

## Nat'l women's handball from July 19

UNB, Dhaka

The BASIC Bank 18th National Women's Handball Championship will begin on July 19.

Top eight teams of the national meet will be entitled to participate in the ensuing Bangladesh Games.

The affiliated district and other teams, which are yet to confirm their participation, have been asked to send their entries by July 9.

## India on top

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good knock in the opening game of the tour, against Ireland on this ground, and would be vital during the run-chase later on.

South Africa made two changes as well -- Charl Langeveldt and Thandi Tshabalala making way for Dale Steyn and Justin Kemp. Kallis felt it would be a bowler-friendly match but said he expected it to be so throughout the game.

More than five hours were lost to rain and damp weather before the umpires finally decided to get in a 31-over-a-side contest. The team batting second have managed to prevail in tense finishes on both occasions and India will hope that the trend continues in the decider as well. Kallis and Co, though, will have other ideas.

### TEAMS

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Morne van Wyk, AB de Villiers, Jacques Kallis, Herschelle Gibbs, Jean-Paul Duminy, Justin Kemp, Mark Boucher, Andrew Hall, Andre Nel, Dale Steyn, Mahaya Ntini. **INDIA:** Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik, Piyush Chawla, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, RP Singh. **Toss:** India.

**Umpires:** Aleem Dar and Mark Benson.

## Milan wait

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"We will sign one player, certainly. We think that the entire squad is covered and too much competition would only create problems.

"For example, look at Emerson. Who would he push out of the side? I doubt Gennaro Gattuso and Pirlo, perhaps Massimo Ambrosini or Seedorf, certainly Yoann Gourcuff, who would be sent to the stands. We prefer to defend Gourcuff."

Some sections of the media consider this pared down transfer campaign to be a sign of weakness for the European Champions.

"It is the Press who cannot free themselves of these silly clichés even after 20 years of great success. The fans understand how we operate and responded with 27,000 season ticket sales.

"Our victories and ability to climb back up after a fall are all thanks to the rapport between the Coach, the club and the players. We have an airbag compared to other sides and that is created by our consistency."

This includes keeping hold of Kaka, who has once again been linked with Real Madrid in Spanish newspaper 'As.'

Today's edition insists that the Brazilian held a meeting with President Berlusconi to demand a transfer, having "won everything with the Milan jersey."

As the Rossoneri have already released a couple of statements over the summer slamming 'As' for its continued "harassment" of Kaka, this is bound to create further tension.

### Colombo Corner

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teams never complain about it," said Shahadat who claimed four wickets at the P Sara Stadium in the 2005 tour.

### NAFEES MEETS NAYEEM

The Taj Samudra hotel seemed to be a home for Bangladesh cricket after the national under-19 squad arrived in the capital yesterday.

The young Bangladeshi cricketers, who came here to play a series against their Sri Lankan counterparts and then a triangular series with India later this month, has also been accommodated in the hotel.

National opener Shahriar Nafees was the most excited with the arrival of the youth team as his younger brother, Iftekhar Nayeem, is in the side.

"It's really thrilling as we hardly have any scope to meet each other as both of us have different schedules. I feel very good that my younger brother is here with me," said a visibly excited Nafees.

Unlike his brother, Nayeem is a right-handed batsman.

The Bangladesh under-19 team however got a bitter travel experience as they had an arduous 16-hour stopover at the Kuala Lumpur airport and a further three hours at the Maldives capital Male before landing at Colombo via a Malaysian Airlines.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga goes into his bowling action as coach Trevor Penney keenly watches him during net practice at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday.

# Sinclair grateful for chance



INTERNET, *undated*

Mathew Sinclair feels like a bloke who has fallen off the back of an ocean liner and been thrown a lifebelt.

And if he gets his chance next year, he won't die wondering as he goes about justifying the selectors' choice to give him a belated New Zealand Cricket contract after Hamish Marshall said thanks but no thanks.

Sinclair on Saturday confirmed that he's accepted the contract, and there was a mix of relief, pleasure and resolve as he explained what it meant.

"Motivation is the biggest part of it. I feel like I've been given another lifeline," he said.

"I'm lucky enough to get this contract as it is and now I have to go out, score a heap of runs and be ready at the right time to go into the team and prove I can do it."

He has proved he can do it, just not often enough. Sinclair is 31, and his test career spans seven years, beginning with a remarkable 214 on debut against the West Indies at the Basin Reserve in December 1999.

There are two other big centuries, 150 (out of 298) against South Africa at Port Elizabeth in December 2000, when no one else reached 40, and 204 not out against Pakistan at Christchurch three months later.

In the next 24 innings he managed just three 50s.

And that's the nub of the issue. Those who reckon he doesn't warrant another contract point to the substantial troughs; those in his camp cling to the notion that having achieved the big numbers before he can do so again.

