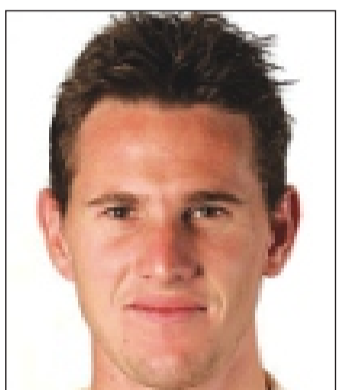




Did U Know?

Until the 1870s, baseball was played without the use of gloves.



Shaun Tait
(Uncapped Australian fast bowler)
"Last year a good load of my victims were with reverse swing, either bowled or lbw. I can't be much readier. I've bowled a fair bit in the nets. My fitness is good and I'm absolutely raring to go."
On his desire to play for the national team in the fourth Ashes Test from August 25.



Premier Football League
YMC Fakirpool vs Arambagh (5pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Too much of Indo-Pak cricket!
PTI, Islamabad

Frequent cricket exchanges between India and Pakistan have reduced its charm and the coming series between the arch-rivals would not deliver the same financial bonanza like the one last year, according to a market analysis here.
"When India tours Pakistan in January next year, the Board will not get the same offers or bids which it did last year," a market analyst said.
"Because the novelty of an Indo-Pak match has worn off with regular cricket between the two teams in the last one year and also because there has to be a saturation point for cricket sponsorship and advertising in the market in a year," he was quoted as saying in the News.
The analyst pointed out that the Indian Board also did not earn what it anticipated from hosting Pakistan early this year.
According to the report, the marketing men of the Pakistan
SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

New ban threat for Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is facing another threat to its international cricket future.
British ministers Jack Straw and Tessa Jowell have written jointly to the International Cricket Council (ICC) asking for the country to be banned.
The latest move is in response to Zimbabwe's worsening human rights abuses under President Robert Mugabe.
Mugabe has come under increasing fire for his "Drive Out Rubbish" slum clearance programme which has seen 700,000 people lose their homes.
He insists it is a crack-down on black market trading and other criminal activities in slum areas.
But opponents say it is designed
SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Services kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Army A registered a comfortable 57-21 win against Bangladesh Army B in yesterday's services kabaddi championship at the outer stadium.
Bangladesh Rifles seniors beat their second string side 61-40 while Police A beat Bangladesh Army B 62-20 in the day's other matches.

'Put a price on your wicket'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

When the Tigers leave for Sri Lanka at the end of this week to play three one-day internationals and two Tests the biggest challenge for coach Dav Whatmore would be to put a price tag on the wicket of his battery of compulsive stroke-makers.
There is little doubt that Bangladesh presently possess some talented batsmen capable of taking any attack to the sword. But the problem with them is their poor application. For instance Mohammad Ashraful is capable of playing all the shots in the book. But the way he got out in the first one-day international while playing for Asia XI against Africa XI at Centurion recently can be best described as madness from a batsman who is capable of scoring hundreds times better than his first-ball duck.
This could be one of the key factors between success and failures as Bangladesh embark on their second full series to the island nation.

Whatmore was aware about the problem but the Australian believed it was something his players would have to learn to overcome with every tour they went on.
"Whereas a player like Ashraful finds it hard to understand the game because he has so many shots in his arsenal, for someone like Javed (Omar) it is easy because he knows his limitations.
"Once they understand their game a bit better they will be match winners. They will be the ones who will win you matches on a regular basis. However, it would take a bit longer," said Whatmore after the team's final practice at the Mirpur indoor facilities yesterday.
He expressed his satisfaction over his team's preparation especially about the indoor facilities and the different kind of net bowlers he had used during the last couple of net sessions.
"It was meaningful because we have been trying to achieve something from the nets as we had a couple of boys who bowl like Malinga, Vaas or the Muralitharan lookalike. We will just do a bit more fielding in Sri Lanka," he informed.
Whatmore had warned his boys

