

## Bashar dreaming big

SPORTS REPORTER



As it stands now, anybody can bet for a series whitewash in favour of Bangladesh after the home side's massive nine-wicket victory against Kenya in the second one-day international at the Khulna Divisional Stadium yesterday.

After the performances of the two matches the gulf of difference in the strength of the two teams is in plain view and there is no necessity to consider the past records anymore.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore had signalled his intention of a clean sweep before the series, although many including Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar had a more reserved judgement about the outcome.

But the meek surrender of the East African nation in the first two matches of the four-match series make many now believe that it is not really an improbable task.

Kenya started the series backing themselves, on a much better head to head record against the Tigers,

but Habibul Bashar's men proved that they are now a different reality after thorough international exposure as a Test playing nation.

The 33-year old Bangladesh skipper Bashar was quick to dispel comparisons between his side and the ICC associate member country.

"I don't want to compare our team with Kenya. You all know we have defeated teams like India, Australia and Sri Lanka in the recent past. And I believe as a team we should compete consistently against the big teams and it is actually our ultimate goal," said the confident Bashar.

"We have won the first two matches quite convincingly and we are looking forward to winning the remaining matches in the same fashion," he added.

Despite the Kenyans poor show, the most successful Bangladesh captain quelled talk of any experiments in the last two games to be held at the newly approved Fatullah Cricket Stadium on March 23 and March 25.

"I am totally against any kind of experiment. I want to field my best side to finish the series on a high note ahead of the tough home

series against Australia in April. We are all enjoying the game that's why it would be unwise to break the rhythm," he observed.

Bashar heaped praise on his two new ball bowlers as he thought their efforts in recent times had helped his side to be more competitive in the international level.

"We have improved in every department especially the way the top order has been batting in the series is refreshing for us. But what has impressed me most is the effort of the two new ball bowlers, especially Syed Rasel who has injected new blood in the attack. The right-left bowling combination has worked brilliantly since our Sri Lanka trip."

"Our new ball attack was erratic in the past but the new pair has bought real discipline. It is now proved that if we bat to our potential we can give any of our opponents a tough time," he hoped.

Bashar said that their performance against Sri Lanka in the recently concluded home series enabled them to showcase this visible difference in performance against Kenya.

"As I have repeated often, our

performance against Sri Lanka was quite decent and there was a clear sign of improvement within the squad. And I think that impressive performance has helped us to do much better against Kenya," he added.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Kenya at the Khulna Divisional Stadium on Monday:

KENYA	
Otieno lbw b Rasel	1
Obuya lbw b Rafique	30
Ouma c Razzak b Mortuza	2
Suji c Rafique b Rasel	11
Modi b Razzak	30
Odooy st Mashud b Kapali	18
Mishra run out	33
Kamande c Mashud b Rasel	12
Patel c Kapali b Razzak	0
Suji b Mortuza	7
Ongondo not out	3
Extras: (lb-5, w-8, nb-1)	14

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



THAT'S OUT: Bangladesh left-arm paceman Syed Rasel (R) is elated after Pakistani umpire Nadeem Ghauri raises the dreaded finger to rule Kenyan opener Kennedy Otieno (not in the picture) out leg before during the second ODI at the Bir Shreshtha Matiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna on Monday.

## AFC Cup BU take on Mahindra today

UNB, Dhaka

Local giants Brothers Union Club take on Mahindra United of Mumbai in the Asian Football

Confederation (AFC) Cup today with both teams optimistic of victory. The match kicks off at 4 pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"We are not able to carry out combined practice due to absence of seven players who are currently in the national team. Also defender Sujon is missing through injury," said Brothers Union coach Wazed Gazi while speaking at a press conference on Monday.

"To make up for it we have recruited three national players -- Arif Khan Joy, Abu Faisal and Aminul Haque," he said, adding that he was confident of positive result if the team played to potential.

Brothers' Union Manager Amer Khan and assistant coach of Mahindra United Shaikh Arshad were also present at the conference.

Mahindra United manager

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

## SL A arrive

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka A team, led by national cricketer Jehan Mubarak, arrived in the city on Monday noon to play two four-day and three one-day matches against Bangladesh A.

The visitors will play their first four-day match on March 23-26 in Dhaka and the second four-day match on March 30-April 2 in Bogra.

They will also take part in the first one-day match on April 4 in Bogra, the second on April 6 and the third on April 8, both in Khulna.