Although Sinclair is technically an incumbent in the Test team, having been recalled after a 13-Test absence for the two internationals against Sri Lanka late last year, it will be a stretch for him to make the New Zealand side to tour South Africa in November.

He will have had no cricket of any note to prove his readiness, whereas his rivals, such as Peter Fulton, Ross Taylor and Lou Vincent, are likely to figure in the world Twenty20 championship squad. Okay, as relevant to Test cricket as sevens rugby to the real thing, but at least it's something.

Sinclair knows it, rating his

chances of making the South African trip as "virtually nil", and is eyeing the incoming series against Bangladesh and England, and next year's tour to England as more realistic targets, packed as they are with eight Tests.

The early first-class games for Central Districts are critical. Sinclair estimates he'll get four games in the pre-Christmas programme, which has yet to be released.

Sinclair rates himself a vastly different batsman from the player who tore off three big hundreds against three different opponents in 15 months. He's got rid of the looser shots, tightened his technique.

Even so, it's not going to be easy to break into the Test lineup. First dibs are likely to go to Vincent, captain Stephen Fleming, Fulton, Scott Styris and Jacob Oram.

"I'm not guaranteed anything and I don't want that. I want to work bloody hard for it ... so people can say they've got to pick Mathew Sinclair.

"I need to force them, through consistency of runs and form, to pick me."

## Sharapova

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condition to play: "Ice, massage, strength, acupuncture work. You name it, I do it really," she said, "It takes two and a half hours a day."

Sharapova was fortunate to finish her match against Sugiyama. At match point, her Japanese opponent made it clear she wanted to go off because of the heavy rain that was falling on Court One.

Play had already been suspended on other courts but American umpire Lynn Welch tested the surface and decided to play on, giving Sharapova the chance to quickly wrap up the tie.

Sugiyama was furious with the decision and Sharapova admitted she was relieved to have won.

"It was really good to finish it because I was starting to get agitated," said the Russian.

"I saw the rain in the middle of the second set and I knew if it keeps going, obviously the grass is going to get wet. I didn't want it to be too dangerous to play out there but it worked out well in the end."

## Rahul, Anil miss out

PTI, Bangalore

Rahul Dravid with the highest batting average (57.46) and Anil Kumble with by far the highest number of Test wickets (552) for India do not figure in the all-time great Indian XI chosen by an elite panel to mark 75 years of Indian Test cricket.

Elegant left-hander Sourav Ganguly, spinners B S Chandrasekhar and Bishen Singh Bedi also do not make it to the team selected by eight former Indian captains and a panel chaired by great off-spinner Erapalli Prasanna.

To mark 75 years since India played its first cricket match against England in 1932, eight former Indian captains -- Gundappa Vishwanath, Dilip Vengsarkar, Srinivasan Venkatraghavan, Krishnamachari Srikkanth, Ajit Wadekar, Nari Contractor, Syed Kirmani and Abbas Ali Baig -- were requested to pick their all-time India best Test XI.

From the selections made by the eight ex-captains, a panel consisting of Prasanna, well-known sports journalist Rajan Bala and PTI Editors came up with the all-time great XI.

### TEAM

Sunil Gavaskar (captain), Vinoo Mankad, Vijay Hazare (vice-captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammed Azharuddin, Gundappa Vishwanath, Kapil Dev, Syed Kirmani (wk), Javagal Srinath, Erapalli Prasanna, Subash Gupta. 12th Man: Vijay Manjrekar. Reserves: Mohammed Nissar, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, and Rahul Dravid.

## Lara wants admin role

BBC ONLINE, *undated*

Former skipper Brian Lara is interested in an administrative role to help West Indies try to recapture former glories.

"The infrastructure and what's necessary to produce good cricket is not there in the West Indies.

"I'm interested in what are we doing at the grassroots level and I don't see anything in that direction," he said.

"It doesn't matter who is the coach or who is playing -- if the infrastructure isn't there, you're not going to produce the cricket you want to see."

Lara is arguably the greatest batsman ever produced by West Indies, having scored almost 12,000 runs in 131 Tests and over 10,000 in 299 one-day internationals.

## Hammers

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had given them his word. Everything he did last week was about moving to Rangers and he wasn't looking to line up a move anywhere else.

"But there is nothing he could do about the transfer fee and you can understand why Bordeaux wanted to accept the offer from West Ham."

Faubert, who had been at Bordeaux since 2004, had refused to train with his teammates after the Rangers bid was turned down.

And now his French club seem to be glad to be soon to see the back of him.

"We've reached agreement with West Ham and his move is going well," Bordeaux chairman Jean-Louis Triaud said.

## 16 report

FROM PAGE 17

Mazharul informed the federation that he would be unavailable. Veteran custodian Bappi and forward Habul have not been in touch with the BHF.

