



## Did U Know?

A record 6,107 hours of televised Australian Open tennis action was broadcast from Melbourne Park to 192 territories across the world in 2006.



**Mohammad Kaif**

(India batsman)  
"I sincerely feel that I deserve a couple of chances to prove myself all over again. I have played for India over six years and 100 ODIs with distinction, so that stage is passed where I have to prove my capabilities. It's just about getting runs in the kitty. Until I get that opportunity, how do I show my form."

Who is waiting for his chance.



**ESPN**  
Australia v England  
1st Final, CB Series  
Live at 09:13 am  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Pakistan v South Africa  
3rd one-day international  
Live at 6:28 pm



Premier Division Cricket League

Old DOHS v Sonargaon

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Victoria v Young Pegasus

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Mohammedan v Partex

Venue: BKSP

**DCS fracas**  
probe soon

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Cricket Board decided yesterday to put up an inquiry into the ridiculous incident that transpired during the Premier League

match between Brothers Union and Partex at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

Partex only needed six runs to win when certain Brothers supporters as well as their club boy Shahid stopped the match by running away with the stumps at the bowlers' end. RAB had to intervene after the small crowd beat up the three offenders.

The match was awarded to Partex as they were ahead by eight runs according to the Duckworth-Lewis method.

An investigation would be conducted by the Cricket Committee of Daka Metropolitan

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## Bashar urges upturn

Tamim set for international debut

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal is all set to make his international debut as Bangladesh decided to make three changes in the eleven for their third one-day international against Zimbabwe in Harare today, according to team sources.

With the four-match series level at 1-1, the Tigers will bring in the left-handed hard-hitting opener from Chittagong, who will become the third member of the same family to play for the national side.

Tamim, who was picked for the series after consistent performance in domestic cricket, is the nephew of former national skipper Akram Khan and younger brother of now out-of-favour opener Nafees Iqbal.

Tamim will open the innings as Shahriar Nafees's new partner, replacing Mehrab Hossain who has scored 12 and two in the first two games.

The match will also be pace-man Mohammad Sharif's first ODI after a five-year lay-off. Speedster Shahadat Hossain will be rested while Tapash Baisya will return after missing one match for Mohammad Rafique, who was injured on Tuesday in a collision with Sibanda.

Veteran left-arm spinner Rafique, still nursing a badly

bruised nose, was attended by a doctor yesterday and according to TigerCricket.com, will be kept under observation for the next five days as the bleeding from the nose has not stopped fully.

This effectively rules him out of the rest of the series with the Tigers playing back-to-back games today and tomorrow.

AFP adds: Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar has demanded an all-round improvement in his team's performance ahead of the third game against the hosts following an eight-wicket defeat on Tuesday.

Bashar was particularly concerned by his team's woeful batting display which has given him serious cause for concern ahead of the World Cup which starts next month.

"We need to take wickets and get more runs on the board, which we failed to do on Tuesday," the skipper told reporters.

The tourists collapsed to 153 all out on Tuesday, a target which Zimbabwe reached with more than 14 overs in hand.

#### SQUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Sakib Al Hasan, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mashrafee-bin-Mortaza, Abdur Razzaq, Mohammad Sharif and Tapash Baisya.

## A grand revenge

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan turned the tables on South Africa when a spectacular batting performance set up a 141-run win in the second one-day international at Kingsmead Wednesday.

In what was almost a mirror image of the first match in Centurion, Pakistan hammered 351 for four after winning the toss, only 41 runs fewer than South Africa made on the way to a 164-run win Sunday.

South Africa were bowled out for 210.

Mohammad Yousuf made a high-class 101 not out but the assault was set up by opening batsman Imran Nazir, who attacked South Africa's normally reliable new ball bowlers, Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini.

Nazir, brought into the side after missing the opening match, hit 57 off 39 balls.

"They put us under pressure from the word go," admitted South African captain Graeme Smith.

"We did not respond well enough. Our skills let us down slightly tonight. Maybe it's the wake-up call we needed to put our feet back on the ground and go to (the third match) in Port Elizabeth and perform a lot better there."

