



Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore visits a young patient at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. The Sri Lankan born Australian also wished success to the Australian plastic surgery team, who will provide free treatment to the poor.

## KL prays for India

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Organisers of the tri-series will be holding their breath on Wednesday when India take on West Indies, knowing that only a victory will keep the Asian side in with a chance of reaching Sunday's final.

The warm-up tournament for next month's Champions Trophy is heavily backed by India's cricket governing body BCCI and ticket sales have only been brisk on days when the Indian team are in action.

The only time the 3,500 capacity Kinnar Oval has been near capacity was on Saturday, when India's match against Australia was abandoned because of rain.

Having lost to West Indies in their first match, India must win their last two matches, including a Friday clash with Australia, to reach the final.

Malaysia has a large ethnic Indian population, but most of them have little interest in cricket.

The majority of the fans who have turned up to watch them are school children or expatriate Indians.

On the field, India are facing an uphill battle, though they could be forgiven for believing they have been hard done by.

After posting a challenging 309 against West Indies, they lost the rain-shortened match on the Duckworth-Lewis method. And despite a batting collapse against Australia, the points were eventually shared after rain forced the match to be abandoned.

Indian coach Greg Chappell said he was not looking beyond the West Indies match.

## Club Cup hockey

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The winners will receive Tk 20,000 as prize money and the runners-up Tk 15,000, he added.

Senior Division Hockey League committee vice-chairman Shafuddin Khan and secretary Kazi Moinuzzaman and Shah Sports marketing director Syed Naqvi were also present.

## Must win

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and if you sacrifice accuracy for pace, then you will go for plenty of runs."

Against the odds, the West Indies have already qualified for the final on Sunday after victories over India and Australia, and their confidence is running high.

The top of their order has been performing well but they remain vulnerable to middle-order batting collapses, which Lara is keen to halt.

"The guys are still finding their footing but hopefully more practice and we can get it right," he said, adding that the whole team had been lifted by making the final.

"It was important that we get to the final. We did not come here to play games and watch the final."

Lara is hoping that his leading fast bowler Corey Collymore will be fit after missing all their matches so far with a right thigh injury.

In his absence, Ian Bradshaw and Jerome Taylor have opened the attack.

"We would love to have Collymore on the park," said Lara, and hinted one or two other changes could be in store.

"We'd like to see all 14 guys in our squad have a go."

If India win on Wednesday, their match against Australia on Friday will decide who plays in the final.

## Team Asia dazzles at WC

### Athletics

AFP, Athens

the bank whether it is in Doha, Nairobi or London, where he spends much of his time.

Individual athletes hit new heights at the IAAF World Cup over the weekend with the Team Asia men's squad finishing in an unprecedented fourth place here on Sunday.

Qatar's Saif Saaeed Shaheen and Bahrain's Youssef Saad Kamel won the 3000m steeplechase and 800m respectively on Sunday, adding to Shaheen's win over 5000m and victory for Japan's Koji Murofushi in the hammer on Saturday.

The feat compares sharply with Team Asia's performances in the previous nine editions of the four-year competition.

Only two wins in individual events had been previously achieved in the entire 29-year history of the World Cup, which brings together continental representative teams as well as the United States and Europe's top nations.

"I was focused on the win and getting the maximum nine points for Asia. I wasn't tired after winning the 5000m on the first day and I'm very satisfied with fulfilling my goals," said Shaheen.

The Kenyan-born Shaheen will also be running happily all the way to

Games 110m hurdles gold medalist and world record holder Liu Xiang.

All are home-grown talent in their respective countries.

There had been much talk of Liu breaking his own world record in Athens, the scene of his gold-medal winning performance two years ago, but despite running a world class time of 13.03sec he had to concede victory to American former three-time world champion Allen Johnson.

"The starter was very fast," said Liu, ruefully admitting he had been left in his blocks by the inspired Johnson.

Team Asia's women's team finished a more modest seventh out of the nine teams in Athens with only one win over the weekend.

Bahrain's Maryam Yusuf Jamal became the first Asian woman from outside of China to win a World Cup event after the Ethiopian-born runner had unleashed a blistering last lap to run away with the women's 1500m in a Cup record 4:00.84.

"Like nearly all of my Team Asia colleagues here, my focus is now on the Asian Games and I'm going to go away to the United States to prepare. But I don't think I need to fear anybody at the moment," said Jamal confidently after her third consecutive win in as many weeks over the classic distance.

## Hussey rests captaincy talk

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Michael Hussey has brushed off talk of wanting to succeed Ricky Ponting as Australian captain, saying he is happy just to be playing in the same side.

Hussey took charge of his first game as skipper on Monday in the DLF Cup here against the West Indies and led from the front, scoring a maiden one-day century only to see his side beaten by three wickets.

His efforts came hot on the heels of a poll on leading website baggygreen.com that showed 54 percent of voters believed Hussey should be Australia's next captain.

Current vice-captain Adam Gilchrist attracted just 20.3 percent of the votes.

"I've mentioned a few times that I'm 100 percent behind Ricky and Adam as captain and vice-captain of the team, and I can't really see that changing for the foreseeable future," said Hussey, who was deputising for a resting Ponting.

"I'm really happy to get an opportunity, but I'm 100 percent behind them."

