



RUDOLPH ON RAMPAGE: South Africa's Jacques Rudolph pulls one through mid-wicket on the second day of the first Test at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The debutant ended the day on 170 not out.

Records order of the day

HASAN MASOOD from Chittagong



South African batsman Jacques Rudolph yesterday entered the history books by becoming the 75th batsman in Test cricket to score a hundred on debut.

Rudolph also became the second South African to achieve the feat after former Test opener Andrew Hudson.

Hudson scored 163 against West Indies in Kensington Oval in April 1992 which incidentally was South Africa's first Test following their re-admission into international cricket after 22 years.

If Rudolph, who resumes on 170 on Day Three, can add another 30 runs, he would become only fifth batsman in Test cricket to have scored a double hundred on debut.

"I would love to take the score to two hundred. That's what I'm planning now," said the 22-year-old batsman after play ended yesterday.

"It was obviously something which I really worked hard for. I think it's a special moment in my life," said Rudolph who has put up an unbeaten 323-run partnership with Boeta

Dippenaar so far. This is the biggest partnership against Bangladesh in 18 Test matches.

If the duo make another 19 runs today, they will record the highest runs for South Africa in Test cricket for a third-wicket stand.

Former Bangladesh coach Edie Barlow and Graeme Pollock scored 341 runs against Australia in their third wicket partnership in Adelaide in 1963-63 season which remains intact till this day.

The two young Proteas are also tantalisingly close to striking South Africa's highest partnership for any wicket if they make 369. Present South African captain Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs scored 368 runs against Pakistan during their opening stand in Cape Town in January this year.

On a day of records, Rudolph and Dippenaar batted out the whole day which was the eighteenth such instance in Test cricket. The last time that happened was in March 2001 when Indian middle order batsmen VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid batted throughout the fourth day of the Kolkata Test against Australia.

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Boeta Dippenaar acknowledges the crowd's applause after reaching hundred against Bangladesh in the first Test in Chittagong yesterday.

Symcox Spins



PATRICK LEONARD SYMCOX, former South African off-spinner and a thinking cricketer, is now in Bangladesh to cover the Proteas' maiden tour to this country as a commentator for Star Sports. Symcox has been kind enough to offer his insight through this exclusive column for the readers of THE DAILY STAR. He will give his expert views on everyday's play in the two-match Test series.

The second day was to prove a memorable day for both teams and some of the players. With South Africa poised to take charge of the Test, the Bangladeshis must always have known that it would place a huge demand on the physical and mental capabilities.

Dippenaar and Rudolph had weathered the attack the previous evening with thoughts of going onto bigger things. They certainly did have to work in the heat as the Khaled Mahmud slowed the game down to compensate for the lack of penetration in his bowling attack.

Rudolph was the first to get to the magical century and played an extremely measured innings that was punctuated with some classy strokes. His innings showed an enormous amount of maturity for someone playing in his first official Test. This

after being withdrawn from a Test against Australia and then having his innings against India deleted from the record books. It surely was a defining moment in his career and signalled to all who cared to watch that he has arrived on the international scene and will be a player that South Africa can build on for a long time to come.

Dippenaar took slightly longer to get to his century and had to wait until after the tea break. Skipper Mahmud certainly didn't help matters when he didn't stay down at slip and grassed a rare opportunity.

Once the centuries had been posted the floodgates opened and run-scoring was almost at will.

Bangladesh will remember the day for the amount of time they spent without taking a wicket. The spinners proved totally ineffectual even though

there was good spin to be had. Kapali bowled far too quickly to allow the ball to turn while Ashraful looked a good prospect with his legs spin.

Field placing was never easy but somehow Khaled had to take wickets and by having no close-in catchers around the bat to the spinners for long periods, he never gave himself a chance.

The debutant wicketkeeper also missed a great opportunity to dismiss Rudolph on 98 when he went down the track to Ashraful and missed the ball completely. Those chances are rare and if missed they lead to tough times in the field.

South Africa will surely bat on and post a score beyond the reach of Bangladesh and who knows where that will end!

BFF polls today

Football

UNB, Dhaka

The long awaited election of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be held today.

Some 125 councillors from across the country are expected to exercise their voting rights at the National Sports Council gymnasium from 3:30pm to 6:30pm to elect one senior vice president, one general secretary, one deputy general secretary and 10 executive members.

Former footballer and Mohammedan Sporting Club official Anwarul Haque Helal and fellow footballer AKM Nowsharuzzaman from Munshiganj will fight for the post of general secretary.

Before the election, an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) will be held at 11am followed by an annual general meeting (AGM) at 3pm.

A four-member delegation from the game's governing body FIFA and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) compris-

ing of AFC Vice President VM Fernando, FIFA Representative and AFC member Dr Mohammad Khabiri, Head of the AFC national association and legal department B Sanjeevan and general secretary of Sri Lanka Football Federation Crysentha Perera are already in Dhaka to observe the election.

The FIFA and AFC officials, who will also observe the EGM and AGM, were expected to address a press conference in the evening at the NSC conference room after completion of the BFF election.

Adequate police forces will be deployed to ensure tight security from 9 am to 7 pm on the day.

Earlier SA Sultan, a ruling party MP from Chandpur, was elected President of Bangladesh Football Federation unopposed following the withdrawal of his rival and former BFF vice-president Nazrul Islam Khan Badal's from the race on April 21.

Sultan became the first ever elected president of the BFF in the 31-year history of the country's soccer administration.

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Whatmore due on May 13

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Former Sri Lankan cricket coach Dav Whatmore will be arriving in Dhaka on May 13 to sign a two-year contract with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

The Board secured the services of the 49-year-old World Cup-winning coach on April 21.

BCB advisor and chairman of the Cricket Committee Mahbubul Anam revealed this yesterday.



DAV WHATMORE

Talking to The Daily Star Sport during the second day of the first Test between Bangladesh and South Africa, Anam said that Whatmore, who will become Bangladesh's seventh foreign coach since the sacking of Pakistani Mohsin Kamal after the World Cup, would spend a few days in the capital.

He is expected to officially take over in the first week of June.

"We talked over telephone and agreed on a date for his arrival," Anam said.

B'DESH-S AFRICA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the GrameenPhone first Test between South Africa and Bangladesh at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Friday.

BANGLADESH: First innings 173 all out in 65.3 overs (Habibul Bashar 60, Javed Omar 28, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza 20; Paul Adams 5-37, Allan Dawson 2-37, Makhaya Ntini 2-45)

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings (overnight)					
	R	M	B	4	6
Graeme Smith c M Salim b T Baishya	16	37	23	1	1
Herschelle Gibbs c M Salim b Bin-Mortuza	17	42	29	3	0
Jacques Rudolph not out	170		324	21	1
Boeta Dippenaar not out	131		313	18	1
Extras: (b-6, lb-5, nb-19)	30				
Total: (For 2 wickets in 112 overs)	364				

Fall of wickets: 1-38 (Smith), 2-41 (Gibbs)

To bat: Neil McKenzie, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Paul Adams, Allan

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Jadeja allowed to play again

Cricket

INTERNET, New Delhi

Former India all-rounder Ajay Jadeja could play domestic cricket again after the New Delhi High Court ruled in favour of the banned cricketer.

A court-appointed, independent arbitrator in January suggested the five-year ban imposed on Jadeja for alleged match-fixing should be lifted.

And on Thursday, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was ordered by the court to allow Jadeja to resume his career at domestic level.

But the BCCI said it had not yet rescinded the ban, while the Delhi and District Cricket Association recently stopped Jadeja from playing in a local league match.

JK Mehra, a former judge, was nominated by the court as the arbitrator after Jadeja and the Indian board



AJAY JADEJA

agreed to present their case before him.

Mehra dismissed the findings of the Indian board's disciplinary panel, saying clear and definitive

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U-15 cricket Dhaka Colts champs

BSS, Faridpur

Dhaka Colts clinched the Under-15 National Cricket Championship title defeating Rajshahi Division on the basis of first innings' lead at the local stadium yesterday.

Dhaka Colts scored 293 runs in their first innings and 144 for four in the second innings.

In reply, Rajshahi Division were bundled out for 137 in their first innings and made 90 for six in the second innings.

Manjur Reza Shuvo of Dhaka Colts was the highest scorer while Prangan Ghose took five wickets for 52.

Take inspiration from baseball

INTERNET, London

County cricket has recently seen a few changes in its distinguished history.

First there was the introduction of two divisions, then came the Twenty20 Cup, and now the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is turning to baseball for more inspiration.

Alan Fordham and David Afield, the chairman of the ECB committee, are jetting out to America next month to examine how baseball works both commercially and logistically.

They will watch the Baltimore Orioles play the Tampa Bay Devil Rays at Camden Yards, and will also attend a minor league game between the Richmond Braves and Buffalo Bisons.

Fordham said, "They obviously make it work in terms of crowds and entertainment so we'll look to pick the best out. I've no specific ideas but they get thousands of people watching practice sessions so they must be doing something right."

Fleming leads Kiwi way

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Stephen Fleming hit an unbeaten 112 in a record 172-run stand with Mark Richardson as New Zealand kept Sri Lanka's spin attack at bay on the opening day of the first Test here on Friday.

The left-handed pair compiled New Zealand's best second-wicket partnership against Sri Lanka as the tourists, electing to take first strike, stonewalled their way to 207-2 by

close. Fleming's fifth Test century came just before opener Richardson, batting with a runner due to a hamstring injury, was dismissed for a painstaking 85 with the first delivery of the second new ball.

Matthew Sinclair kept his captain company at stumps, making four after a 30-minute stay at the crease.

Fleming and Richardson overcame oppressive heat and humidity to surpass New Zealand's previous best of 141 by Matthew Horne and Bryan Young for the second wicket against Sri

Lanka at Dunedin in 1996-97.

Sri Lanka's new captain Hashan Tillakaratne rotated six bowlers, four of them spinners, in short spells but failed to dislodge the pair early.

The perceived threat from Muttiah Muralitharan never materialised as the star off-spinner, who began with a wide and no ball in his first over, went wicketless in 27 overs.

Fleming, the highest scorer on both sides with 359 runs when the two teams last played a Test series in Sri Lanka six years ago, has so far hit 14 boundaries.

Richardson, who hit 106 and 93 in the two practice matches ahead of the Test, continued his good form to strike seven fours and a six before being clean bowled by Chaminda Vaas.

The Tamil Union wicket afforded lift and bounce in the first two hours before settling down to aid the batsmen willing to play their strokes.

But New Zealand, playing their first Test match since December following a surfeit of one-day matches including the World Cup, preferred to graft for their runs.

They scored 58 runs off 31 overs in the morning session and then moved to 131 by tea, before opening out against the tiring bowlers in the final hour.

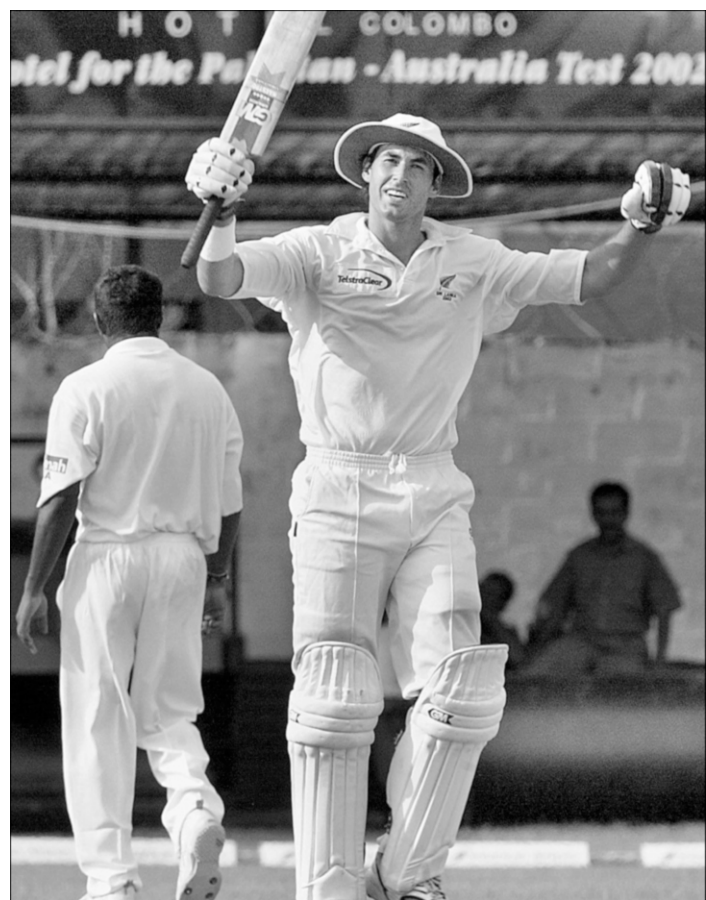
Horne was the batsman to miss out, making four runs in the first 45 minutes of play before his misery was ended by a brilliant diving catch at short-leg by Kumar Dharmasena.

Horne fended at a rising ball from debutant Prabhath Nissanka and Dharmasena dived to his right to pick up a low catch.

With a first Test wicket under his belt, Nissanka worked up a tidy pace in his first 11 overs in which he conceded just 10 runs.

Tillakaratne introduced spin in the form of Dharmasena in the 11th over and then brought on trump card Muralitharan in the 21st, by which time the Kiwis had only 38 runs on the board.

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New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming raises his arms to celebrate his century on the first day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Boeta Dippenaar survives a stumping attempt yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR