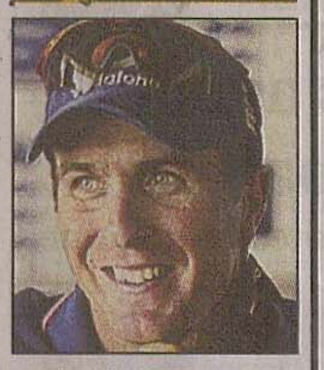
Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2005, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Did U Know?

The US National Tennis Center at Flushing Meadows contains 45 courts, including 11 practice courts. Fifteen are used for the Open.



Michael Vaughan
(England cricket captain)

"We expected to perform well this summer but I think winning back the Ashes has come sooner than anyone ever expected. Sooner than I really expected."

TEN Sports
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 10:30 am

STAR Sports
Zimbabwe vs India
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 2:00 pm

New CCL goes outside Dhaka next month

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER,

The domestic cricket season will start next month with the third edition of the Corporate Cricket League (CCL) which for the first time will be staged across the country.

According to the calendar approved by the newly elected Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) executive committee, the curtain-raiser tournament was scheduled to begin on October 1 but it is likely to be deferred by a couple of days following requests from the participating teams.

In the absence of league committee chairman Shah Nurul Kabir Shahin, who is now in Sri Lanka, BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam along with two officials met with the team representatives on Monday.

"We have decided to defer the league following requests from the teams and now it is likely to start on October 5," said Ali Hossain, the member-secretary of the league committee.

Following protests from the corporate houses the BCB has decided to revert to a one-day format instead of Twenty20 competition. But the most significant feature of the CCL this time is matches being played at three different venues across the country.

Chittagong, Khulna and Bogra besides Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and BKSP will be used as venues.

"The participating teams have agreed to play outside Dhaka at their own expense which will help to complete the league by October," Ali said adding that they have also decided to allow bank teams in the competition.

Another change in the format sees a total of twelve teams split into two groups who will play on league basis with the two top finishers from each group then qualifying for the semifinals. Previously there was a two-tier competition (Cup and Plate groups).

Eleven teams including four newcomers have already confirmed their participation. Interested houses can enroll by September 23 with the entry fee of Tk 25,000.

New entrants Security Air Express, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Metro Real Estate Group and Jamuna Bank will join Araf Apparels, Gazi Tank, Acme, Ispahani, Biman, Beximco and Epylion.

However defending champions GrameenPhone, CityCell, Aktel, Partex Group and Robin Textile were reluctant to take part because they had little to prepare their teams.

But GrameenPhone will sponsor the league for the third time and it was informed that the leading cellular operator has agreed to increase its sponsorship.

A two-day players' transfer will

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Bashar's worst nightmare

Cricket

AL MUSABBIR SADI *from Colombo*

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar's fears that they would not be able to bank on early advantages came true after the opening day of the second and final Test against Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

After the Tigers enjoyed a fruitful morning session where had the Sri Lanka reeling at 48-4 it was however one-way traffic after centuries by Tillakaratne Dilshan (168) and Thilan Samaraweera (138) paved the way for hosts to reach a commanding 449-7. They contributed with a record 280 runs for the fifth wicket.

"We had a very good start. There was something for the pacers in the wicket early. The wicket became much easier but giving five runs per over is not acceptable," said a frustrated Bashar.

"After the first hour, we were really getting prepared to bat in the afternoon.

"They had their last pair batting so I continued bowling Syed Rasel for ten overs. One pacer could bowl hardly seven overs in this kind of heat but I was taking a chance to get rid of one of them. I never thought they would go so far.

"We just needed one wicket before the tail opened. But it was really frustrating to take the second new ball because the spinners could not get a stranglehold over their batsmen. If the spinners could do something, we would have been on top. Even Mohammad Rafique's experience did not work. The two batted tremendously well and counter attacked us. We also needed to take the chances that came to Aftab Ahmed and Enamul Haque. We really bowled badly in the end and could not stop the flow of runs.

