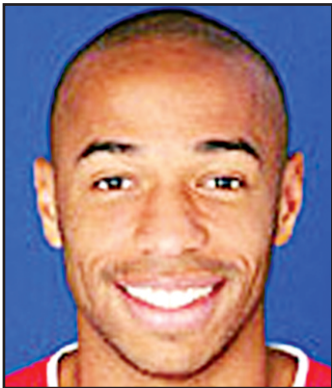




## Did U Know?

Javed Miandad, the former Pakistan captain, holds the record as the youngest double centurion in Test cricket.



**Thierry Henry**  
(Arsenal's French international striker)  
*"I'm not a robot. None of us are. I think that is a point that fans and critics need to understand."*  
**On being below par at the start of the season.**



**TEN Sports**  
Pakistan v West Indies  
First Test, Day Three  
Live at 10:30 am  
**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Tennis Masters Cup  
Live at 5:00 pm

## Biman remain on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman continued their dominance as they remained on top of the Dutch-Bangla Bank 1st Division Chess League at the Chess Federation Hall room yesterday.

Biman's star-studded line up of Grand Master (GM) Reefat Bin Sattar, International Master (IM) Abdullah Al Rakib, FIDE Master (FM) Mehdi Hasan Parag and FM Rezaul Haque helped thrash Mohakhali Prodeep Sangha 4-0. They now have 28 points at the end of the ninth round.

Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club is in second position with 26.5 points with their win against Dhaka University while holders Leonine Chess Club is 3rd with 24.5 points after beating Sonali Bank.

Titas Club, Friends Chess Power, Farashganj SC and Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Sangstha all won their respective matches on the day.

## BD fail to reach podium

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh finished fourth both in the men's and women's groups of the ten-nation Commonwealth Archery Championship in Jamshedpur that took place on November 7-11.

India, England and New Zealand took the top three places. The other six participating teams were Australia, South Africa, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Malaysia.

## WI, SL to tour India

BBC ONLINE, undated

India will host back-to-back one-day series against the West Indies in January and Sri Lanka in February.

The four-match series against the West Indies will start in Nagpur on January 21 before moving onto Cuttack, Madras and Baroda.

Sri Lanka provide the opposition for the next series in preparation for the World Cup, which follows in March.

India leave for South Africa on Monday for a one-day and Test tour which begins on November 19.

# TV deal at a crossroads



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is desperately seeking a government clearance to strike the biggest TV deal worth nearly 400 crore taka (\$6.88 million dollars) for the next six years.

The country's most affluent sports body got a huge financial boost when Indian company Nimbus Sports International made the staggering bid for the Worldwide Marketing Agency rights over the period of November 1, 2006 to March 31, 2012 last Thursday.

But the BCB's hands are tied to finalise the deal as the ministry of sports, under the leadership of present caretaker government, asked them in a revised order on Thursday not to sign the contract without its approval.

But many believed that any dilly-dally could put the board in a disadvantageous position and there was also chance of suffering financial loss as well. There was however a feeling even in the board that the

presence of president Ali Asghar, the ex-BNP lawmaker, made the situation difficult for both the board and the government to clear the issue.

"I think it would be wise for him (Asghar) to quit his post for the greater interest of the game. If it's because of him then there is no point of holding the post. Besides, there has been reports that the caretaker government is going to remove all the political appointees from the federations," said a BCB official on condition of anonymity.

BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam along with chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman met CM Shafi Sami, adviser to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, at his office yesterday and requested him to take necessary steps to give them the go-ahead for completing the formalities.

"We gave him (Shafi Sami) a letter where we have requested for the government clearance so that the deal can go through. He assured us that he would look into the matter. It's difficult to say now when we will get the clearance," said Rahman after the meeting.

"So far we did everything as per

their (the ministry) suggestions and now we are desperately looking forward for the clearance to make the final deal," he added.

Rahman also said that too much delaying might result in a financial loss to the board ahead of this month's home series against Zimbabwe, who are scheduled to arrive here on November 23, to play a Twenty20 match and five-match one-day series against the Tigers.

"We have very little time to waste as the Zimbabwe tour is just round the corner. I think the whole process would be in jeopardy if we fail to sign the deal on time," Rahman feared.

