

JANUARY 2004

Thurs 8

Headline - *Tatchell asks court to issue arrest warrant for Mugabe* – Bow Street magistrates are to consider an application from the human rights – and gay activist – to issue an order of arrest for the Zimbabwean president.

In papers lodged with the court Mugabe “internationally organised and condoned and acquiesced in” torture, breaching the Criminal Justice Act of 1998, which incorporates the UN convention against torture into British law. The application – to be ruled on by 15/1 – was supported by the testimony of two exiled victims of abuse, evidence from human rights groups and suitable media evidence. – **GDN page 6, C 6** –

Sun 11

Radio report – two journalists, working for the Zimbabwe Independent, have been arrested and charged with the offence of denigrating the office of the president. The charges are based on an incident when Air Zimbabwe was forced, by officials, to clear a plane of fee paying passengers, as Mugabe wanted it for his use as he was about to go on holiday. The two journalists are to appear in court within 24 hours. – **R4, 22. 00** –

Tues 13

Headline – *Journalists accused of defaming Mugabe* – named as I Wetherell, editor, V Kahiya news editor and senior reporter D Muleya from privately owned Independent (qv 11/1). The three were held for 48 hours in police cells. They have now been released on bail of Z\$20, 000 1.90 pounds [English], at the unofficial rate.

Responding to the allegations the information minister, J Moyo, described them as “blasphemous.” According to the state the order to take over the plane did not come from the president, however he agrees that he did have exclusive use for his Asian holiday. Therefore causing Air Zimbabwe to cancel scheduled flights at the last minuet. – **GDN page 17, C 7** –

Thurs 15

Headline – *Mugabe arrest bid fails* – once again the activist P Tatchell (qv) has been thwarted in an attempt to have the crimes of Mugabe brought before the courts. After considering the facts District Judge T Workman, sitting at Bow Street Magistrates Court in London, refused to grant an extradition order.

Despite the applicant citing the case of the former Argentinean president Pinochet’s case, Judge Workman said that in this case as Mugabe was the head of the ruling authority in Zimbabwe there was no way that this order could be granted. It would flout international law to do so.

Commenting on the ruling Mr Tatchell asked “What is the point of having laws against torture, if the abusers, heads of state are exempt from prosecution? – **GDN page 12, C 1** –

Headline – ***Pair held over Mugabe article*** – following the recent journalistic arrests (qv 13/ 1) police have detained two more. Held now is the general manager and an unnamed reporter from the Zimbabwe independent. – **ditto, page 18, 7** –

Tues 20

Headline – ***Tsvangirira takes the stand*** – The leader of Zimbabwe’s opposition Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangirira, took the stand in his treason trial yesterday and denied plotting to kill the president, Robert Mugabe. The trial has run for 11 months – **GDN page 14,C7**

Thurs 22

The Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirira told his treason trial yesterday that he did, as alleged, discuss “eliminating” President Robert Mugabe, but was trapped into using the word he only meant to use in a political sense. He has denied plotting to kill Mr Mugabe in 2002. If convicted, he could face the death penalty. – **Reuters** –

Fri 23

Headline – ***Mbeki claims Mugabe is planning to hold talks with the opposition leader*** – reports emanating from across the countries southern border indicate that there could soon be a political solution as to how the country is governed. If the announcement is correct Mugabe and Tsvangirira will hold direct talks to iron out their differences.

In Zimbabwe itself spokesmen for both parties indicated that such talks were not on the imminent horizon. A spokesman for the MDC said “We are still waiting to hear from Zanu – PF on the way forward.” The justice minister, who is on leave from his duties, indicated that he was not aware of any new developments in this regard.

It is believed that the Mbeki announcement – made at a joint press conference with the visiting German chancellor G Schroder – was made to enhance the South African president’s image before the European Union decide whether or not to renew its sanction policy towards the Harare regime. – **GDN page 16, C 3** –

Sat 24

Headline – ***Sticky wicket*** – Foreign Secretary **JACK STRAW** delivered a damning assessment of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe and stressed it is up to the England and Wales Cricket Board to decide whether to go ahead with this winter’s proposed tour. – **YEP People C, page 4** –

Tues 27

Headline – *Zimbabwe in tour appeal to counties* – with the mounting concerns of the English and Wales Cricket Board over the conditions in Zimbabwe – with the England summer tour in the offing – an appeal to the English counties has been made by cricket officials in Harare.

The chairman of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, P Chinkoca, has written to all 18 England's county chairman pointing out the consequences if a national team is not sent out this summer. There will be financial penalty to pay – compensation for the loss on income for the ZCU, from television rights.

Then there is the issue of the deceit of the English chairman, D Morgan, who in 2003 (qv 27/4) that by playing world cup games in Harare would ensure a return in the summer of 2004. England's chairman had also said that political and moral factors should not be any part of deciding whether matches should take place. – **GDN page 38, C 1** –

Wed 28

Headline – *Chingoka hurls verbal bouncer at 'sanctimonious' England* – interviewed the chairman of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union enlarges on the comments of 27/1. With wording like 'waiving rules, 'double standards', 'wriggling out' and 'creating smokescreens' the unlikely host of the 2004/5 England tour to Zimbabwe vents his spleen on the members of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Comments come 24 hours before the 16 members of the board of the England and Wales Cricket Board meet – where the decision to withdraw from a winter tour will be discussed, and announced at the end of 2/04 – most of his anger was vented at Des Wilson, the boards corporate manager. He accuses the 'money man' of mixing the ethos of sport with the ethos of politics. In the 'cricket world' these two should not be mixed. Cricket is a game – a way of life – and should not be sullied by the world of international affairs. – **GDN page 33, C 1** –

Fri 30

Headline – *Police in Zimbabwe halt opposition policy launch* – as diplomats, journalists and members of the diplomatic community gathered to hear the details of a new initiative from the Movement for Democratic Change the police stepped in.

The MDC had invited 'notables' to hear the launch of Restart – a campaign that detailed their proposals to restart the rebuilding of the country's economy. However, as there was a gathering of more than three people – a breach of the Public Order and Security Act – police were forced to move in and end the meeting. The reason, the application for the meeting had been sent to the wrong room and had not been processed.

Elsewhere, Mr Justice M Mjuru the high court judge who ruled in favour of the Daily News recently has resigned. According to the justice minister, P Chiamasa, the judge – who allowed the anti Mugabe newspaper to reopen – retired on health grounds. – **GDN page 21 C 1** –

FEBRUARY

Mon 2

Headline – *Two – thirds of Zimbabweans in need of food aid* – revised figures, from the United Nations World Food Programme agency, show that 7.5m nationals need food supplies if they are to remain alive. There is evidence that the regime in Harare is still blocking aid to those who support the opposition. These, mainly rural living, number 5m. According to human rights observers this crisis of food supply is evident in the cities – affecting another 2.5m people.

The price of Zimbabwe's staple maize meal has soured. Last year the state grain monopoly sold a 50kg [nearly 9st] bag of maize for \$Z580 [40p]. Now, as it is only generally available on the black market, the cost has risen to about \$Z 40, 000 – 28 pounds [English. With the inflation rate at 600% it is no wonder families are struggling. – **GDN page 11, C7** –

Tues 3

Headline – *Mugabe seizes S African- owned company* – days after an amendment to the Land Acquisition Act, which allows the government to seize industrial plantations, has taken place in the south east of the country.

In this fertile region are a number of sugar, coffee and timber plantations. One such – The Hippo Valley Estate, which is owned by the South African conglomerate, Anglo American – produces on its 70, 000 hectares [170, 000 acres] 236, 000 tonnes of sugar, with a value of 41m pounds [English]. The estate employs 6, 000 full time workers. During the harvesting time an additional 4, 000 people are employed. - GDN page 12, C 5 –

Fri 6

Zimbabwe's highest court threw out a constitutional challenge to sweeping media laws yesterday, making it a criminal offence to work as a journalist without a license. The ruling put the unlicensed Daily News, the country's only independent newspaper, at risk of being shut down and having staff working on today's newspaper arrested.

The ruling, from the Supreme court, stated “the practice of journalism was of fundamental importance in a democratic society but this should not place journalists regulatory control.” As to whether the Daily News should be shut down the Supreme court reserved judgement. – **AP adb** –

Sat 7

Headline – *Zimbabwe paper stops publishing* –preempting, a ruling from by the Supreme court, the country's only independent newspaper, the Daily News (qv 6/2), has stopped publication. According to Iden Wetherall, the chairman of Zimbabwe National Editors Forum “this is a dark day for Zimbabwe's media, especially for the outspoken independent press.” – **GDN page 20, C 7** –

Mon 9

News item – as the time approaches for a decision to be made, concerning the commitment for England's cricket team to tour Zimbabwe, discovered actions by the Zimbabwe security forces during the 2003 World Cup indicate a level of intimidation to the tours opponents that is not acceptable to some of those who were involved in the world cup.

The reporter, Neil Connery, discovered that at the time of a Cup match, involving the national team and one from Australia, protestors were rounded up by members of the security forces, Whilst in detention they were subjected to torture. In one case a protester – a male – was raped, leaving him with the fear that he may have contracted the HIV virus. Another interviewee – the Bishop of Bulawayo – forecast that there would be similar action during any visit by an England side. – **ITN, 18. 30** –

Tues 10

Headline – ***England hit another Zimbabwe road block*** – as if the EWCB does not face a tough enough decision as to whether to go to Zimbabwe - mid 2004 – they have been drawn against players from the Mugabe's fiefdom in a second competition.

