

Worried hosts

SPORTS REPORTER



There were contrasting moods in the Bangladesh and South Africa camps after the first Test at Chittagong finished in four days. While Graeme Smith's South African team were reflecting on their innings and 60 run victory at the port city, Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud's side were down in the dumps. Both teams returned to Dhaka from the port city on Sunday to prepare for the second Test, starting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on May 1. None of the South African and Bangladesh players trained outdoors yesterday. Bangladesh team management did however spend several hours discussing where they went wrong in Chittagong. Bangladesh suffered stunning collapses in both innings despite Habibul Bashar and Javed Omar's giving confident starts. The national selectors are thinking

to make at least one change for the Dhaka Test. Left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique is likely to replace Enamul Hoque, who proved ineffective at the MA Aziz Stadium. The gamble of playing one specialist spinner and two pacers did not pay off as Bangladesh bowlers could only capture two wickets in two laborious days and at the expense of 470 runs. Bashar with back-to-back half centuries and Javed, who scored a fine 71 in the second innings, were the only two batsmen who applied themselves while the rest were totally hopeless. Experienced Akram Khan failed to make any impression in his own backyard. But the selectors want to give the 35-year-old another chance to prove himself. Coach Sarwar Imran identified the lack of mental toughness of the batsmen for their persistent failures. "I do not think they are mentally ready to play Test cricket", said Imran after the match adding that his boys also lack patience to bat for long periods. There was so much hope riding on Mohammed Ashraf, but the youngest Test centurion on debut got out playing unnecessary strokes after getting well set in both the innings'.

Alok Kapali was another notable failure. The case with captain Mahmud was more embarrassing. Known for his all-round abilities, the right-hander neither bowled well nor did he do anything with the bat to inspire his team. Although Bangladesh could not take advantage of a tailor-made pitch, two South African youngsters Jacques Rudolph and Boeta Dippenaar basked in glory. Their record-breaking 429-run stand for the second wickets was a testimony of all the good virtues of Test cricket. Debutant Rudolph's monumental 222 not out was a lesson in application and determination. Under trying circumstances both he and Dippenaar (178 not out) laid the foundation for a South African victory. Their effort proved that batsmen who grow up playing on true wickets can flourish under any condition home or abroad. True wickets help batsmen learn to play according to the merit of the ball while on subcontinental flat tracks like ours, players only get an exaggerated impression of their actual ability.



Grim-faced Bangladesh national cricketers and their interim coach Sarwar Imran (R) at the lounge of the Sheraton Hotel yesterday. The team returned from Chittagong on Sunday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Uttara caught in Naimur web

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club kept their title hopes alive when they registered a convincing innings and 43-run victory over Uttara Sporting Club in their GrameenPhone Premier Division Super League match at the BKSP ground in Savary yesterday. Starting the third day on 127-5 and needing another 107 runs to make Mohammedan bat again, Uttara collapsed to 191 all out in 57.5 overs. Off-break bowler Naimur Rahman sent Uttara on a spin with 5-38 in the second innings. The former national captain also took four wickets in the first innings. Uttara failed to put up any resistance as they lost their last five wickets in morning session. Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Victoria Sporting Club continued their quest to retain their crown by taking a crucial first-innings lead against Abahani Krira Chakra.

Abahani scored 257 in reply to Victoria's first-innings total of 342 despite a valiant effort from Sajjadul Hasan. Sajjadul was stranded on 90 at the other end when his last wicket partner Alamgir was dismissed by Manjarul Islam in the last over of Abahani's first innings quota of 100. Victoria's second innings started disastrously when they lost three wickets for 30 runs. But out of favour Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud rescued the side with an unbeaten 82. Mashud also shared 96 for the fourth wicket with captain Azam Iqbal, who made 59 off 105 balls. At stumps Victoria were 190-4, an overall lead of 257 runs going into the final day. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, City Club plundered 336-6 in their second innings against Brothers Union after resuming the day on 52 for no loss. The only disappointment for City was that their captain Faruque Ahmed missed a century by only seven runs. Faruque was run out. SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