But the reality is that the whole affair took a new turn after Awami League asked the caretaker government not to allow any federation to sign financial deals as well as demanding removal of all the appointments at sports federations by the last government on political consideration.

They also said that it would not be fair to enter a financial deal with an ex-MP of BNP (Ali Asghar) at the helm of the board.

## MSC, Mariners demand justice

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club defended their decision not to turn up for last Saturday's Super-Five match of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League against Usha Krira Chakra that put the popular club in a situation of facing relegation from the top-flight.

The local giants and Mariner Youngs Club yesterday arranged a joint press conference to clear their position where they issued a warning to take legal action if they didn't get justice from the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF).

"Our absence cannot be called as a walkover because we submitted a letter to the BHF well before the match kicked off," said Mushtaqur Rahman, additional general secretary of Mohammedan Sporting Club.

"Our refusal to play was a decision in demand of proper punishment to a few players who were engaged in a brawl during Wednesday's Abahani-Usha match. It was funny that the federation punished some officials instead of bringing the real culprits (players) to the books whereas they came up with a different treatment when one of our players (Shamim Reza) was punished heavily for a small incident in past," he added.

Both clubs' officials also expressed their utter surprise as there were no umpires and disciplinary reports on the incident.

"We will not participate in the league until the federation takes proper action against the real culprits. We will even go for legal action if they didn't get justice from them," Rahman added. General secretary of Mariners Alamgir Kabir also echoed the sentiment.

## Robin stars for Barisal

SPORTS REPORTER

Robin took four wickets as Barisal defeated Bagerhat by 65 runs in the National Cricket Championship at the Barguna Stadium yesterday.

Set a target of 155 to win, Bagerhat faltered and were bowled out for 89 runs as Barisal's Robin took 4-12.

At Chittagong, Chandpur successfully chased 159 runs set by Noakhali, losing four wickets in 41 overs, thanks mainly to Zahid's 52. Noakhali's innings was built around Morshed's 42.

At BKSP, two matches were held in both grounds. Sylhet crushed Islamic University by 7 wickets at the outer ground as Rinku took six for 14, dismissing the University for only 55 runs.

But the day was better for the other educational institute as Jahangirnagar University thumped Habiganj by seven wickets. Arafat continued his good form with a well-made 41 as his side chased down 98 runs in only 22.4 overs, losing three wickets. Shueb earlier took 4-13 to help bowl out Habiganj for 97.

Narayanganj were winners on the day as well at the Faridpur Stadium. Their opponents Munshiganj chose to bat first but were bowled out for a meagre 109 in 37.1 overs. Only Rasel played well as he scored 26 but it wasn't enough as Narayanganj rode on Rony (33) and Pappu (29).

Naogaon clinically went past Bogra by five wickets as Abhijit's 60 took them past 187 runs scored by Bogra at the quaint Natore Stadium.

## Shoaib, Asif hearing on Nov 14

AFP, Lahore

A three-member appellate committee would Tuesday hear appeals against the doping bans on Pakistan pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced.

"The members of the appeal committee, constituted to assess the appeals of Akhtar and Asif for doping, would have its first meeting on November 14 in Lahore," the PCB said in a statement.

The appeal committee would be chaired by former high court judge Fakhruddin Ibrahim, former Test off-spinner Haseeb Ehsan and doping expert doctor Danish Zaheer.

Akhtar was banned for two years, and Asif for one year, after both tested positive for banned steroid nandrolone last month. The pair was recalled from Pakistan's squad in the Champions Trophy in India as soon as the results of the tests were announced.

The PCB formed a three-member doping tribunal headed by barrister Shahid Hamid, also including former captain Shahid Hamid and doping expert Waqar Ahmed, which after three hearings ruled the fast bowlers failed to prove their innocence.



Sylhet's Enamul Haque drives one during his fighting 42 against Chittagong on the final day of Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Trio saves Sylhet



SPORTS REPORTER

A superb final wicket stand between Sylhet's Nazmul Hossain and Enamul Haque and Tapash Baisya's four-wicket burst forced Chittagong to play out a draw on the fourth and final day in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Play was called off at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium after rain washed out the final day between Rajshahi and Khulna. The match between Dhaka and Barisal was also cancelled yesterday due to the countrywide blockade programme and will only take place today if the blockade is lifted at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, not the Fatullah ground.