Pakistan's senior batsmen, Younis Khan (93) and Yousuf batted solidly in a stand of 124 off 136 balls, while Shahid Afridi made a thrilling return to form by thrashing 77 not out off only 35 balls with six sixes and five fours.

Yousuf and Afridi put on an unbeaten 129 off 70 balls for the fifth wicket.

Opening bowler Mohammad Asif bowled unchanged for his full ten overs at the start of the South African innings, picking up the wickets of Smith and Herschelle Gibbs at a cost of 29 runs.

Afridi followed up his batting contribution by taking three for 25 with his leg-breaks, while off-spinner Shoail Malik took two for 27.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said his players had worked hard in the nets.

He paid tribute to Nazir for giving the side a good start.

"Playing in his first match he was amazingly good," said the skipper.

Inzamam added the other batsmen had followed Nazir's example and he singled out Afridi.

"He is coming into form and hopefully he will carry on."

Not even a power failure could stop Pakistan's surge to a victory which squared the five-match series.

South Africa were struggling at 113 for four in 19.4 overs – two balls short of the minimum required to achieve a result in an interrupted match – when all the stadium lights went out.

When the lights came back on,

Ashwell Prince fell to the first ball bowled by Azhar Mahmood, recalled to international cricket after a two-year absence, and South Africa's fate was effectively sealed.

South Africa made a good start when Pollock won an lbw verdict against Kamran Akmal off the fourth ball of the innings.

But Nazir played some audacious pulls, cuts and drives, forcing Smith to change his usually predictable game plan. Pollock and Ntini were both taken off after only four overs each.

Khan and Yousuf played more conventional cricket but kept the scoring rate at close to a run a ball.

In the absence of a specialist spin bowler Smith brought himself on to bowl off-breaks and was rewarded with the wicket of Khan, caught on the midwicket boundary after hitting nine fours and two sixes.

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Pakistan master blaster Shahid Afridi winds up to blast one out of the park off the bowling of South Africa speedster Makhaya Ntini during the second ODI at Kingsmead in Durban on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rajshahi ride on Rakib treble

### SPORTS REPORTER

After opening day's goal drought, the 3rd JFA Cup erupted with goals as Rajshahi brushed aside Rangpur 9-0 to move into the second round yesterday.

In the first round qualifier at the Sirajganj Stadium, Rakib slammed

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## Samuels caught by Indian cops

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

"We lost too many wickets in the early stages of the match, we tried all we could but in the end a score of 153 was never going to be enough on that kind of a wicket," added Bashir.

"Zimbabwe bowled well. Now it's up to us to do our best in the next game to get a win."

Bangladesh won the first match by 45 runs, having scored an excellent 260-9; Zimbabwe's win ended a depressing run of 13 successive defeats.

The only really consistent player among the 25 taking part so far has been Zimbabwe batsman Vusi Sibanda with scores of 47 and 93 not out, an average of 140.

The others have been indifferent or up and down, with Bashir being typical with a 78 and then a duck. Gary Brent, for the home side, and tourist Mashrafee-bin-Mortaza have stood out in the bowling department.

Zimbabwe skipper Prosper Utseya believes his young team has developed match-winners in Sibanda and Brent, who took four wickets on Tuesday.

"Sibanda was outstanding on Tuesday, as was Brent. But it was essentially an all-round team effort," said Utseya.

With the series evenly poised, and with much local publicity given to Sibanda's feats, at least the crowd should be much higher than the 500 or so seen on the first morning on Tuesday.

