

Boat race in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

An exciting boat race was held on the Kolia Bil at Daulatpur Upazila in Manikganj on Monday afternoon. Bil Kalidaha and Pach Kolia villagers organised the boat race with at least one hundred boats including Chhipa, Dingi, Khella, Ghashi and Ashtashaki taking part. Police Superintendent of Manikganj Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan was present at the function as chief guest. Former president of Manikganj District Bar Association Meher Uddin, culture personalities Azhar Uddin, Abu Sayeed Musa and Abu Hanif Kadri were also present. Kolia Union Parisad chairman Sirajul Islam presided over the function. Around ten thousand people enjoyed the competition.

Seminar on anti-doping held

SPORTS REPORTER

A seminar on 'Medical Care and Anti Doping Awareness Programme' organised by Medical and Anti Doping Committee (MADC) of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) was held at the NSC conference room yesterday.

BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest. The opening ceremony was presided over by MADC chairman and National Anti Doping Organisation (NADO) Dr Omar Faruque.

Other BOA and NSC officials were present. Kutubuddin called for more emphasis on medical issues in sports, especially on medical care and anti doping. He expressed gratitude to the organisers for holding the seminar of such importance.

Prof SM Idris Ali (orthopaedics), Dr Ismail Khan (pharmacology) and Dr Muna Salima Jahan (gynaecology and obstetrics) presented papers on specialised subjects.

A total of 141 persons (five persons from each federation -- a member, two trainers and two players) including 20 women from 33 federations participated in the seminar.

Ivanovic fails, Jankovic sails

AFP, Tokyo

Former world number one Ana Ivanovic crashed out of the Pan Pacific Open on Thursday but top seed Jelena Jankovic and Beijing Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva marched on.

Ivanovic, the second seed who reached the top of the rankings after winning her first Grand Slam at Roland Garros, fought back from losing the opening set against Nadia Petrova to take the second and level the match.

But she lost her service in the first game of the final set and never recovered, falling to the Russian 6-1, 1-6, 6-2.

Her Serbian compatriot Jankovic and Russian third seed Dementieva safely made the quarterfinals, joining Dinara Safina.

Jankovic, aiming to regain the number one ranking she held for just one week during the Olympics, breezed past Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-2, 6-1, while Dementieva whipped Alize Cornet of France 6-0, 6-3.

Rebels fail

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The ICC's committee is believed to have discussed the issue over the last few months although Modi, who is a member, declined to comment on the nature of those talks.