Rajshahi gained four points in their encounter with Khulna as they had a slender 9-run lead in the first innings. Overnight rain, which

caused wet outfields on Saturday forced play to be held up for the entire day and match officials declared the match as abandoned.

But all the drama took place in Chittagong where Sylhet had to thank their last two batsmen in their second innings who took the total to 294 in 115.1 overs.

Chittagong off-spinner Sabbir Khan ripped through the middle-order, taking wickets at regular interval in his 37.4 overs marathon effort. He took six for 80, but all his efforts fell short as Chittagong failed to dislodge the last-wicket stand between Enamul and Nazmul. The tail-enders came together with the score at 222 for nine but their 72-run partnership completely turned the match on its head as they thwarted a sure victory for Chittagong. Enamul struck three boundaries and a six in his 80-ball 42 while his partner-in-crime Nazmul held on for a well-made 39 which included four boundaries and a six as well. Their effort came to an end when Enamul tried to hoist Sabbir but was stumped by Dhiman Ghosh behind the stumps.

Sylhet bowlers were now given a purpose as Chittagong were set a target of 127 runs in more than a session on a last day wicket. Tigers discard Baisya knocked off Chittagong's top-order as he took three quick wickets to reduce the hosts to 35 for 4 at one stage.

Chittagong then shut up shop as they were at a risk of losing further wickets if they went for the win. Skipper Ehsanul Haque was steadfast in his 41-ball 18 but he also fell late in the day to pacer Hasibul Hossain. All-rounder Faisal Hossain and Dhiman Ghosh batted out the final five overs to confirm Chittagong's draw which also gave them four first-innings points.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**CHITTAGONG:** First innings: 268 and Second innings 83 for 6 (Ehsanul 18, Salahuddin 18; Taposh 4-35)  
**SYLHET:** First innings: 100; Second innings: 294 all out in 115.4 overs (Rahman 48, Enamul 42, Nazmul 39; Sabbir 6-80, Sunny 2-85).  
**Result:** Match drawn.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf (L) plays a cover drive as short-leg Darren Ganga looks on during his unbeaten century against West Indies on the second day of the first Test at the Gadaffi Stadium in Lahore on Sunday.

# Phil a thorn in Eng flesh



AFP, Sydney

England are becoming sick of the sight of Phil Jaques after the Australian Test opener-in-waiting's second consecutive century against the tourists playing for New South Wales here Sunday.

The left-hander followed up his 112 for the Prime Minister's XI against the tourists in Canberra on Friday with 107, as NSW made England's bowlers toil away on a docile SCG pitch.

Jaques was supported by fellow Test aspirants skipper Simon Katich (68) and Michael Clarke (50) as NSW reached stumps on the opening day of the three-day practice match at 325 for five.

At stumps, newcomer Daniel

Smith was on 36 and teenager Moises Henriques was 25.

England encountered more road blocks as they tried to adjust to Australian pitch conditions ahead of the opening Ashes Test in Brisbane on November 23.

Jaques, who has played two Tests, continues to pressure incumbent Test opening pair Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden ahead of the first Test, and played a chanceless innings until he was caught by Steve Harmison at wide mid-off, off finger-spinner Ashley Giles.

He faced 157 balls with 11 boundaries and two sixes off James Anderson and Monty Panesar and put on 155 runs for the second wicket with Katich in as many minutes.

"The two guys (Langer and Hayden) who are there are fantas-

tic players so that's a decision the selectors have to make and I'm expecting that they will go with them two," Jaques said.

"That's my expectations of where I stand at the moment.

"All I can do is keep scoring runs and just keep knocking on the door and hopefully through injury or loss of form they'll look at me."

England had meagre pickings in the first two sessions as NSW chugged along at more than four runs an over, but the bowlers stuck at it and tightened their line in the last session to keep a check on the scoring.

Giles finished with 2-46 off 15 overs with Harmison, James Anderson (1-45) and Monty Panesar all claiming a wicket each.

Test spearhead Harmison got the initial breakthrough when he

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

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