



HOW THE DAY FOUR WENT: (L) South Africa captain Graeme Smith is elated after taking the wicket of his Bangladesh counterpart Khaled Mahmud on the fourth but final day of the first Test at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. (M) South Africa fast bowler Makhaya Ntini gives one of his young admirers a memorable snapshot after the Test. (R) And after sometime the Proteas took to field to enjoy some football.

Batsmen slammed

HASAN MASOOD from Chittagong

Bangladesh coach Sarwar Imran came down hard on his team's batsmen after the Tigers went down to South Africa by an innings and 60 runs yesterday, their 17th defeat in 18 outings.

"Our middle order failed to carry on the good work done by Habibul Bashar and Javed Omar in both the innings. I expected more maturity and application from them. But they all frustrated me.

"I don't think they are mentally ready to play Test cricket. Ashrafud didn't have to play that drive after already scoring ten runs off the previous three balls. We have been trying our best to make the players understand the negative side of

such indiscretion but we haven't had much success," added the interim coach.

When asked about Akram Khan's indifferent form and the irresponsible way he got out yesterday Imran said that the veteran batsman succumbed to pressure.

"I could see it coming. He was playing under too much mental strain. He is not among the runs and that is really affecting him. Besides, I think he got a bit rattled with the rising deliveries of Makhaya Ntini," added Imran.

About opener Mehrab Hossain, Imran observed that the youngster was too tense. "He needs to relax more on the field.

"Overall, it's not just due to lack of confidence. Most of the players also do not have the patience to bat for long periods. They have to learn how to take some hits on body too," he said.

Imran criticised the batsmen's attitude.

"Some batsmen ask the bowlers not to bowl too fast at them or bowl short-pitch stuff in the nets. But when they bat in a real match, they find opposing bowlers targeting their rib cage and head. Unless they practice countering such aggression they can never improve," said Imran.

Captain Khaled Mahmud also pointed fingers at the batting saying only two good batsmen cannot make a team.

"None of the other batsmen including myself could play as Bashar and Javed did. It's not a good sign and we need to change it," said Mahmud.

"We all failed. We will have to sit down and take a hard look at what went wrong before the next Test in Dhaka."

The second and final Test starts on May 1.

B'DESH-S AFRICA SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the GrameenPhone first Test between South Africa and Bangladesh on the fourth day at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Sunday:

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 470 for 2 declared in 130.5 overs (Jacques Rudolph 222 not out, Boeta Dippenaar 178 not out; T Baishya 1-70, Bin-Mortuza 1-108)

BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 185-5)

	R	M	B	4	6
Javed Omar c M Boucher b M Ntini	71	262	183	13	0
Mehrab Hossain lbw b S Pollock	5	27	20	1	0
Habibul Bashar c M Boucher b S Pollock	75	169	108	13	0
Mohammad Ashraf c G Smith b C Willoughby	28	132	96	4	0
Alok Kapali c M Boucher b P Adams	7	25	15	0	0
Mohammad Salim lbw b P Adams	0	11	14	0	0
Akram Khan c B Dippenaar b P Adams	16	38	35	3	0
Khaled Mahmud st M Boucher b G Smith	1	16	7	0	0
Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza c S Pollock b P Adams	0	1	3	0	0
Tapas Baishya not out	0	13	6	0	0
Enamul Hoque c and b P Adams	11	9	11	2	0
Extras: (b-5, lb-10, w-6, nb-2)	23				
Total: (All out in 82.4 overs)	237				

Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Mehrab), 2-138 (Bashar), 3-173 (Javed), 4-183 (Kapali), 5-185 (Salim), 6-213 (Ashraf), 7-224 (Akram), 8-224 (Bin-Mortuza), 9-224 (Mahmud), 10-237 (Enamul)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shaun Pollock	13	9	12	2
Charl Willoughby	18	6	47	1
Makhaya Ntini	16	4	37	1
Allan Dawson	12	4	48	0
Paul Adams	18.4	5	69	5

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Satisfied Smith

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

South African cricket captain Graeme Smith yesterday praised his team for their excellent performance after winning the first Test here by an innings and 60 runs.

"It's good to see that the team has set two records in last two days. It's a positive sign for South African cricket and we want to continue doing that in Dhaka also," he said.

"It was a good team performance. The batters did their job under tremendous heat and the bowlers also did pretty well on a batting pitch. I think that's important for us because we want to be the best team in the world," said the confident 22-year-old.

When asked whether he was worried as he watched as Bangladesh batsmen Habibul Bashar and Javed Omar starting to build some sort of a partnership, Smith said he was not.

"I don't think I was ever worried

even though I knew they were batting well. The wicket was a really good one and my teammates all knew that. All we could do was just wait for a wicket to fall. That's what we were thinking in the dressing room."

He also praised 'chinaman' bowler Paul Adams who took five wickets in both the innings and debutant Jacques Rudolph, the man-of-the-match for his Herculean double hundred.

"Paul bowled really well on a typical batting surface. I kept my faith in him and he came out with his best bowling performance in Test cricket. That inspires me a lot.

"Jacques also batted well which was not easy out there at times. He will be an asset for us in future," hoped the youngest South African skipper.

Adams destroyed the Bangladesh batting with match figures of 10-107. The 26-year-old had been out of Test cricket for the past 13 months.

This was the second time that the slow bowler has grabbed ten wickets in a match in his 37-Test career.

Left-handed Rudolph, who was

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

C'wealth Chess Barua bags gold medal

SPORTS REPORTER

Vietnamese Grand Master Nguyen Anh Dung with 8.5 points emerged champion in the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Bombay yesterday.

However, Indian GM Dibyendu Barua received the gold medal as he collected the highest 7.5 points as a commonwealth player.

IM Reefat-bin-Sattar was the most successful Bangladeshi player as he finished 12th along with ten others. All of them secured 6.5 points each.

Besides, GMs Ziaur Rahman and Niaz Murshed and IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, with 6 points each, jointly held the 24th place with 17 other players.

Khandaker Aminul Islam earned 5.5 points while IM Abdullah Al Rakib and FM Nasir Ahmed bagged 5 points apiece.

In the 10th and final round matches yesterday, Reefat drew with Russian GM Ruslan Sherbakov. Niaz

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



Female cricket spectators at the MA Aziz Stadium enjoy themselves yesterday.

Hashan, Mahela steady SL

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Mahela Jayawardena roared back to form after a nightmarish World Cup to steer Sri Lanka towards safety in the first cricket Test against New Zealand here on Sunday.

The stylish right-hander, who scored a mere 20 runs in 10 matches at cricket's showpiece in South Africa last month, hit an unbeaten 58 as the hosts replied strongly to New Zealand's 515-7 declared.

Sri Lanka survived an uncertain period soon after lunch to close the third day's play at 267-4 in their first innings, still 248 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

New captain Hashan Tillakaratne made 71 not out in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 133 with Jayawardena after New Zealand had grabbed two crucial wickets in the post-lunch session.

Tendulkar flies to USA for op

INTERNET, undated

Sachin Tendulkar's family are to join him in the USA for a holiday after he flies there for an operation on the fourth finger of his left hand.

The cricket world's biggest star flew out from Bombay on Saturday and will check into a private clinic in Baltimore, Maryland.

Travelling with him was his wife Anjali, a doctor. The couple's two children will meet their parents out in the States on a later date.

Tendulkar's finger injury put down to wear and tear following sheer weight of cricket worsened during the World Cup, in which he smashed the previous best mark by 673 runs.

Having recently turned 30, Tendulkar will have plenty of time to relax after the operation.

India's next fixtures are not until October, when New Zealand tour India.

NOTICE
Due to unavoidable circumstances our regular column 'Symcox Spins' written by former South African off-spinner Patrick Symcox could not be published yesterday. We are extremely sorry for putting our readers through a spin.
--Sports Editor

MSC, Victoria, City sitting pretty

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club closed in on an easy win against Uttara Sporting Club while holders Victoria Sporting were on the verge of a first-innings lead against Abahani Krira Chakra at the end of second day's play in their respective matches of the GrameenPhone Premier Division Super League yesterday.

Title aspirants Mohammedan tightened the noose on Uttara at the BKSP ground in Savar and were only five wickets away to earn full six points from their third Super League games.

Resuming the day on 47-1, Uttara followed on after they were bundled out 178 while replying to a huge Mohammedan total of 412-9 declared.

Batting for a second time on the day, the new town outfit found themselves reeling at 127-5, still needing another 107 runs to avoid an innings defeat with two more days to go.

Off-spinner Naimur Rahman and paceman Anwar Hossain Monir destroyed the Uttara batting after opener Shafiqul Alam departed for 63.

Naimur captured four wickets for 44 runs while Monir finished with 3-39.

Naimur also took two wickets in the second innings after experienced paceman Hasibul Hossain struck early.

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, leaders Victoria restricted Abahani to 229-9 in 88 overs defending a fighting first innings total of 342.

Resuming on 326, Victoria added 12 runs before being all out in 98.4 overs.

Abahani, in their chase, lost half their wickets for 82 runs before Sajjadul and Neeyamur Rashid led a salvage operation.

Sajjadul scored an unbeaten 66 off 204 balls that included seven boundaries. Neeyamur hammered a breezy 41 off 44 balls. He struck eight hits across the rope.

Ali Arman also scored 30 off 48 balls. But with only one wicket in hand, Abahani look unlikely to wipe

Does anybody understand the D/L Method? - I

In a three-part article serialised for THE DAILY STAR SPORT, the country's renowned cricket patron **KZ ISLAM**, traces the history of the Duckworth-Lewis Method used for calculating rain-affected matches. The author draws upon memorable instances where and how the D/L Method was applied and how sometimes it went wrong. Besides he gives his own views on what has become the universally accepted practice. We hope his thought-provoking essay, which appears from today, will give our readers a broader perspective of the D/L Method. We would also appreciate their feedback on it.

-- Sports Editor

I think Bangladesh cricket team should understand the Duckworth-Lewis Method (D/L) very well since they were involved twice during the successful 1997 ICC Trophy competition in Malaysia in March-April.

The D/L Method as a whole was invoked nine times during the meet including the final where Bangladesh reached their target to beat Kenya at the very last ball of the thriller.

Incidentally, I had forgotten the precise scores of that match so I phoned the skipper Akram Khan to refresh my memory. He immediately said that the target was to score 166 runs in twenty-five overs. He was not sure about how many runs Kenya had scored. I looked up the tables and found a factor of 68.7 according to the D/L Method for the second innings of twenty-five overs. My calculated score came to 241.

By the time Akram phoned me I told him that Kenya had scored 241, which he confirmed as correct. While we are on the subject of the ICC Trophy of 1997 it must be acknowledged that had Akram not scored 67 not out to beat Holland in the quarterfinals we certainly would not have reached the final and eventually attained ODI and Test status.

The team that has been victimised most for rain-affected matches is South Africa. It all started in the 1992 World Cup semifinal. In that match played in Sydney England batted first and in a shortened innings of forty-five overs scored 252 for the loss of six wickets. In reply South Africa needed twenty-two runs from thirteen balls when rain came which reduced their innings by two overs. That left them to score twenty-two runs from one ball. This absurd situation was really the forerunner of the D/L Method.

I emailed Frank Duckworth asking him what method had been applied in that match. I must say Duckworth was

making what was needed, but the MPO rain rule, which credited them with only 1 run for the two overs lost (as SA had bowled one maiden over an one which went for 1 run some reports say two maidens so the target remained at 22), converted this evens chance into a zero chance. D/L would have converted the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



Tony Lewis (in the foreground) and Frank Duckworth