"I would have been happy if they had 350 on board at close but scoring nearly 450 runs in a day means we have to play to survive only.

"Our target will be to save the match from now on," he added.

On the other hand, Tillakaratne Dilshan established himself as a crisis man for Sri Lanka.

The fluent stroke-maker, who top-scored with 86 in the first Test, put the hosts in the driving seat.

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PHOTO: AFP

FIRE IN THE MORNING: Bangladesh paceman Kazi Shahadat Hossain Rajib exults after dismissing Sri Lanka captain Marvan Atapattu on Day One of the second Test at Colombo on Tuesday.

Morning did not show the day

Cricket

AL MUSABBIR SADI *from Colombo*

Memories of the first Test returned when Bangladesh were pushed onto the backfoot after a tremendous start on the first day of the second and final Test against Sri Lanka at the P Sara Stadium here on Tuesday. This time, it was partly the Tigers' fault.

The record-breaking day also reminded of the very first meeting of the two sides at the same venue three years ago.

The batting-friendly reputation of P Sara inspired Marvan Atapattu to elect to bat first but it looked like a good toss to lose for Bangladesh when the much vaunted Sri Lankan batting ran into deep trouble on a lively wicket.

Initially Shahadat Hossain and Syed Rasel moved the ball either way and Atapattu became the first victim of the seaming conditions when he edged a Shahadat outswinger to wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud after the Bangladesh speedster troubled the Lankan captain with a nagging line on his off-stump.

The day was very special for charismatic opener Sanath Jayasuriya, who became the first ever Sri Lankan to appear in 100 Test matches. To mark the day Sri Lanka's World Cup winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga, now a minister, was to hand over a bat to the explosive batsman.

Jayasuriya released 100 balloons with school students, who throughout proceedings kept the ground alive with exuberant cheers, giving him a guard of honour and the 36-year-old cut a cake with 100th Test written on it to end the centenary match programme. He also received a commemorative watch from a businessman.

The party, however, turned dour for the southpaw who was trapped lbw on 13 by Tigers left-arm pacer Rasel as the home side lost two wickets on the same score of 38.

Shahadat struck again when he hit the top of Mahela Jayawardene's off-stump. The ball pitched on off and held its line to get through the gates.

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BD-SL SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second cricket Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on Tuesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings

Jayasuriya lbw b Rasel	13
Atapattu c Mashud b Shahadat	11
Sangakkara b Rasel	5
Jayawardene b Shahadat	2
Samaraweera c Nafees b Rasel	138
Dilshan c Mashud b Aftab	168
Vaas not out	61
Herath lbw b Shahadat	1
Muralitharan not out	24
Extras: (b-4, lb-10, nb-11, w-1)	26
Total: (For 7 wkts in 90 overs)	449

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-28, 3-33, 4-48, 5-328, 6-397, 7-400

To bat: Fernando, Malinga

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rasel	20	2	125	3
Shahadat	19	3	104	3
Aftab	8	2	33	1
Rafique	23	1	92	0
Enamul	18	2	70	0
Ashraful	2	0	11	0

BANGLADESH: Omar, Nafees, Bashar, Ashraful, Iqbal, Aftab, Mashud, Rafique, Rasel, Shahadat, Enamul

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Billy Bowden (New Zealand) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies)

Solid starts for BKSP, Air Force

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP and Bangladesh Air Force made good starts in the ABS Group National Hockey Championship with identical 3-0 victories over their respective rivals in the opening day's matches at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mamunur Rahman scored two goals and Moniruzzaman added one as BKSP blanked Chittagong after leading the first half 1-0.

Russel, Ibrahim and Mamun shared the goals for Bangladesh Air Force to beat Comilla after dominating the first half 2-0.