to get ready to face the tough challenge of champion off-spinner Murali Muralitharan and left-arm paceman Chaminda Vaas but the Bangladesh coach tried to downplay their effectiveness in the abridged version of the game.
"In a one-dayer we have to deal with them for only for 10 overs. They are very good bowlers in both versions but Murali has won more Tests matches. Actually the Sri Lankan attack revolves around both bowlers," he explained.
Although the talk was about the threat posed by the pair, Whatmore was equally worried about the home side's formidable batting line-up.
"Batsmen like (Kumar) Sanga-kara and (Mahela) Jayawardene are in a rich vein of form. They are very good young team that's coming along well and their confidence is up. Though it is a bat and ball game, fielding plays an important part too when the team is Sri Lanka. They are very good fielding unit," said Whatmore.
Bangladesh's ground fielding was not up to the mark on their recent England tour. Whatmore, however, thought his charges would
SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



WELCOME BACK: Shahriar Nafees chats with coach Dav Whatmore during the final practice session at Mirpur on Sunday. Nafees joined the Sri Lanka-bound national team on the same day.

Africa lose their way

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Asia XI opening bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Zaheer Khan exploited helpful conditions to wreck the Africa XI batting in the third and final Afro-Asia Cup match at Kingsmead on Sunday.
The Africa XI were bowled out for 106. In a match reduced to 48 overs a side after a late start because of rain, the African innings lasted only 32.5 overs. The match will decide the series, with the sides locked at 1-1.
Shoaib, bowling at express pace in gloomy light, took two for 11 in an opening spell of seven overs, while the left-armed Khan took three for 21 in bowling all his ten overs in a single spell.
The Africa XI were 26 for five and 54 for seven before Shaun Pollock (44 not out) and Heath Streak (14)

added 51 for the eighth wicket before the last three wickets fell for one run.
Graeme Smith, the South African captain, returned to international cricket as captain of the Africa XI after completing a four-match ban for a slow over rate. It was an inauspicious comeback.
Smith decided to bat after winning the toss half an hour before the scheduled start. But rain fell soon afterwards and the start was delayed by 1 hour 45 minutes. When play did get under way, the light was gloomy and the pitch lively.
Smith lasted just six balls before being trapped leg before wicket by a fast delivery from Shoaib which swung into him.
Boeta Dippenaar and Jacques Kallis, who returned after missing the second match with a sore back, survived for five overs before Khan had Dippenaar caught at third slip.
Kallis and Jacques Rudolph tried to repair the damage before three

further wickets fell with the total on 26. Rudolph was run out by a direct hit from Abdul Razzaq at cover, Kallis was leg before to Khan and Ashwell Prince cut Shoaib to backward point.
Pollock scored his 44 not out off 35 balls with six fours to give the Africa XI some hope but when Streak was leg before to a Shahid Afridi googly he quickly ran out of partners.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Africa XI in the third and final match of the Afro-Asia Cup against an Asia XI at Kingsmead on Sunday:
AFRICA XI
Smith lbw b Akhtar 0
Dippenaar c Jayawardene b Zaheer 7
Kallis lbw b Zaheer 4
Rudolph run out (Razzaq) 7
Prince c Muralitharan b Akhtar 0
Kemp lbw b Zaheer 8
SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Russel all over

Wanderers

RUSSEL-3, WANDERERS-1

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra recorded their sixth win in the Premier Football League when they downed Dhaka Wanderers 3-1 in yesterday's match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.
In-form winger Tanvir set up goals for Bulbul, Hanif and substitute Yusuf as the last year's runners-up, apparently heading for a fifth place finish, raised their collection to 22 points after 15 rounds.
Wanderers, who held Russel to a 1-1 draw, reduced the arrears through Jalaluddin's spectacular strike but remained third from bottom with 12 points.
Both sides struggled to play their natural game on a muddy pitch, made worse by incessant rain, but Russel opened up the rival defence midway through the first half when Tanvir's cross from the left picked out Bulbul. But Bulbul's header went over the bar much to the dismay of his teammates.
The diminutive striker, however, made no mistake to nod home another Tanvir centre three minutes before the break for his eighth goal. He joined joint top scorers Manju and Alfaz of Mohammedan, Liton of Brothers and Muktiyoddha's Paul.
Wanderers came back briefly when Jalaluddin released an unstoppable sidevolley into the right corner after Russel defender Pradeep headed clear a chip by
SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Lively cricket seminar