Dull draw

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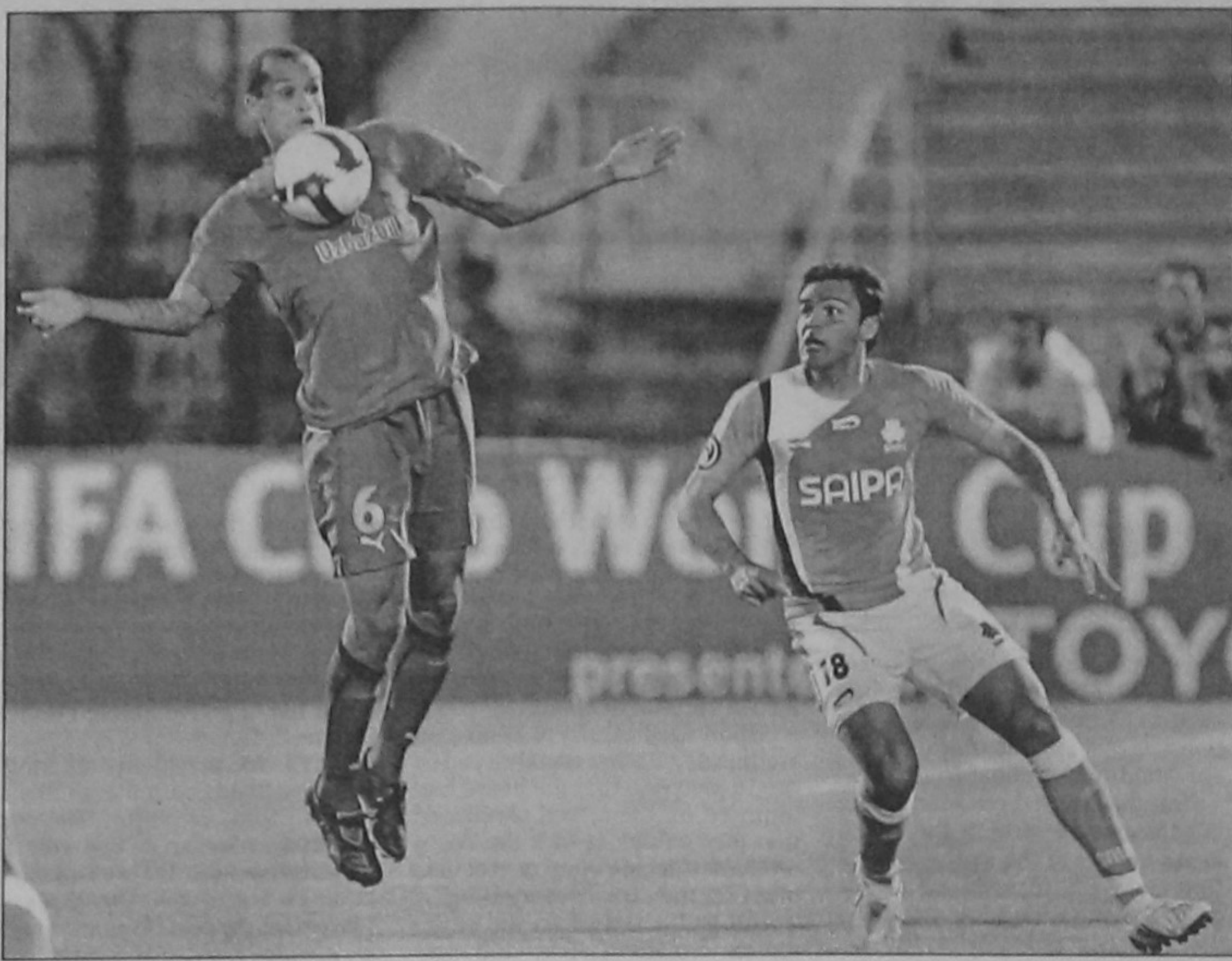
The hosts firmly in the driving seat. In Group F, four-times winners Bayern Munich thanked a solitary goal from Belgian defender Daniel Van Buyten for a valuable 1-0 success away to Steaua Bucharest and French serial domestic champions Lyon thanked a late goal from Karim Benzema as they recovered from 2-0 down to draw with Italy's Fiorentina.

In Group H, two-time champions Juventus returned to the event after a two-season absence with a 1-0 home triumph over UEFA Cup winners Zenit St. Petersburg, Alessandro Del Piero netting a magnificent freekick.

In the same group, nine-times winners Real Madrid cruised past Belarus debutants BATE Borisov 2-0 with Sergio Ramos and Ruud van Nistelrooy on target in either half.

Tuesday's highlights saw Chelsea flatten Bordeaux 4-0 as Roma suffered a shock home loss to Romanian debutants Cluj, Liverpool won for the second straight year in Marseille as rivals Atletico Madrid swamped PSV Eindhoven 3-0 away.

Inter Milan won 2-0 at Panathinaikos and Barcelona saw off Sporting Lisbon 3-1 while Cypriot minnows Anorthosis drew at Werder Bremen.



Former Brazil international star Rivaldo (L) of Uzbekistan's Kuruvchi controls the ball during the AFC Champions League match against Iran's Sipa at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran on Wednesday.

Rivaldo repays Kuruvchi

Football

AFP, Paris

Former world player of the year Rivaldo repaid Uzbekistan outfit Kuruvchi's faith in his ageing powers on Wednesday by scoring for them in their 2-2 draw away at Iranian side Saipa in their AFC Champions League quarterfinal first leg match.

The 36-year-old playmaker - European and world player of the year in 1999 - netted Kuruvchi's second to give them a 2-1 lead which was only cancelled out by an unfortunate goal in the 39th minute by Kianoush Rahmati, which took a wicked deflection off a Uzbek defender.

However, Kuruvchi coach Mirdjalal Kasimov felt his side had been robbed of victory.

Chilean striker Jose Luis Villanueva, who had got the Uzbeks off the mark, thought he had grabbed the winner in the 55th

minute when his fierce effort hit a post and went into the arms of the Saipa goalkeeper.

However, the referee waved aside Villanueva's claims that the ball had crossed the line.

"The goalkeeper definitely reached behind him to gather the ball and our fans seemed quite certain that it was in and they were in a position to see that it had," said Kasimov.

Japanese sides had mixed results on Wednesday, though, defending champions Urawa Reds won't be too disappointed with a 3-2 defeat against Kuwaiti outfit Al Qadsia.

The Reds can thank Brazilian Edmilson for keeping them in the tie as he netted twice in a thriller in Kuwait.

Gamba Osaka will feel well satisfied with a stunning 2-1 win away against tough Syrian outfit Al Karameh.

It was all the more creditable as they came from behind to win after going behind after just seven minutes.

They had to bide their time to achieve victory but two goals in the last 20 minutes through Satoshi Yamaguchi and Masato Yamazaki saw them to a crucial victory.

Earlier Japanese rivals Kashima Antlers had battled to a 1-1 draw with Adelaide United at home.

Adelaide captain Travis Dodd broke the deadlock with a header in the 38th minute when Kashima defender Toru Araiba deflected a cross toward him.

But the J-League champions levelled the score in injury time when Atsuto Uchida's long cross from the right hit Adelaide defender Robert Cornthwaite's leg in the area and bounced off the left post into the net.

"It was really a tough match against a team full of quality players," Kashima coach Oswaldo Oliveira said. "We need to prepare for the second leg with care."

Kashima will travel Down Under to face the A-League stalwarts next Wednesday.

Ex-Pak captains seek ICC action

BBC ONLINE, undated

Leading lights in Pakistan cricket have called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to change its rules so countries cannot pick and choose tours.

The call comes after Australia decided to tour India despite recent bombings there, having repeatedly refused to tour Pakistan on security grounds.

"This pick-and-choose policy must stop. The ICC needs to change the rules," said ex-Pakistan captain Rameez Raja.

Another ex-captain, Intikhab Alam, backed the call for the ICC to step in.

"I think it is time the ICC played a stronger role and made sure that countries like Australia didn't pick and choose their tours," he said.

"The ICC must have a uniform policy for its member nations on foreign tours taking security issues into consideration."

Raja added "certain blocs" were allowed "to quit cricket in certain areas at their own will".

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has accused Cricket Australia of double standards for agreeing to tour India while snubbing Pakistan's security assurances.

Under current ICC rules teams refusing to tour under its Future Tours Programme (FTP) are liable to hefty fines, unless tours fall victim to issues beyond the visiting side's control.

Earlier this year Australia cancelled a tour of Pakistan and they were one of several nations to express fears over the Asian country's hosting of the Champions Trophy this month, which led to the tournament being postponed until October 2009.

Australia are due to play four Tests in India between October 2 and November 10.

Arendse quits

AFP, Cape Town

Cricket South Africa president Norman Arendse resigned on Wednesday, citing differences with chief executive Gerald Majola.

Arendse told a press conference here his relationship with Majola had broken down due to "sharply contrasting positions" which threatened to plunge domestic cricket into crisis.

"I never at any stage enjoyed the full trust and confidence of the chief executive and all 11 affiliates," Arendse said reading from a prepared statement.

The 51-year-old Cape Town-based lawyer claimed six of the CSA affiliates did not back his transformation programme, saying the policy was a "foreign concept" to them.

Majola countered by telling national press agency Sapa he was surprised at the resignation and that "the differences were of management style and hardly irretrievable."

In a bitter clash last February, Majola blocked a move by Arendse to sack national coach Mickey Arthur, who named only four players of colour instead of the planned seven for a tour of Bangladesh.

Sagar takes

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take his collection to 5.5 points. The leader was closely followed by nine players -- level on five points -- including GM Reefat Bin Sattar and FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, who shared points in the sixth round to give up the top slot.

'Aussies now major rivals'

Tendulkar has to plan to retire

Cricket

AGENCIES, New Delhi

Batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar said on Thursday that India's rivalry with Australia was now even more intense than with long-time arch-enemy Pakistan.

Ahead of Australia's four-Test tour to India, which opens on October 9 in Bangalore, Tendulkar said he expected a fiercely competitive series between two teams who have battled for superiority over recent years.

"I don't think (India v Australia) has become bigger largely because of the competitiveness," Tendulkar said.

"All the series between us from 2001 onwards have been very keenly fought and have been very close ones."

In the ill-tempered 2007-2008 series in Australia, India lost the first two Tests but recorded a prized victory over the home team in the third Test in Perth.

Over the last seven years, 11 out of 15 India-Australia Tests have had results with Australia holding a 6-5 advantage. India have won two Tests in Australia, while no other team has won a single Test since the Ashes game in Sydney in 2002.

"We have gone to Australia and beaten them," Tendulkar stressed.

"We have been able to surprise the Australian team and that's what the Australian public likes: competition and high standards of play. They love to see challenges and competitiveness."

