

Vaughan afraid

FROM PAGE 13 real indication of where we stand. All the players need to keep themselves fit and really focused on that."

England beat Bangladesh by a huge 329-run target on the fourth day after having to struggle for a seven-wicket win on a slow pitch in Dhaka.

"Chittagong certainly suited our style of play better," Vaughan said. "The wicket in Dhaka was a passive, slow pitch which definite suits Bangladesh.

"There was a bit more bounce here and all our four seamers exploited the conditions superbly."

Somerset pacesman Richard Johnson grabbed a match haul of nine wickets, including five for 49 in the first innings and Bangladesh were bowled out for 152 and 138.

"He's given us a headache with this performance, me and the selectors," Vaughan said. "He got an opportunity because of Steve Harmison's injury, and he's utilised it fully."

Harmison flew back to England before the start of the match due to a back strain.

Aminul hatricket

FROM PAGE 13 Bulbul scored in the 14th minute while Milon doubled the margin in the 56th.

TODAY'S MATCHES Bangladesh Under-20 v Mohakhali Eleven (Mirpur)

Bangladesh Navy v Sadharan Bima KS (Kamalapur)

Mashrafeeflies

FROM PAGE 13 "We are not in a position to comment on his condition until the specialist in Dhaka has seen Mashrafeef. But hopefully it won't keep him out of action for too long.

He did come to the ground today and that speaks of his mental strength," added Latif.

However, the bowler himself was cautious in his expectations.

"The last time I injured my knee, I could walk rather normally and even run a bit," said Mashrafeef who had a protective strapping on his injured knee, before leaving the MA Aziz Stadium.

The Bangladesh team will be staying back in Chittagong and prepare for the first of three one-day internationals beginning on November 7. England meanwhile will leave the port city today for Dhaka and come back a day before the first ODI.

Flintoff promises

FROM PAGE 13 "I follow my own game regularly which is the key to improving my performances. I'm sure everything come together here."

When asked whether he followed the Test series against Bangladesh in television Flintoff sounded naive.

"The match started too early at 4am (England time) that's why I only watched the highlights of the first Test. But I can only say they have improved a lot," he added.

Asked if he liked being compared to the great Ian Botham, the exciting cricketer appeared modest in his response.

"I am just only 25 and I've still got a lot of cricket in me. He is a legend and I've a long way to go before I can be considered in that same company."

England one-day assistant coach Tim Boon, who arrived here on Wednesday along with seven one-day players, supervised the training since Thursday at the BNS.

"Actually we have a lot of talented players and they are very keen to find their place in the squad," said Boon.

He also informed that Flintoff and fast bowler James Anderson are fully fit for the one-day series.

"We have been working very hard since our arrival here. The guys have almost adapted to the condition," said the assistant coach.



Indian Grand Master Pentala Harikrishna (L) makes a move while fellow Grand Master Surya Shekhar Ganguly looks on during their tenth round engagement in the Asian Zonal Chess Championship at the NSC yesterday.

Roddick on a roll



AFP, Paris

Andy Roddick celebrated his rise to the summit of men's tennis by beating Jonas Bjorkman 7-5, 7-6 on Friday and the world number one will play Briton Tim Henman in the Paris Masters semifinals.

Unseeded Henman beat Wimbledon champion Roger Federer 7-6, 6-1 and the Swiss third seed's chances of ending the year as number one have now all but disappeared.

Against a tiring opponent, Henman played top quality serve-volley tennis.

The Briton has beaten three times French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, seventh seed Sebastien Grosjean and now Federer here. Asked whether he had ever played better, Henman said: "Never, I've never played with such consistency."

"It's exciting to be in this position and it will be a big match tomorrow."

The other semifinal is an all-eastern European affair between Czech 14th seed Jiri Novak, who defeated top seed Juan Carlos Ferrero on Thursday, and unseeded Romanian Andrei Pavel.

Roddick, who took top spot in the rankings just 24 hours ago, was always in control on his own serve against Bjorkman and in one game in the first set won all four points with aces.

Bjorkman hung in there bravely before the American broke his serve in the 12th game thanks to two superb backhand passes from the baseline.

The second set followed a similar pattern although Bjorkman was a net



Briton Tim Henman plays backhand against Roger Federer of Switzerland at the Paris Masters Series tournament on Friday.

Bigger and bigger WC

AFP, London

The 2007 World Cup in the West Indies looks set to be expanded to take in 16 teams, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced after a meeting in Barbados.