England's Ashes triumph adds the spice

AFP, *Karachi*

England's overthrow of Australia in the Ashes has generated huge interest among cricket sponsors and fans in their tour of Pakistan starting next month, the cricket board chief said here Tuesday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had already acquired sponsorship of 150 million rupees (2.5 million dollars) -- the second highest in Pakistan history after last year's series against India, board chairman Shaharyar Khan said.

"There is a definite link to the Ashes. The PCB used to pursue the sponsors but now they are coming to us which shows the market value of the game has increased," Khan told reporters.

"By dethroning Australia as Ashes champions, England have built up a reputation and cricket lovers now feel that there would be a good contest in the Pakistan-England series," he said.

England, who last week took back the Ashes after a gap of 18 years, are due to tour Pakistan from late October, playing three Tests and five one-day matches.

Their announcement Monday of a 17-man Test squad that includes all the 12 players who featured in the Ashes series, and a strong 15-man one-day squad have added to Pakistan's anticipation, Khan said.

"Everyone who has played the Ashes is coming, which adds more spice to the series," he said.

Pakistan had also been warned to expect a bigger-than-usual contingent of English fans -- the Barmy

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Rangamati MSC in zonal final

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangamati Mohammedan Sporting Club moved into the zonal final of the Nitol-Tata National Football League with a hard-fought 3-2 victory against Bangladesh Navy at the Rangamati Stadium yesterday.

The winners will meet their Chittagong namesake in the final at the same venue on Thursday.

Shamim struck twice and Idris added one to confirm the hosts' passage while Towhid and Qumruzzaman reduced the gap for the service team.

Abahani Krira Chakra of Borguna, Biplob Sangha of Gazipur, Kararchar KC of Narsingdi and Shammya Krira and Sangskritik Gosthi of Thakurgaon won their respective matches at different venues across the country to confirm their zonal semifinal berths.

At the Khulna Stadium, a 35th minute strike by Moniruzzaman helped Borguna Abahani register a solitary goal victory over Balaka SC of Narail.

Sohag scored twice and Mahbub added one as Kararchar of Narsingdi recorded a comfortable 3-1 victory over Desh Krira Chakra Chunarughat of Habiganj. Wahed struck for the losers.

Biplob Sangha defeated Sunshine Club of Bogra 2-1 at the Jamalpur Stadium. Alauddin and Amaduddin scored for the winners while Mojibur Rahman reduced the margin for the losers.

At the Natore Stadium, Shammya Krira and Sangskritik Gosthi rode on a 81st minute strike by Ataur to earn a solitary goal victory over Dinajpur Football Khelowar Kalyan Samiti.

The day's other match between Kushtia Crescent Club and Jhenidah Mohammedan SC at the Faridpur Stadium was abandoned due to inclement weather. The match will be held today morning at the same venue.

Indian minister to visit BFF Bhaban today

BDNEWS, *Dhaka*

The visiting Indian Water Resources Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi will pay a visit to the Bangladesh Football Federation this morning.

Dasmunshi, who is also president of the All India Football Federation, is expected to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on holding a tournament between the two neighboring countries.

The Indian minister revealed this Tuesday while talking to members of the Bangladesh-India Sampriti Parisad at the Sonargaon hotel.

He said: "To forge closer a relationship between the two friendly countries and to take the game of football ahead, we are going to sign an agreement with Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for holding the Ganga-Padma Football Tournament jointly in India and Bangladesh."

He added that the tournament would take place every year with the participation of three popular teams each from India and Bangladesh.

India and Bangladesh will be the hosts of the tournament every alternate year.

In India, the tournament will be named as the Ganga-Padma and in Bangladesh it will be the Padma-Ganga football tournament.

Chappell blames media

AFP, *New Delhi*

India went into Tuesday's second Test against Zimbabwe in Harare with coach Greg Chappell playing down differences with captain Sourav Ganguly and blaming the media for fanning the controversy.