"The fan following for the India-Australia series has definitely increased as compared to say 15 years ago," he added.

The "little master", now aged 35, is closing in on Brian Lara's record for the most runs ever scored in a Test career, but said statistics were not his priority.

"I don't think much about records. I want to enjoy my game. If players focus on their performance, records automatically fall into place," said Tendulkar, speaking to reporters in New Delhi.

"I focus on playing the game well. If it (the record) comes in doing so I will be happy," added the ace batsman.

Tendulkar will begin the series 77 runs short of surpassing Brian Lara's record of 11,953 runs to become the highest run-getter in Tests. He was tipped to break it during the recent series in Sri Lanka but managed to score only 95 in three Tests.

India's last tour of Australia was

marked by personal insults between teams, and allegations of racial abuse and bad sportsmanship.

But Tendulkar said he did not expect a repeat of such problems during the upcoming series.

"Talking on behalf of the Indian team, I can say we will play hard but fair and I feel the Australians also will do so," he said.

Ricky Ponting will lead a relatively inexperienced team -- none of his bowlers have played a Test in India -- but Tendulkar said their squad, which is a blend of experienced batsmen and new-comers with extensive first-class experience, would challenge India.

Meanwhile, PTI adds from Mumbai, Tendulkar yesterday appeared to dismiss any chance of an early retirement from international cricket.

When a scribe asked him about his retirement plans at a press conference here, Tendulkar shot back "I think you got to be in some other press conference."

Plagued by injuries in recent times, Tendulkar skipped the one-day series against Sri Lanka due to a left elbow injury but has now recovered fully to be eligible for selection for the upcoming series against Australia.

Ricky now 'comfortable'!

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting says Australia's players will be kept abreast of the security situation in India "daily, if not hourly" as they prepare to depart for their Test tour on Sunday. The trip is expected to go ahead as planned despite last Saturday's series of bomb blasts that killed more than 20 people in New Delhi, although Ponting said Cricket Australia would stay on top of any new developments.

"Anything could happen tomorrow, things change very quickly in the world right at the moment," Ponting told AAP. "Cricket Australia will continue to be in touch and the government will continue to be in touch and Cricket Australia will keep us players and the players' association in the loop on a daily, if not hourly basis."

Ponting was speaking at Parliament House in Canberra, where he was promoting Cricket Australia's new in2Cricket game for children and also met with the

foreign affairs minister Stephen Smith. Ponting defended the decision to visit India but not Pakistan, where security concerns led to Australia cancelling a Test tour scheduled for earlier this year.

"As we all know and has been



RICKY PONTING

outlined already, these are very different circumstances between India and Pakistan right at the moment and Cricket Australia has made that very clear," Ponting said. "As captain of the side and as a

player, right at the moment I am very comfortable to go on the advice of Cricket Australia and the players' association."

Michael Brown, the general manager of cricket for Cricket Australia, rejected the suggestion that Australia would only go ahead with the tour for monetary reasons or to placate the powerful BCCI. "The only reasons we can't play and participate," Brown said, "is for security reasons and we'll keep monitoring those as time goes by."

Cricket Australia has said that the government's foreign relations with Pakistan and India play a part in the decision-making process. Australia's consulates in Karachi and Lahore have been closed due to security concerns, while they remain open in India.

However, the former Test player Dean Jones has slammed Cricket Australia for what he believes is a double-standard. Jones is now the executive director of the Indian Cricket League and he said while the situations in the two countries were different, Australian officials were clearly in a bind.

"The reason why this is such a headache for Australia is that it can't afford to take a stand on player safety in India," Jones wrote in the Canberra Times. "I speak from quite a bit of experience in regards to India. My next trip will be my 91st."

"And there is reason to be concerned about security there, particularly in Delhi, where the latest bomb went off. Through my role as an executive director of the Indian Cricket League, I know we have major headaches with security there."

Mendis resists

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on 93 off 185. Mahbubul Alam, Bangladesh Academy's new-ball bowler who had taken two of the first three wickets, broke the stand by trapping Nawela leg-before late in the day.

Earlier, Bangladesh had resumed their innings this morning on 310 for 8 with captain Nayem Islam batting on 73. He didn't add to his score before being bowled by Mendis and the innings came to a close on 321.

Mendis finished with figures of 4 for 61 but his work for the day had only just begun.

VOX POP: Readers speak out

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except 'the superstars' to stick around for the country that came into existence through so much struggle -- they are business men, they are here to sell a product and make sure they get maximum returns. If the country's cricketing future is jeopardized in the process, so be it!