India stay put

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's cricket chief has said his country's position of not playing against Pakistan except in tournaments remains unchanged. Jagmohan Dalmiya was speaking to reporters on Monday ahead of an Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF) meeting later this week in Dubai, where he will meet his Pakistani counterpart Tauqir Zia. "The government allows us to play in multilateral events but we don't have permission to play in bilateral matches against Pakistan," Dalmiya told reporters on Monday. "That position remains unchanged." His comments came a day after Zia had said in Karachi he was hoping the Dubai meeting would lead to a breakthrough in cricketing relations between the nations. "India now has to take the initiative to play us first and resume ties. We have bent backwards a lot and we can't do anything more," Zia had said. The hostile neighbours were scheduled to play a series in Pakistan this month but the Indian government declined to send the team due to tensions over the disputed Himalayan

region of Kashmir. The two countries have met only once, at the World Cup last month, since the Asia Cup in Dhaka in May 2000. Pakistan are next scheduled to tour India in February next year, according to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) 10-year Test plan. Pakistan ponder central contract REUTERS, Karachi Pakistan plan to introduce central contracts for up to 35 cricketers. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Lt. General Tauqir Zia said on Monday the system would provide players with financial security. "The idea is to pick the best available talent, including those already playing for Pakistan and those who are borderline cases, and give them a monthly retainership," he told Reuters. Under the present system players are paid by series or by tour. Last year the PCB introduced win bonuses while cutting player earnings when the team lost. The squad lost 50 percent of their World Cup fees after being knocked out in the first round.

ACU officials due tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

PR Hawkins and Jeffrey Rees, two officials of the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), will be arriving in the city tomorrow. Sources inside the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said that their visit was a regulation one. The ACU, established in June 2000 after the match-fixing and betting crisis in the aftermath of Hansie Cronje's revelation, has been closely involved in investigating allegations of corruption within the game. The visit of the two security experts from the London-based independent body to Bangladesh for the first time comes hot on the heels of the recent episode involving former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud. The BCB high-up however denied that the two would be investigating any sort of corruption centering any player or any particular incident. "The trip of the ACU officials was confirming a month ago. They are coming only to evaluate security measures at the Bangabandhu SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Confronting Sidhu!

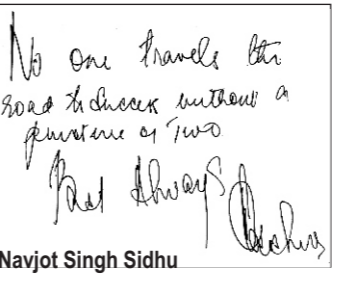
Every person's voice is unique. The art of speaking is just as special. Those with the gift of the gab leave others struggling in their wake. Love him or loath him Navjot Singh Sidhu fits that description perfectly. The former Indian Test opener has become the most colourful voice of cricket around the world. It is not because he only duels on the technical aspects with the finesse of say David Gower, rather the immaculately dressed gentleman while in front of the microphone, most of the times gets carried away with his self-styled way of delivering. His words sometimes could be 'assassinating' the English language with his rich vocabulary of hacked idioms and phrases. And more often than not the topic of discussion goes off track leaving the poor viewer at a loss.

Recently LENIN GANI of THE DAILY STAR SPORT talked to NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU when the hard-hitting right-hand batsman was here commenting during the TVS Cup tri-series.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): Did you ever consider coaching before taking up a career in the media? Navjot Singh Sidhu (NSS): Well, I never planned for the future. Commentary happened like a bolt from the blue and I just grabbed the opportunity. DSS: How have you enjoyed your stay in Dhaka? Do you remember being run out at the non-striker's end in the Independence Cup? NSS: I've always been nostalgic about Dhaka. I've done exceedingly well as a cricketer here. I still remember my last trip when India won a Herculean game against Pakistan chasing a huge total of three hundred plus. Also I have been man-of-the-tournament in the Asia Cup. So there are lots of fond memories. (Laughs) No. I didn't mind getting run out as long as the team won



DSS: Having observed Bangladesh's performances in the tri-series, what are the areas that need improvement in your view? NSS: I really think they need more faith in their abilities. Bangladesh have been constantly retreating and when you suffer 35 odd defeats definitely that really puts a dent in your psyche. So they need to work hard. And to do that they have to create a healthy environment for breeding SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



Navjot Singh Sidhu

'Let football in Iraq live'

