

## Show support, don't criticise

RABEED IMAM from Chittagong

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore thinks that inconsistent bounce rather than short-pitched bowling undid his batsmen on the fourth day of the second Test.

"There was a bit of bounce when they played against Shoaib Akhter in Pakistan and also the three quicks of Australia who are pretty quality bowlers and we handled them pretty well. But I just feel that it was the variable bounce on this wicket that was the enemy of the batsmen rather than the actual length of the ball. The way the ball was moving made it hard for the batsmen," said Whatmore after the Tigers slumped to their 25th defeat in 26 Tests.

The Sri Lanka-born Australian was however philosophical rather than critical about this latest setback.

"It was disappointing no question about it. But the fact of the matter is it becomes a mental game when you are so far back from your opponent on the fourth day. It takes a super-human effort just to dig in and dig in and that doesn't come around most often. We also had two run outs which made matters worse especially the one of Habibul Bashar who was playing the pullshot beautifully."

Whatmore believed blasting the team for their failure wasn't the way to go about things at this stage.

"It's easy to sit back on the fence and criticise and I'm not saying some of those aren't correct. But we need support at the moment and not people saying we were terrible."

"We have been doing really well. We have played nine days of Test match cricket against England. Perhaps two of those nine days England dominated. You can't say that about the other seven days. So I would like to step back and

look at it globally and come out with a few other angles rather than being negative and hitting the team hard."

Whatmore said that he would be patient and not jump into conclusions regarding the state of Bangladesh's cricket.

"From my experience, I can tell you that for any team that is aiming for the top from low down, the improvement graph is never a straight one. There will

be dips here and there but how they come out of it in the future will determine how good or bad this team was."

The coach said that not playing another specialist pace bowler in Tapas Baisya by dropping one of the two left-arm spinners on a wicket favouring seam movement wasn't a decisive factor as far as he was concerned.

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### SERIES SALAD

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Home crowd's frustration knows no bound as Bangladesh batsmen caved in against England in just three-and-a-half days in the second and final Test at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Even the English fans wondered the way the Tigers committed suicide one after another before a five thousand partisan crowd.

"Skipper Khaled Mahmud had promised us beforehand that his team won't repeat the mistakes of Dhaka here and you see what the entire team did actually. What 'bad' they did in Dhaka turned 'worse' in Chittagong which is traditionally known as a batting paradise," fumed college student Sumon sitting at the gallery close to media centre. His friends echoed the same dejected sentiments.

Shahin Aftabur Reza, a former cricketer and convenor of liaison sub-committee, was so frustrated that he left the pavilion before lunch and watched the reminder on TV.

"England had played on our weakness by pitching the

ball short. The ploy paid off every time," commented Shahin.

"On this perfect batting track, a 200-plus score was always attainable. The way Habibul Bashar and others batted it was as if they were playing in a one day match or chasing a close target and the two run outs in a Test match, I am sorry to say, is a criminal offence," Shahin went on.

Vic Marks, a journalist of London-based The Observer, was also surprised at the "dismal" performance of the Tigers. "I didn't expect they would surrender so timidly. May be, Bangladesh players are more accustomed to the shorter version of the game."

"I think, England captain Michael Vaughan himself might not have expected such a comfortable win," Marks said.

#### THE CLAIRVOYANT!

An elderly Englishman along with his wife and son was watching the match sitting near the media centre. Two unbeaten batsmen just came in after lunch when

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PHOTO: AFP  
IF YOU PLAY LIKE THIS, YOU'RE GONE: Alok Kapali of Bangladesh miscues a hook only to be caught by Martin Saggars off Richard Johnson on the fourth day of the second Test against England at Chittagong yesterday.

### Young faces for ODIs?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh think-tank is planning to give debuts to a couple of under-19 players in the one-day series against England.

The issue of bleeding more youths into the national team would be the main agenda when Faruque Ahmed-led selection committee sits today to discuss about the formation of the one-day squad.

At the moment the selectors are very much worried with the batting that's why they are interested to inject new blood in the one-day squad.

It was learnt Bangladesh under-19 skipper Nafees Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed stand good chances to make their one-day debuts against the tourists.

"We will meet tomorrow to discuss the whole thing. We are not ruling out the possibility of taking in some under-19 players but every

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### Wari thrive on Aminul treble

SPORTS REPORTER

Aminul scored the first hattrick of the Tibet Federation Cup Football Tournament as he guided Wari Club to a huge 5-0 victory over Bangla-desh Police at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The old city club went into the breather with a 3-0 lead.

Sayed Hossain put the winners ahead in the 15th minute while Aminul struck twice in the 19th and 23rd minutes.

Mamun widened the gap in the 60th minute while Aminul completed his treble only two minutes before the long whistle.

In another match, Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra recorded a 2-0 win against BRTC Sporting Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

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### Vaughan afraid of tougher SL series

REUTERS, Chittagong

England captain Michael Vaughan has warned teammates to expect a tough contest in Sri Lanka after his side's 2-0 Test series win over Bangladesh here on Saturday.

England travel to Sri Lanka for three Tests after finishing a one-day series in Bangladesh on November 12.

"We did well to win 2-0, but there's a very tough series coming up in Sri Lanka," Vaughan said.

"We've won seven of our 10 Tests this year, but Sri Lanka will give us a

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### Did U Know?

David Boon broke his bat in two whilst playing for Australia vs New Zealand at Adelaide in December 1990.



### Zinedine Zidane

(French football superstar) "Our performance since the last World Cup has been more than positive. Our game of old has returned."



### TEN Sports

Asian U-19 Cricket Tournament  
India vs Pakistan  
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

TVS Cup Triangular Series  
India vs Australia  
Highlights  
Repeat at 1:30 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Liverpool vs Fulham  
Live at 8:55 pm

Leicester City vs Blackburn Rovers  
Live at 10:00 pm

### STAR Sports

Bangladesh vs England  
Second Test, Day Four  
Highlights  
Repeat at 8:00 am  
Primera Liga  
Mallorca vs Valencia  
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)

**Star WHIZZ KID**  
COMPETITION 200  
Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Nov 14, 2003 and draw

1. What was Nafis Iqbal's score against England in the first innings of the second practice match?

120	118	122
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2. What was Matthew Hayden's world record score in Test cricket?

379	380	381
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3. Who won the Women's World Cup football title?

USA	Germany	Sweden
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4. Who became nat'l kabaddi champions?

Army	BDR	Navy
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Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....



PHOTO: AFP  
England's (L-R) Mark Butcher, Marcus Trescothick and Chris Read celebrate the fall of Khaled Mashud's wicket at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

## Flintoff promises fireworks

BISHWAJIT ROY

If the carnage left by Stephen Harmison and Richard Johnson was not enough, Bangladesh will surely be examined by the another fearsome England quick Andrew Flintoff in the three-match one-day series.

The 25-year old Lancashire right arm fast bowler and an exciting big hitter is now in the city to bolster the English arsenal ahead of the one-dayers starting on November 7.

The gentle giant, who has been proclaimed the new Ian Botham, made his intentions very clear that he was ready to begin where he left off in the home series against South Africa.

Flintoff was in a devastating form against the Proteas last month but missed the Test leg of the Bangladesh tour due a last minute injury.

Speaking to the reporters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday the world-class all-rounder issued a warning to the Tigers that was back to full fitness.

"I am now fully fit and trying my best to regain the form I was in against South Africa in the last series," said the burly cricketer.

Although England without Flintoff won the two Test series with ease the soft-spoken was polite enough to say that he was not taking Bangladesh lightly in the ODIs. The first match will be held at Chittagong.

"Yes, they lost the Test series but I think Test and one-day is a different ball game. I believe we should also work hard in the one-dayers against an improving Bangladesh," said Flintoff, who has the uncanny ability to win a match on his own.

"I'm excited to return to international cricket after an enforced break. I am rearing to go," said the smiling assassin, who had just clobbered three massive sixes to have the feel of the Dhaka wicket. And the way sent the ball flying to all parts only means one thing that the BNS might not be big enough to contain the giant from Lancashire.

"It was unfortunate to miss the Test series against Bangladesh and have the groin injury again in the summer. Actually I played lot of cricket this season

and may be that caused the injury", he said.

His average belies his brute strength. Played 62 one-day internationals at the average of 27.04 and captured 59 wickets, Flintoff must be eyeing that elusive hundred in the shorter version. He did not think that the hot and humid condition would effect his style of play.

"I have to India before. So, it would not be a big problem for me to adopt with the condition," he assured.

Flintoff said that he was working hard to prove his critics wrong. Many feel that the tall all-rounder never lived up to his potential.

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### Mashrafee flies to Dhaka for 2nd MRI

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Fast bowler Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza is due to fly off to Dhaka this morning to have his injured knee assessed by a specialist.

"We are sending him to Dhaka where Col. Jahangir of the Combined Military Hospital will have a second MRI scan of his knee to see the extent of damage," said team manager Lt. Col. (Retd) MA Latif Khan yesterday.

Just after lunch on day three of the second Test, the 20-year-old's right knee gave way when he was in his bowling follow-through. He went down clutching the knee and had to be carried off the field. An MRI was done at a local diagnostic centre and the report was later sent to Col. Jahangir who is a specialist in the relevant field. But that first scan was reportedly not conclusive and that's why the fast bowler had to be moved to Dhaka.

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### B'desh U-19s face SL today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team take on Sri Lanka Under-19s in their second match of the four-nation Asian Under-19 tournament in Karachi today.

The Nafees Iqbal-led Bangladesh juvenile team suffered a 117-run defeat against hosts Pakistan in their opening encounter on Friday.

Meanwhile, Pakistan face traditional rivals India in the other match of the day in Lahore.

### BD-ENG SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and England at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Saturday:

**ENGLAND:** First innings 326 all out in 135.3 overs (Nasser Hussain 76, Marcus Trescothick 60, Rikki Clarke 55, Michael Vaughan 54; Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza 4-60, Mushfiqur Rahman 2-50, Mohammad Rafique 2-81)

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 152 all out in 62.1 overs (Rajin Saleh 32, Hannan Sarker 28, Mushfiqur Rahman 28; Richard Johnson 5-49, Rikki Clarke 2-7, Martin Saggars 2-29)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings 293 for 5 declared in 67 overs (Nasser Hussain 95, Graham Thorpe 54, Mark Butcher 42, Chris Read 38 not out; Mohammad Rafique 3-106)

BANGLADESH:	Second innings (target 468)	R	M	B	4	6
Hannan Sarker c Chris Read b Richard Johnson	4	8	8	1	0	0
Javed Omar c Chris Read b Martin Saggars	18	73	51	3	0	0
Habibul Bashar run out (Martin Saggars/Chris Read)	21	31	21	2	0	0
Rajin Saleh c Chris Read b Rikki Clarke	9	56	37	1	0	0
Mushfiqur Rahman run out (M Vaughan/Nasser Hussain)	6	9	6	1	0	0
Alok Kapali c Martin Saggars b Richard Johnson	19	30	18	1	1	1
Khaled Mashud c Chris Read b Richard Johnson	15	34	27	1	0	0

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PHOTO: ZOAER HOSSAIN SIKDER  
WINNER TAKES IT ALL: England captain Michael Vaughan (R) receives the Standard Chartered Test series trophy from the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Shafiqul Islam after his side won the second Test.