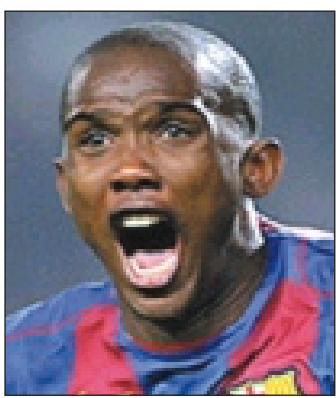




## Did U Know?

In 1975 Junko Tabeta from Japan became the first woman to reach the top of Mount Everest.



**Samuel Eto'o**  
(Barcelona striker)  
"I danced like a monkey because they treated me like a monkey."  
Explaining his response to the racist abuse he received in a Primera Liga match.



**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
Birmingham v Liverpool  
Repeated at 10.30 pm  
ICC Cricket World  
Repeated at 2.30 pm  
Football Focus  
Live at 6.30 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8.30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Arsenal v Crystal Palace  
Taped version at 12.30 pm  
Sportsline  
Live at 8 pm



**Ispahani 6th Nat'l Cricket League**  
(One-day)  
Dhaka v Barisal  
Venue: BNS  
Khulna v Rajshahi  
Venue: KDS  
Chittagong v Sylhet  
Venue: CDS

**PEPSI V'BALL**  
**Quarterfinalists complete**  
SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinal line-up of the Pepsi Inter-District Volleyball tournament was confirmed yesterday at the Chuadanga Stadium. The teams in the last eight are Khulna, Kushtia, Satkhira, Jessore, Jhenidah, Patuakhali, Meherpur and hosts Chuadanga.

The quarterfinal matches will take place at the same venue this morning. The semifinals are also scheduled to be held in the afternoon.

In the day's last league matches, Patuakhali beat Meherpur 21-25, 25-18, 25-20, 25-19 while Jhenidah defeated Narail 28-26, 30-28, 25-16.

**Rumi Smriti TT in early March**  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation will organise the Rumi Smriti Open Table Tennis Championships next month to mark the second death anniversary of renowned sports journalist Masud Ahmed Rumi, who died on March 11, 2003.

## Enamul strikes again Bangladesh A in control



SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Haque Jr. continued to haunt Zimbabwean batsmen like an unshakable ghost as he put Bangladesh A in charge on day two of the first A Test at Bulawayo yesterday.

Enamul, the A team captain, who single-handedly demolished Zimbabwe's senior side in the two-Test series at home last month by taking 18 wickets, was at his destructive best once again as he snapped up seven wickets to finish Zimbabwe's first innings on 188.

That gave the tourists a 66-run lead and they had stretched that advantage to 247 when reports last came in. The firebrand Shahadat Hossain Rajib was reportedly hostile throughout and took two wickets bowling very fast.

Raqib al-Hasan a teenaged opener had struck his maiden first-class century to take Bangladesh A

to 254 on the first day. Raqib made 25 in the second innings but solid contributions from Tushar Imran (55) and Wasselluddin (48) enabled his side to reach 181 for five after tea.

The home team sent the visitors in on a grassy Queens Sports Club wicket and did a fair job in restricting them. But Shahadat dismissed Vusi Sibanda and Zimbabwe A captain Dion Ebrahim with just 18 on the board as they stuttered to 57-3 by close on the opening day.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 254 all out in 70.3 overs (Nafees 27, Raqib 100, Shamsur 8, Tushar 14, Wasel 2, Riyadh 55, Dhiman 1, Sharif 5, Russel 3, Rajib 6 n.o., Enamul 0, extras 33, Mahwire 3-48, Nicolson 2-80, Macmillan 4-63, Cremer 1-47) and 2nd innings: 181-5 (Raqib 25, Tushar 55, Wasel 48).  
**ZIMBABWE A:** First innings 181 all out (Enamul 7 wickets, Rajib 2 wickets).

Raqib, who opened the innings with vice-captain Shahriar Nafees Ahmed, made exactly 100 but the second string Bangladesh could not capitalise on a decent start.

The openers put on 63 before left-handed Nafees (27) was removed by paceman Nicolson. Pace trio Nicolson, Blessing Mahwire and Craig McMillan then made regular inroads into the Bangladesh middle-order. Macmillan bagged four for 63.

Raqib, who hit 14 boundaries in his 157-ball knock only received support from Mahmudullah Riyadh (55 off 72).

The hard-hitting Riyadh joined Raqib on 153-4 and took the total to 198 before Raqib was caught by Sibanda off Mahwire. Macmillan captured the last three wickets in the space of seven runs.

Zimbabwe A's reply started badly as Sibanda was clean bowled for eight. Ebrahim, who had a horrendous tour of Bangladesh which cost him his place in the main team, was

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## 'Pure football, pure hope and pure emotion'

He rules the organisation that governs football associations of almost every country in the world. As president of FIFA, Joseph S Blatter is directly or indirectly responsible in shaping the lives of millions as the world game continues to impact nearly 90 per cent of the global population. Blatter is acknowledged as one of the most powerful persons in the world simply because of the sheer weight of football as an entity, and his face is more recognisable than leaders of most countries. Recently, editors of 14 Asian newspapers including Daily Star's Mahfuz Anam, who were in Switzerland for the World Economic Forum, had the rare opportunity of meeting Blatter at Fifa headquarters in Zurich and were treated to a cordial and warm tête-à-tête by the FIFA boss. PANA JANVIROJ narrates the informal meeting where Blatter went at length to emphasise on the human aspect of football.

"Welcome to my house. It's your home," was how Blatter greeted editors from the 14 newspaper members of Asia News Network (ANN).

His hospitality was complemented by the flattering outlay of the Fifa headquarters. It overlooks the magnificent Zurich lake and also houses a first-class restaurant.

Fifa's richness has come during the tenure of the last two Fifa chiefs - the long serving Joao Havelange and now Blatter. The organisation manages the finance of the World Cup, the most watched single event of all time. Club football has also become a lucrative affair ensuring a huge turnover for successful players, shareholders and sponsors of successful teams and TV stations.

"You all went to Davos (venue for the World Economic Forum). I am disappointed that there were no speeches about sports. 2005 should be the year of sports and physical education," said Blatter who has worked for Fifa for 30 years.

"I have visited all the countries from which you (ANN) come from. We are distressed by the devastating catastrophe of the tsunami in

including the affected members of the Indonesian and Thai national men and women's football teams. Fifa will stage a Tsunami charity all-

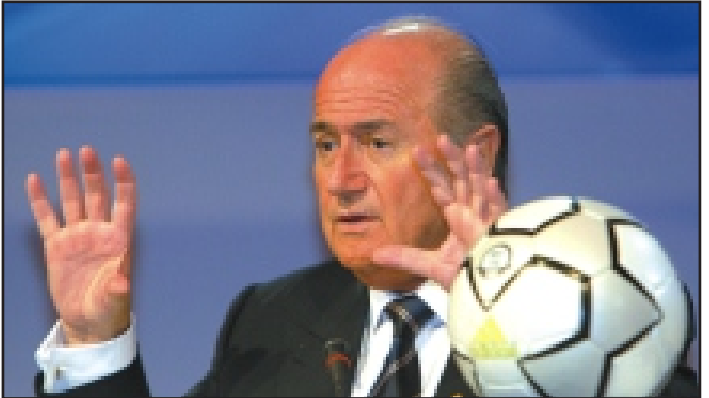
one of the hotels in Phuket where the Thai Under-19 Women's World Cup team chose to practice when Thailand staged the event in early Dec. That hotel was wiped out by the Tsunami.

Blatter is very excited about the prospect of the game flourishing in Asia. He cited the last World Cup jointly hosted by Japan and South Korea which helped to bring the citizens of the two countries closer together as one of the continent's success stories. He singled out China and India with its one billion plus population as the next growth areas for football.

The game today boasts 250 million players worldwide, of which 40 million are female. A staggering 99.8 per cent of football players worldwide are amateurs and 80 per cent of them are youths informed Blatter. Football, he said, creates wonderful athletes and provides hope for the youth.

"Pure football, pure hope and pure emotion," is Blatter's vision

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Sepp Blatter ... FIFA president

India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia."

Just to uphold sports "solidarity", Blatter said Fifa was raising up to US\$10 million for the tsunami vic-

star match at Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium on February 15.

Talking about the tsunami, Blatter thanked God for having "an eye on football" while referring to

## Kalabagan get Premier ticket



SPORTS REPORTER

Kalabagan Krira Chakra returned to domestic cricket's top flight after one season when they managed a two-wicket victory over Partex Krira Chakra in the First Division League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kalabagan confirmed their place in the elite Premier League with one match in hand. They have recorded 13 wins from 16 games. Two more teams -- Sonargaon Cricketers and Gazi Tank level on 24 points -- are still in contention but Kalabagan, who have 26 points, enjoy a better head-to-head record against both sides.

Kalabagan will play Surjo Tarun in their last match on February 20 while Sonargaon have two matches

left compared to Gazi Tank's one. The top two finishers will qualify for next season's Premier League from the 18-team fray.

In the day's lone match, coin-favoured Partex decided to bat first and scored 203 before being all out in 48.3 overs, thanks to Tariq Ahmed's 99-ball 67.

Shahriar Alam was the most successful Kalabagan bowler picking up four wickets for 44 from 10 overs while Zakir Hossain and Monirul Islam chipped in with two wickets each for 44 and 25 runs respectively.

Raju Parvez smashed 50 off 67 balls and Uttam Kumar contributed 47 from 61 deliveries as Kalabagan raced to 205-8 with just one over remaining.

Samsul Huda captured three wickets conceding 31 from 10 overs while Shamim Hossain finished his 10-over quota with 2-39.



PHOTO: AFP

**WINNER TAKES IT ALL:** A proud South Africa captain Graeme Smith holds aloft the one-day international series trophy after the seventh and final match against England at Centurion on Sunday.

## Selectors to name BD A stand-ins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors will meet today to name two replacements for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI squad to play in the upcoming Duleep Trophy in India.

The four-member BCB selection committee led by Faruque Ahmed had announced a 14-member squad for the first-class competition but two selected players Naimur Rahman and Tareq Aziz have already informed the Board of their unavailability.

It is almost certain that off-spinner Sabbir Khan will replace the former Bangladesh captain Naimur while it was yet to decide who will step in for right-arm pacer Tareq, who withdrew on personal ground. "One selector (Athar Ali) is now abroad and that is the reason why we have yet to decide about the replacement of Tareq. We will sit tomorrow to finalise the replacements," said Faruque yesterday.

There are three contenders for the seamer's spot -- Alamgir Hossain, Gazi Alamgir and Mohammad Shahjada -- but Shahjada is most likely to be included in the tour party.

The camp will begin tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The BCB XI, led by Mohammad Ashraf, will take on East Zone and Central Zone in their two group matches.

## AHMEDABAD VENUE ICC assisting BCCI & PCB

BBC ONLINE, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is working with the Indian and Pakistani boards on the dispute over Ahmedabad as a Test venue for the upcoming series.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) lodged an objection to playing at the western Indian city, the scene of religious riots in 2002.

ICC president Ehsan Mani said the scheduling problems should not have happened.

"We are working behind the scenes to come out with a solution and I am hopeful it will be sorted out within a few days," Mani told the BBC on Monday.

"A similar situation had arisen when India went to tour Pakistan last year," he said, referring to India's reservations over playing in Karachi and Peshawar.

"The BCCI should have sorted out the TV rights row and the tour itinerary long ago, but they could not do so because of some legal problems," he says.

Last week, it emerged India would not award broadcasting rights to the Pakistan tour until a court battle is resolved, allowing a petition from Zee Telefilms to be heard.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had proposed Ahmedabad as host of the second Test, scheduled to start on March 12.

Ahmedabad witnessed religious riots between Hindus and Muslims three years ago resulting in deaths of more than 1,000 people.

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## Sweet S African revenge



REUTERS, Centurion

Ashwell Prince scored his maiden half-century to steer South Africa to a three-wicket win over England and wrap up a 4-1 series victory in the seventh and final one-day international on Sunday.

One match was tied and one rained out. Also it was sweet revenge on part of the Proteas as they had lost the preceding Test series 2-1.

Despite a superb century under pressure by England's Kevin Pietersen, who lifted England to 240 all out in 49.5 overs, South Africa won with an over to spare after Prince struck a career-best 62 not out in 76 balls.

The hosts finished on 241 for nine, with further contributions from captain Graeme Smith (47) and

Mark Boucher, a brisk 44. Pietersen smashed 116 off 110 balls -- his third century of the series -- after coming to the crease with his side 32 for three.

Ashley Giles (41) and Kabir Ali (25) combined with the South African-born Pietersen in crucial lower-order stands of 104 for the seventh wicket and 53 for the eighth.

Andrew Hall, with three for 52, and Makhaya Ntini and Andre Nel, with two wickets each, were the most successful South African bowlers.

Boucher scored his 44 off just 40 balls with six fours before he was run out when 23 runs were still needed, though he had got South Africa near enough to their victory target and, while Justin Kemp and Shaun Pollock were dismissed cheaply, Prince got them home safely.

South Africa shuffled their batting

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## Shoaib still ill at ease



AFP, Karachi

Express pacer Shoaib Akhtar is still facing fitness problems with just over a week before Pakistan start their first full tour of India in six years, chief selector Wasim Bari said on Monday.

"Shoaib has informed me that he still carries a niggle and needs time to recover," Bari told AFP.

"I have conveyed to him that Pakistan needs a fully fit Shoaib for the important India tour," he said.

"We have requested the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to provide us a full fitness report on each player so that we can decide on the team when we meet on Friday," he said as injury problems hit several other players.

Pacer Mohammad Sami injured his heel and back and had to return

home after the second Test in Australia in December last year while young pacer Mohammad Khalil is still recovering from a shoulder injury sustained in the first final of the triangular VB Series in Australia earlier this month.

Two other frontline pacers Shabbir Ahmed -- recovering from a knee operation in November last year -- and Umar Gul -- who needs another four months to recover from a stress fracture of the back he suffered in the home series against India last year -- are already out of the tour.

Pakistan play three Tests and five one-day internationals from February 25 to April 9 on the tour.

The 29-year-old Shoaib had to return home from the last phase of team's tour of Australia and is still recuperating from a hamstring injury.

Shoaib is also facing a disciplinary action for visiting a disco on the Australian tour.

He denied charges before a

disciplinary committee on Saturday and a final decision, which may bar him from touring India or levy a huge fine, is expected to be announced by Tuesday.

The PCB had also directed Shoaib to play a four-day first class match starting Monday to prove his fitness but the pacer did not comply.

Bari said it was imperative for Shoaib to prove his fitness and not break down again.

"It's his own decision not to play, it's for his own good that he attains full fitness through a match because his reputation as the spearhead is at stake," said the chief selector.

Bari denied captain Inzamamul Haq or coach Bob Woolmer had given him any negative report on Shoaib.

Shoaib and Sami disappointed the home fans by managing just seven wickets apiece in Pakistan's home defeat at the hands of India last year.

## Kevin dreams of Test



BBC ONLINE, undated

Kevin Pietersen's third century in the 4-1 series defeat to South Africa ensured he lifted the awards for both man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series.

Pietersen, who ended with 454 runs facing only 430 balls and a series average of 151, said he wanted to break into the England Test team after the three-wicket loss on Sunday.

"I'm not a selector," the powerful right-hander, 24, said.

"But hopefully my performance puts a few ticks in a few boxes as far as Test selection goes."

Pietersen, who was born in South Africa, was given a hard time

by the crowd at most games but overcame the pressure to produce a stunning array of performances.

He added: "The crowds have been hostile towards me but it's been like a dream come true.

"I thank the coaches for all their support. I'm thrilled to bits."

England, playing only for pride at Centurion before flying home, were 68-6 before Pietersen's 116 off 110 balls led them to 240 all out. South Africa did their best to make life difficult for themselves in the closing stages before winning with six balls remaining.

Former England captain Michael Atherton is leading a chorus of calls for Pietersen to be included in England's Test make-up.

And current skipper Michael Vaughan has backed the Hampshire star to take his prolific

form into the five-day format.

"You have to be a very good player to do what he has just done," he said.

"He has come in and set the world alight with innings of unbelievable tempo in pressure situations.

"I am certainly happy he is in our team. Once you get him and Andrew Flintoff batting together in that middle period you will certainly see some fireworks.

"And I don't see any reason why he should not continue this form into Test cricket."

But Vaughan paid credit to the home side for their performance in the seven-match series.

He said: "They have put us under a lot of pressure but there are still a lot of positives we can take from the game."

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PHOTO: AP

**HANDS FULL:** England sensation Kevin Pietersen displays the man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series trophies at Centurion on Sunday.