Chappell, appointed India's coach in June, was at the centre of a storm for asking Ganguly to step down as captain before last week's first Test in Bulawayo because of his poor batting form.

Ganguly, India's most successful Test captain, responded by carving out a painstaking six-hour century against the weakest attack in cricket and then revealed the dressing-room discussion with the coach to the media.

Chappell issued a hand-written statement ahead of the second Test, saying his efforts to motivate Ganguly had been misinterpreted as a call for the batsman to stand down as captain.

"It is disappointing that what was a private discussion between the captain and myself has become a cause of public speculation," the former Australian skipper said.

"Even more disappointing is that much of what has been written does not represent the discussion fairly.

"It was a frank discussion about Indian cricket, present and future, and much of what I said was aimed at motivating Sourav for the Bulawayo Test.

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Ronaldinho the best

Football

REUTERS, *London*

Brazilian midfielder Ronaldinho was elected the first FIFPro world player of the year on Monday from a poll of 38,000 professional players in 40 countries.

"There are no greater football critics than the players themselves," insisted FIFPro president Gordon Taylor after the Barcelona star topped the voting.

Ronaldinho was named FIFA Player of the Year last December, but Taylor added: "To be recognized by your fellow professionals from across the world is a unique honor."

Barca's Ronaldinho agreed saying: "It's a great honour to receive another one of these big prizes and this one is extra special because it's voted for by my fellow players."

The members of the players' world association also voted in a secret ballot to choose the 2004-05 season's best team from a shortlist of 55 top names.

"While we respect the many other football awards that are handed out I think it is special to see these results, the very first ballot among the world's players," said Taylor

Featuring alongside 2002 World Cup winner Ronaldinho in the all-star team's midfield were Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane with French compatriot Claude Makelele and his Chelsea team mate Frank Lampard of England.

AC Milan, last season's Champions League runners-up, provided five players.

Goalkeeper Dida and defender Cafu -- also both of Brazil -- as well as Italian defenders Paolo Maldini and

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PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho poses with his trophies after being awarded player of the year by FIFPro, the international professional football players' union in London on Monday. Ronaldinho adds this honour to the 2004 FIFA World Player of the Year, which was decided by a vote of national coaches.

Pathan hurts Zimbabwe

Cricket

AFP, *Harare*

Zimbabwe were put out for only 161 runs by India at Harare Sports Club here Tuesday in their first innings of the second Test.

In reply India had not lost a wicket by the tea break and have made 43 runs in reply, leaving a minor deficit of 119 for the lead.

It was a near collapse by the home team in what has become a long succession of low scores.

The main beneficiary was Irfan Pathan, whose seven wickets for only 59 runs proved to be comfortably his Test career best.

Zimbabwe had no answer to his persistent accuracy and swinging pace. Pathan has taken 16 Zimbabwe wickets in the two Tests so far.

The home side were put into bat by Sourav Ganguly after he won the toss, which proved to be the correct decision.

Zimbabwe lost their first four wickets for only 30 runs. Their biggest loss was that of Tatenda Taibu, who was out second ball for a duck, his first failure of the series.

But equally damaging to the home cause were the early departures of Brendan Taylor for four, Terry Duffin for 12 and Dion Ebrahim (to Zaheer Khan) for 14.

Only two reasonable partnerships saved Zimbabwe from utter collapse. Heath Streak and Hamilton Mazakadsa put on 44 for the fifth wicket and Andy Blignaut with Charles Coventry made 43 for the seventh.

Although Anil Kumble was below par, drawing a blank, Harbhajan Singh once again proved the most successful of the spinners with two wickets, those of Streak and Coventry, who was top scorer with 37.