SPORTS REPORTER

Organisers, cricketers, umpires and journalists stressed on the need to work sincerely for their respective platforms for the development of cricket during a seminar titled "Our Cricket: Today and Tomorrow" organised by Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) yesterday at the NSC conference room.
Eminent coach and cricket writer Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury read the keynote paper.
Rais Uddin Ahmed, Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, Mahub Anam, Aziz Al Kaiser, Gazi Ashraf Lipu, Muha-mmad Quamruzzaman, Mahmudul Haque Manu, Khondokar Jamil Uddin, Shafiqur Rahman Munna, Kazi Mishu, Sanaul Haque Khan, Ranajit Biswas, Aghore Mondol, Gazi Golam Dastagir and Sayee-duzzaman also spoke at the seminar presided over by BSJA president Manzurul Haque. A lively Dilu Khondokar was the host.
Jalal called for the involvement of all concerned people in the develop-

ment of the game and make a better future of cricket, which has hold aloft the colours of Bangladesh in international arena.
"We have often been criticised because of our poor record. We have to decide how to change this. Also, we need to strengthen our domestic cricket which has lost its glamour as well as competitiveness," he said.
The keynote paper also touched on the dependency on foreign staff and asked the concerned people to gradually reduce that. Decentralisation of power was also a major factor in the paper.
Former general secretary of the cricket board Rais Uddin said that real organisers should get the priority regardless of their political affiliation to make a plan that would be practical in this era of globalisation.
"Our domestic cricket needs to be upgraded because it has been ignored in recent times. Also, we have seen the same faces make the national team as well as the A and age-group teams. It will have a bad effect in the future," said Bangla-desh's first Test captain

Naimur.
Bobby, who criticised the way the men in power have tried to manipulate the coming election of the board, said that cricket has given the whole country a boost and it will survive irrespective of who is in power.
Mahub Anam, elected the board's general secretary unopposed, said that the board alone can not take responsibility for the development of the game throughout the country.
"We accept the criticism but want to look ahead for the good of cricket. We want help from the club and district organisers to correct the mistakes. We also need quality cricketers, not quantity. If we can produce 120 first-class cricketers at the same time, it would be helpful. We are also concentrating on revising our domestic calendar that will solve a lot of problems," said Mahub.
Former national skipper Lipu also wanted the domestic cricket restructured and sought more facilities for the clubs which have been the breeding ground of national cricketers.



Asia XI's Zaheer Khan (R) celebrates taking a wicket during the second one-dayer against Africa XI at Durban on Saturday.

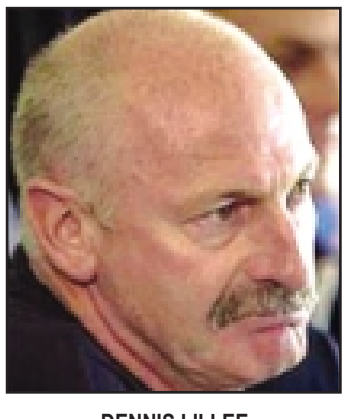
'Aussies in decline'

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australia legend Dennis Lillee believes the current side are "losing their stranglehold on the Ashes".
"They are a team in decline, suffering from the ageing process," he told the Mail on Sunday.
"England are on top while this side are on a downhill run, coming towards the end of an extraordinary time when they have conquered everything.
"This is a very good England side playing against a team containing some players reaching their sell-by date."
Lillee took 167 wickets in 29 Ashes Tests between 1970 and 1983, and his haul of 355 Test wickets was a world record until Ian

