Australia against Pakistan after a weeks rest.

"If (captain Brian) Lara fires well the West Indies are capable of absolutely anything."

"They're still capable of a lot of Lara misses out as we've seen a few times whether it's this year or over in the West Indies."

"And Pakistan are just so unpredictable -- they've got real danger men."

"I don't think were able to say one or the other would be a more suitable opponent and we've never functioned like that."

"We'll get our momentum right and see who we have to front again next Friday."

Both Pakistan and the Windies

have only one win apiece in the round-robin series but the West Indies were well on track to beating Australia in their second match in Brisbane when play was washed out by heavy rain.

"I think everyone knows we were probably going to go down in Brisbane but rain saved us so who knows what a loss there would have done (to us) -- or a win for the West Indies," Gilchrist said.

"He said the outcome of Sundays match would not effect who Australia played, but it could have a psychological bearing for the other two teams leading into Tuesday's decider."

Pakistan in particular had endured a long and unsuccessful tour of Australia, losing their Test series 3-0 and struggling in most other matches.

"I think any tour you are weary by

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

# ODI time in South Africa

## Cricket

**AFP, Johannesburg**

England will be looking to their young guns as they seek to build on a Test series triumph in the first one-day international against South Africa at the Wanderers Sunday.

"We're a pretty tired team," admitted England captain Michael Vaughan after his side had completed a 2-1 Test series win at Centurion Tuesday.

But he was confident that England would come out fresh for the start of a seven-match, one-day series. "We've got a lot of young guys coming into the one-day side," he said.

To underline his words, Ian Bell and Kevin Pietersen, both comparative international novices, took England to victory in their only one-

day warm-up match against South Africa A in Kimberley Thursday.

Kabir Ali and Gareth Batty, two of the side's least experienced bowlers, were mainly responsible for pegging back the South Africa A batsmen after the home side made a good start.

Vaughan, Andrew Strauss, Matthew Hoggard and Ashley Giles, some of the key performers in the Test series, missed Thursday's match but are all likely starters together with one-day specialists like veteran bowler Darren Gough, all-rounder Paul Collingwood and youngsters like Bell and Pietersen.

Although they have climbed to number two in the world Test rankings, England are languishing in fifth place in the one-day international ratings despite reaching the final of the ICC Champions Trophy in England last September.

South Africa, meanwhile, have

dropped into the one-day basement, ranked seventh after a disastrous 2004. Before hitting a slump in New Zealand last February, they had never been lower than second.

But they lost five successive matches in New Zealand, and another five in Sri Lanka, then were eliminated at the group stage of the Champions Trophy, leading to the axing of coach Eric Simons.

New coach Ray Jennings has yet to take charge in a one-day international. He was appointed on a short-term contract which ends after a tour of the West Indies in May.

With the World Cup in 2007 identified as the major long-term goal for the South African team, Jennings will be keen to show that he can help add the innovative spark that has been missing from the side in one-day matches.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1