## Ticket-touts arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four persons were picked up by police yesterday from outside the Khulna Divisional Stadium for selling tickets of the one-day match in the black-market. The detainees claimed themselves as activists of BNP loyal to BCB president Ali Asgar Lobi MP.

Fifteen tickets in all worth Tk 50 each were seized from their possession. Police said the detainees earlier sold more than 200 tickets of Tk 50 denomination for Tk 400 in the black-market.

It is alleged that a group of BNP leaders of Mayor-Lobi faction were involved in selling tickets in black-market at a price higher than the original.

### KARIM VISITS KHULNA

Former Kenyan cricket captain and running commentator Asif Karim made a surprise visit to Bagerhat on Sunday noon. He was accompanied by Bangladeshi commentator Shamim Ashraf Chowdhury.

They made a courtesy call on Bagerhat Poursasava Chairman Khan Habibur Rahman in his office where former general secretary of Bagerhat District Sports Association Sardar Selim Ahmed, ward commissioners and local journalists were present.

Asif Karim returned to Khulna after paying homage to the shrine of Hazrat Khanjahan Ali and visiting Satgambuj Mosque.

## Harmison out of ODIs

PTI, Mumbai

One more name was added to England's list of fitness casualties with Stephen Harmison being ruled out of the one-day series against India after the fast bowler failed to recover from a bone stress injury to his right shin.

Harmison, who was ruled out of the third and final Test now on here, would be flown home, England and Wales Cricket Board

## What to WATCH

### DD National

India vs England  
3rd Test, Day Four  
Live at 10:30 am

### ESPN

Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm

### STAR Sports

FA Cup  
Birmingham City vs Liverpool  
Live at 1:40 am (Wednesday)



### AFC Cup

Brothers Union vs Mahindra United  
(4:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Third Test on a knife edge



AFP, Mumbai

James Anderson celebrated his comeback with four wickets as England initially seized the initiative in the must-win third and final Test against India here on Monday.

The 23-year-old fast bowler, playing his first Test in more than a year, also brought off a crucial run-out to strengthen his team's chances of squaring the series.

Wicketkeeper Geraint Jones also had a good match, taking three superb catches to finish with five victims in a Test innings for only the second time in his career.

However, England lost Andrew Strauss and makeshift opener Ian Bell before reaching 31-2 in their second innings at stumps on the third day for an overall lead of 152. Debutant Owais Shah was unbeaten on 15 with Shaun Udal (two).

India were earlier bowled out for 279 in their first innings in reply to England's 400.

Strauss, who scored a century in the first innings, made four runs

before being caught behind off seamer Munaf Patel and Bell scored eight before being held by wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni off Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

India were unlucky not to get one more wicket as Yuvraj Singh dropped nightwatchman Udal at third slip in the day's last over.

England trail 1-0 in the series after suffering a nine-wicket defeat in the second Test at Mohali. The opening match ended in a draw at Nagpur.

England's surprise hero was Anderson, whose victims included well-set India captain Rahul Dravid (52) and free-stroking Dhoni (64). He finished with 4-40 off 19.1 economical overs.

Dravid and Dhoni were the only specialist batsmen to offer resistance to England's hostile pace attack on a day when the tourists bowled and fielded brilliantly.

Wicket-keeper Jones caught Yuvraj (37) diving in front of first slip off paceman Andrew Flintoff, held Dravid down the leg-side off Anderson and then took an overhead catch to account for Harbhajan Singh.

England kept pressure on India

from the beginning, with Flintoff and Matthew Hoggard testing the batsmen with pace and bounce and Anderson making scoring difficult with his tidy bowling.

The Indian batsmen could breathe freely only when stand-in captain Flintoff introduced a double-spin attack in the afternoon session.

Dhoni and Irfan Pathan (26) scored comfortably against off-spinner Udal and left-arm spinner Monty Panesar, but the partnership was broken when they tried one shot too many.

Udal, playing only his fourth Test aged 37, claimed his first wicket when he had Pathan caught by Hoggard at mid-off from a lofted drive.

England took the new ball in the 83rd over and Dhoni smashed Flintoff for three fours before being run out in the same over, thanks to Anderson's direct-hit to the non-striker's end from mid-on.

Dhoni smashed 10 fours in his second Test half-century before

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



PHOTO: AFP

THAT'S MY BOY: England captain Andrew Flintoff (L) ruffles James Anderson's (C) hair in approval after he took four wickets on the third day of the third and final Test against India at Mumbai on Monday.