Hussey has emerged as an astute cricketing brain and also a valuable one-day batsman, and said he thoroughly enjoyed his first outing as skipper.

"I enjoyed trying to come up with new ideas to find a wicket, and how we were going to keep it tight," he said.

"I'm also lucky that I had some very experienced cricketers around me to give me some help. I enjoyed watching the way Brian Lara constructed his innings as well, and trying to play some mind-games with him."

At one point Ponting was the drinks man, bringing out refreshments for Hussey, who said he asked for advice.

## Saleha women's singles champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Saleha came from a set down to beat Jayati 4-1 and clinch the women's singles title of the Dayang Open Tennis Tournament yesterday.

Saleha, who lost the opening set 5-11, marched to glory winning 11-5, 11-6, 11-8, 11-8 at the NSC Woodenfloor gymnasium.

Sabu won the boys' (sub junior) singles title defeating Himesh 12-10, 11-5, 13-11 in the final.

The men's team and singles crowns will be decided today, the concluding day of the meet.

## BCB hell-bent

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The board has all the resources -- whether technical and non-technical -- in terms of appointing a manager. If they think that it is the job for a non-technical person, they can select one of the board high-ups and members who regularly travel with the Tigers, which rose to as many as four during the Tiger's last tour to Africa.

Alternatively, if they think that the job-holder must have a cricketing background, then the selectors, who by rotation toured with the team and did the job successfully, can be depended upon this time when there are reservations about the board's appointed manager.

But it seems that BCB is desperate to send the controversial man in this very prestigious meet but the question remains: Why?

## Tiger has

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brought together old friends and Ryder Cup partners Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood.

Woosnam continued his low-key approach to captaincy saying that above all else he wanted his players to feel relaxed and comfortable.

"We had a nice team meeting last night. Did my little bit," he said. "We had a great bit of fun, a few beers and in the camp everybody's happy with everything."

Local players McGinley and Harrington would be a huge draw on the occasion of Ireland hosting the Ryder Cup for the first time. They have played many times together both in the Ryder Cup and for Ireland in World Cup events.

Casey and Donald enjoy playing with each other having won the World Cup for England in Mexico in 2003, while Garcia's pinpoint accuracy off the tee looks ideally suited to complement Olazabal's peerless iron play.

Clarke and Westwood have played with each other at Ryder Cups and are close friends. The 38-year-old Ulsterman will draw a big crowd as he continues his return to action following the death from cancer last month of his wife Heather.

Woosnam said that he had not lost much sleep putting together his initial pairings as "there's a lot of them out there that just naturally go together."

But he said he would keep a keen eye on form over the three days of practice and make any changes that proved necessary.

## Proteas clinch series

### Cricket

AFP, East London

pitch to be stumped off left-arm spinner Robin Peterson. Chibhabha was seventh man out when he hooked Ntini to square leg after a painstaking 101-ball innings.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second one-day international between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Buffalo Park on Monday:

#### ZIMBABWE

Sibanda c Boucher b Ntini 0

Mufambisai b Pollock 21

Chibhabha c Duminy b Ntini 38

Masakadza c and b Kallis 5

Taylor c Hall b Kallis 5

Matsikenyeri b Hall 14

Chigumbura st Boucher b Peterson 30

Rinke lbw b Peterson 3

Utseywa not out 24

Ireland b Hall 1

Rainsford b Hall 1

Extras: (lb-3, w-7) 10

Total: (All out in 49.4 overs) 152

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-27, 3-33, 4-50,

5-73, 6-120, 7-122, 8-126, 9-132.

#### Bowler

O M R W

Pollock 10 3 28 1

Ntini 10 0 33 2

Kallis 6 2 22 2

Hall 8.4 1 23 3

Kemp 5 1 16 0

Peterson 10 0 27 2

#### SOUTHAFRICA

Bosman b Rinke 38

Dippenaar c Sibanda b Ireland 9

Petersen b Rinke 20

Kallis b Ireland 26

Duminy not out 31

Kemp not out 28

Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-1) 4

Total: (For 4 wkt in 27.4 overs) 156

Did not bat: Boucher, Pollock, Peterson, Hall, Ntini

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 6-67, 3-72, 4-109.

#### Bowler

O M R W

Rainsford 5 1 38 0

Ireland 7 0 40 2

Rinke 6 0 35 2

Utseywa 9 0 33 0

Chibhabha 0.4 0 8 0

Result: South Africa won by six wickets and lead series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Andrew Hall.

## Easy win for Hingis

### Tennis

AFP, Kolkata

Former world number one Martina Hingis made a winning start Monday in her first appearance on Indian soil, advancing easily to the second round of the WTA Kolkata Open here.

Hingis, on a comeback trail this year after injuries interrupted her career, breezed through the first round with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Melinda Czink of Hungary.

The world number nine hit 19 winners to secure victory in less than an hour against the 84th-ranked Czink.

Hingis, who turns 26 on

September 30, said she was delighted to be taking part in the 175,000-dollar event being played indoors in this bustling eastern metropolis.

"It is a pleasure to be playing in India and I thank you for having me here," Hingis told some 1,000 cheering fans at the Netaji indoor stadium.

"I love playing indoors and it was nice to get off to a good start. Hopefully I can preserve myself for the rest of the week."

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