The selected players have been asked to join the camp on July 6 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

## Raikkonen

FROM PAGE 20

went to Britain's Jensen Button, who scored for the first time this year for Honda after showing race pace similar to the BMWs.

Button got by Rosberg at the final round of pit-stops and the German driver held off his countryman Ralf Schumacher late on as the pair completed the top ten.

David Coulthard was 13th -- one place behind his Red Bull teammate Mark Webber, but at least he finished, unlike Super Aguri's Anthony Davidson, who spun Vitantonio Liuzzi at the first corner and was then collected by the Toro Rosso as he gyrated, eliminating both drivers.

As the pair were trudging back to the pits, Jarno Trulli was spinning Heikki Kovalainen at Adelaide in an incident that caused the Toyota driver's retirement in the pits and caused the Finn to bring his Renault in for repairs.

Spyker too suffered a retirement as Christijan Albers left his second pit-stop before his lollipop was raised and took off with his fuel hose still attached -- something that caused him to stop before getting back onto the track.

# Global vision obscured



MIKE ATHERTON

The governance of world cricket is a mess. South of the Thames this week spectators enjoyed again what can be achieved when administrators take decisive and bold action, as Twenty20 continued to hold the cricket lover, or at least those of younger age, in thrall. Further north the International Cricket Council was ensconced at Lord's for a whole week of pow wowing but, predictably, precious little of value emerged. It can scarcely be otherwise when the executives who are charged with running the game must bend their knee to administrators whose interests are confined by the narrow boundaries of the countries they represent. Checks and balances may be good for democracies but they are no way to run sport.

There were some important issues raised this week -- none more so than the disgrace that has become cricket in Zimbabwe -- but the most fundamental was ignored. Nobody saw fit to raise the question: What sort of governing body do we want to run the game? A small, independent and powerful decision-making group, with the game's best interests at heart and given proper executive control, or one overpopulated, as it is now, with some self-serving and narrow-minded administrators charged with agendas that are equally narrow-minded and self-serving.

Last week, Richard Bevan, the head of the Professional Cricketers' Association sent a blast across the bows of Malcolm Speed, the chief executive of the ICC, following the fingering of the officials who made such a pig's ear of the World Cup final. Bevan cited fundamental errors ranging from Zimbabwe, the Super Series, the Champions' Trophy and the Future Tours Programme. "If I acted like that, I'd expect to have my arse kicked but nobody seems to take responsibility," he said.

The inference was clear. Speed, in Bevan's opinion, ought to be for the high jump. Much of Bevan's analysis is spot on, but blaming Speed is shooting the messenger; he is, ultimately, a chief executive with limited powers. Until the ICC undergo fundamental reform to give executives full authority, the game will continue to be badly served.

Consider this week. After five days of meetings we might have

hoped for a little more meat on the bone. This is what they came up with: a compromise between David Morgan and Sharad Pawar over the presidency, and a return to a rotation system to choose future presidents; Zimbabwe to remain in the Test wilderness; a ratification of the recommendations of the cricket committee; an agreement that future World Cups will not exceed five weeks in length; the establishment of an umpiring task force, and an agreement, in principle, to look at the volume of cricket played. There must have been a couple of long lunches thrown in. Oh, and by the way, Cameroon, the Falkland Islands, Peru and Swaziland were granted affiliate membership.

Look at some of those measures in detail, and marvel at the dynamic decision-making of the game's leaders. Prior to the meetings, the battle for the presidency between Morgan and Pawar had reached a stalemate, with the nominations committee locked 3-3, and the executive board 5-5 (just imagine the politicking and the back-scratching that must have gone on to get that far). The two men contemplated the most honourable of solutions -- no, not a duel sadly -- but a toss of the coin, before Pawar 'sportingly' (according to the man himself) accepted the findings of the governance review committee (by the end of this piece your head will be spinning with the names of various committees). But can this really be the best way to choose the man whose responsibility it is to set out his vision for the global game? Moreover, is a return to a rotational system to choose the post-2012 presidents really the best way of finding the most able men? With a president down the line to come from an affiliate or associate nation, we could have the top cricket man in the Falkland Islands running the game in 2020. Mind you, HRH Tunku Imran (Malaysia) and Stanley Perlman (Israel) found themselves quaffing at the top table this week, so why not.

I was looking forward to some juicy announcements on Zimbabwe, given the earlier leaking of Speed's report by the BBC sports editor, Mihir Bose. In it, it was suggested among other things, that Cricket Zimbabwe's accounts "had been deliberately falsified to mask various illegal transactions", that, "it may not be possible to rely on the authenticity of the balance sheet", and that "the game in Zimbabwe, and, more widely, the rest of the cricket world (my italics) will not be best served by Zimbabwe resum-

ing Test cricket at this stage".

With sums upwards of a million dollars (and with inflation in Zimbabwe, according to independent economists, running at 20,000 per cent, certainly not Zimbabwe dollars) twice unaccounted for, the corruption that is cricket in Zimbabwe had been laid bare.

Publicly, Speed has always been ultra defensive on Zimbabwe but the italicised remarks suggest, privately, a more humane dimension beneath the lawyerly exterior. But instead of publicly humiliating Cricket Zimbabwe, as the ICC board should have done, it was left to Zimbabwe itself, in the risible form of Peter Chingoka, to suggest that the time was not right for its return. An independent audit has been recommended, although it says much for the perceptions of the organisation by its members that the audit carried out by Faisal Hasnain, the ICC's chief financial officer, should not be considered independent enough.

And so to one of the most pressing issues of the day: the volume of cricket that is currently in danger of devaluing some of the cricket that is laid before today's spectators. The ICC board noted the views (that's good of them) of the cricket committee and directed the ICC management to formulate a draft programme with a view to reducing the volume of cricket within certain parameters. But, and here's the rub, "once produced, the draft programme will then be reviewed by the ICC board although possible implementation, if appropriate, may be delayed due to members' existing commercial arrangements". Nothing could state the problems of the ICC more clearly than that: a powerless executive hamstrung by the self-interest of the member countries.

The future direction that the ICC should take is clear, and it comes in the form of the re-constituted cricket committee. In this instance it was made up of former players of high repute and standing and, crucially, they were selected by the ICC management board and not elected by the member countries. Their recommendations (changing the white ball after 35 overs, allowing another fielder outside the inner ring during the second or third power play etc, etc), which were universally accepted, were not at all earth-shattering, but that they were made independently with the best interests of the game at heart makes them far easier to accept. It is the template which ought to operate throughout the organisation that is charged with running the game.

All in all, after another week of politicking and dull compromise, the fly that is usually so eager to get inside the walls to listen to the goings on at these meetings, was probably desperate to find its way out.

(Michael Atherton, the former England captain, wrote this article for the Sunday Telegraph).

## TT leagues

FROM PAGE 17

Reigning champions Russel, who lost to Biman in the first leg, strengthen their squad for the super league game with two Indian recruits. Russel are on 20 points.

On the other hand, Abahani will start as firm favourites to retain the women's championship with the top four players of the country in their lineup. Abahani and Biman are level on 10 points after five games each.

Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury will distribute prizes at the concluding ceremony as chief guest.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>40</b> Verve	<b>4</b> Squirrel's hangout	<b>24</b> Smart figures?
<b>1</b> Tea variety	<b>42</b> Exemplar of easiness	<b>5</b> Shockingly exciting	<b>25</b> Twosome
<b>6</b> Wahine's greetings	<b>44</b> Sci-fi knights	<b>6</b> Neighborhood on air	<b>26</b> TV channel
<b>12</b> Tire type	<b>46</b> Open a bit	<b>7</b> Memorize	<b>28</b> Young man
<b>13</b> Rest	<b>50</b> Proportions	<b>8</b> Make up your mind	<b>30</b> Guitar's joke
<b>14</b> "2001": A Space Odyssey" writer	<b>52</b> Character renderers	<b>9</b> Inn	<b>31</b> Double curve
<b>15</b> Forgoes restaurants	<b>54</b> Hymn	<b>10</b> One side of the Urals	<b>33</b> Costa del —
<b>16</b> Bullets on some	<b>56</b> Pace	<b>11</b> Fax	<b>34</b> Culpa precursor
<b>17</b> Burn	<b>57</b> Angers	<b>12</b> GE merger co.	<b>39</b> Norwegian inlet
<b>19</b> Youngster	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>18</b> Esteemed	<b>41</b> Birth-related
<b>20</b> Presidential power	<b>1</b> Tropical tree	<b>21</b> NYC summer hrs.	<b>42</b> Circle portions
<b>22</b> Dundee denial	<b>2</b> Cheese choice	<b>23</b> Attorneys' company	<b>43</b> Money of Thailand
<b>24</b> Egos' counter-parts	<b>3</b> Russian ballet		<b>45</b> Being, to Brutus
<b>27</b> 007 villain			<b>47</b> Twine fiber
<b>29</b> Despondent			<b>48</b> Belligerent
<b>32</b> Signs of wonder			<b>49</b> Crimson
<b>35</b> Unaccompanied			<b>51</b> Afternoon hour
<b>36</b> Great Lakes tribe			<b>53</b> "When We Were Kings" subject
<b>37</b> "Of course"			
<b>38</b> Pole employee			

Solution time: 27 mins.

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### CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A GUY'S WALKING CANE IS TOO SMALL FOR HIM TO USE PROPERLY, I RECKON HE'S UNDERSTAFFED.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: E equals H