At the lunch break Zimbabwe were 75-5 and there was a glimmer of hope with Coventry and Mazakadza still at the crease. But they could not hold the fort much longer.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the tea on the first day of the second cricket Test between Zimbabwe and India at Harare Sports Club on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings

Taylor c Dravid b Pathan	4
Duffin c Laxman b Pathan	12
Ebrahim c Karthik b Zaheer	14
Taibu c Karthik b Pathan	0
Mazakadsa lbw b Pathan	27
Streak c Gambhir b Harbhajan	14
Coventry c Dravid b Harbhajan	37
Blignaut c Karthik b Pathan	13
Dabengwa c Laxman b Pathan	18
Mahwira lbw b Pathan	1
Mwayenga not out	14
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, nb-2, w-1)	7
Total: (All out in 44.4 overs)	161

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-31, 3-31, 4-31, 5-75, 6-79, 7-122, 8-136, 9-138

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	15.4	4	59	7
Zaheer	7	1	24	1
Ganguly	4	2	10	0
Kumble	7	1	19	0
Harbhajan	11	3	45	2

INDIA: First innings

Gambhir not out	14
Sehwag not out	29
Total: (For no loss in 8 overs)	43

To bat: Dravid, Laxman, Ganguly, Yuvraj, Karthik, Pathan, Kumble, Harbhajan, Zaheer

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	4	1	11	0
Mahwire	4	0	32	0

Toss: India.

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

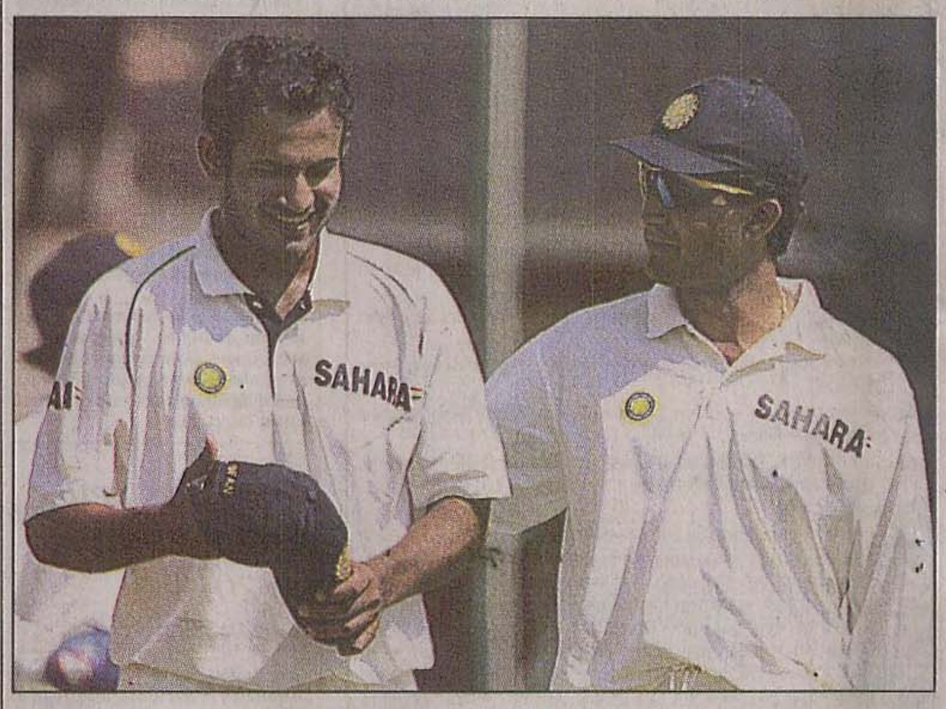

PHOTO: AFP

Wrecker-in-chief: India paceman Irfan Pathan (L), who destroyed Zimbabwe by claiming 7 for 59, receives congratulatory pat from captain Sourav Ganguly after he scalped the seventh wicket in Harare on Tuesday.

Windies players accept invite?

CRICINFO, *undated*

Most of the West Indies players invited to the regional training camp ahead of the upcoming three-Test tour to Australia have made themselves available for the tour.

The Express has been reliably informed that the majority of the 30-man training squad called up for the

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