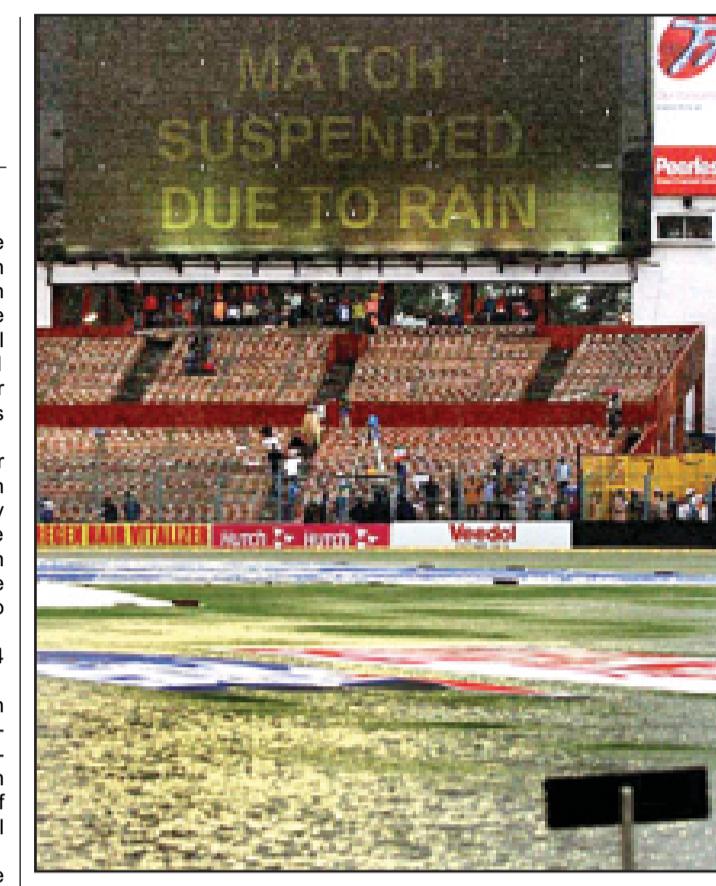
Kumar alleged the bookie is an associate of an underworld gang.

The police official claimed the police have "concrete evidence" about alleged links between Samuels and Kochar even before the Nagpur match and they had alerted the BCCI as well as ICC about it.

The latest controversy involving Samuels came seven years after he was suspended for match-fixing.

Two-time defending champions DOHS are still unsure of a place in the Super League having lost half of their ten games and Akram Khan's struggling side must beat the last year's runners-up at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium to end doubts.

A DOHS loss will open up chances for three teams -- Young



View of the waterlogged pitch at Eden Gardens which caused suspension of play during the first ODI between India and Sri Lanka at Kolkata on Thursday.

## Indo-Lankan first ODI rained off

AFP, Kolkata

Unseasonal rain turned into a torrential downpour, forcing the first one-day international between India and Sri Lanka to be called off here on Thursday.

A sell-out crowd of 88,000 at the Eden Gardens returned home disappointed as the weather ruined what promised to be an absorbing contest.

Sri Lanka were 102-3 after 18.2 overs after being sent in to bat when umpires Simon Taufel and Suresh Shastri ordered players off the field.

The umpires finally called off the match at 8.30 pm (1500 GMT) when no time was left to play 20-overs-a-side, the minimum requirement to gain a result.

Veteran opener Sanath Jayasuriya was unbeaten on 63 off 61 balls and former captain Marvan Atapattu was on five when play was stopped.

Jayasuriya and opening partner Upul Tharanga hammered 23 off the first three overs before fast bowler Munaf Patel hit back with

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## Crucial day for champs

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Pegasus, Kalabagan and Partex -- to join the holders at sixth place and

#### POINTS TABLE

Last season's top-of-the-table teams Old DOHS and Sonargaon Cricketers clash today as the 11th and final round of the Premier Cricket League's first-leg begins.

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A DOHS loss will open up chances for three teams -- Young

Teams	M	W	L	T	A	Pts
Abahani	10	9	1	-	-	18
Victoria	10	8	2	-	-	16
Mohammedan	10	7	2	1	-	15
Sonargaon	10	6	3	1	-	13
Biman	10	6	4	-	-	12
DOHS	10	5	5	-	-	10
Pegasus	10	4	6	-	-	8
Kalabagan	10	4	6	-	-	8
Partex	10	4	6	-	-	8
Indira Road	10	3	7	-	-	6
City Club	10	2	9	-	-	4
Brothers	10	1	9	-	-	2

switch on calculators to find who goes through to the last six.