"While the Board agreed to expand the tournament to 16 teams divided into four groups of four, there was considerable discussion about the most effective format for the tournament beyond the group stage," said a statement.

"The meeting considered the request from its commercial partner, Global Cricket Corporation to play more games than the originally proposed 42 matches.

"Further investigations and consultations will now take place before the final tournament structure is agreed."

A Roddick win against Henman on Saturday would rule Federer out of the race for the year-end number one spot.

Free of pressure, Henman has played fluidly but he was on the back foot for much of the first set and saved two set points in the 12th game.

Federer netted a simple forehand with the opposite court wide open to give away the first and on the second Henman, scrambling back after being lobbed, turned and hit a blind backhand down the line which the Swiss hit long.

Henman wasted one set point in the tiebreak with a double fault but won it on his third. Federer, winner of six tournaments this year, collapsed in the second set once his serve had been broken in the fourth game.

Mahmud felt the batsmen didn't compliment the bowlers in Chittagong and that's where the match was decided.

"I thought the bowlers bowled extremely well. But the batsmen couldn't apply themselves in this Test."

The captain, who took a number of blows on his body from short-pitched deliveries, also suggested that the pitch played a part in the batting collapse.

"I believe they bowled short at me as I love to play the pull. But as the coach has pointed out, it was the inconsistency of the bounce that made it very difficult. If you tried to leave the ball it came at your body."

Mahmud, who has had a torrid time as a player but has proved himself as good motivator and an astute decision maker, said he would love to continue as captain.

"It's up to the selectors. But I would like to carry on."

BD-ENG SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Khaled Mahmud, Michael Vaughan, Richard Johnson, etc.

FROM PAGE 13 Khaled Mahmud c Michael Vaughan b Richard Johnson 33 58 40 3 1

FROM PAGE 13 Bangladesh were flagging on the 'hotbed' with 91 for six.

"Vaughan's bowlers will take just over half an hour to rattle the Tigers' tail," said the man in his sixties when asked whether Bangladesh would survive the fourth day or not.

And amazingly, the English pacers took 56 minutes after lunch to wind up the game with one and a half days to spare.

His son was more concerned at the mood of the galleries.

"Everyone in the stands become so unhappy with the silly batting of the batsmen. The Bangladesh batters in this match showed pathetic application and determination," he said hoping that the Tigers would at least put up a better show in the three-match one-day series.

MISSES WIN MATCHES English fielders committed too many (comedy) of errors during the morning session of the day. But those missed opportunities in the slip cordon did not make any difference as Bangladesh, given a mammoth fourth innings target, still could not capitalise.

Graham Thorpe and Marcus Trescothick dropped at least three straight-forward catches. But neither Bashir nor Javed Omar made any real progress after that.

A WISE MAHMUD! "The defeat could have been worse had captain Khaled Mahmud not decided to bowl first," commented Kalim Sarwar, general secretary of Chittagong Press Club after the match. A university student, Rashid, also supported the view despite Mahmud's decision to field first surprised many.

Harikrishna and Ganguly joint leaders

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Grand Master Pentala Harikrishna caught up with his compatriot and fellow GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly to jointly lead the Asian Zonal Chess Championship after the end of the tenth round at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Harikrishna went to the top with a win in his ninth round bout against IM Reefat Bin Sattar of Bangladesh and a draw against Ganguly in the next.

Ganguly was earlier held to a draw in the ninth round against IM S Kidambi. Both Harikrishna and Ganguly now have 8.5 points each.

Another Indian Grand Master Abhijit Kunte was in the second place with 6.5 points as he beat Krishna Thapa in the ninth round and won the tenth round board against Amir Karim.

In other ninth round matches, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib beat IM Tejas Bakre, GM Ziaur Rahman beat Amir Karim and GM Niaz Murshed beat VTS Svothayan.

In the tenth round, Zia beat Kidambi, Reefat beat Svothayan, Rajib drew with Niaz and Bakre beat Thapa.5

In the women's division, Indian IWM S Minakshie maintained her solo lead with a draw against Aarthie Ramaswamy at the end of the 13th round at the same venue.

Young faces

FROM PAGE 13 thing depends on their availability and other factors," said the chief selector to The Daily Star Sport last night.

The Bangladesh under-19 team is currently in Pakistan to play in the Asian Under-19 Tournament and are likely to return home on November 6, the day before the first one-day international at Chittagong.

