

# Bangladesh bounce back

**Cricket**

AGENCIES, Brisbane

Bangladesh set themselves up for the daunting task of a Test series against Australia with a thrilling victory over Australia's Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy on Saturday in Brisbane.

They brought off a morale-boosting two-wicket win in the second match of their Australian cricket tour. Set 230 to win from a maximum of 73 overs, Bangladesh got home with two wickets and six balls to spare on the third and final day at Allan Border Field.

Captain Khaled Mahmud clinched a tense victory with an on-drive for four after some nervous moments in the final session.

Bangladesh started poorly, with Mark Cleary nipping out both Javed Omar and Habibul Bashar early in the innings and they were 113 for four at tea with 35 overs remaining but lost wickets at regular intervals.

But Mohammad Ashraful anchored the innings with a classy 61, while Alok Kapali chipped in with a pugnacious 44. But it was the two senior men, the Khaleds

Mashud and Mahmud who did the damage late on with some adventurous shot-making.

When Ashraful, who hit eight fours and two sixes, was dismissed the tourists were still needing 96 and five wickets left.

All-rounder Kapali and wicketkeeper Mashud, who made 28, then put on 43 for the sixth-wicket with Kapali and Mahmud, also scoring 28, adding another 34 for the seventh.

Medium-pacer Peter Worthington (3-31 off 12 overs) gave the Academy renewed hope when he dismissed Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza (1) with six needed, but Mahmud steered his side home.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore said his team's performance was a definite improvement on last week's 29-run loss to a Queensland Academy of Sport invitation team at the same ground.

"But there's still glaring areas to improve on," Whatmore said.

"Generally speaking, we batted better and there were some encouraging signs and I thought we bowled okay in patches.

"We fielded alright, the ground fielding was a lot better so things

are starting to go in the right direction."

Whatmore said his players needed to concentrate on finishing off the job properly in their four-day game against a Northern Territory Chief Minister's team



ASHRAFUL ... superb 61

starting in Darwin on Thursday, their final match before the first Test begins on July 18 in Darwin.

Academy captain Aaron Nye (89 not out) declared his team's second innings at 203 for four before lunch after extending his overnight stand with Callum Ferguson (48

not out to 131.

The Academy side, which included five players with senior interstate experience, lost only seven wickets in the match, compared to Bangladesh's 15.

"It's unusual you lose a game of cricket when you bat, bowl and field better," Academy coach Bennett Kings said.

Although he felt Bangladesh lacked a world-class bowler and batsman to build its side around, King said they would be competitive against Australia from "an exuberance side" and felt they showed a lot of energy and passion.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third day of a three-day tour match between Australia's Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy and Bangladesh on Saturday (Bangladesh named 12 players, any 11 bat, any 11 bowl):  
**COMMONWEALTH BANK CRICKET ACADEMY:** First innings 258-3 declared

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 232-7 declared

**CBCA:** Second innings (overnight 99-4)

Meuleman c Aziz b Mashrafe 29

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## Nitol-Tata football Final round draw today

UNB, Dhaka

The draw for the final round of the Nitol-Tata National Football League, the main battle of the prestigious domestic soccer meet, will be held at the National Sports Council at 3:00 this afternoon.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will be present as chief guest during the ceremony. Information Secretary KM Nazmul Alam Siddiqui, Managing Director of BFDC Wasimul Bari Rajib and Chairman of the Nitol-Tata Group Abdul Matlub Ahmed will be present as special guests.

Ten teams will be split into two groups for the first phase of the final round to be held in five divisional venues across the country from July 11.

Holders Mohammedan, runners-up Abahani, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Arambagh Krira Sangsad, all four teams from Dhaka, have been directly placed in the final round alongside six zonal champions Bangladesh Army, Moulvibazar Wanderers Club, Chittagong Mohammedan SC, Sirajganj Mohammedan SC, Jhenidah Mohammedan SC and Jamalpur Jagarani Club.

The first phase will be played in Chittagong, Sylhet, Barisal, Khulna and Dhaka.

Six teams, three from each group, will then split into two groups and play in the second phase again on robin league basis with the top two from each group advancing to the semifinals.

## Green Delta hockey

UNB, Dhaka

Azad Sporting Club blanked Barnak Samaj 6-0 in the Green Delta Metropolis Senior Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Skipper Russell Mahmud and Sultan Mahmud scored twice each while Azaduzzaman and Tariqul Islam netted one goal each for the winners.

The day's other match between Farashganj SC and Victoria SC ended in one-all draw at the same venue.

## India A ride on Rohan

CRICINFO, undated

Rohan Gavaskar scored a majestic century as India A cruised to a seven-wicket victory against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge on Friday.

There had been little prospect of a result after rain washed out the whole of Thursday's play, but a captain's agreement secured India a target of 340, after both sides forfeited an innings. It was achieved in grand style, as Gavaskar cracked four sixes and 17 fours in his 139 from 181 balls.

India stuttered at first Charles Shree bowled Wasim Jaffer for 0, and Andy Harris followed up with the wicket of Shiv Sunder Das. But Gavaskar shared in a third-wicket stand of 148 with Satyajit Parab, who made 90 from 108 balls before being bowled by Daniel Vettori (169 for 3), then guided India home in the company of Ambati Rayadu (71 not out).

Nottinghamshire had earlier declared on 339 for 5, with Usman Afzaal carrying his first-century into a superb unbeaten 161. Gareth Clough (55) gave him excellent support in a fourth-wicket partnership of 160.



PHOTO: AFP

Serena Williams poses with her trophy.

# Serena again



AFP, London

Defending champion and top seed Serena Williams beat her elder sister Venus, the two-time champion and fourth seed, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in 2hr 03min to win the Wimbledon women's singles title on Saturday.

Serena won on her first match point when Venus slammed a forehand long to end a tense encounter whereupon Serena jumped up joyfully and waved to the crowd - while her beaten sibling made ready to take a picture of the champion as she had done 12 months earlier.

But by then Venus was hurting badly with an abdominal strain and hip injury which increasingly hampered her movement.

"I just had to tell myself to look at the ball and nothing else," said Serena. "It was really tough. She's really inspiring for me."

Venus, 23, came out with heavy strapping around her stomach under her stylish dress in

Wimbledon white to combat the abdominal problem which had hampered her semifinal win over Kim Clijsters of Belgium.

"I came out because I just thought the people the fans deserved a final - that's why I was out here," said Venus.

"She was playing the best this whole tournament," she added, insisting Serena deserved the title.

Adding to her anxieties was a left hip strain which necessitated further strapping and a WTA spokeswoman said before the start she was only 75 percent fit.

But the former champion still managed a smile as she won the toss and elected to serve.

Serena went into the match having defeated her elder sibling in four of the five most recent women's Grand Slam finals over 13 months dating back to last year's French Open.

The 21-year-old also beat Venus in last year's Wimbledon final, winning 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 on that occasion to deny her sister a hattrick of victories.

Now they stand at 2-2 in titles here.

While Venus, the 2000 and 2001 champion, established early dominance by winning the first three meetings of an on-court rivalry which neither player enjoys, Serena has now won their last six meetings.

On every occasion, the sister winning the first set had gone on to triumph - and Venus, taken to three sets in both her quarter-final and semi, looked set fair after racing 3-0 clear with a break to love and notching 11 straight points.

But Serena saved four break points in the fourth game as she held for 1-3 and Venus then saw her first serve desert her with Serena breaking, then holding to love for 3-3 - before Venus held after saving two break points.

A double fault from Serena in the tenth game, a missed overhead and then an unsuccessful drop shot moved Venus, who defied medical advice not to play the French Open a month ago, a set clear in 43min.

However, Serena streaked 5-2 clear in the second despite a first Venus ace having broken in the t h i r d

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## Did U Know?

Bhagwat Chandrasekhar is the only cricketer who got a pair, out for zero in both innings, on four occasions in Tests. He did these: against New Zealand in 1975-76, against England in 1976-77 and twice against Australia in 1977-78.



**ESPN**  
England vs Zimbabwe  
NatWest Series  
Seventh ODI  
Live at 3:45 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Wimbledon C'ships  
Women's Singles Final &  
Mixed Doubles Final  
Repeat at 9:30 am  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
Taped Version at 9:00 pm  
Wimbledon C'ships  
Men's Singles Final &  
Women's Doubles Final  
Same Day Delay at 9:30 pm



**Saber Hossain Chowdhury**

(Former Bangladesh Cricket Board president)

"There's no leadership in the present Board. It appears to me that the BCB is functioning without a vision and a roadmap. If it continues like this, our cricket will only go back while our competitors will move ahead."

## Asian basketball BD meet India in opener

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will meet hosts India in the inaugural match of the 22nd Men's Asian Basketball Confederation tournament at the Delhi indoor stadium on July 9.

Seventeen members squad left Dhaka on July 2.

Bangladesh along with India and Sri Lanka are placed in Group A while in Group B Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Nepal.

Bangladesh will play their second match on July 10 against Sri Lanka.



PHOTO: AFP

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak sweeps one on way to scoring a face-saving half-century against South Africa at Cardiff yesterday.

# Heath goes to the rescue

**Cricket**

REUTERS, Cardiff

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak hit a defiant half-century to help his side recover from a slow start against South Africa in their one-day triangular series match on Saturday.

Streak struck some lusty blows, including six fours and a six, in his 72-ball 54 as Zimbabwe limped to 174 for eight from 50 overs after being asked to bat first at Sophia Gardens.

South Africa's bowlers, who shared the wickets around, had taken control before Streak's late hitting breathed new life into the innings.