AFP, Dubai

The German coach of Iraq's national football team issued an SOS Monday for international help in salvaging his team after the war to topple Saddam Hussein. Bernd Stange quit Iraq before the start of the coalition-led war just three months after his appointment vowing to return to rebuild his team once hostilities had ended. And true to his word the 54-year-old former East German national handler was on Monday looking for ways to get his side up and running again. "Our aim is to save Iraqi football after the war," he told a press conference here. Stange said there were already projects afoot to help re-establish the game, including an international match featuring Manchester United's David Beckham, Real Madrid Luis Figo, former French World Cup star Michel Platini, and Figo's Real teammate Zinedine Zidane. The team made up of representatives of the UN children's fund UNICEF is due to play Spanish giants Barcelona

this winter in the United Arab Emirates. Stange said he also hoped to organize a game between a UNICEF side and Iraq in Baghdad. The former coach of Oman who was appointed in November called on "the Asian Football Confederation and all those who have links with football to support us in these difficult circumstances." When he left Iraq in February Stange wrote to his players saying: "I pray to God that he protects you and your family". After a spell in charge of East Germany Stange coached former German first division club VfB Leipzig until 1994. He then took up a job with Ukrainian side Dniepropetrovsk before moving to Australia to coach Perth Glory. He was sacked as Oman coach last September after just 10 weeks in the job. Stange, who has been accused of cooperating with the Stasi secret police, signed a four year contract last November aimed at leading Iraq SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Rain hits Colombo Test

Hashan celebrates ascendancy with ton

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

The first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand was set for a draw after rain halted play in the post-lunch session of the fourth day's play here on Monday. Sri Lanka, replying to New Zealand's first innings total of 515-7 declared, were 424-6 when a thunderstorm drove the players back to the pavilion 45 minutes before tea. Australian umpires Daryl Harper and Simon Taufel waited till after the tea break for the weather to clear before abandoning play for the day. Sri Lanka's new captain Hashan Tillakaratne, responding to his counterpart Stephen Fleming's epic 274 with a four century of his own, was unbeaten on 126 after a marathon seven-hour stay at the crease. Kumar Dharmasena was on 19, having put on 50 for the unbroken seventh wicket on the placid wicket that afforded no assistance to the bowlers after the first day. The rain brought relief to the players who had struggled for three and a half days in oppressive heat and humid conditions and some 1,200 bored spectators who had watched the bat dominate the ball from the start. With a result unlikely on the fifth day, the focus has already shifted to the second and final Test of the short series starting in the hill resort of Kandy on Saturday. Recalled wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana lit up the fourth morning with a quickfire 76 after Sri Lanka resumed at the overnight score of 267-4. Kaluwitharana and Tillakaratne put on 107 for the sixth wicket the captain contributing just 26 after Mahela Jayawardena was dismissed off the

fourth ball of the morning. Jayawardena, who hit 58 on Sunday to return to form after a disastrous World Cup last month, was caught behind off Jacob Oram without adding to his score. The 33-year-old Kaluwitharana,

playing his first Test in two years, justified his selection by tearing into the Kiwi attack with 13 hits to the fence. The aggressive batsman, a surprise exclusion for the World Cup, relieved the pressure by smashing Oram and Shane Bond for two boundaries each.



Sri Lanka skipper Hashan Tillakaratne (L) signals to his teammates after reaching three figures as his partner Kumar Dharmasena congratulates him on the fourth day of the first Test against New Zealand in Colombo yesterday.

He then welcomed Scott Styris into the attack with two cut shots that raced to the point fence and brought up his half-century by driving the same bowler for his 10th boundary. Kaluwitharana appeared set for a century when he pulled Paul Wiseman uppishly to mid-wicket where Mathew Sinclair gratefully accepted the catch. Tillakaratne, appointed captain for the two-Test series after Sanath Jayasuriya stepped down voluntarily to concentrate on his batting, was his usual dour self at the other end. Starting the day at 71, he allowed the rampaging Kaluwitharana to dominate the strike before reaching his 11th Test century 25 minutes before lunch with a boundary off Bond. Bond and off-spinner Wiseman were the most successful New Zealand bowlers with two wickets each.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at the Srilanka Union ground on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 515-7 declared (S Fleming 274 not out, M Richardson 85, S Styris 63; K Dharmasena 3-132)

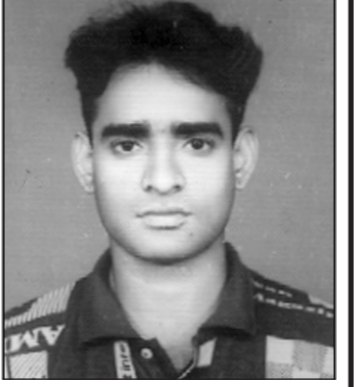
SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 267-4)

Atapattu lbw b Tuffey	0
Jayasuriya b Bond	50
Vaas c Fleming b Bond	4
Sangakkara c Oram b Wiseman	67
Jayawardena c Hart b Oram	58
Tillakaratne not out	126
Kaluwitharana c Sinclair b Wiseman	76
Dharmasena not out	19
Extras: (lb-20, nb-4)	24
Total: (For 6 wks 137 overs)	424
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-114, 4-134, 5-267, 6-374	

Letting his bat do the talking

RABEED IMAM

He has scored over 750 runs in this year's GrameenPhone Premier Division cricket league, he had consistently made the top ten run-getters list during the last three seasons. Still Moniruzzaman Moni can't even get near the national team's selection camp.



"I don't know why I never get a call-up even," said the 27-year-old City Club opener after cracking his first hundred in a Super League match against title favourites Mohammedan Sporting Club on April 16. "I have scored heavily in the last couple of seasons. Last year I was Abahani's top scorer with over 450 runs even after missing a number of matches. I'm really lost for reasons," said the soft-spoken youngster from Mymensingh. Moniruzzaman has been in tremendous form in the ongoing league. He has made six fifties and one hundred out of 18 innings till date at an average of 45 to lead City Club's charge to stay in a maiden title hunt. A product of the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP), SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Does anybody understand the D/L Method? - II

K Z ISLAM

The Duckworth Lewis Method (D/L) has been formulated keeping in mind that teams have two resources with which to make as many runs as they can. The resources are the number of overs they have to receive and the number of wickets they have in hand. At any stage of a match the run scoring capability of any team is a fine balance between the two resources working in tandem. Using statistical methods, which the readers will be spared of, D/L came up with an ingenious table. Frank Duckworth is a PhD in Metallurgy from Liverpool University and Honorary Editor of the monthly news magazine of the Royal Statistical Society and Tony Lewis is an MSc in Statistics from Sheffield University and a lecturer in mathematics at the University of West England in Bristol. When Lewis heard about Duckworth's work relating to interrupted cricket matches he contacted him. Lewis set up a student project compiling a database from one-day cricket matches played throughout the world and calculating the right numbers to put into the table. Once the tables were complete Duckworth and Lewis joined forces and simplified the formulae so that it could be operated from a single table of figures and a pocket calculator. When overs are lost because of interruption mainly due to rain the side batting second has its target adjusted in proportion not just to the overs but to the total 'resources' available to the two sides. These resources are a mathematical combination of overs and wickets and are represented by a single table of percentages which has been derived from an analysis of the score sheets of many hundreds of one-day matches. The Duckworth Lewis Method

aims 'to produce a method of correction which satisfies what we believe to be five important criteria for acceptability:

- 1) It must be equally fair to both sides; that is the relative positions of
- 2) It must give sensible results in all conceivable situations.
- 3) It should be independent of Team 1's scoring pattern, as indeed is

the target in an uninterrupted game.

- 4) It should be easy to apply, requiring no more than a table of numbers and a pocket calculator.
- 5) It should be easy to understand by all involved in the game, players, officials, spectators and reporters.

"The basis of the method is that it recognises that the batting side has two resources at its disposal from which to make its total score; it has overs to face and it has wickets in hand. The number of runs that may be scored from any position depends on both of these resources in combination. Clearly, a team with 20 overs to bat with all ten wickets in hand has a greater run scoring potential than a team that has lost, say, eight wickets. The former team have more run scoring resources remaining than the latter team although both have the same number of overs left to face."

"The way our method works is to set Team 2's target score to reflect the relative resources they have compared with Team 1. We therefore need a two-factor relationship between the proportion of the total runs which may be scored and the two resources, overs to be faced and wickets in hand. To obtain this it is necessary to establish a suitable mathematical SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



Umpires will have to be good statisticians in future.

the two teams should be exactly the same after the interruption as they were before.