For the die-hard Bangladeshi cricket fans like me out there, wipe your eyes. Don't worry; the loss of these so called superstars is a blessing in disguise. These men did not play for our country, they played for money. They did not play the game with half the passion you and I watched it with. No wonder the recent performance of the team is dismal to say the least. When you have players who have half their mind counting the cash they are going to take home while playing; you cannot expect anything better! Let players who will play for the country fill their spots. Players, who with their every heartbeat will revere the passion that signifies our beloved country Bangladesh! There are quite a number of them already in the team. Shakibul Hassan, Mashrafe bin mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Rokibul Hassan are just a few examples.

Nabil Ahmed Khan

I think the players have the right to make their own decision and we should respect that. Also, they are not doing any evil act. It is the Indian board who made this tournament illegal, and because of their financial influence over ICC everybody has to label this tournament illegal. Isn't that dictator-

ship? On another note, BCB cannot act like the most cleaneast person. It is BCB who has been depriving the players for a long time. It is the richest organisations in the country. So, do not blame the players. It was their choice, and they made their decision. Please, keep in mind that they are just playing cricket, they will not be staling or coming any evil act. The sad part is it is a big blow for BD team. I think, losing players like Aftab, Nazim, Nafiz, and Kapali is a big blow.

Zean, USA

Lets not glorify these guys by calling them 'bidrohi'. They have taken a career decision that is clearly motivated by money and it is not our place to judge their personal choices. But giving them too much attention distracts the focus from the real issues-- that there is something really "norbore" in BCB and we can just hope that this recent shock stirs the board into becoming an active, structured organization that gives proper respect to the professionals working for them.

Let me also spend a moment lauding the real heroes. The recent comments from the players who stayed behind culminated with the quote from Tamim. It gives me hope again. Tamim, Shakib, Mushfiq -- it makes me proud to know that you guys are carrying the beacon for our country in the world stage. And as coach Siddons said, this incident should unite us once again and inspire us for the coming series.

One last thing- My respect for

Ashraful has increased dramatically for his decision to refuse 15 crore taka to represent his country. Sakaft GeorgiaTech, USA

I do have rather ambivalent feeling regarding this matter. Every player has the right to choose their destination. Whether to play for their country or not-- they have the full authority to decide that. We cannot expect them to be so altruistic these days that they will refuse a lucrative offer of \$200,000 for playing only six months in ICL. Besides, the frequent coming and going in the national squad also makes every player feel insecure about their future.

On the contrary, not only players but also all of us should have a minimum sense of patriotism or loyalty to our nation. The players are what they are today because they have once played and represented Bangladesh. All the popularity and accolades they received were because of their personal auspicious performances and for being a part of Bangladesh Cricket. So all I am trying to say is that players should not also think only about individual achievements. Rather they can try to make a balance between their earning and their responsibility to the nation. But the question is how? That is something that BCB and the players have to sort out among them.

Md. Sayeed Islam Dhaka Cantonment Dhaka

The decision of the players to join ICL has created a problem for the

BCB. But I think BCB should not worry too much. It is said that the pipeline of cricketers or the supply of cricketers in Bangladesh is narrow. However, I think the domestic players available would not perform worse than the current rebel players. Apart from Shahriar Nafees the rest could not justify their position in the national team. They have proved to be useless.

Asif Dhaka

It is utterly disappointing to hear the news that some of our national cricketers have decided to join the rebel Indian ICL competition. But I really don't feel we lost much. None of the players who resigned so far have had much of a positive contribution to Bangladesh cricket in recent memory to merit any mourning for their loss.

The players who chose to join the ICL should be free to do so. It is after all their lives and last I checked Bangladesh was a "democratic" society where people's individual freedom was cherished. We all know with freedom comes its cost and the cost of the freedom of choice is its consequence. Whether the consequences of their choices are either positive or negative and if they accept it unquestioningly then I think we should not have anything to complain about. I wish them all the best in their careers and will wholeheartedly support the "Dhaka Warriors".

Abdullah Taber Texas, USA

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP SWHO MI H SHF OE BMRZYF OZYY H VZQIEB WZ WHI SHOZQ GQEVYZOI EB WMI YHSB? SMOW HYY GZS QVIZROU Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE ILLUSTRIOUS SITAR PLAYER SHANKAR HAS A FAVORITE PASTA DISH, DO YOU THINK IT'S RAVI-OLI? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals L