

PHOTO: STAR Bangladesh half-centurion Javed Omar executes a copybook cover-drive on the third day of the first Test against South Africa at the MA Aziz Stadium at Chittagong yesterday.



SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Habibul Bashar and Javed Omar seem to have developed a good under-GrameenPhone standing Test Series 2003 b e t w e e n gladesh vs South Africa themselves.

The two most experienced Bangladesh batsmen led the home team fightback against South Africa yesterday with a record 131-run second wicket stand

It was the second time the pair featured in a 100-run stand. They previously put on 122 runs at the same venue against Zimbabwe in November 2001. Besides, the cohesion between them was demonstrated in the first innings, where the two right handers added 85 runs for the second wicket.

Although their styles are strikingly different with Bashar as his name suggests bashing the ball all the time, a doughty Javed puts a price on his wicket.

The odd partners were happy to give Bangladesh something to build on in the Chittagong Test.

"We have been playing together for a long time. We know each other and that helps us to do well," said Bashar after the day's play.

Bashar scored 75 to with his 62 in the first innings. It was his 11th halfcentury in 18th Tests.

"I always like to play shots. Although after scoring fifty I was thinking of getting a hundred, but I failed to check myself when the short ball came from Pollock," he said adding that it would have been better for his team had he been there for the rest of the day's play. Bashar has only one hundred

under his belt. On their way to the record stand

for any wicket, Bashar scored 1174 runs in 36 innings. Javed's 71 in his 11th match

helped him to become the fourth Bangladeshi to score more than 500 runs. Al-Shahriar (647) and Aminul Islam (530) were the other members of the 500-club.

Javed, who played an extraordinary innings yesterday hitting 13 boundaries, said that he played according to the situation but was unlucky by the way he was out to a short ball from Makhaya Ntini.

"It was a good batting pitch and I tried to play the ball according its merit. But that delivery from Ntini was too fast. I tried to get out of the way, but it brushed my gloves," said Javed.

"There is a criticism against me that I don't play shots. Today I have at least disproved that," added Javed who has a career-best 85 not out came against Zimbabwe in April2001.



WE COULD'VE SCORED MORE! South Africa heroes Jacques Rudolph (L) and Boeta Dippenaar leave the field after the declaration just before lunch on the third day.

Records come and go

HASAN MASOOD from Chittagong

Jacques Rudolph and Boeta Dippener finally decided to walk off the field, but not before the pair broke more records and added more

misery to beleaguered Bangladesh on the third day of the first Test in Chittagong vesterday

Debutant Rudolph and Dippener rewrote South African cricket history with a 429-run unbeaten third-wicket stand at the MA Aziz Stadium. Rudolph scored an unbeaten 222 and Dippener made 178 not out before South African captain Graeme Smith declared the innings at 470-2.

Sydney, 1903 The monumental effort by the leftright pair was the sixth highest all-time Bangladesh, Chittagong, 2003 partnership record for any wicket in L Rowe (West Indies) 214 v New Test cricket and the highest for South Zealand, Kingston, 1972 Africa. Besides, it was the third highest M Sinclair (New Zealand) 214 v West partnership record for the third wicket Indies, Wellington, 1999 in the longer-version game. B Kuruppu (Sri Lanka) 201* v New

The all-time partnership record is 576 runs scored by Sri Lankans Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama in Colombo against India in 1997-98 eason. The highest partnership for the

and Martin Crowe of New Zealand against Sri Lanka in Wellington in 1990hundred is also the second highest score by a debutant.

The 429-run partnership was also

the ninth 400-plus partnership in the

Double tonners

Following is a list of players scoring

double centuries on their Test debut

R Foster (England) 287 v Australia

Rudolph (South Africa) 222*

NOTE: The previous highest South

African score on debut was by A

on Test debut

Mudassar Nazar and Javed Minadad The young left-hander became only the fifth player in Test cricket to have scored the second highest partnership scored a double century on debut. of 451 runs for the third wicket against RE Foster of England scored 287 on India in Hyderabad (Pakistan) in 1982-

debut against Australia in Sydney in December 1903. Besides, Lawrence Rowe of West

Rudolph's magnificent double

Indies and Mathew Sinclair of New Zealand scored 214 each on debut against New Zealand and West Indies in 1972 and 1999.

Sri Lanka Brandon Kuruppu is the other batsman who scored 201 on his debut against New Zealand in Colombo in 1987.

Bangladesh were also not to be denied their chance at making a little history. The second wicket stand of 131 runs between Javed Omar and Habibul Bashar was highest partnership for any wicket. It surpassed the 126-run fifth wicket stand between Mohammad Ashraful and former skipper Aminul Islam during the Colombo Test at the SSC ground in 2002.

Besides, Bashar, the only Bangladeshi batsman to have scored more than 1,000 Test runs, also joined his partner as the second player to have hit back-to-back Test half-centuries. He followed up his first innings 60 with 75 on Saturday. Omar achieved the feat with 62 and 85 during the Bulawayo Test in 2001



The start of the day saw the familiar figures of Rudolph and Dippenaar start off slowly and settle in once again. One couldn't help but feel pity for some tired fielders who clearly were desperate for a wicket. Again, they never did.

Rudolph and Dippenaar proceeded to break almost every record possible with Rudolph claiming the biggest accolade by not losing his wicket on the way to the second highest score for a debutant in the history of the game. Between them, Dippenaar and Rudolph recorded the highest partnership ever for South Africa and became the new holders of the highest unbroken partnership. It certainly was a morning that kept the statisticians around the world scurrying for more

The declaration came after Rudolph had begun to open up. He had to recover from a terrific blow to the head from a rising delivery from Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza with the new ball. It was a rare moment of success for Bangladesh.

For some reason the South African captain chose to declare with only enough time to bowl four overs before lunch. It was a mystifying decision, as it never left enough time to try anything else other than to bowl two bowlers. Pollock took the new ball and was a

handful from the outset. He took the first wicket. It was very surprising to see the Western Province man, Charl Willoughby take the new ball with the wind blowing across the ground and opposite to the direction that would

allow him to swing the ball into batsmen. Yes he is a swing bowler and needs a decent ball to be able to apply his trade, however, the pitch has uneven bounce and Ntini had to be the man to create doubt in the minds of the Bangladesh batsmen early on. Once they had settled his effectiveness had

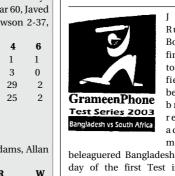
dissipated. Credit has to go to Javed Omar and Bashar for the way they showed courage and plenty of fighting spirit. They attacked the loose ball and defended when necessary. The Proteas then began to show signs of a clear lack of subcontinent conditions. Instead of building pressure by keeping a tight line and length they resorted to trying many too SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

South Africa and Bangladesh at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Saturday: BANGLADESH: First innings 173 all out in 65.3 overs (Habibul Bashar 60, Javed Omar 28, Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza 20; Paul Adams 5-37, Allan Dawson 2-37, Makhaya Ntini 2-45) SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 364-2) R Μ В 4 37 Graeme Smith c M Salim b T Baishya 16 23 1 Herschelle Gibbs c M Salim b Bin-Mortuza 42 29 17 3 Jacques Rudolph not out 521 383 222 29 Boeta Dippenaar not out 178 514 369

B'DESH-S AFRICA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the GrameenPhone first Test between

Extras: (b-9, lb-5, w-2, nb-21) 37 Total: (For 2 wickets declared in 130.5 overs) 470 Fall of wickets: 1-38 (Smith), 2-41 (Gibbs) Did not bat: Neil McKenzie, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Paul Adams, Allan Dawson, Charl Willoughby, Makhaya Ntini Bowler 0 М R Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza 24 108 Khaled Mahmud 17 56 Tapas Baishya 70 23 8 Enamul Hoque 33 10 82 Alok Kapali 18.5 71 Mohammad Ashraful 31 Habibul Bashar 38 BANGLADESH: Second innings Μ B 4 Javed Omar c M Boucher b M Ntini 262 183 13 71 Mehrab Hossain lbw b S Pollock 27 5 20 1 Habibul Bashar c M Boucher b S Pollock 75 169 108 13 Mohammad Ashraful not out 12 71 1 Alok Kapali c M Boucher b P Adams 25 15 0 0 7 SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0



(L) President-elect of Bangladesh Football Federation SA Sultan deliberates during the EGM of the federation prior to the polls at the National Sports Council yesterday. (R) Star of yesteryears Kazi Salahuddin talks to national players during the BFF elections.

wins all BFF posts

Sultan-Helal panel

Football

UNB, Dhaka

Pro-government Sultan-Helal panel swept the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) election held peacefully at the National Sport Council yesterday. They bagged all the 21 seats. Anwarul Haque Helal of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club was declared winner for the post of general secretary with 95 votes while his nearest rival AKM Nowsharuzzaman

of Munshigani collected only 23.

Earlier, SA Sultan, a ruling party MP from Chandpur, was elected president

Four vice-presidents, two assistant were also elected uncontested on that day, the last date for withdrawing nominations.

the office bearers to the remaining 13 posts out of 21

Fleming goes on

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming hit a career-best 274 not out to lead the tourists to a commanding position in the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka here on Saturday

The left-hander surpassed his previous best of 174 against the same rivals six years ago as New Zealand piled up 515-7 declared just before stumps on the second day at the Tamil Union ground.

An unselfish Fleming denied himself the chance to become the first New Zealander to score a triple century when he closed the innings to have a go at the tired Sri Lankan batsmen in the last 10 minutes.

The move clicked as Daryl Tuffey trapped Marvan Atapattu leg-before with the fifth ball of the innings to leave Sri Lanka at 4-1 before bad light halted

Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya and nightwatchman Chaminda Vaas were at the crease with two runs apiece.

Fleming, given three reprieves by butter-fingered fielders, batted for 11 hours under energy-sapping hot and humid conditions, hitting 28 SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming on scoring his maiden double hundred at the Tamil Union ground in Colombo yesterday.

Mohammedan

make merry

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The bat dominated the ball as the GrameenPhone Premier Super League resumed yesterday.

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club thrived on a maiden double hundred in Dhaka cricket by their Indian recruit Sandeep Sharma and a superb century from young opener Nafis Iqbal to pile up a massive 412-9 declared against Uttara Sporting Club on the opening day at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Sandeep struck a swashbuckling 221 off 228 balls. The right-hander gave the Motijheel outfit a flying start, putting on 233 runs for the first wicket with Nafis.

Nafis, the right-hander, also scored an impressive 103 off 136 balls. He struck a dozen boundaries and a six before becoming the first Uttara victim in the 47th over.

Sandeep clubbed 30 fours and seven sixes in his explosive innings, which came to an end in the 73rd over but not before Mohammedan reached a commanding 380. Uttara, in reply, were 47 for one at

VICTORIA-ABAHANI

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, defending champions Victoria Sporting Club took control over Abahani in a

crucial match. Victoria were 326-6 in 95 overs after captain Azam Igbal won the toss and decided to bat.

Opener Parvez Ahmed scored a fine 110 to lay the foundation. The righthanded batsman struck 11 fours in his 223-ball vigil at the crease.

He also shared 101 runs for the first wicket with Pakistani Wasim Naveem who hammered a 109-ball 73. Wasim struck nine boundaries.

Besides, former national captain Khaled Mashud also scored 49 off 110 balls and Mushfiqur Rahman was batting on 36.

Left-arm spinner Suja Erfan was the most successful Abahani bowler with 3-

BU-CITY CLUB

City Club also scored a fighting 257-7 in 96 overs on the first day against Brothers Union at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium with Faruque Ahmed playing a captain SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Hudson 163 against West Indies, third wicket 467, that is second in the Bridgetown, 1992. all-time list, was set by Andrew Jones

83 season

history five-day game.

REUTERS, Chittagong

(* denotes not out):

Zealand, Colombo, 1987

of BFF unopposed on April 21. It was the first time in the 31-year history of the country's soccer that a president of the body had been elected. general secretaries and a treasurer

Yesterday's voting was held to elect

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2