SC stays HC's orders on **BCB** constitution

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the High Court orders that had restrained the government from acting under the revised constitution of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) relating to its

A three-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain passed the order upon petitions moved by the National Sports Council (NSC) and the BCB.

On March 5, the High Court had issued rule upon a writ petition filed by three elected directors of the BCB challenging the legality of the revised "constitution 2003" and asked the NSC and the BCB to explain why the revised part of the constitution should not be declared illegal. The HC had directed the respondents to refrain from acting on the impugned constitution until disposal of the rule.

The BCB and NSC challenged the rule before the Supreme Court which on Wednesday removed all restrictions on holding election to BCB under the revised constitution.

Presently, the BCB president Ali Asghar, a government nominee, is running the show with a set of advisors. Meanwhile, the four-year tenure of the elected body of the BCB expired in February last.

Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali appeared for the BCB and Dr M Zahir stood for the NSC.

NATIONAL TT

Tumpa, Rinu lift doubles title

SPORTS REPORTER

Tumpa and Rinu upset their Bangladesh Ansar teammates Soma and Saleha to lift the women's doubles title of the Meril 27th National Table Tennis Championships yesterday.

Tumpa and Rinu won the first set 11-4 in an all-Ansars final at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur but favourites Saleha and Soma took a 2-1 lead winning the next sets 11-8 SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



Iran, the only country in the world that bans chess. Ayatollah Khomeini banned the game because 'it hurts memory and may cause brain damage.' He also said chess contributes to a war-mongering mentality.





Shoaib Akhtar

(Pakistan fast bowler) "I am heart-broken but that doesn't mean that I have given up." On being dropped for the West



ESPN

Football Crazy Live at 5:00 pm Sportscentre Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

ATP Hamburg Masters Last 16 Live at 7:00 pm Sportsline



PHOTOS: AFP

A TWIN TON BEGINNING: Mohammad Ashraful (L) and Javed Omar in full flow during their innings against British Universities at Fenner's on Tuesday. Javed scored a century on the first day of the three-day tour opener while Ashraful completed his

Tigers in control

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER/AGENCIES

Bangladesh's first choice pace attack of Mashrafee bin-Mortuza, Tapash Baisya and Kazi Shahadat Hossain combined to take four wickets while ace spinner Mohammad Rafique got one in his first over to put the British Universities on the back foot on Day Two of the three-day tour opener at Fenner's in Cambridge yesterday.

An hour into the day's last session, the Universities were 118 for five, 263 runs behind Bangladesh's

Tapash Baisya, who has struggled for control, claimed two wickets either side of tea but gave away 49 runs from eight overs including six no balls. The quickest of the lot Shahadat has been the most economical. The new-comer gave away just 11 from his seven overs and sent back highly-rated Essex batsman Adnan Akram (21) while senior partner Mashrafee was also impressive (one for 26 from nine).

followed opener Javed Omar into

Upbeat Pakistan cricket captain

Inzamamul Haq said his team was

confident of winning a series in the

West Indies for the first time as they

flew out to the Caribbean early on

great challenge but I am confident

that this team has the talent and the

determination to register Pakistan's

first ever series win there," he told

AFP before the 17-member squad's

Pakistan are on a high after their

successful tour of India where they

squared a three-match Test series

1-1 and won a six-match one-day

series 4-2. But 35-year-old

Inzamam said his team realised

"Playing in the West Indies is a

Cricket

Wednesday.

recording the second century of the Tigers' innings but there was an agonising wait for the 20-year-old before his score was corrected from

BBC online and agencies add: Ashraful was given out for 99 after a 139-ball innings featuring 18 fours. But, having been on 87 overnight, he was convinced he had

scored 15 further runs before being

caught at fine leg.
And eventually the correct score of 102 was attributed to the batsman, who was the second best individual scorer in an excellent

team total of 381. Omar reached his best first-class score of 167 before Bangladesh were all out about 45 minutes after

The tourists began the day on 238-3 and wasted no time in improving the total despite overhead cloud cover offering assistance to the student bowlers.

Rajin Saleh struggled for 20 minutes before he drove Glen Read to Akram at cover, but Khaled Mashud provided Omar with useful support as they put on 56 for the

Pakistan off to Windies

"India was great and we can only

take motivation from that, the rest is

history now. The West Indies is a new

place and a new series and everyone

is gearing up for that," said Inzamam,

whose side plays three one-dayers

limited-overs practice match on May

15 in Antiqua before playing the first

one-day international at St. Vincent

Inzamam warned that the West

Indies, despite their poor recent

showing against South Africa, can

「OUR PROGRAMME

1st ODI

3rd ODI

Antigua

St. Vincent

St. Lucia

Pakistan open the tour with a

and two Tests on the tour.

still pose a big threat.

on May 18.

May 26-30

They were parted immediately

before the interval as Akram took his second catch of the morning to remove Mashud for 18 and give seamer Amit Suman his first success.

Suman finally ended Omar's sixand-a-half hours resistance and slow left-armer Monty Panesar was then left to pluck out three tail-enders. The farce surrounding Ashraful's

score was only resolved in midafternoon when it was discovered the scorers had missed a three hit by the batsman through mid-on.

Both the scoreboard operator and batsman himself recalled the missing stroke and the totals were then adjusted accordingly after discussions with umpires John Holder and Tim Robinson.

On the first day, Omar finished unbeaten on 111, having played a foil to the audacious Ashraful.

Omar carries a slow-scorer's image but on Tuesday by contrast, he fairly skipped along to his halfcentury, a change of mood which his team-mates put down to a visit to the Curry Mahal restaurant in Cambridge, where he had been accosted by a Bangladeshi wellwisher who had told him to get a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

"We realise that the West Indies

can be dangerous, especially on

their grounds with quality players

led by Brian Lara so we will take

them seriously," said Inzamam, who

will miss the first Test because of a

ban for showing dissent in the last

play to our potential," said Inzamam.

adding that leg-spinner Danish

Kaneria, who took 19 wickets in the

India Tests, was his team's trump

Mohammad Sami (both missing

through injuries) but I don't think our

bowling is weak," the skipper added.

he howled well in India but his place

has gone to Shabbir Ahmed who

has fully recovered and is deter-

mined to make his mark.

"We will miss Shoaib Akhtar and

"We would miss Sami because

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

"This could be the first win if we

India Test.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Abahani will take on Sheikh Russel

The final between the two Dhaka outfits will kick off at 5.45 pm at the Rajshahi Stadium.

their Moroccan trio Egir, Rachid and Adel, who were inspirational in their 5-1 defeat of Bangladesh Army in

"We have nothing to lose and Abahani will feel the pressure," said Russel manager Habibur Rahman. "If our players can produce their natural game, it would be a difficult match for Abahani.

Warne hits maiden ton

BBC ONLINE, undated

Shane Warne finally scored the first century of his career on the opening day of Hampshire's county championship game against Kent on Wednesday at Canterbury.

Batting at number nine, the Australian reached his hundred off only 72 balls, hitting three sixes and 15 fours.

missed for 328.

Mukti's home plight on

East Bengal win the prestige battle

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad's poor home run continued as the local giants suffered a 1-0 defeat to East Bengal of Kolkata in an AFC Cup Group A tie at the National Stadium

Bangabandhu

Substitute Bijen Singh struck the all-important goal in the 75th minute to give East Bengal their first victory in the tournament

On the other hand, it was Muktijoddha's third defeat at home in five games in the competition, which effectively ended their slim chance to qualify for the second

Both teams, who drew goalless in their first meeting in Kolkata, are now level on four points with one

As it was expected, the two eavyweights from either side of the border began with caution but Muktijoddha had an early edge. Buoyed by a 6,000-strong home

crowd, the Reds terrorised the rival defence with Belal's long and measured throws after Hassan Al Mamun's scorching volley skimmed the upright in the second minute.

Visiting goalkeeper and captain Sangram then defied Muktijoddha from an early goal when he kept out Belal's powerful throw with his fingertips and pulled off a breathtaking save on Harry's volley on the rebound in the tenth minute. The Indian national custodian was beaten 12 minutes later by Belal's missile-like attack from the right but this time, defender Habib headed the ball out from the goalline.

Having survived the opening salvo, the Kolkata giants settled down and outplayed the opposition midfield, which featured as many as three defenders in the absence of playmaker Arman. The midfield maestro was unavailable for injury but Muktijoddha coach Shafigul Islam Manik surprised everyone by ignoring Bidyut or Saiful in the starting line-up.

East Bengal, with dazzling runs from Nigerian striker Jeremiah, created three chances in the last ten minutes before break. However

Jeremiah placed the ball just wide at the far post while Subhash fired one straight to Bangladesh number one goalkeeper Aminul before rattling the crossbar from 15 yards.

Manik however brought in Bidyut and Saiful after halftime but they could hardly pierce the towering East Bengal backline manned by Suresh and Habibur Rahman Mondal

Only Belal came close to scoring for the home side when he was pushed to midfield, but his header on a Saiful cross went wide in the 73rd minute.

East Bengal's moment of joy came soon after when Bijen, who came on the pitch eight minutes ago, exchanged passes with Lawrence Climax at the right flank before finding the far post with an exquisite chip over Aminul from inside the box to separate the two

Climax almost made it 2-0 nine minutes from time when he raced past Aminul on a solo run but the . Muktijoddha keeper recovered in

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

Abahani-Russel final today STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Krira Chakra in the final of the Independence Day football tournamenṫ here today.

Abahani coach Amlesh Sen said yesterday that his boys will go all out in bid to win their first title this sea-

"We will miss a few players but

in Raishahi." said Amlesh. Abahani will miss central young defender Shipon -- suspended for receiving two yellow cards -- who struck twice in their 4-2 quarterfinal victory over Farashganj Sporting Club. The Sky Blues, who ousted Muktijoddha Sangsad 1-0 in the semis, will also be without midfielders Zahed and Asif.