Makhaya Ntini made the initial breakthrough, Douglas Marillier mis-timing a pull to square leg with the score on 11, but it was his new-ball partner Shaun Pollock who checked Zimbabwe's early progress.

Former captain Pollock found plenty of bounce from just short of a length and, although his opening spell did not yield a wicket, he conceded just eight runs from seven impressive overs, including three maidens.

Travis Friend (12) and Dion Ebrahim (20) threatened a recovery

of sorts before the pair fell in quick succession, the latter falling to Jacques Kallis, who had dropped the opener at second slip in the fourth over of the day.

Recalled left-arm spinner Paul Adams then accounted for Tatenda Taibu (19) with a ball that straightened to trap him leg before.

Stuart Matsikenyeri fell cheaply after flicking carelessly to square leg and, when Grant Flower (26) dragged on to give Andrew Hall a second quick wicket, Zimbabwe were struggling at 92 for six.

Ervine then joined Streak to add a useful 52 runs in 11 overs for the seventh wicket, before the Zimbabwe captain brought up his 50 with a thumping six over extra cover off Kallis.

But Kallis took revenge by yorking Streak in the 48th over, his third wicket of the innings.

South Africa, who lead the series standings after beating England by seven wickets at Old Trafford on Thursday, need to win one more game to reach the final.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe innings against South Africa in the NatWest one-day triangular series at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff on Saturday:

ZIMBABWE

Ebrahim c Boucher b Kallis	20
Marillier c Rudolph b Ntini	4
Friend b Langeveldt	12
Flower b Hall	26
Taibu lbw b Adams	19
Matsikenyeri c Rudolph b Hall	1
Streak b Kallis	54
Ervine c Boucher b Kallis	18
Blignaut not out	13
Price not out	3
Extras: (lb-1, w-2, nb-1)	4
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs)	174
Did not bat: Hondo	
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-36, 3-38, 4-67, 5-80, 6-92, 7-144, 8-167	
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>R</b> <b>W</b>
Pollock	10 3 23 0
Ntini	10 2 36 1
Langeveldt	6 0 22 1
Kallis	10 0 47 3
Adams	8 0 26 1
Hall	6 2 19 2

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Graeme Smith (captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Jacques Rudolph, Mark Boucher, Martin van Jaarsveld, Shaun Pollock, Andrew Hall, Charl Langeveldt, Paul Adams, Makhaya Ntini

## Japan Cup judo begins today

BSS, Dhaka

The two-day long Japan Cup Judo Championships begins today at National Sports Council Gymnasium.

A total of 11 teams are taking part in the competition.

The participating teams are: Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Rifles, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansar, Village Defense Party, Bogra District Sports Association, Chittagong Hill Tract Zonal Sports Association, Chapainawabganj Sports Association, Azad Sporting Club, Martial Art Stars Academy and Masha Club.

In all 177 players, including 64 women, will compete in 10 weight categories each in the both men's and women's section.

# Tendulkar fully fit

**Cricket**

REUTERS, Madras

Sachin Tendulkar says he is back to full fitness after having hand surgery in the United States in April.

The India star batsman had the operation to repair a bone injury at the base of his left ring finger, which had been troubling him since the end of 2002.

"I am fully fit now and I am very much looking forward to the New Zealand series," the 30-year-old Tendulkar told reporters on Saturday.

Tendulkar, who has been troubled by a series of wear-and-tear injuries in the last few years, had been expected to undergo rehabilitation for over four months follow-

ing his surgery, but said he felt no discomfort.

A foot injury sidelined him for the 2001 tour of Sri Lanka and an ankle injury during the December-January series in New Zealand kept him out of five one-dayers.

Despite his protracted hand problem, he scored 673 runs at an average of 61.18 to be named player of the World Cup earlier this year, but was then forced to pull out of a one-day tri-series in Dhaka in April.

India's next major engagement will be their home Test series against New Zealand, which starts in the second week of October. They will also play a triangular one-day series, also featuring Australia.

India will then tour Australia at the end of the year.

# Chance to be champ



AFP, London

With Australian serve machine Mark Philippoussis standing in the way of sizzling Swiss star Roger Federer the Wimbledon men's singles final will be marked by an intriguing clash of styles as both men chase their first Grand Slam crown.

Federer, the artist, turned in a performance of such brilliance in seeing off semifinal rival Andy Roddick, the US fifth seed, in straight sets that it is hard to believe he can maintain the same level across Sunday's trophy match.

The bandana-clad 21-year-old from Basle has been waiting to claim the mantle of king of Wimbledon ever since he roasted Pete Sampras on Centre Court two years ago in the fourth round and now looks the real deal for the future of the men's game.

At 19 years of age the challenge came too early against Sampras and Tim Henman knocked him out in the quarters.

Two years on, however, it seems

little can stop Federer becoming the first Swiss champion at the All England Club after he crushed Roddick 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-3.

Yet Philippoussis, though he may



MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS



ROGER FEDERER

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