



Brothers Union's Ghanaian player Steven Kwest (C) tries to make his way through Arambagh's Kabuye Dominic and Akram Hossain during their Citycell Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Inter-district football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Chuadanga District Eleven recorded a solitary-goal win over Khulna Winners Club in the Inter-District Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup tournament at Magura Stadium yesterday. Murad struck the decisive goal for Chuadanga in the first half. Narail will take on Rajbari today at the same venue.

## Abahani

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layoff of the Bangladesh League following the SAFF Championship in December prompted Abahani to release Alvaro before the expiry of the contract.

Replies to a query, Rupu said that players were not supposed to face fitness problems during the layoff as Alvaro has made a training schedule to maintain their fitness. It may be mentioned here that, Alvaro used to draw a salary of 2000 US dollars per month from the Sky Blues.

## Gayle made

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off due to the player strike Gayle is simply keen to return to any form of cricket.

He has had mixed results as captain, winning three Tests out of 14 and 13 ODIs out of 38. He led West Indies to two series wins in one-dayers, including an away victory against England last year, and against the touring Sri Lanka. He presided over a surprise win in the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg but his side went on to lose the next two games and the series. His other Test wins came against Sri Lanka in Port-of-Spain to level the two match series and a deciding win over England at home earlier this year, before West Indies handed back the Wisden Trophy when they toured just after.



## Did U Know?

The UEFA Champions League started in 1955 and Real Madrid dominated until 1960. After that Benfica took charge in 1961.



## 'England series 'huge'

### Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

England's tour of South Africa is going to be "huge" according to South Africa coach Mickey Arthur and he has vowed that his charges won't be caught cold as they were in the recent Champions Trophy.

Host nation South Africa failed to reach the knockout stage of the Champions Trophy, with a defeat against England putting an end to their chances.

"We were rusty going into that tournament," said Arthur. "Any series against England is huge and we want to make sure we are well prepared for our matches against them."

England, whose limited overs squad arrived in South Africa Sunday, will be up against South African players who have been playing domestic cricket and will face Zimbabwe in two one-day matches before taking on the Andrew Strauss-skipped tourists.

England will play South Africa in two Twenty20 internationals, five one-day internationals and four Tests.

Arthur admitted there may have been some justification for critics who said South Africa's predictability had contributed to their

Champions Trophy downfall after going into the tournament ranked number one in the world.

"Things had worked so well for us in one-day cricket that maybe we were a bit predictable," he said. "We are looking for more flexibility against England."

The Champions Trophy came after South Africa's first extended break in more than two years, but Arthur promised England would come up against players who were hungry and should be in top form.

All the national players with the exception of Jacques Kallis, who has a side strain, will be available in domestic cricket before the one-day squad assembles in Johannesburg Friday.

They will play Zimbabwe on November 8 and 10, with Arthur admitting the matches had been arranged to give the South Africans a chance to play together and work on new combinations ahead of the England series.

"The Zimbabwe matches will get us playing together again as a unit and we want to go into the England series hot," said Arthur.

England flew to the central city of Bloemfontein soon after their arrival and will prepare for four days before playing 50-over matches against the Free State Eagles and Eastern Cape Warriors franchise teams and a 20-over match against South Africa A.

The first Twenty20 international is at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on November 13.

## Series win is the goal

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"They are not fully recovered. It's not sure if they can play. But, we will wait for them till the match starts," said vice-captain Hamilton Masakadza yesterday.

Today is a do-or-die affair for the Africans and Masakadza admitted that they would try their best to pull a rabbit out of the hat.

"We will try to win today and equal the series to turn the 5th match into the deciding one," he said.

The match will be a special one for the venue as the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium is waiting for ICC recognition as one of the venues for the World Cup 2011 to be held in the sub-continent.

And one man who will understand that value more than most is local boy and dashing opener Tamim Iqbal.

"I always look forward to playing at home and it will be a fantastic thing for Chittagong if the World Cup comes here," he said.

"It will be a renaissance for cricket here and youngster will have renewed enthusiasm to become cricketers. Remember there was a time when there were as many as nine players from Chittagong in the national team. Now I am the only one. So the World Cup could be a massive boost."

**Aussies draw**

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miss out on his 10th half-century, being caught behind off Harbhajan for a 52-ball 49 containing six fours.

The next match will be played in Hyderabad on Thursday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between India and Australia at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali on Monday:

**AUSTRALIA**

Watson c Dhoni b Harbhajan 49

Marsh lbw b Nehra 5

Ponting run out 52

Hussey c Sharma b Yuvraj 40

White run out 62

Henriques st Dhoni b Harbhajan 6

Johnson c Nehra 8

Manou run out 7

Hauritz not out 9

Siddle c Jadeja b Nehra 1

Bollinger run out 0

Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-9) 11

Total: (All out in 49.2 overs) 250

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-88, 3-

123, 4-196, 5-217, 6-226, 7-

236, 8-241, 9-247.

**INDIA**

Sehwag c Watson b Bollinger 30

Tendulkar lbw b Hauritz 40

Kohli c Manou b Watson 16

Hauritz c Hauritz b Watson 7

Sharma not out 3

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-20, nb-1) 27

Total: (All out in 46.4 overs) 226

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-78, 3-

94, 4-113, 5-145, 6-156, 7-177,

8-204, 9-217.

**Bowler** O M R W

Kumar 9.2 0 41 0

Nehra 8 0 37 3

Sharma 5 0 42 0

Jadeja 7 0 27 0

Harbhajan 10 0 48 2

Yuvraj 10 0 54 1

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**Bowler** O M R W

Johnson 9 0 74 0

Siddle 5 2 15 0

Bollinger 9 2 38 3

Henriques 7 0 33 2

Hauritz 9 1 31 2

Watson 7.4 1 29 1

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