The Champions trophy, a knockout competition to be played in England – late 2004 – would more than likely face a boycott from players from Zimbabwe. This would be in retaliation for the expected no show of the English team in Harare. – **GDN page 27C 7** –

Fri 13

Inflation in Zimbabwe rose to 622.8% last month, the country's central statistical office said yesterday, further deepening Harare's worst economic crisis since independence in 1980 – **AP** –

Sat 14

Radio report – police in Harare [and presumably other Zimbabwean cities] have banned a Valentines Day protest march Authorities indicated that those taking part in the Women of Zimbabwe march (qv) faced the possibility of being fired upon by police. – **Radio 4, 23.00** –

Sat 21

Radio report – in an interview, to mark his 80th birthday, Mugabe has indicated within the next 5 years he will step down from the post of president. However, he will remain active in Zimbabwean politics. – **World Service, Radio 4, 05 00** –

Judge Moses Chinhengo, who has angered Zimbabwe's government by ruling against its electoral and land reform cases, has resigned from Harare's high court, becoming the 10th judge to step down in the 4 – year political and economic crisis. – **AP** –

Sun 21

Headline – *Mugabe: “I will stay on for five more years”* – as already known (qv 20/2) the president is to stay on, at least another 5 years. Celebrations for his great age centered on his home village of Zvimba, in the west of the country. Gathered in the stadium were 15, 000 supporters who had previously attended a Roman Catholic church service. In a further honour the Youth League members attending were renamed 21st February Movement. Also, in Mugabe’s honour the state owned Herald newspaper printed a 16 page advertising section, which had, been sponsored by companies – many on the brink of financial ruin.

During the state broadcast the president indicated that the prospect of the government and the opposition engaging in productive talks to end the countries economic crisis was being hampered by some MDC officials being “shallow” in their sincerity towards reconciliation. – **IOS page 19, C4 –**

Mon 23

Headline – *Mugabe shrugs off ‘murder’ bid and health fears* – as is already acknowledged the president is here to stay (qv). What was not so well known is that ground glass was found in his food – not an attempt to kill him by “western imperialists,” rather a cook who could have been unhappy or under the spell of a witch doctor. An “internal thing” said Mugabe. As to other health scares – a denial of medical treatment for the president on a 48 hour trip into South Africa recently. More recently, a canceled trip to a tobacco factory in the Bindura area yesterday because of ‘chest pains.’

In other developments, by presidential decree it is within the law for opponents of the government to be held in jail for a period of 4 weeks before they must be brought before the court. Previously a court appearance must have taken place within 48 hours of arrest. – **GDN page 14, 7 -**

Tues 24

The EU renewed sanctions against Robert Mugabe and his inner circle yesterday and criticised the government of Zimbabwe for intimidating the opposition and muzzling the media.

The travel ban and assets freeze is to be extended to 95 party leaders, and will be in place for another year. – **Reuters –**

According to the World Bank 34% of the countries adult population carries the HIV virus – **GDN page 19, C 4 –**

Wed 25

During quarter four, of 2203, 685 Zimbabwean nationals applied asylum in Britain. This puts those fleeing Zimbabwe at number 4 in the top 10 of foreign national applications. – *graphic* **GDN page 1**

Sun 29

Headline – ***Revealed: the Mugabe killer camps*** – there are, according to an undercover investigation [*see Zimbabwe Tape 7 – Panorama: Secrets of the Camps, BBC1 22.15 – 22.55*] 6 secret camps set up in the country that have the intention of training the inhabitants who are members of the Zanu PF organisation, as killers and assassins. Their targets are said to be those who are against the present regime.

Tales, by those who have escaped the camps, tell of a regime that first breaks down the spirit of the person. In the case of a female the method often used is rape. For some young women this can occur many times. In one clandestine interview with Debbie – a camp escapee – this occurred three times.

With the Zanu/MDC talks all but scuppered (qv 21/2) a delegation from the MDC has crossed the border for talks with the ANC government. They are hoping to change the attitude of the Pretoria regime to its northern neighbour, in light of Mugabe's decision not to allow the UN to investigate alleged human rights abuses in the country. – **IOS page 20, C 7 -**

MARCH

Thurs 4

Headline – ***Six forced confessions thrown out*** – after 28 months of detention, for the 2001 (qv 15/11) alleged killing of the Bulawayo branch of the War Veterans Association, the confessions of six MDC supporters has been thrown out by a judge.

According to the judge, Mr Justice Mungwira, the accused – including an opposition MP – were deprived of sleep, food, threatened with a gun, denied medical treatment and access to their lawyers. It also emerged that relatives of those detained were also subject to police harassment.

The evidence offered by the state, a video that purported to show the accused indicating the location of C Nkala's grave was rubbish by the judge. As far as he was concerned the filming occurred after the location events had commenced. There was no date/time indicator in place, as the officer forgot to switch them on.

In light of the courts ruling the authorities the men's lawyers will ask that the state to drop the charges. However the state indicated that it reserves the right to call further witnesses. – **GDN page 18, C8 –**

Tues 9

Headline – ***Mugabe's foes' face constant attacks*** – A report, from the Pretoria based Zimbabwe Institute, a non governmental organisation, - has looked into the wide ranging claims of intimidation tactics carried out by Zanu PF against those opposed to the current regime.

In a survey of parliamentary and hopeful parliamentary members of the for the Movement for Democratic Change the institute found wide ranging evidence to support their conclusions. Of the 50 party MP's and 28 prospective members – parliamentary candidates- all could give vivid accounts vandalism, torture or attempted assassination. All told 616 incidents were investigated. The findings of the report, which will be published within 7 days, blames 50% of the attacks on the police, the army or the central intelligence organisation. The rest were attributed to the war veterans or the youth militia.

Authorities in Harare claim that they have seized a cargo plane that had landed and was carrying 64 mercenaries – of various nationalities – and assorted military equipment. A spokesman for the state department in Washington denied any involvement.

Away from 'constant attack' reports and 'mercenaries at Harare airport' the Roman Catholic bishop of Zimbabwe, P Ncube, has urged the international community to intensify their sanctions campaign against the Mugabe regime. Speaking to the Sowetan newspaper the cleric put forward the notion that for the authorities in to switch off their northern neighbours electrical supply would be would quickly bring the country to a standstill. – **GDN page 9, C 7** –

Thurs 11

News item – the end destination, of the transport plane seized at Harare (qv 10/3) airport on 7/3, is now known to have been Equatorial Guinea in West Africa. – **World Service, R4 5am** –

Headline – ***UK accused of mercenaries' plot*** – details emerge about the background of those held by police in Harare (qv). The Boeing 727 – 100, registered in the USA, had onboard a former member of the SAS regiment. This fact was enough to have the Zimbabwean police link London with the plot to destabilise the government of the former Spanish colony.

In his defence the former British soldier, S Mann, said he and his colleges were employed by the London based Logo Logistics to provide security at a gold mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Other nationalities held for questioning 20 South Africans, 18 Namibians, 23 Angolans, 1 Zimbabwean [traveling on a SA passport] and 2 from the DRC. According to the authorities these 'soldiers of fortune' could face the death penalty if found guilty. – **GDN page 1, C 3** –

Fri 12

Headline – ***Harare prepares charges*** – the 64 multi national 'soldiers of fortune' held in Harare (qv 11/ 3) are to appear in court on firearms, aviation and immigration charges, said the state radio. They were reporting a statement from the attorney general, B Patel, Also in the dock would be the 3 man crew of the Boeing 727, in which the men flew. The foreign minister, S Mudenge, said the men could be executed, although it was noted that non-of the charges incurred such a penalty.

It has emerged that the motive for the illegal activities was the promise of one million pounds [English], for the oil concession rights, after the overthrow of the current leader in the West African state. - **GDN page 18, C 8** –

Despite “the people of Zimbabwe [being] our family through common ancestry and common history” nevertheless it time, before Mugabe or Zanu win another election – in 2005 – to be treated, by the international community of 2004 as was South Africa of Both and Vorster during the latter years of the 20th century. – **Max du Preez, The Star, ditto page 28** –

Sat 13

Headline – ***Murky tale of a mercenary adventure*** – It has emerged that that S Mann, held along with the multi national force of ‘dogs of war’ (qv) was instrumental in the setting up of Executive Outcomes which carried out military operations for foreign governments. [*the author notes that in 1995 (qv 7/5) they went to the assistance of the Sierra Leone government at the behest of the regime in Pretoria*]

On this occasion the former SAS officer was not on the plane that landed at Harare airport – he was waiting to meet it – under the eyes of the Zimbabwean intelligence service, who were suspicious of the people who were set to meet the plane.

Some of those detained – and facing the death penalty – have been named. Pilot of the Boeing was N Steyl, a South African commercial pilot. Alongside him was a Namibian H Hamman, both who had worked for Executive Outcomes previously. – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Sun 14

Headline – ***Long Wait for Justice*** – The year long treason trial of opposition leader Morgan Tsvangaria came to a close, with the judge not expected to rule for several months. Tsvangaria denies charges of plotting to murder President Robert Mugabe and says the government fabricated the allegations to discredit him. – **Notebook, Time Magazine 8/3 page 19** -

Mon 15

Sixty Suspected mercenaries detained in Zimbabwe for allegedly plotting a coup in Equatorial Guinea have been charged with immigration and firearms offences, their lawyers said yesterday. – **Reuters** –

Sat 20

Headline – ***US firms try to block cheap Aids drugs*** – the medical charity Medecins sans Frontieres is providing 9,000 HIV positive patients with these generic drugs. The cost, to the French based charity is 109 – 106 pounds [English]/patient/year. To adopt the strategy of the US based pharmaceutical companies would see the yearly costs per patient rise to 325 pounds [English]. As well as increasing the number of tablets taken rise to 6/day from 2/day.

These concerns are to be addressed during a conference in Botswana. This will be held within the next 12 days. – **GDN page 17, C 6** –

Wed 31

Headline – *Mugabe ‘bullies way to poll win’* – By-election result, **Zengeza ward Harare, C Chigumba [Zanu – PF] 8,447: J Makore [MDC] 6,706**. The result overturns the 2004 general election result. Claims were made that busloads of Zanu militants were deployed to ensure intimidation secured the ‘correct’ outcome. – **GDN page 16, C 7** –

APRIL

Fri 2

Headline – *Vital statistics: the world of women in numbers* – according to a graphic the life expectancy at birth of a Zimbabwean women is 33 years. A comparison – SA 51, UK 81 – **Sidelines, G2 page 6** –

Sun 11

Headline – *Zimbabwe tour is on* – billed, by those opposed to any contact with the Mugabe regime as a ‘no no’ event it seems after intervention from the International Cricket Council an England team will tour Zimbabwe in 2004.