Botham overhauled it in 1986.
He believes "the best England attack I've seen for many years" is now exposing some Australian batting deficiencies masked by their dominance.
"The pace of England's bowling has exposed technical problems caused by advancing years and playing against some mediocre attacks in recent times," he continued.
"That lack of sharpness is never more exposed than by a pace attack such as the blindingly quick one England have deployed."
But former Australia batsman Mark Waugh believes England "may have missed the chance to beat us by not winning at Old Trafford".
"They still lack the confidence and killer blow in their make-up," he said in the Sydney Sun-Herald.
"At Edgbaston they fell over the line to win when it should have been much more clinical and decisive.
"They really got the wobbles in the last Test -- even though they were much the better team.
"On the last day, when they
SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



DENNIS LILLEE

U-17 cricketers crush Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal smashed a century as Bangladesh Under-17s got off to a flying start in the International Golden Hope Challenge one-day triangular series with a massive 198-run defeat of hosts Malaysia at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur.
Skipper Saquib Al Hasan contributed 82, Mahmudul Hassan made 65 and Suhrawardi Shuvo 40 as the Bangladesh boys amassed 332 for four. In reply, Malaysia were all out for 134.
Shuvo captured three wickets while Safayet Hossain, Raihan Anas and Mokhter Ali chipped in with two wickets each.
Tamim, younger brother of national opener Nafees Iqbal, was adjudged man-of-the-match. Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka today.

Rifles win Orient Bread h'ball title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles retained their Orient Bread Cup handball title with a 36-21 victory over Bangladesh Police in the final at the outer stadium yesterday.
The winners, who clinched the trophy for the third year in a row, led the first half 17-8.
Khairuzaman netted nine goals while Saiduzzaman and Mojamuel, who was adjudged player of the tournament, each scored seven goals.
Mohun and Nure Alam slotted five and four goals respectively for the runners-up.

Zim no joy ride for Sourav

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Sourav Ganguly embarks on a make-or-break tour of Zimbabwe on Monday hoping to end a frustrating run drought that threatens to end his reign as India's most successful cricket captain.
Ganguly knows he must score heaps of runs in both the limited-overs tri-series from August 24-September 6 that also features New Zealand and the two Test matches against the lowly-rated hosts to silence the growing dissent around him.
The 33-year-old was not an unanimous choice as captain for the tour with at least one of the five selectors -- and many in the media -- backing Ganguly's long-time deputy Rahul Dravid.
Dravid, India's most consistent batsmen in recent years and the International Cricket Council's (ICC) reigning player-of-the-year, led the

team during the recent tri-series in Sri Lanka as Ganguly served out a ban for slow over-rates.
Under Dravid, India defeated the second-string West Indies twice but lost three straight matches to the hosts, including the August 9 final by 18 runs at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.
Ganguly, who has established an Indian captaincy record of 19 Test wins since taking over from a reluctant Sachin Tendulkar in 2000, must consider himself lucky to be back as skipper for the Zimbabwe tour.
Many believe he is fortunate to be there in the team at all.
The left-hander has managed just 927 runs in his last 20 Tests, in contrast to Dravid's 2,082 runs at an average of 74.35 in the same period.
Former Test all-rounder Madan Lal, who was on the selection panel that first appointed Ganguly captain five years ago, felt Dravid should have been given a longer run after Sri Lanka.
"If India followed the Australian

system where the team is picked before the captain, Ganguly's position would have been very shaky," said Lal.
"He should have been left alone to concentrate on his batting."
With the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean less than two years away, Ganguly knows time is running out.
"I realise more than anyone else that I need to score runs," he said. "I also have the experience and confidence to back myself."
If Ganguly needed inspiration, it came in the form of Australian captain Ricky Ponting's match-saving 156 against England in the recent Old Trafford Test.
Ganguly had himself played a similar innings of 144 against Steve Waugh's Australians in the first Test in Brisbane in November 2003.
That knock set the tone for the rest of that summer as India matched the world conquering Australians with bat and ball and forced a 1-1 draw in Waugh's farewell series.
SEE PAGE 13 COL 8



Speakers of the seminar on 'Our Cricket: Today and Tomorrow' organised by the BSJA pose for photograph at the NSC Conference Room on Sunday.