



**Did U Know?**  
Vikram Solanki made cricket history becoming the first super substitute when England played Australia in the opening NatWest Challenge match at Headingley, Leeds. He replaced Simon Jones.

**What to WATCH**

**ESPN**  
NatWest Challenge  
Third ODI Highlights  
England v Australia  
Repeated at 6.30 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8.30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline  
Live at 8 pm



**Brett Lee**  
(Australian fast bowler)  
*"It shook me up, and I know it probably would have shook (Marcus) Trescothick up as well. I felt so embarrassed by what happened. I didn't mean it."*  
**Reflecting on his beamer in the NatWest Series final.**

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Premier Football League**  
Muktijoddha v YMC Fakirpool  
(5:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Zia clinches rating chess crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman clinched the title of the University of Greenwich FIDE Rating Chess tournament with one round in hand when he won the penultimate round match against FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room yesterday.

The victory gave Zia an unsailable lead with 7.5 points.

IM Reefat Bin Sattar, IM Abdullah Al Rakib, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib and FM Mehdi Hasan Parag were in the second position with 5.5 points each.

In the eighth round games, Reefat drew with Rajib, Parag drew with Debaraj Chatterjee and Rakib beat FM Abu Sufian Shakil.

In the group B competition, Siddiqui Rahman, Jamal Ahmed and Abdul Momin jointly led the table with seven points each.

## BKSP Cup semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinals of the 3rd BKSP Under-16 football tournament will be held today at the BKSP.

The hosts will take on Chittagong Division while Dhaka Division are pitted against Chandigarh from India in the two semis, both starting at 4 pm.

The group phase ended yesterday with Chittagong edging Sylhet 3-2 and Dhaka winning 3-1 against Rajshahi. The other match of the day between Khulna and Barisal ended a 2-2 draw.

# Enamul raring to go



BISHWAJIT ROY

Off the field Enamul Haque Jr is an ever-smiling face. However since the Tigers' tour of England, the left-arm spinner has found it difficult to stay cheerful.

The 18-year old, hero of Bangladesh's first ever Test and Test series victory in January, went to England hoping to fulfil a childhood dream of playing in the country where the game was born. However, it ended up as a frustrating trip for Enamul who returned home with just two warm-up appearances to show for.

"It was a long-standing dream to play a Test match in England, especially after my successful outing against Zimbabwe. I was excited at the prospect of playing at Lord's. But unfortunately that never happened," said the highly talented spinner who tore Zimbabwe apart in the two-Test series at home by claiming 18 wickets that included three five-fors on the trot.

Enamul was also not ready to accept that his bowling would not have proved effective in English conditions. That is why he is determined to set a few things straight

with his performance during the Bangladesh A team's tour to England starting under a week's time. The A team will take on different English county sides and Enamul is raring to go.

"I have a personal goal. I want to prove that I have the ability to trouble batsmen in any condition. I know the opponents will not be of



ENAMUL HAQUE JR

Test standard but I am not thinking about that," said Enamul who has played all his five Tests at home and has bagged 24 wickets.

Enamul said that the tour posed a special challenging for the bowlers after the main team's struggle in that

department.

"Our bowling was not up to the mark during the two Tests and also in the one-day series in England so we have to work hard to be successful. We are going to face some tough county sides."

The Tigers' next major assignment is against Sri Lanka away from home but Enamul was just concentrating on England.

"Actually my place is always under pressure as there are two other senior left-arm spinners (Mohammad Rafique and Manjarul Islam Rana). But I am not too concerned with the Sri Lanka tour as I have full confidence in my bowling."

Enamul, who is a classical left-arm spinner who concentrates on loop, guile and turn, said that he was working on a 'special' addition to his arsenal.

"I have developed this particular delivery which will give me extra turn and I will try it out in England."

Enamul and his Ateam mates will re-join the camp at BKSP after a six-day break today and train there for two days under the supervision of coach Shaun Williams before flying for London on July 15.

Captain Shahriar Nafees Ahmed, Nafees Iqbal and Tushar Imran, who recently returned from England will also attend the camp for the first

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# Aus keep Eng in check



REUTERS, London

Jason Gillespie returned to form by helping Australia restrict England to 228 for seven at The Oval on Tuesday and leave the world champions perfectly placed to win the NatWest Challenge one-day series decider.

Gillespie took three for 44 including the wicket of Kevin Pietersen who top-scored with 74 off 84 balls.

England, put in by Australia, lost five wickets for 49 runs to slump to 93 for six before Pietersen linked with 'supersub' Vikram Solanki in a 93-run stand for the seventh wicket.

The home side had been in such disarray that captain Michael Vaughan was forced to sacrifice opening bowler Simon Jones -- named in the starting 11 -- and call on Solanki to try and post a decent total.

Solanki finished on 53 not out from 63 deliveries as 80 runs came off the last 10 overs. Pietersen boosted his hopes of Ashes selection in hitting two sixes and seven fours.

The three-match one-day series stands at 1-1 and the first Ashes Test starts on July 21.

Australia, as they had done in the previous game at Lord's, took an immediate stranglehold. While Glenn McGrath bottled up one end, Brett Lee broke through when Marcus Trescothick, yet to score, threw away his wicket with a lazy uppercut to third man.

The world champions then produced two extraordinary lapses. McGrath had reeled off four maidens when Vaughan top-edged a pull which skied to fine leg, only for Gillespie inexplicably to grass the ball.

That should have made it 22 to three and it could have been 28 for three in the 11th over when Andrew Strauss top-edged another pull, this time off Michael Kasprovicz, only for Adam Gilchrist, running back, to let the ball slip through his gloves.

It did not matter much. Vaughan, after a couple of perfect cover drives, called for a run from the non-striker's end and Ricky Ponting ran him out for 15 with a direct hit.

Strauss fed off Kasprovicz with a string of cuts for four but, on 36, he edged the same bowler behind to make it 61 for three. Andrew Flintoff

came and went in the same fashion and Paul Collingwood also did not hang around, a leading edge off Gillespie pounced at cover by Andrew Symonds.

When Geraint Jones gave Gillespie a second wicket in 10 deliveries, flat-batting a catch to wide third man, England were in

such a mess that they opted to bring on 12th man Solanki.

Pietersen, on 40, survived a one-handed catch as he launched a six off Michael Clarke's left-arm spin.

Kasprovicz jumped up, took the ball way above his head and fell over the boundary rope at long on.

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PHOTO: AFP

England's Kevin Pietersen follows through on a cover drive on way to hammering 74 against Australia on Tuesday.

# Narrow-minded mavericks



You can give them all the benefit of doubt you want, but the officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) rarely fail to disappoint. Their latest move -- indefinitely postponing, for the second time, Bangladesh's tour of India -- reeks of a narrow-minded and maverick attitude. The BCCI, it seems, has respect neither for Bangladesh, nor for the ICC's 10-year tours and fixtures programme.

Step back to November 2000. Bangladesh took the field for their first-ever Test, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka. Although the decision to grant the country Test status was eventually a unanimous one within the ICC, few will disagree that it was Jagmohan Dalmiya, and the Indian board, for their own reasons, who spear-

headed the process. Now, five years later, Bangladesh are yet to make their maiden full tour of India.

Since being granted Test status Bangladesh have played Tests in Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, West Indies, and most recently in England. Ultra-conspicuous by its absence is the big brother from across the border, India, who waste no opportunity in championing Bangladesh's cause. But, that is proving to be a matter of mere convenience for the Indian board.

Bangladesh's presence in the fold of Test-playing nations certainly helped the BCCI at the ICC bargaining table. In no uncertain terms an Asian bloc comprising four votes was formed. The BCCI wasted no opportunity in standing tall and defending the Bangladeshis -- when it came to words, that is.

But deeds tell a different tale. The Indian board invited a Bangladesh XI to play in the Duleep Trophy last season. Having done so, they treated them like unexpected and unwanted house-guests. The board rescheduled virtually every fixture -- both dates and venues -- at the drop of a hat. The most obvious case was their match against Central Zone. Bangladesh were unhappy when told at the last minute that the match had been moved from Jaipur to Delhi, and livid when they learned that a friendly match had been played, only 48 hours prior, on the very pitch they would use. Would the BCCI dare to do this to a visiting Bangladesh XI at the ICC Super Series level?

In this posed the BCCI has said that the proposed month for Bangladesh's tour -- October -- is unsuitable because the ICC Super Series would be on at the same time. But

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PHOTO: REUTERS

THE LONELY SHEPHERD: Retiring English umpire David Shepherd looks on during an interview at The Oval Cricket Ground in London on Monday. The revered official stood in his last international cricket match at this venue on Tuesday.

## Challenge Trophy in Bangladesh?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has proposed Bangladesh and India to jointly host a new football tournament launched by the governing body of football in Asia next year.

The AFC Challenge Trophy will be held for the first time in March 2006 for the emerging Asian nations like Bangladesh, India, Turkmenistan, Maldives and others, informed Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Anwarul Haque yesterday.

"About 20 countries are expected to take part in the competition and the AFC wants the final two groups to be staged in India and Bangladesh. This is too big a tournament for one country and the AFC is thinking about the format. The decision will be finalised during AFC's August 8-10 meeting," said Helal who returned from Kuala Lumpur on Monday after attending an AFC meeting.