The about face comes as the ICC made plain the consequences of cancellation. The national team would face suspension from the international arena from the summer of 2005 – just as the Ashes were once again being fought over. This would cost the ECB millions and bring the game to its knees.

According to the chairman of the EWCB, D Morgan, indicated the only events that could stop the 10/04 visit was a directive from the government in London or major concerns over the safety and security of England’s team.

The coming high profile event is also causing concern in Harare. There the ruling body is facing criticism from a number of their players as to the political interference in team selection and the sacking of the team captain. – **IOS Sport page 1 C 1** –

Sun 18

Headline – *Zimbabwe Cricket On The Ropes* – as a high level delegation from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, led by P Chinkoa, prepares for a 20/4 meeting with the England and Wales Cricket Board over the forthcoming tour to Zimbabwe (qv), there is discourse in Harare.

Thirteen white players have withdrawn from the squad to play Sri Lanka in a home series that begins on 20/4. The players accuse the ZCU of political interference in team selection. The

protest was led by H Streak, the long standing captain, who was recently sacked. He was replaced by T Talbu, who at 20 years old and the youngest captain in Test history.

Fri 23

Headline – *Lawyer calls for Mugabe trial at The Hague* – following a visit to Zimbabwe a leading member of the International Bar Association has called for the countries president to be brought before the court, in the Dutch Capital, on a various charges.

According to M Ellis, an IBA member, there was more than enough evidence to bring Mr Mugabe to the Hague to face charges resulting from the governments support for state sponsored murder, torture and rape in its efforts to hold onto power.

Although the United nations commission on human rights, who are meeting in Geneva, declined to take action Mr Ellis said that the trend of the international community was veering towards the cause that government leaders – see ongoing trial of ex Yugoslav leader – being held responsible for crimes committed on their behalf.

Also on the International Bar Association delegation was S Irwin QC, chairman of the Bar Council for England and Wales. One of his observations described a once thriving justice system that is now being destroyed in order to hold on to political power. - **GDN page 18, C 5** –

Sun 25

Headline – *Mugabe arrests minister* – Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, C Kuruneri, was arrested amid allegations that he illegally exported up to 580,000 pounds [English] to South Africa. He was reported to be building a 2.3m pounds [English] home in Cape Town. – **IOS page 4, C 7** –

Mon 26

Headline – *Mugabe minister accused of illegal dealings* – even before ant trial of the countries finance minister, C Kuruneri, (qv 25/4) he could be held in prison for 28 days. He would appear in court under legislation, brought in recently by the president.

In South Africa pictures of the ministers 6 bed, 8 bathroom home being constructed on the Oceanside Cape Town suburb of Llandudno. There are reports that the lawyer turned government minister owns a second home in the suburb as well as a retreat in Vancouver Canada. The overall cost of the under construction dwelling is estimated to be 2.25m pounds [English]. In his defence the minister indicated that the construction costs were being met through the payment of consultancy fees that have been earned abroad. – **GDN page 18, C 8** –

Wed 28

Headline – *Zimbabwe tour splits cricket board* – in awe of the International Cricket Councils threats of fines and suspensions over the 'moral issue' of the 10/04 tour that a leading light of the England and Wales Cricket Board has resigned.

The former Liberal Democrat party president, Des Wilson, brought in by the board to work on an 'ethical policy' felt his position was untenable after it was rejected.

The unacceptable conditions, as far as the EWCB were concerned, were – if the tour went ahead it should be completed 'under protest'. This would signal disapproval of the Mugabe regime. The ECB should campaign to change ICC regulations. At the moment the world body takes no account of the political or human rights issues in place of venue country's. Finally the Wilson principals would see the ICC should take moral considerations when considering where to tour.

Explaining his resignation - which was not because the tour is likely to go ahead Mr Wilson said "My differences lie with where we go from here. In the long term I believe it [the ECB] should campaign for change within the ICC." – **GDN page 1, C 7** –

Cartoon – "out, on moral grounds" – Umpires verdict

Fri 30

Headline – ***Zimbabwe deports Sky crew as suspects are extradited*** – the fate of the alleged mercenaries seized at Harare airport (qv 15/3) has been determined. They are to be extradited to Equatorial Guinea, where they will face the death penalty. The fate of the coup plotters was sealed after a high level meeting between the presidents of the two countries involved.

According to the men's defence lawyers, those held at Harare's airport – and charged with firearms and immigration offences – should only face a fine of Z\$200, 000 [2 pounds English].

As of this time Sky News are unsure whether their two man team, in the country to file a cricket related story, will have to leave the country. Going on past president this seems likely, as there are a plethora of draconian media laws that this team seems to have ignored. **GDN page 19, C 1**

MAY

Fri 7

Headline – ***Straw allows England no get – out from Zimbabwe*** – following a meeting between members of the England and World Cricket Board and members of the government it is most certain that an autumn tour of Zimbabwe will take place.

Despite being "unacceptable to the majority of the British public" –D Morgan chairman of the ECB – he did not think "it is incumbent on us to take a moral stand." – **GDN page 34, C 1** –

Sat 8

Headline – *Staff flee as Mugabe turns on to schools* – much as the regime in Harare has done with the white owned farms it is now trying to do the same with some of the schools in the country.

In recent days there has been government orders to close some of Zimbabwe's fee paying schools. Defending the government's decision the education minister, A Chicwedere, said on state television that the recent closures were of former whites only schools and were "all racist".

Post independence, in 1980, many of these places were taken up by black elite and professional classes. Even Robert Mugabe's son could be affected. The state seizure challenged in courts in many towns and cities – Harare and Bulawayo – were declared illegal. At the root of the problem is the raising of school fees, 75% since the beginning of the year, which when civil servants are awarded a pay rise of 300% and inflation is put at 580%, is not excessive say the board of governors at some of the 45 private schools with 30, 000 students in the country. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

Mon 10

Headline – *Zimbabwe ejects UN crop survey team* – there to assess the needs of those without the means of sustaining life, a World Food Programme team were ordered from the country recently. The expulsion, on the orders of the agricultural minister J Made, was on the grounds that he had not – though this is disputed – approved the visit. This non co-operation indicates that the UN and EU will have no plans in place later in the year to move food aid into areas that need it.

The authorities in Harare say that the 2004 maize harvest will be 1.7m tonnes, which is described as 'fantasy' by UN officials. As before food aid will be used as a lure to vote Zanu – PF in the coming, 2005, elections for parliament.

Although good rains have produced a 'good harvest'; experts say the maize produced will be no enough to feed the 12m population. It is thought that 900, 000 tonnes of grain will have to be imported to feed the estimated 5m people that need help. - **GDN page 11, C 1** –

Tues 11

Headline – *Zimbabwe rebels are sacked by union* – as the, now 15, rebels (qv 18/4) were prepared to accept an invitation by the Zimbabwe Cricket Union to take their dispute to arbitration they were sacked. It is unsure whether, during this two hour meeting that the chairman of the ZCU, P Chingoka, was aware that the rebels would make themselves available for team selection. – **GDN page 28, C 1** –

Sat 15

Headline – *Resurgent Mugabe looks to the future* – the impending by election in Lupane, near the city of Bulawayo, is seen by the president as an experiment as to legitimising his regime to the rest of the world.

The constituency, all 26 wards and 45, 000 voters, was at the heart of intertribe battle between the Shona and Ndebele – of the 1980's - which led to virtual 'civil war' in the province of Matebeleland (qv p19, 12/3/00). The by election, to occur within the next 48 hours, follows the assault of the sitting MP D Mpala. It is assumed that Zanu – PF supporters, carried out the attack, which led to his death.

In the current campaign the authorities have adopted the usual bullyboy tactics. To this effect Zanu supporters – the Green Bombers have visited each and every village. They have offered the headman an income of 140 pounds/ month to ensure a 'yes vote' for he party candidate. To refuse only brings intimidation and violence.

Other news – J Sibandi has taken over the mantle of leader of the War Veterans from C Hunzi (qv). – **GDN page 16, C 1 –**

Sun 16

Headline – *British businessman accused of leading failed coup attempt* – London based management consultant G Wales aged 53 has been named by N du Toit as the 'fixer' in the failed attempt to oust the current leader of Equatorial Guinea.

These details emerged as the government of the west African state, based on evidence provided by Mr du Toit, made representations to Britain's police to investigate the claims. The government of president T Obiang are, as the official statement indicates "are anxious to interview Mr Wales in view of his apparent involvement in the attempted coup d'etat."

The incriminating statement gave detailed evidence as the former mercenary is held in jail in Equatorial Guinea's capital, Malabo. – **IOS page 6, C 1 –**

Mon 17

Headline – *Barren fields belie Zimbabwe's announcement of bumper crop* – to take notice of the Ndlovus family, who live in the village of Lundi – near Bulawayo, their maize crop will feed the family of seven till 9/04. This comes on the day that the agricultural minister; J Made says that with a harvest of 2. 4m tonnes there is enough grain for everyone. To listen to the leaders of the Commercial Farmers Union put the figure at only 700, 000 tonnes. None of this can be verified as the team of UN World Food Programme officials has recently been expelled (qv 10/5).

Whatever the overall picture – and there has been reports in the Observer newspaper reported that a tobacco for grain deal had been struck with firms from the USA – there will be an attempt to solicit votes for maize, prior to the 2005 general election. – **GDN page 14, C 1 –**

Tues 18

Headline – *Weary Zimbabweans seek better life* – across the Ramogwebana border post into Botswana. One year on from his expulsion A Meldrum (qv) hears tales of woe and the difficulty of crossing into a neighbouring country, to try and earn a living. To pass through costs more than a Zimbabwean woman can afford - 100 pula [time gone by 1pula: Z\$1, now 1p: \$Z100].

As to conditions, under Mugabe, \$US: \$Z6, 000. A loaf of bread costs nearly \$Z3, 00. According to immigration figures, from the authorities in Francistown, nearly 127, 000 Zimbabweans look for work – of any kind – across the border. – **GDN page 13, 1 –**

Headline – *MDC suffers heartland byelection defeat* – in Lupane (qv 15/5), with nearly 80% of the votes Zanu PF reclaimed a lost seat in the heart of Matebeleland. **MDC 9, 186: 10, 069 Zanu PF**. To make matters even more difficult for the opposition this rural seat loss is compounded by a similar fate in the Harare township of **Kuwadzana**. – **ditto C7 –**

Tues 19

Headline – *Zimbabwe's Test status under threat* – stepping into the row between the rebel players and the ZCU (qv 11/5) the International Cricket Council position may offer a way out for the 'forced' England tour later this year.

The cricket authorities in Harare have been given until 21/5 to come to an arrangement with the 15 rebels or, if a telephone meeting of the members of the ICC agree, loose Test status for the coming two matches scheduled to take place against an Australian touring side.

The grounds for this suspension of Test status would be that the continuation of the world of cricket having to associate with the Harare regime was damaging the integrity of world cricket. – **GDN page 32, C 1 –**

Fri 21

Headline – *Mugabe militia riot after MP's brawl* – as a consequence of actions, on the floor of the debating chamber in the parliament building in Harare, the youth militia of Zanu PF went on the rampage in the city.

The specifics of the incident, that saw the Harare offices of the opposition party attacked had its roots in a personal attack by the government minister of justice's personal attack on the honour of the family of a white MDC MP – R Bennet - on 18/5. There then followed a struggle between the two. This ended with the government minister being thrown to the floor.

After the action, in Harare city centre, police attended and made no attempt to arrest the aggressors. Rather they detained four members of the MDC on unspecified charges. – **GDN page 19, C1** –

Headline – ***Zimbabwe face vote on Test isolation*** – it is almost certain, barring pressure by politicians, that the country will be ejected from the games top table. As the impending vote by the committee of the International Cricket Council looms it can be stated that the possible voting intentions of the members are – For: 6 Against: 2 Undecided: 2 – **ditto page 38, C 1** –

Sat 22

Headline – ***Players' union threat to boycott Zimbabwe*** – the international players union, the Federation of International Cricket Associations [FICA] has called on the Australian players to support the second time sacked 'Zimbabwe 15' by refusing to participate in the forthcoming two 1 Day Internationals between the two sides.

As to the vote of the executive committee of the International Cricket Council (qv 21/5) has been called off till a full committee meeting is held at Lords cricket ground on 27/6. The issue of the sacked 15 will be investigated, at the request of their lawyer, by a 3 man panel from the ICC, which will be convened in the next few days. – **GDN Sport, page 11** –

Mon 24

Headline – ***Mugabe vents his spleen in rare TV interview*** – speaking to Sky News the president denied the claims of abuses of human rights and torture that have been made against his government. Also in the interview, the first to the British media for a long time, he blamed the Blair government for whatever problems his government is facing.

Of the claims that there are thousands of Zimbabweans who are starving, because of the poor harvest, he demanded to be shown them. Speaking of the criticisms recently made by the Archbishop of Bulawayo, P Ncube, and retired Nobel Prize winner D TuTu, he called them 'unholy men'.

The overall impression of his state of mind, and his determination to continue as president till 2008 shows he is a "leader who has lost direction. All he can do is shake his fists at a world he does not understand," says I Wetherell the editor of the Zimbabwe Independent. – **GDN page 14, C 1** –

Wed 26

Headline – ***Blunkett hails drop in asylum applications*** – the latest figures available – for the first five months of this year – show that 545 nationals from Zimbabwe applied for permanent residence in Britain. That puts those fleeing the Mugabe regime in the number 4 position, out of the top 10, who have fled their home country – **graphic, GDN page 6, C 1** –

JUNE

Thurs 3

Headline – *Mugabe introduces new curbs on internet* – in a second attempt to curb the power of the internet, following by the supreme court on the two year old Telecommunications bill, the availability of phone lines will once again be restricted.

A provision of the 2002 act of parliament was that all internet providers must allow state agents to monitor transmissions from their subscribers, without informing their clients. In the new bill the very provision of phone lines to the service providers are conditional on there giving an indication of the contents of messages sent. In other words they must report the names of senders of messages that are deemed ‘anti nationalistic’ in nature.

A spokesman for the Zimbabwe Internet Providers Association [Zispa] said that it had asked the government for clarify its requirements under the act. Newspaper comments on the latest moves to curb freedom of expression see the move as “typical of the government - at the behest of J Moyo (qv) to trample on individual rights to curtail the freedom of the press.

In Zimbabwe there are 100, 000 registered users, second only to South Africa, in the number of people who have access to the internet. – **GDN page 17, C 1** –

Sun 6

Headline – *Nuns in front line of Mugabe campaign to drive last whites from Zimbabwe* – an act of kindness, in 2002 by the white owners of a Banket district farm - 60 miles north of the capital Harare – has backfired on them. In that year the Swales family donated 90 acres of their farm to the Little Sister of the Blessed Lady order of nuns.

Recently, the owners were given 24 hours to leave the land. They refused, and within days a group of the Zanu Youth brigade arrived and invaded the farm. Police intervention – after a 14 hour delay – established that the occupation was illegal. Unwilling to leave the land a group of six occupied an empty property and refused to move. The Archbishop of Bulawayo, P Ncube an outspoken critic of the government, condemned the actions of the nuns saying “It was definitely was not with the blessing of the Church.”

In what can be seen as the second wave of forced acquisitions of white owned farms – the Commercial Farmers Union estimates only 300 of the remaining 600 farmers are active – violence and intimidation are beginning again. The latest victim is P Campbell, 62, who were attached on her farm 90 miles north of Harare. It was being ‘cleared’ for its new owner, Lt. General P Sibanda the head of the Zimbabwe National Army. – **IOS page 23, C 1** –

Mon 7

Headline – *Mugabe’s banker to visit UK for funds* – despite the European Union’s travel ban on ‘notable’ Zimbabweans travelling overseas the president’s former personal money manager is to come to Britain. G Gono, now in charge of the Central Bank of Zimbabwe, is to speak to an audience of exiles in Birmingham on 10/6. There are similar meetings planned with Zimbabweans living in Luton, London and Glasgow.

The purpose of the gatherings – others have taken place in the USA – is to try and entice the money that is sent back to relatives back home to be transferred through the state coffers. This will earn for the recipients a better rate of exchange than they would receive by using alternative routes. For the government the benefit would be the accumulation of much needed foreign currency.

Speaking as the House of Lords on 25/5 Lady Amos said “As I understand it the governor of the reserve bank is not on the exclusion list [of 98] because he is not playing a leading role in the Zanu – PF politburo or the government.” Others would disagree with her. – **GDN page 11, C 1** –

Wed 9

Headline – *Mugabe to seize all farmland* – not content with the announced completion of the land seizure programme by the end of 2003 more white owned farms are under threat. From the beginning of this year a further 259 white owned farms have been taken. In addition confiscation notices have been served on another 918 landowners.

This creeping nationalisation of the land will also be extended from simple farmland to land that is designated for the protection of wildlife and conservation areas. These then would be leased back to their owners, on a 99 year and 25 year lease respectively. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

Thurs 10

The high court in Pretoria has rejected an application on behalf of 70 men being held in Zimbabwe as suspected mercenaries that they should be returned to South Africa for trial because they would not get a fair hearing in Harare. The judge said the matter should be left to the two governments. –*Reuters* –

Fri 11

Headline – *England will not play Zimbabwe Tests* – the three man sub committee of crickets governing body (qv 22/5), the International Cricket Union, along with a delegation from the Zimbabwe Cricket Council, have worked a compromise deal. This will be put to a full ICC meeting in London on 27/6.

In a compromise deal – the Dubai accord – there will be no Test series with England, however there will still be the scheduled one day games in 10/04, that England’s players will participate in. The Harare cricket authorities have not lost their Test status, although they will not play an

other series against Pakistan. They will be allowed to honour their commitment to Bangladesh in 1/05.

The three nation troika – South Africa, India and Australia will subject the ZCU to an investigation of its alleged racist attitude, which has been brought to light over the sacking of white players.

Despite these moves Zimbabwean cricket players are still invited to participate in an international competition, the Champions Trophy in London. There will be opportunities for fans to see the game without travelling abroad. The ICC has recommended that South Africa and India send there A team players on tour. – **GDN page 36, C 1** –

Tues 15

Headline – *Zimbabwe factions fight over farms* – according to J Moyo the countries information minister Harare authorities have no intention to nationalise the amount of land that one of his ministerial colleagues indicated recently (qv 9/6). What J Nkomo, the land reform and resettlement minister, should have said was that the seizure plan only applied to plots seized from whites.

As if to illustrate the ‘two factions policy’ trodden by the government a primarily owned black business has been seized. Kondozi farm, which produces vegetables and fruits for the British supermarket firm Tesco and other overseas outlets, was taken over by the state. As a result the farm workers, some 4, 500 workers were throw out of their homes. The owner announced, within the last seven days, that he would move his business to Mozambique and Zambia. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

Thurs 17

Headline – *Aids has hit my family, says Mugabe* – a joint United Nations/government sponsored conference on the HIV crisis engulfing the country has heard that family members of the country’s head have been affected by the virus. The admission came after years of official neglect of a virus that has infected almost a quarter of adults in the country.

In 2003 1.8m Zimbabweans were infected with the virus. A recent survey found that 51% of prisoners were HIV +ve. Figures are now showing that as many as 3, 000 nationals are dying each week of Aids related causes. This is one consequence of the drop of life expectancy in the country falling to 36 years. The number of deaths, in 2003, due to Aids was 135, 000. – **GDN page 17, C 1** –

Fri 25

In an apparent move to ease the extradition of 70 suspected mercenaries from Zimbabwe to Equatorial Guinea, the two countries have established diplomatic relations. The 70, including a Britain, were detained in March and accused of planning a coup in Equatorial Guinea. – **AP** –

JULY

Sat 3

Headline – *Thugs attack Zimbabwean opposition rally with axes* – with the country being in a relatively calm state, as to action by the Zanu militias, the Movement of Democratic Change planned a rally in the heartland of Mashonaland Central in the small town of Mvurwi which is 200 miles north of Harare.

According to an opposition spokesman those attending the rally were attacked by at least 200, who set about beating people. There were no independent witnesses – police and hospitals were slow in attending. Fortunately neither party leader, M Tsvangirwa his wife or any other ranking party officials were hurt in the incident. – **GDN page 16 C6** –

JULY

Thurs 15

Headline – *Out in the cold with a tale to tell* – as the sacked Zimbabwean cricket players await their fate (qv 21/6) 13 of the 15 – collectively known as the ‘Red Lions’ are touring England for 3 weeks, not to state their case to their England counterparts, but to raise money for charity – the Cricketers Trust and the Zimbabwe Pensioners Trust - during their 6 match tour.

As to their ongoing difficulties the players feel that they will not be playing in the Champions Trophy in 10/04 or the back home 1 Day Test series against England that has already been agreed. It is known that Veterans and other senior players are to meet officials of the Federation of International Cricket [Fica] within 24 hours. There is hope that there will be a meeting with a representative of the ICC at a later date. – **GDN page 32, C 1** –

Sun 18

Headline – *Britons accused of Guinea plot are sued in High Court* – on the eve of the beginning, in Harare, of the trial of those accused of wanting to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea the high court in London has become involved.

The writ, served against Briton Simon Man, Lebanese born millionaire businessman Eli Calil and the Madrid based opposition leader in the west African state Severo Moto claims the plotters sought to “maliciously overthrow ... the lawful government of Equatorial Guinea by acts that are crimes in England and EG.” – **IOS page 7, C1** –

Headline – *Zimbabwe resorts to ox – drawn ambulances* – as if to announce to the world the desperate state of the country's shortage of money for essential services, authorities in Seke 18 miles south east of Harare are now having to transport ill people in a vehicle which is a throw back to the days of the earliest settlers.

In the latest statistics released – the inflation rate for 6/04 394.6. Unemployment stands at 70%. The spending power of the \$Z – in 1994 one \$USA = 7\$Z. 2004 \$USA = \$Z 5, 300. – **ditto page 19, C 3** –

Wed 21

Headline – ***70 on trial in Zimbabwe over alleged coup plot*** – letters from Simon Mann, one of the mercenaries (qv) who goes on trial at the Chikurubi maximum security prison in Harare today, has some links with the British establishment – of the right wing persuasion.

Using coded letters to his wife, written on 31/3, he implied that those held were f****d unless help was gathered from ‘Scratchier’ who is Mrs Thatcher her advisor David Hart. ‘Smelly’ is named as Ely Calil (qv 18/7). – **GDN page 12, C 1** –

Headline – ***Mugabe promises poll reform*** – at the opening of the parliamentary session the president, much to the surprise of the opposition, announced changes in the electoral system for the 2005 election. It was if Mugabe was complying with the thoughts of M du Preeze in his **Star** column of 11/3. [*see SA Diary 12/3*]

It is more likely that the impetus for change were the comments from members of the Southern African Development Community in their report on the flawed 2000 and 2004 polls.

Thurs 22

Headline – ***Cleric in call for Mugabe protest*** – the outspoken Archbishop P Ncube, a leader of protest at the England versus Zimbabwe game in Bulawayo in 5/03, has called for similar action when the two countries next meet. This will be during the Champions Trophy in 9/04 and 4 weeks later a series of one day Tests back in Africa.

As to the question of resolving the sacking of the ‘rebel 15’ (qv 15/7) it has been agreed, with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, that the dispute will go to arbitration, which should last 52 days. This is not what the ZCU wanted. However under the threat of action by the International Cricket Union the Zimbabwe board has reluctantly relented. – **GDN page 29, C 8** –

Wed 28

Headline – ***Africa ‘coup plotters’ on trial*** – Most of the 70 men held in Zimbabwe on charges of plotting a coup in the oil – rich Equatorial Guinea have pleaded guilty to lesser charges of violating Zimbabwe’s immigration and civil aviation laws.

The group’s lawyer said his clients would plead not guilty to attempting to possess dangerous weapons and purchase weapons of war. – **Reuters** –

Thurs 29

Headline – *Ex – SAS officer in ‘coup plot’ admits arms charges* – still insisting that the purchase of weapons, from Zimbabwe Defence Industries, were for the protection of the oilfields in Equatorial Guinea, Simon Man (qv) pleaded guilty to possessing dangerous weapons.

Giving evidence, in the make shift court Chikurubi prison near Harare, the marketing manager for the state’s defence manufacturer, H Mutize, detailed the events leading to the former soldiers arrest. They were both at the airport inspecting the pre ordered weapons, with the deposit paid in 2/04, of \$180, 000, when they were detained. Through ZDI’s chain of command, and because of presence of N du Toit, a South African, Pretoria’s authorities had tipped off the authorities in Harare. - **GDN page 15, C 1 –**

AUGUST

Mon 2

Headline – *Mugabe law will curb church and charities* – having already stifled the work of the journalists, through the Access to Information Act (qv), the regime is now aiming to curtail the activities of the church groups and charities in its criticisms of the government.

Tabled in parliament recently, and expected to become law within a few weeks, the bill forbids local organisations from receiving foreign funding and requires them to register with the government, which can ban them. Another provision of the bill prevents foreign organisations from operating if they intend to work in the areas of governance and human rights.

Critical of these measures, a spokesman for Amnesty International said that the aim of the bill was “to silence critical voices and further restrict the right and freedom of expression. It is a clear attempt to suppress dissenting views as parliamentary elections draw close. – **GDN page 14, C5**

Thurs 5

Headline – *Award for Guardian journalist* – the journalistic scourge of the regime in Zimbabwe has been recognised for his efforts. With the award of the Kurt Schork prize, from the Colombian University in New York

In the granting of this award to A Meldrum (qv), who now lives in exile in South Africa, the judges said “What we know about the brutality of the Mugabe regime, and the suffering of the Zimbabwean people, we know in very large measure from Meldrum’s extraordinary reporting. It is work that instructs both politically and humanely, by a reporter of remarkable courage commitment and lucidity.”

The prize is given in honour of the named freelance journalist who was killed in a military ambush in Sierra Leone in 2000. It is shared with a reporter from the Romanian Adevarul newspaper. – **GDN page 16, C 4 –**

Tues 10

Headline – *Mugabe accused of election torture* – with the date set for the 2005 general election set for 3/05 a recent report by the British charity, Respect, which aids victims of torture, will make uncomfortable reading for those who in the past have made light of allegations of misdeeds by the authorities in Harare.

According to Respect the Mugabe government is accused of “widespread, systematic and planned campaign of organised violence and torture to suppress normal democratic activities.” To make its point, detailed were 8,871 human rights violations that occurred during the period 2001 – 2003. Much of the abuse occurred during the run up to the 3/2002 presidential election.

Victims fell into the usual categories – opposition MP’s, trade union officials, lawyers and the ordinary citizen. Those responsible were ‘state agents,’ 24% and party loyalists, Zanu PF members 74%.

In conclusion the reports authors call on the regions influential bodies – SADC and the AU – to make every effort to put pressure on the Harare administration to respect the human rights of its people. – **GDN page 10, C 1** –

Headline – *No extradition to Guinea* – Seventy alleged mercenaries held in Zimbabwe, including Britain Simon Mann, no longer face extradition to Equatorial Guinea after its president, Obiang Nguema, said there was no space in its jails. - **ditto, page 13** –

Fri 13

Headline – *Mugabe plans to starve voters into submission, says rights group* – as if there were not enough evidence that the government will go to hang on to power in 2005 – the continued suppression of the media or the seizure of farmland – the latest tactics beat all of these.

According to the countries Human Rights Watch people are dying for lack of food. This is because of the simple fact that they are not government supporters. In their report they comment on the fact that 125 people have of malnutrition died in Bulawayo since the beginning of 2004. Zimbabwe’s second city is one of the rural bases of the opposition MDC.

With the announcement, from the Grain Marketing Board of a maize harvest of 2.4m tonnes, well above 1.7m tonnes expected (qv10/4) combined with the expulsion many of the United Nation’s World Food Programme survey team on that date, independent verification is unlikely. With only about 115 WFP workers left in the country they will find hard to feed the 6m they were at the having to provide food for at the height of the 2003 crisis. In 2004 figures show that they are feeding 650, 000 per month.

According to Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee 4.8m, of the 12.5 population will need food assistance in the coming year. – **GDN page 14** –

Wed 18

Headline – *Mugabe pushed to hold fair elections* – from the members of the Southern African Development Corporation [SADC] at their meeting in Mauritania. Always showing the public face of support for their fellow African government leader in closed meetings the message was one of encouraging free and fair elections. Although the aim of the 2 day meeting was to devise an election conduct code for the whole of the African continent minds were more focussed on the 2005 called by Mugabe.

As if to lead by example three heads of government – members of the SADC – are to leave office after their current terms are ended. To go is the Tanzanian president; B Mkapa, Mozambique's president Chissano and the Namibian president S Nujoma. Their collective going is an implicit condemnation of Mugabe's determination to stay as Zimbabwe's president at any cost. – **GDN page 14, C 1** –

Fri 20

Headline – *Greater trust in Mugabe ascribed to fear* – the poll, for the Afrobarometer organisation, by American and South African researchers show that 46% of Zimbabwean population 'trust' their president.

The last time the people were asked their opinion on this subject, in 1999, indicated that only 20% of the population were of this opinion. It is the conclusion of the pollsters that the president's high rating is more to do with state propaganda and the fear of intimidation, rather than this genuine felling for their president.

Other aspects of the Afroarometer poll – 82% of those polled said that they had gone without food for one day in the last 12 months. As to political fear 83% of those questioned said that they were careful when speaking about their politics. 48% preferred democracy [71% in 1999]. Most of the population, 75%, was unhappy about the seizure of farmland. – **GDN page 19, C1** –

Mon 23

Headline – *Mugabe refuses extradition* – despite the formalising of diplomatic relations between Equatorial Guinea and Zimbabwe on 25/7 the government in Harare has decided that S Mann and the other mercenaries accused of a plot to overthrow the government of the west African state will not face extradition.

Speaking to a newspaper K Mohadi, Harare's home affairs minister said that there could be no handing over of prisoners as the arrests happened before an extradition treaty was signed between the two countries. – **GDN page 11, C1** –

Tues 24

Obituary, Eddison Zvobgo 2. 10. 35 – 22. 8. 04 born in the south of the country, near Masvingo [Fort Victoria] with a father that ran a Dutch Reform Church. With an excellent education, from the mission schools, ended education at Tegwani secondary school.

1960 wins scholarship to Tufts University in Boston America where he obtained a bachelors degree. **1964**, on his return home faced arrest for his involvement in the struggle to overthrow the white minority government of Southern Rhodesia.

1971 once again free he returns to the USA, to study law at Harvard up to gaining his pH. From there he went to the state of Illinois, where he was employed - at Lewis University College – as associate professor of criminal law. **1978** moved to Mozambique where he became to Robert Mugabe. With the future president he founded the Zimbabwe African National Union Party, the forerunner of Zanu – PF.

Always at the forefront of the international struggle for a free Zimbabwe he was closely involved firstly with the military campaign then the abortive attempts at ‘shared power,’ from the 1979 Lancaster House talks through to the 1980 multi racial elections for a ‘free Zimbabwe’.

1980 wins seat in parliament, representing Masvingo, soon to be drawn into prime minister Mugabe’s cabinet.

Posts held ‘81 – ‘82 local government and housing, then justice till ‘85, By 1987, as the minister of justice he saw through changes to the constitution – the move towards presidential rule in a one party state. 1992, with his influence waning, charged him with overseeing control of the mining industry – a down wood move. His service in government ended in 2000

Outside government, with his power base in his home province, he had many business interests, which included two hotels. The 2002 election saw no endorsement for Mugabe for president; neither did he campaign for M Tsvangaria. Because of his no support for his president this one time ‘heir apparent’ for the leadership of his party was forced, by Zanu – PF to face a disciplinary committee in 2003, where he also faced critisaism of the then new laws to stifle press freedom, and his contact with the opposition MDC – after formal talks, between the two political parties had been abandoned. – **GDN page 14, C 1** –

Thurs 26

Headline – ***Zimbabwe opposition will boycott elections until system changes*** – as if to add pressure on the Mugabe regime for election fairness (qv 18/8) the Movement for Democratic Change announced that they will have nothing to do with the forthcoming 3/05 elections to parliament. This will be the state of affairs until there is an end to state sponsored violence and repeal of the repressive media laws.

A spokesman for the MDC indicated that for the Harare regime to comply with the recently approved SADC election charter – a transparent voter’s registration process and the scrutiny of

the voter's role – would be hard for the government. For the election process to proceed the SADC must press the president to adhere to these principals. – **GDN page 19, C3** –

Whilst Simon Mann, and the other alleged mercenaries, stand trial (qv) other London 'notables' of more prominence than E Cali (qv 18/7) have been implemented in the coup attempt. In Cape Town police from the Scorpion Unit arrested Sir Mark Thatcher, son of a former British prime minister. He was charged with helping to finance – to the tune of, at least, 20, 000 pounds [English] – the Equatorial Guinea coup. The tenuous link, made by the prosecution, comes through the purchase of helicopters. He will appear before the courts again on 25/11. – *for additional facts see this date SA Diary page 155* –

Fri 27

Headline – *Nil y mouth* – the number of nurses coming to Britain over the last four years are, according to the Nursery and Midwifery Council, is 1, 561. In comparison, from South Africa, according to the same body, 6, 028 registered to work in Britain to April 2003.

Yet in a graphic, showing the number of midwives joining the UK register, in 1998/99 and 2002/3 show 537 and 1, 857 respectively. – **GDN page 21, C 2** –

Headline – *Medal Mug* – “Brutal leader Robert Mugabe tried to grab himself a chunk of Olympic glory yesterday. He held aloft the gold, silver and bronze haul of top Zimbabwean swimmer Kirsty Coventry.

Mugabe – who frequently makes headlines for his tough against his country's minority whites – hailed her 'my golden girl' and gave her 30, 000 pounds [English]. One onlooker commented: It was a sickening show.” – **Daily Star page 6** –

Sat 28

Headline – *Mercenary Mann faces 10 years jail over coup attempt linked to Mark Thatcher* – at the end of month long trial, of those arrested that began with arrests on the tarmac of Harare airport, 66 of the suspected mercenaries have been found not guilty of weapons charges. However Simon Mann was convicted of attempting to possess dangerous weapons. – **GDN page 2, C 8** –

Cartoon - Nature Notes – for the Equatorial Guinea fowl, [*Thatcherum scratcherum*] the African domiciled relative of the vulture – **The Times page 28 -**

Sun 29

Headline – *Britain helped to foil African 'coup' plot* – elements of Britain's security services were able to assist their South African counterparts, by infiltrating the London end of the trail of conspiracy that led to the Cape Town arrest of Mark Thatcher, aged 51, (qv 25/8).

Despite the outcome of the Harare trial of the alleged mercenaries (qv 28/8), the authorities in Pretoria are considering criminal charges of their national found not guilty on weapons charges.

It is possible that they will again appear before the courts. The will could be charged under the Foreign Military Assistance Act, as will the on bail Mark Thatcher. – **IOS page 2, C 1** –

Cartoon – under the protection of The Handbag – emblazoned with the slogan **Greed is Good** – Mark Thatcher appeals for a mothers help

SEPTEMBER

Wed 1

Headline – *Trial of coup ‘plotters’ suspended* – with the on going developments, in the southern countries of the African continent [see *SA Diary*] the court in Equatorial Guinea that holds the fate of 19 alleged plotters has suspended proceedings. They have agreed to this delay, at the request of the attorney general, so that investigations can be carried out in South Africa into the alleged role of the detained Mark Thatcher.

The defence team is opposed to this move as the 19 have already been in jail for six months. Any further delay could mean up to a five year pre trial detention for their clients. – **GDN page 12, C 7** -

Fri 10

Headline – *‘Wonga list’ reveals alleged backers of coup* – [see *SA Diary page 161*] with the fate of S Mann expected to be decided in the near future plans are being made for his future. If as expected a jail sentence is imposed, although his lawyers are hopeful for the imposition of a fine.

The details are in two phases, which will eventually lead to his early release from Chickuriba maximum security prison. First there will be a ransom attempt, after a length of time – to allow the “noise surrounding his arrest to die down” – before cash payments are paid to his jailers. These payments would be used to improve ‘life inside’ for the former SAS soldier. Then comes the “release stage”. Then, hopefully, a deal would be struck to secure Mann’s release. **GDN page 1 C 1** –

Headline – *ECB confirms tour duty of Zimbabwe* – on Day 1 of the Champions Trophy cricket officials confirmed the winter tour of the troubled country. There was however the option for individual players to ‘opt out’ of the tour if they so desired. – **ditto page 38, C 1**-

news item – the court, in Harare, have declared that S Mann (qv) will serve seven years in detention for his part in the abortive coup planned against the leadership of the west African state of Equatorial Guinea. His co accused will serve 12 months in jail – **Radio 2 15. 00** –

Wed 15

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has accused Britain of harbouring fugitives fleeing prosecution for economic crimes. Several leading businessmen have gone to South Africa or Britain since Harare launched a crackdown on corruption, Zimbabwe media reported yesterday.

Reuters

Fri 17

Headline – *Alleged backers of Guinea coup face UK investigation* – the home secretary has said that the authorities from the 'under threat' west African state can, with the help of the police in London They will now be gather intelligence into the role of 'notables' Ely Cali, Greg Wales and Mann (qv) as to their business links the coup attempt against Equatorial Guinea.

They will also be allowed to continue their conspiracy investigation against the three men. This comes after a judge in the high court overturned an interim injunction. – **GDN page 2, C 5** –

Sat 18

Headline – *The mansions of Mann and Thatcher. The poisoned land of the fighters* – home for the a number of Angolans now in jail in the capital Harare, on immigration charges following their conviction of being part of the failed coup against the government of Equatorial Guinea, is a desolate place. Pomfret a former army bases and asbestos mine is 100 miles from the nearest town.

The wives and mothers of the nine from the settlement of - 3.000 – strongly deny that there menfolk, some of whom were members of the notorious Battalion 32 who fought with the South African military in the Namibian and Angolan civil wars of the mid 1980's, were employed by S Mann as security guards for the emerging oil fields of Equatorial Guinea.

As to their future, once freed from the 12 month stretch inside Chilkurubi jail, there is the possibility that the South African authorities may want to detain them under the Military Assistance Act for 15 years. – **GDN page 3, C 1 see also SA Diary p 162** -

Tues 28

news item – after the England and Wales Cricket Board announce the list of players picked to play in the forthcoming tour of Zimbabwe 3 players have made there intentions known that they do not want to be selected – on moral grounds. **Radio 3, 15. 00** –

Wed 29

Headline – *Straw offers a shady excuse for political faux pas* – attending the general assembly, of the United Nations in New York, the foreign secretary was – some say – pushed into shaking the hand of president Mugabe.

The event, which happened on 27/9, and shown on late night television, has the two men – who both despise each other – exchanging pleasantries. Later the foreign secretary gave an explanation of the faux pas. He was unaware who the man was, as he was sitting in a dark recess. An alternative view – having changed from the use of glasses to contact lenses to improve his sight his eyes had not quite made the adjustment. – **GDN page 11, C 1** –

Headline – ***Women protesters held in Zimbabwe*** – a peaceful march involving 48 women of the Women of Zimbabwe Arise, [Woza], have been detained as they attempted to march from the town of Bulawayo to the capital, Harare.

The 12 old march, stopped 19 miles from their destination, was an attempt to raise money for the charity and protest against recently introduced legislation that they say will restrict people's human rights. Police said the women were arrested for carrying placards of a political nature they would be charged under the country's security laws.

The controversial bill, the NGO bill, seeks to ban foreign human rights groups and bar local human rights groups from campaigning on "issues of governance." – **ditto, page 15, C5** –

Headline – ***Get out clause from ICC is unlikely*** – to see the Zimbabwe Cricket Union branded as racist – the only way that the ECWB – could legally pull out of the coming tour – is a non starter is the informed opinion.