Dhaka Premier League runners-Sheikh Russel will depend on the quarters and a 3-0 win over Arambagh in the semis.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu will distribute trophies as chief guest.

Warne is Test cricket's world

record wicket-taker, but his best score was 99 against New Zealand He put on 131 with Tom Burrows

(42) and ran out of partners on 107 not out as Hampshire were dis-



Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Younis Khan has said that he is ready for the challenge of leading Pakistan in the first Test against West Indies, which starts in Barbados on May 26. With regular captain Inzamamul

Haq serving a one-match suspension, Younis will complete a remarkable turnaround just three months after being recalled for the Test series against India. "For the past three weeks or so, I

have been preparing as to how would I conduct myself when the time comes to lead the country in the opening Test," said Younis to the Dawn newspaper prior to his departure on Wednesday. "Of course it is a great responsi-

bility that I've to shoulder at the start

of the series. The absence of Inzamam leaves a gaping hole in the middle order. But the rest of the team has got to lift itself to fill the void. I am sure if we play with the same spirit and dedication as we did in the final Test against India, there'll be lots of positives for us in store."

Inzamam was banned for showing dissent in the Bangalore Test against India, but Younis, who was appointed as vice-captain ahead of the Indian tour, has been in magnificent touch, scoring 508 runs in those three Tests at a staggering average of 101.60. Pakistan drew the Test series 1-1 and won the onedayers 4-2

"It will be unwise on our part because in cricket anything is possible. One can't take victory for granted in any sport, be it team or individual. One bad session could cost the team dear," said Younis,

when asked about the prospect of a

first-ever series win in the

"West Indies may have been struggling for a long time in the Test arena, but that doesn't mean we will roll them over. Their batting is formidable, especially on their own pitches. We should not forget that virtually the same batting line-up chased a mammoth fourth-innings score not only to set a world record but defeat Australia of all teams (in 2003).

PHOTO: STAR

However, Bob Woolmer, the coach, has warned his charges not to take the West Indies lightly.

"It would be nice to cap the first ear as coach with a win in the Caribbean, but we will not underestimate the West Indies and have to play at our best," he said.

"Every series is a new series What has happened in the past does not bother me. This team stands a good chance of winning if

SA 222 for 1 in 40 overs

they had to look forward.

STAR SPORT MONITOR

departure for Antigua.

Opener Boeta Dippenaar brought up his second century as South Africa once again grabbed the early initiative in the third one-day international against West Indies in

Barbados on Wednesday. He was batting on 112 along with Jacques Kallis, who survived a confident caught behind while on naught after skipper Graeme Smith was dismissed for 28. Kallis was batting on 75 as the visitors reached

222 for one in 40 overs. Earlier, the West Indies won toss

and decided to bowl. WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle, Xavier Marshall, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Dwayne Bravo, Dwayne Smith, Courtney Browne, Ian Bradshaw, Daren Powell, Corey

SOUTH AFRICA: Graeme Smith, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Herschelle Gibbs, Shaun Pollock, Ashwell Prince, Justin Kemp, Mark Boucher, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini



PHOTO: AFP Pakistan cricket captain Inzamamul Haq is being greeted by fans at the Karachi International Airport before his team's departure for the West

Asia Cup in February

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan will host the Asia Cup oneday tournament in February next year and the home side will be pitted against their arch-rivals in the same group, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) said Wednesday.

Pakistan, who had never hosted the biennial event due to its sporting deadlock with India, will stage the tournament from February 14-26, a council official said. "The full programme would be

announced shortly but the meeting of the ACC has finalised the dates. venues and the groups of the ninth edition of the Asia Cup," ACC chief executive Ashraful Haq told AFP. "Since the normalisation of the

also changed a little bit as the four teams who qualify for the second Indo-Pak relations last year, the in the first phase," said Haq. Asian cricket is flourishing and the better relations augurs well for Asian second phase will qualify for the February 26 final. cricket," he said.

meeting is being attended by representatives from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Singapore, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Nepal Bangladesh's representative

The two-day executive board

could not attend the meeting which ends on Thursday.

Joining Pakistan and India in Group A will be Oman, the runnersup of the ACC Trophy last year. Sri Lanka, winners of the event

they hosted last year, Bangladesh and ACC trophy winners the UAE are placed in Group B. The first round matches will be

played in Rawalpindi and Karachi while the second round and the final will be played in Lahore. "The format of the Asia Cup is

round will carry the points they score The top two teams from the

Pakistan in January-February next year so they will stay after the bilateral series and would feature in the Asia Cup," he said. India, who won the inaugural Asia Cup held in Sharjah in 1983,

"India is scheduled to tour

won once. "The ACC has also decided that the Asian Test Championship would be revived in 2007 and would last for

has won the event four times, Sri

Lanka three times and Pakistan has

30 days." said Hag. All four Asian Test playing countries -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- took part in the two Asian Test Championships held in 1998-99 and in 2001-02.

The event could not be held subsequently due to the hectic international schedule. "After the 2006 Asia Cup, the

next two Asia Cups will be held in 2008 and 2010 while Asian Test **SEE PAGE 13 COL 2**