Although the selectors are planning to include some rookies but they ruled out a recall to Mohammad Ashraful at the moment. Ashraful will feature in a one-day practice match for the BCB Development squad against England at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 5.

Show support

FROM PAGE 13 "You can say a lot of things in hindsight. But I don't think it was the difference between the two teams."

Whatmore was asked about Alok Kapali's reckless attitude in the two Tests when he repeatedly got out trying to hook.

"That boy is a gifted cricketer and only 20 years of age. He's got a lot to learn. Still, I think he plays the hook shot pretty well and also the pull shot. So he should continue playing them," said Whatmore.

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud said he had no regrets about bowling first in this Test.

"The wicket appeared to have something for the pace bowlers so we fielded. There is always the question of outcome but we are not discussing about it at the moment. What is important to me is that the players really want to play good cricket and that is a big plus."

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Action from yesterday's Tibet Federation Cup football encounter between Wari Club and Bangladesh Police at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Marauding Martyn

FROM PAGE 16 Skipper Ricky Ponting (31) tried to steady the innings with Martyn, but did not last long. He looked a bit surprised when given out leg-before by England umpire Niel Mallender.

The run-rate did not decline as Symonds and Martyn continued the good job.

Symonds was more aggressive, hoisting left-arm spinner Yuvraj over long-off for a six before falling in a bid to step up the scoring. He was caught pulling Yuvraj at deep mid-wicket after hitting one six and four boundaries.

There was no stopping Martyn, who continued to gather runs comfortably with Bevan.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the Australian innings in the TVS Cup one-day triangular series match against India in Bombay on Saturday: AUSTRALIA

Table with columns for Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Hayden, Ponting, Martyn, Symonds, etc.

FROM PAGE 16 present dangers in the country, he had to continue in the coaching role to show those who criticised him that they were wrong.

"I have never been Saddam's coach, I have never met him, I have never met his son," he said.

"I cannot speak about him because I don't know him. All I know about him is his punishments, his tortures."

"But I have never been his coach. I am the coach of my boys."

"They are committed, they have a passion for the game. That's why I am there. That is why I am fighting with them. They need me."

Stange is visiting Western Australia, where he coached top club side Perth Glory for three years until 2001, to pave the way for a match between Iraq and Australia here November 16.

Proceeds from the match -- termed a World Peace Game -- will go to a fund to help to re-establish football in the war-ravaged country.

Iraq have already qualified for next year's Asian Cup, meaning they are one of the best 16 teams in Asia despite the deprivations after the recent conflict.

Stange said that in Iraq he felt he was in danger every day.

"I have two bodyguards and I have a car with black curtains," he said.

"I cannot move and I cannot walk in Baghdad. I go straight from my hotel to a training pitch in the suburbs."

"I have had a gun put to my head and a demand for my camera, which I gave up. I was frightened for my life."

Ferguson slams

FROM PAGE 16 for their next two matches - a visit of Fulham and a League Cup clash with Wolves.

Lauren will serve the final match of his ban when Arsenal travel to bottom side Leicester on December 6.

The hefty bans for Keown and Lauren reflected their central role in the violent jostling of United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy immediately after the final whistle.

Parlour was also part of the group that surrounded and jeered the Dutch forward over a late penalty miss.

Veira paid the price for his failure to leave the field immediately after being sent off for kicking out at van Nistelrooy late in the game.

The fine imposed on Arsenal was for the club's failure to control its players and was the highest ever imposed on an English club by the governing body.

Manchester United players Ryan Giggs and Cristiano Ronaldo also face disciplinary action over the incidents at Old Trafford. Their cases are still pending however because United are contesting the charges of improper conduct laid against them.

BCB Dev squad starts training

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Development Squad players yesterday started their practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

All fourteen selected players reported to coach Sarwar Imran on time.

Test cap Ehsanul Haq will lead the side for the limited-overs practice match against England to be held on November 5 at the BNS.

The match will be important for two national discards Mohammad Ashraful and right-arm pacesman Talha Jubair as the duo will be looking for a place on the national side for the three-match one-day series against the Englishmen.

Talented opening batsman and part-time leg-spinner Ashraful knocked in the nets for a long time with his left-handed partner Humayun Kabir.

SQUAD Ehsanul Haq (captain), Mohammad Ashraful (vice-captain), Humayun Kabir, Dhiman Ghosh (wicket-keeper), Nasiruddin Farook, Kafi Khan, Ashiqur Rahman, Manjarul Islam Rana, Ali Arman, Nazmul Hossain, Safaq Al Jaber, Talha Jubair, Arif Hossain and Gazi Alamgir.

FROM PAGE 16 ful for the trip to Fulham because of a swollen ankle. Houllier will also make late decisions on the fitness of centreback Sami Hyypia (hamstring strain) and young striker Florent Sinama-Pongolle (dead leg).

Japan's Junichi Inamoto is suspended for Fulham and boss Chris Coleman could give transfer-listed Fulham midfielder Sean Davis his first start of the season.

L'pool bookies

FROM PAGE 16 strange refereeing. Against Man Utd I picked up a yellow card for a very slight tug on Djemba-Djemba's shirt - it's something that happens in every match by every player, and it was the first thing I'd done wrong.

"I think I've been very unlucky. I'm not a dirty player - all my cards have been soft ones. Perhaps the referees notice me more - or perhaps they just don't like me!"

"I'm suspended for the Liverpool game, and that's disappointing. It's a big game. We beat them at Loftus Road last season and it's a pity to be out when things are going well."

Despite his absence from the match, Inamoto believes that Fulham can hang onto their fifth spot in the table.

"It's very exciting at the moment," he said.

"We have a lot of good players, we're full of confidence and we've got our tactics right, so there's no reason why this good run shouldn't continue."

Chile draft

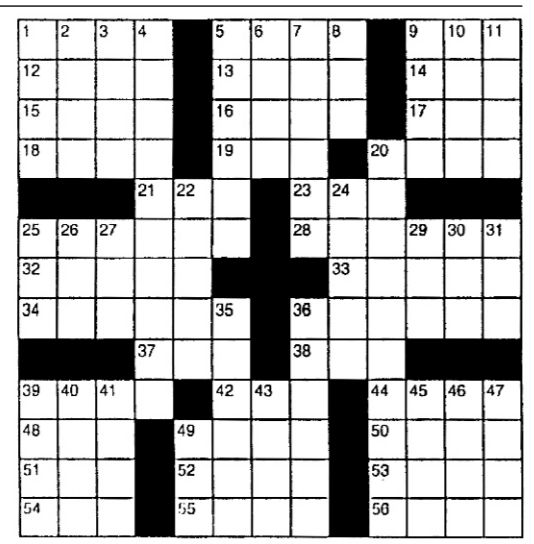
FROM PAGE 16 Rojas (America/MEX), Cristian Alvarez (Universidad Catolica)

MIDFIELDERS: Nicolas Cordoba (Bari/ITA), David Pizarro (Udinese/ITA), Raul Munoz (San Luis Potosi/MEX), Rodrigo Melendez (Quilmes/ARG), Jorge Acuna (Feyenoord/NED), Marcos Gonzalez (Universidad de Chile), Milovan Mirosevic (Racing/ARG), Fernando Martel (Jaguars/MEX), Boris Gonzalez (Cobreloa)

STRIKERS: Reinaldo Navia (Morelia/MEX), Hector Tapia (Lille/FRA), Mauricio Pinilla (Chievo/ITA), Arturo Norambuena (Universidad Catolica), Manuel Neira (Colo Colo), Marcelo Salas (River Plate/ARG), Patricio Galaz (Cobreloa).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Ernie Keebler, e.g. 5 Test the waters 9 Deposit 12 Network 13 Attention-getter 14 Way back when 15 Guy 16 Muchly 17 Thickness 18 Skunk's protection 19 Catcher's place 20 Picks up the tab 21 Second person pronoun 23 Third person pronoun 25 The Southfork saga 28 Destroys 32 Regretful one's remark 33 Mercenary 34 Grad's conferment 36 Irons on screen 37 "Clear Day ..."



CRYPTOQUIP Q D B X T T R B T B B R S L M F X J B V X W U X L M B F N P W R A J R N W B S V N L V S Q D N L R A W B J N L U W Q N T X F B I

Result: England won by 329 runs and win the 2-Test series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Richard Johnson. Man-of-the-series: Matthew Hoggard. Toss: Bangladesh. Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Ashoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).

SERIES SALAD

FROM PAGE 13 Bangladesh were flagging on the 'hotbed' with 91 for six.

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And amazingly, the English pacers took 56 minutes after lunch to wind up the game with one and a half days to spare.