The findings of the impending inquiry – it commences today – by the ICC as to the allegation that the ZCU was racist in its handling of the sacking of the white players (qv 21/6), heralded by the resignation of captain Heath Streak will result in severe punishment – **ditto page 28, C 8** –

Thurs 30

Letter, Dr Dan Rigby Manchester University – by the actions, and the remarks of both Jack Straw Britain's foreign secretary (qv 29/9) and the official who tried – unsuccessfully - to explain away the faux pas, the authorities in Zimbabwe will feel justified in their actions in supposedly "fighting the remnants of colonialism."

These words and actions have also harmed the role of the opposition. Their stance, on behalf of the oppressed population, is not an argument with these remnants. Rather is fighting the government economic policy and the way that it leaves many of the people facing unemployment and starvation.

Headline – ***Zimbabwe officials halt racism hearing*** – meeting in Johannesburg the 'racism accusation hearing' brought by the International Cricket Council against the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (qv 29/9) ended its first day early amid accusations of intimidation. The ICC had ruled that players should give their evidence without the presence of the 3 ZCU officials, who had been implicated in the player's allegations. These were named as O Bvutu, M Ebraheim and the chairman of the Mashonaland Cricket Association T Mkuhlani. – **GDN page 36, C 5** –

OCTOBER

Fri 1

Headline – *Racism hearings end in acrimony* - Day two of the meeting between the Zimbabwe Cricket Union and a judgement panel of two – a judge in the South African high court and the Indian solicitor general – are no nearer reaching a verdict on whether the ZCU were correct in sacking of Heath Streak and his 13 compatriots.

At issue is the giving of evidence, without the fear of intimidation from the player's accusers. Some compromise was reached, however the two sides were unhappy with only a written submission from the plaintiffs. – **GDN page 33, C 7** –

Sat 15

Headline – *Judge clears opposition leader of plotting to assassinate Mugabe* – the judge in the trial of M Tsvangaria, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, who faced a charge of planning the assassination of the president in 2002 (qv 13/2) has found that the state evidence given had not proved guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

When the 52 year old left the court building in Harare he was met by a group of celebrating supporters. Their welcome for their leader was swiftly ended as the police and military moved in to disperse the small crowd.

Mr Tsvangaria, who faced the death penalty over this charge, will have to return before the court at a later date. He still faces the prospect of a jail for remarks he made at a supporter's rally in 2000. – **GDN page 2 C 3** –

Headline – *Treason verdict is bitter sweet* – although a welcome verdict there is an unforeseen benefit to the Mugabe regime. With this long legal battle – off at least 30 months – now apparently ended there has been a considerable strain on the funds available to the MDC to fight the 2005 parliamentary elections.

Evidence that emerged during the trial, mainly from a grainy video between a black man, identified as the accused, that had to be played 6 times in court before the alleged words 'OK now Mugabe is eliminated. We proceed with constitutional elections.' Also the relationship between the only prosecution witness, the Israeli born former intelligence officer was paid \$650, 000 by Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organisation was called into question. – **ditto page 18, C 1** –

Mon 18

Headline – *Police raze war veterans' farms as fresh land evictions rock Zimbabwe* – as was done to the white farmers, by those who fought for liberation, war veterans are losing their land to those who say they have a greater claim.

The specifics – a new round of evictions, which began in 9/04, have erupted in the rural hinterland of Harare. Known as Trelwaney it for stretches miles and miles away from the country's capital. During past evictions white farmers were sent on their way, to be replaced by those who gave their loyalty to their president. Following the recent police action they themselves have been thrown of the land.

There is some thought that the farms have been earmarked for Sabina Mugabe, the president's sister, his nephew Joe or high ranking military officers. – **GDN page 12, C 1** –

Headline – ***England tour still on as Zimbabwe cleared of racism*** – with the completion of the 3 man commission, set up by the International Council (qv 30/9) has ruled in favour of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union. Throughout these long dispute members of the ZCU maintained that the sacking of captain H Streak, and those that followed him, was not a racist decision. The three member sub committee did recommend that Zimbabwe should also be recognised as a Test playing nation again at the end of 2004.

Any hope that the imminent tour of this troubled nation by the England team will be cancelled rests on a report from the Professional Cricketer's Association. A delegation of the PCA is already assessing the security arrangements at the venues inside Zimbabwe. – **ditto Sport page 18, C 1** –

Tues 19

Headline – ***Zimbabwe rebels pin hope on Bevan*** – now that the fifteen white players have lost their claim of racism, over their sacking, against the Zimbabwe Cricket Union their only hope for a resumption of their careers is in the hands of the Professional Cricketers' Association who are inside the country (qv 18/10).

With an approach to the PLA's chief executive, A Bevan, there only line for re – instatement plea many of the original 15 have been “getting on with their lives. As of this moment only three ‘originals’ – S Carline, H Streak and T Gripper – have not ‘moved on’. – **GDN page 30, C 1** –

Thurs 28

Headline – ***England loses last exit from Zimbabwe tour*** – home from a fact finding tour, on assurances of the safety of players, a delegation from the Professional Cricketers Association have reported their findings to the board of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Their findings, as of this moment in time, indicate that there is no barrier to an England team arriving in Harare in 11/04. As to security, and safety developments during the team's scheduled matches, officials from the British ambassador to members of the Zimbabwe government assured the team there was still the option of leaving early. – **GDN page 34, C 5** –

Sat 30

Looking back to the year 2000 the Labour government signed up to a series of Millennium Development Goals, one of which is to eradicate poverty and hunger.

To take as an example 14 year old Precious, who lives in Binga in the north west of the country. To the question **How does poverty and hunger affect you?** who lives with her grandmother –as both her parents are dead answers “ My grandmother has a small piece of land but we can’t farm it all because we don’t have the tools we need. Most of our food comes from Save the Children”. On some days we have to rely on wild fruits and roots, sometimes we have nothing. “I like learning but sometimes when I’m hungry it’s hard to concentrate on school.”

How would your life change if things improved? Unable to attend secondary school – as “there is no one to pay school fees for me” she will have to work herding cattle. This will enable her to buy the clothes that she likes. If she could go onto further education her time would only be spent in learning. Her hopes are that people in rich countries would pay her school fees and buy clothes for orphans like her.

If you could have one wish granted what would it be? If I was able to graduate from secondary school I would like to have any kind of paid work, but I would like to be a driver. – **World Issues, Children 2005, Big Issue – a supplement –**

NOVEMBER

Sat 13

Headline – ***Bodies found in Harare well*** – The bodies of two Britons, Kenny Froud, 39, and Simon Buckley, 40, who share a flat in Harare, Zimbabwe, have been found dumped in a disused well. –GDN page 7, C 8 –

Mon 15

Headline – ***Straw faces pressure over African coup plot*** – with the imminent resumption of the trial of Nick de Toit, and others in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea (qv), the British foreign secretary will come under pressure in London to tell all. There is a report that the British intelligence service new the details six weeks before it took place in 3. 04.

The news of this leak came from two documents prepared by the South African secret service. In the first there were details and an analysis of the preparation and why the coup attempt failed. Reasoned argument suggests that this was a failure, on the plotters part, to move the operations base out of South Africa. A more effective, and secure, location would have been Namibia or northern Cyprus.

The shadow foreign secretary, M Ancram, will ask his opposite number with this knowledge had the government made any plans to evacuate the growing number of Britain’s that were working

in the west African state's newly discovered oil fields, as there was every possibility of bloodshed as the coup took place. – **GDN page 7, C 1** –

Tues 16

Headline – *England's players touring Zimbabwe are pawns in a much bigger political game* - just as individual team members were left to make their own decisions of availability for this controversial tour, so were tour managers and the British government 'corralled' by events away from the world of cricket.

Large on the government's mind, is the battle for the Olympic games of 2012 and the African votes needed to secure London as the venue in eight years time. – **GDN page 31, C1** –

Wed 17

Headline – *Zimbabwe refugees will be sent back* – despite the home office assurance of 2001 (qv 15/1) that no one fleeing from the Mugabe regime will be sent home a government turn round has occurred. According to the immigration minister, D Browne, such is the abuse of the system – from non Zimbabwe nationals – that a stance has to be taken.

The latest asylum figures published, for the first eleven months of 2004, indicate that 1, 825 of the 2, 025 who came to this country from Zimbabwe had their claims rejected by the home office, a 90% refusal rate. – **GDN page 2, C 3-**

Headline – *Charges over Mugabe insult* – A Zimbabwean man has been charged with denigrating President Robert Mugabe, by calling him a dictator, the Herald newspaper said.
Reuters

Headline – *England must play Tests in Zimbabwe* – as the Zimbabwe Cricket Union lost its Test status (qv 21/5) and its re introduction (qv 18/10) the International Cricket Council will, at some stage, expect an England team to make a second visit to Harare and honour the commitment.

As to the ongoing row between the 'rebel 15' and the ZCU – they have withdrawn from the alternative dispute resolution procedure set up to resolve the outstanding issues between the two parties. – **GDN page 36, C 8** –

Thurs 18

Headline – *Ireland leads world for quality of life* – in a league of nations, constructed to show their global happiness, Zimbabwe has come last in a list of 111 nations. In comparison the United kingdom was in 29th place, of the nations polled by the Economic Intelligence Unit. Respectively points awarded were 3. 89 and 6.92. – **GDN page 18, C 1** –

Wed 24

Headline – *Zimbabwe bans seven newspapers and BBC from cricket tour* – even before the England team arrives in Harare on 26/11 there is controversy. London based media outlets have been prevented from sending reporters to cover the 5 1 – Day Test matches that the International Cricket Council insist must be honoured.

As to moves to have the banning orders lifted the chairman of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, P Chingoka, said that the decision was made at government level and he could do nothing about it. The chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board also offered little hope to the media, or the players that a swift exit down south into South Africa would happen. This action was not enough to invoke the cancellation of the tour scenario outlined by the ICC earlier in the year.

The England captain, M Vaughn, said that the decision was “totally wrong and I am flabbergasted. Whatever you think of the media, they have a huge role to play in giving exposure to the game. – GDN page 2, C 1 –

Thurs 25

Headline – *Zimbabwe tour nears collapse* –with the hour approaching for the flight from Johannesburg’s Jan Smuts Airport to Harare the order came through. For the 14 England cricket players here was to be no arrival in the Zimbabwean capital, just yet. Still unhappy at the exclusion of 13, of the 36 journalists, who had applied for accreditation for the tour, as the chairman of the ECB delayed their departure overnight. - GDN page 1, C 7 –

Headline – *Determined Mugabe tightens grip* – as events unfolded south of the Limpopo the president was once again making a determined effort to ensure a continuance of rule for him and his party after the 2005 general election.

After an all night sitting, till 3.15 am, a bill was passed through parliament that will allow army officers, internal security agents and police to act as polling agents in the forthcoming poll. A second bill, forced through, outlawed all foreign funding of human rights organisations and shut down any other non governmental organisations.

As to his own personal survival, come the party congress, in 12/04, he has appointed Joyce Mujuru – the minister for water development – as his vice president. As a woman, in a deeply patriarchal society, the chances of men voting for her as president are nil. --ditto page 2, C 3 –

Leader Comment, **It’s not cricket**, In the ‘real world’ is there “anyone that still thinks that the game can look in any other direction.” In this ‘reality’ the game must be considered a part of current times. Perhaps the more important events, for the people of that troubled country, the new legislation that covers the coming election, is the real story. Cricket is a mask to the real events of concern.

“If Mr Mugabe will not ensure at least a semblance of basic freedom surrounding the tour – by allowing a free press to report it – then he has in effect banned it. “ – ditto page 27 –

Headline – *Foolish mafia reap what they sow* – six reasons for banning the visit, Harare authorities political influence and racism. A racially divided game. Damages it games image. Freedom of expression, through love for the game, stifled. To go to a country, offering ‘support’ when Britain’s government – and other administrations – are penalising Zimbabwe in inconsistent. The whole ethos of the Mugabe regime is wrong. – **D Wilson, GDN page 32, C 1** –

Cartoon, Question How can the press cover the cricket?

Fri 26

Headline – *Cricket tour on again as Mugabe backs down* – a rethink, by the administration in Harare, will see the England squad arrive in the Zimbabwe capital one day later than scheduled. The rethink was decided after the government gave accreditation to the 13 journalists, whose refusal led to the 24 hour delay. – **GDN page 1, C 7** –

Headline – *How Morgan blew his last chance* – the antics of the Zimbabwe president and the on/off tour were they really just an effort by this African dictator to make the British establishment once again squirm before him – a humiliation? All along his aim was to admit the media – how else could he show the world that conditions in Zimbabwe were normal – ‘do we not play cricket? A game of the establishment.

Headline – *Mugabe ordered reversal of ban* – in the view of the opposition the tour is “a victory of sorts” says Eddie Cross a member of the NEC of the Movement for Democratic Change. Whatever the outcome now the situation, for the people, inside the country will not change. The attitude of repression and hunger will still be the same.

Headline – *Journalists want to cover tour on own terms* – with the past trend, to limit the scope of foreign media’s access to ‘all parts of the country’ the 55 tour followers are sceptical of the limits that will be imposed on them.

In the main all the reporters have agreed that they will limit their writings and broadcasting to on field activities at all times. This will remain so unless of pitch activities impact on sports activities.

Headline – *Yesterday in Zimbabwe* - a sitting of parliament, till well past midnight, heard the 2005 budget speech of acting finance minister H Mererwa pledge to trim the deficit and return inflation to below its present 200%. There were also plans to increase the amount of foreign exchange currency entering the country as a result of the current bumper harvest. Plans are not credible say independent economists. – **GDN page 33** -

Cartoon, Here’s a splendid cake sent in by a Mr Mugabe of Harare,

Sat 27

Headline – *a country where the Big Man rules* – as the England cricket team arrive, for a truncated tour – four matches rather than five – there is a diversity of opinion as to their arrival. If the graffiti on the wall along Robert Mugabe Avenue – “England go home, shame on England” is a universal opinion then the players on their way from their base in the 5 star Mickles hotel are not welcome.

In the view of Robert a street seller of trinkets, and sometime buyer of the \$US – or which he offers Z\$ 10, 000 – where the official rate is still Z6, 000 (qv 18/5) says that the team is welcome. “We are angry when the cricketers did not come for the World Cup, and they are happy that they are here now.” Members of the Harare Sports Club – “We wondered whether the tour was going to happen but in the end it is because the president wants it to.”

As to internal press coverage of the ‘about turn’ the **Zimbabwe Independent** claimed that the banning decision by government information minister, J Moyo, was overruled by N Shamuyariar, who holds the brief for Zanu – PF. – **GDN page 1, C 7**

Headline – *The world’s cricket authorities have kowtowed to a dictator* – “Just because Robert Mugabe has lifted his ban ... does not mean his regime is legitimate. It isn’t. It is still bloody, violent disgraceful and tyrannical ... That is why the **Daily Mirror** is refusing to let our cricket writer go there to report England’s matches.” - **The Editor, ditto page 24** –

Sun 28

Headline – *Land where a million dollars a month makes you poor* – telling the story of one family. Gone are the days when ‘a white life was a privileged life’. While living outside the country the family of G Lemke are still resident in Harare.

A recent shopping trip to purchase 2 loaves of bread, 3 packets of dog food, 1 tub of margarine, instant coffee, milk and bacon cost Z\$210, 000. At the official exchange rate this would equate to 17 pounds [English]. These basic foodstuffs would cost out of an average of Z\$1m per month. Renting their property at Z\$800, 000 [a year?}. – **IOS page 17, C 1** –

Headline – *I Protested. But they should walk* – politics and sport have always run hand in hand – see team boycotts of apartheid South Africa or Nelson Mandela decked out in a Springbok jersey holding the Rugby World Cup in the unified country.

“If I were English, I wouldn’t dream of touring now”. **H Olongo, 2003 WC protester, ditto page 22 C 5** –

Leader Comment, **You have not played a captain’s innings, Mr Blair** Question, why do we not get rid of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe? Answer you should when you can, at the moment we cannot.

If the argument, put forward by the ECB that to cancel the tour would impose grave financial penalty to the game [Blair] “could have at least offered to compensate the ECB for not playing in Zimbabwe.”

“This sorry saga, which has been dragging on for years, is one of feebleness piled upon cowardice. Mr Blair’s fine rhetoric of promoting democracy and sound government as the keys to development in Africa rings especially hollow today.”

Headline – *Vaughan’s biggest fear* – is for the visitors to be confronted by any government official – or even close neighbour R Mugabe – at any time. The inclination of all concerned is that if there was to be a situation where personal contact was likely then drastic action must be taken. What this would be is a closely guarded secret at this time. – **ditto, Sport page 1, C 1** –

Headline – *Tour of Shame and Blame: The Case For And Against* – “We have to play by the rules of the ICC, and these rules are such that member countries are not allowed to avoid tours for moral reasons, as part of the Future Tours Programme.” – **D Morgan, Chairman EWCB** –

“It will keep the plight of the Zimbabwean people firmly in the news at the time when events in the Middle East have taken center stage.” – **Andy Flower, former Zimbabwean player – a 2003 WC protestor** –

“While it is run by a barbaric regime, who sponsors genocide and starvation, we shouldn’t be going near the place.” **I Botham, former England player, a leader of a 1980’s rebel tour to SA** – **ditto page 16** -

Headline – *Banned, unbanned: when sport hacks get caught in the crossfire* – Cricket writers [A Frazer, Independent, M Engel, FT, N Fox The Times, A Hubbard, IOS] sent to cover England’s tour of Zimbabwe knew they weren’t just dealing with matters on the pitch. But little did they expect to find themselves at the centre of the storm. **D Trelford, Media page 16**

Cartoon, Mugabe out on the pitch bowling up skulls to an England player

Match result – Zimbabwe 195 all out. England 197/5.

Mon 29

Headline – *Hain says tour boost for Mugabe* – now that the controversial tour of Zimbabwe is taking place the government, through the leader of the Commons, has said that the “tour should not have happened. The real villain of the piece is the International Cricket Board. To have intervened earlier and, ordered a ban, could have led to the government being sued said Mr Hain. **GDN page 2, C 3** –

Headline – *Elsewhere in Zimbabwe* – an unhappy Mugabe is ‘gunning’ for J Moyo the information minister as he was the principal in a plot to have the prime minister, E Mnangagwa, installed as the next vice president – hence the recent appointment (qv 25/11).

Also angering the president are the recent moves by Moyo to create a self serving power base inside the country. In the last month he has six provincial chairman of Zanu PF. They met at the minister's remote home at Tsholoshu after being helicoptered in from various parts of the country. – **GDN, Sport page 14** –

DECEMBER

Thurs 2

Headline – ***Mugabe purges challengers*** – the ‘fallout’ from the ‘moves for a power base’ made by J Moyo (qv 29/11) has been swift and decisive. Six of the ten party Zanu PF provincial chairmen, who met at the information ministers farm, were suspended for six months. The head of the war veterans association, J Sibanda, was suspended from his position for four years. The ‘principal’ was only severely reprimanded.

Despite the knowledge that the 2005 general election is likely not to be conducted in a free and fair way the Movement for Democratic Change indicated that they would be likely participate in the poll. – **GDN page 18, C2** –

Sun 5

Headline – ***Mugabe appoints women*** – Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu – PF party appointed Joyce Mujuru, Water Resource's minister, a women, to become his deputy, putting her on course to succeed Zimbabwe's President when he retires in 2008. – **IOS page 2, C 4** –

Match result Bulawayo, Zimbabwe 238/7. England 239/2

Mon 6

Match result Bulawayo, England 261/6. Zimbabwe 187/all out

Tues 7

Joyce Mujuru was sworn in as Zimbabwe's first women vice – president. Ms Mujuru, 49, who fought as a teenager in the guerilla war of independence will serve alongside Joseph Msika, who like President Mugabe is in his 80's. – **Reuters** –

Thurs 30

Headline – ***Man guilty of Mugabe slur*** - A Zimbabwean man who blamed Robert Mugabe for his inability to hold a staff Christmas party has been convicted under a security law which outlawed insulting or undermining of the authority of the president.

The official Herald newspaper reported that J Gambitzs, 72, told employees he could not afford a party because “President Mugabe had printed useless money.” – **Reuters** -