"The AFC has also asked us to begin our Vision Bangladesh programmes as soon as possible. They have promised of help once we start the programmes. Helal, still optimistic about brining Argentine coach Vicente Cayetano Rodriguez for the national team, said that he has discussed the issue of using AFC fund to pay the Argentines with the AFC officials.

"The coaches have asked us to

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## Cricket goes to Saudi Arabia

REUTERS, Islamabad

Saudi Arabia will host three one-day matches between an International XI and Pakistan XI later this month.

It is the first time Saudi Arabia has staged such high profile cricket games. They will be played on July 15, 21 and 22 in Riyadh and Jeddah.

"The ICC (International Cricket Council) has given us approval for these unofficial matches which will be played on artificial turf," one of the organisers, former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif, told Reuters on Tuesday.

"The idea is to help develop and promote cricket in that country," he said.

Inzamamul Haq will lead the Pakistan XI which includes Yousef Youhana, Younis Khan, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq and Shoaib Malik.

The international side includes South Africans Mark Boucher, Herschelle Gibbs, AB de Villiers, Jacques Rudolph and Andre Nel, and New Zealanders Jacob Oram and Daniel Vettori among others.

The funds raised from the matches will be spent on developing the game.

## Holland clinch final WC spot

AFP, Dublin

Holland claimed the final qualifying place at the 2007 Cricket World Cup on Monday as they trounced the United Arab Emirates by 145 runs in the ICC Trophy fifth-place play-off.

The Dutch -- for whom their outstanding batsman Bas Zuiderent scored 116 not out -- join Bermuda, Canada, hosts Ireland and Scotland who had already qualified from this tournament.

# Shepherd signs off



AFP, London

David Shepherd, who makes his final appearance as an international umpire at The Oval here Tuesday, said he expected technology to play an even bigger part in cricket in years to come.

Shepherd, 64, who is quitting ahead of reaching the England and Wales Cricket Board's compulsory retirement age of 65, said television had created the biggest changes in his 25 years as an umpire.

"Television shows up our mistakes. It also proves us right now and then. There's more scrutiny from the camera," Shepherd, who has stood in 92 Tests and 171 one-day internationals told reporters at The Oval on Monday ahead of Tuesday's one-day match between England and Australia.

"But where would we be without the tight line decisions? They are crucial and it's been great to turn to the third umpire and get the camera

view of it.

"How far down the road will technology go? Will it go to lbw, to caught behind. It may well do.

"The sad thing about it is of course only if a game is being televised do we have technology. There are thousands of umpires doing club cricket and first-class games who don't have the benefit of that.

"So it's a bit ironic that the so-

**FACTBOX**

**Test debut:** England v Australia at Manchester, Aug 1-6, 1985

**Last Test:** West Indies v Pakistan at Kingston, Jun 3-7, 2005

**Test matches:** 92

**ODI debut:** Pakistan v Sri Lanka at Swansea, Jun 9, 1983

**Last ODI:** Australia v England at Lord's, Jul 12, 2005

**ODI matches:** 171

**CAREER**  
Commenced first-class umpiring in 1981.  
Commenced Test match umpiring in 1985.

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# Qamar wants to know his future



SPORTS REPORTER

Qamar Ibrahim finally arrived in Dhaka yesterday to resume his job as Bangladesh hockey coach but the former Pakistani international was uncertain whether his visit would be successful or not.

Qamar, who joined as part-time coach of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) in August 2004, has been here three occasions previously but his last visit in February this year lasted only a week as the federation failed to provide him any task after a coaches' training programme.

"There is no use staying here if I have to sit idle. If I am in Pakistan, I

can be in touch with the game but not here when there is nothing to do," Qamar told reporters at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

Qamar's second visit in January was shorter as he had to leave only after three days after watching a few league games, also due to lack of any programme for the coach.

"I will stay here as long as the federation can keep me busy. Earlier, I had nothing to do but have a cup of tea at the BHF office in the afternoon," said Qamar who was expected to prepare the national team for next year's Asian Games.

The BHF began the national camp on May 12 under local coaches but had to cancel it after 13 days.

"I was not even informed about the camp," claimed the Pakistani

called elite are getting help from technology where everyone else is not."

But he insisted that technology had helped improve player behaviour, often criticised by cricket traditionalists.

"To be quite I think it has improved a bit mainly because of microphones and the fact they are on TV and the fact we have got a match referee.

"The referee has the power to fine people and suspend people. It's very important for a player to keep his place in the side these days."

In England the tradition has been that first-class games are umpired by former county players and Shepherd said this experience had been invaluable to him after he retired as a player in 1979 and started to look for a new job.

"I think the fact that I played the game was a great advantage. Sometimes I can realise the emotions the players are going through and perhaps smooth troubled waters."

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PHOTO: STAR

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (L) and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed during their eighth round game of the University of Greenwich FIDE Rating Chess Tournament at the NSC conference room on Tuesday.