## NZ romp to series victory



AFP, Wellington

Stephen Fleming led New Zealand to an emphatic 10-wicket victory over the West Indies on the fourth day of the second cricket Test, to wrap up the series 2-0 with a game to spare here Monday.

In terms of overs bowled, the win was achieved in just three days of cricket with only foul weather forcing play into the fourth day.

The West Indies started the day at 118 for four in their second innings and were all out for 215 leaving the New Zealand openers Jamie How and Hamish Marshall to quickly knock off the 36 runs required for the win.

But it was Fleming's man-of-the-match 97 that formed the basis of the commanding 180-run first innings lead that proved too big a hurdle for the West Indies to clear,

and meant for the first time in New Zealand's cricket history they have won five successive Test matches.

With Peter Fulton adding 75 and Nathan Astle 65, New Zealand had firm control on the game by the time their innings ended at 372 early on the third day.

But while Fleming's batting paved the way, the New Zealand captain deflected the praise to his bowlers who came into their own following the shock withdrawal of ace speedster Shane Bond with a stomach virus just before the Test began.

"We were a little disappointed to lose Shane but Kyle (Mills) stepped up with six wickets in the match and we were well led by James (Franklin) and Chris (Martin) at the top."

The Test outcome was all but inevitable by the time rain ended play 90 minutes early on the third day with most of the West Indies danger batsmen already back in the pavilion.

When the weather cleared and play began an hour late on the fourth day, Chris Martin struck early, tempting Dwayne Bravo to hook to Nathan Astle at square leg, and Daniel Vettori bowled Denesh Ramdin in the last over before lunch to reduce the West Indies to 156 for six.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul bravely tried to prolong the outcome by providing stubborn resistance to a confident New Zealand bowling attack where everyone was taking wickets.

But the West Indies skipper fell soon after lunch when he knicked Kyle Mills to give Fleming, at first slip, his sixth catch of the game.

Rawl Lewis, with nothing to lose, hit out lustily and reached 40 before becoming the last wicket to

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

## Shooters fail to reach finals

BDNEWS, undated

Neither Suraiya Aktar nor Sharmin Aktar moved into the eight-woman final round of the women's 10m Air Rifle event as both Bangladeshi shooters were ousted from the qualifying round in the 18th Commonwealth Games in Melbourne on Monday.

Suraiya Aktar finished 10th, out of 28, scoring 390 points, two points behind eighth qualifier Heloise Manasco in the final round.

Suraiya, however, improved on her previous Commonwealth Games' record of 386 points in the same event, but her record in the World Cup Shooting was 391 in Germany in June 2005.

Indian Tejaswini Sawant bagged the 10m Air Rifle gold medal scoring a total of 500.6 points - 398 in qualifying and 102.6 in final round.

SAF Games gold medalist Sharmin Aktar finished 16th in the same event scoring 385 points. Sharmin's previous best scorer was 389 in the World Cup Shooting in Munich, Germany, on August 2005.

Kazi Monirul Islam and Mohammad Jewel Ahmed finished 35th and 36th respectively among 45 swimmers in the men's 50m freestyle. Jewel, however, shared his position along with Alexander Ray of Namibia and Mozambican Leonel Mantonse.

Monirul took 25.69 and Jewel took 25.70 seconds to cross the 50-meter distance.

Towhidul Islam, country's lone athlete in Melbourne, finished 43rd, out of 46 athletes, in the men's 400m run clocking 51.70 seconds.

## Ctg wait for final round



SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong will go into the final round of the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League with a crucial two-point lead after the port city outfit drew their penultimate game against fellow title-contenders Rajshahi at the BKSP on Monday.

Chittagong, who win four points by virtue of first-innings lead, however decided to play safe on the fourth and final day instead of having a crack on Rajshahi batting with an overnight lead of 285. The draw also kept Rajshahi afloat in the title race. They will launch their final game with two points behind

Chittagong. Meanwhile, Barisal were only outright winners in this round. They handed a seven-wicket defeat on Sylhet to increase their tally to 27 points while the other match between Dhaka and Khulna also ended in a draw.

Dhaka raised their collection to 28 while Khulna secured 15 points and Sylhet remained on 22 points.

Chittagong will face Barisal while Rajshahi meet Dhaka and Khulna play Sylhet in the last round.

CHITTAGONG-RAJSHAHI Chittagong adopted an ultra-defensive approach after resuming the final day on 184-1. Instead of making a bold declaration to enforce a result they batted till the final session before being bowled out for 360, leaving Rajshahi only survive the remaining 24 overs of play.

Rajshahi did it in style, scoring 113-2.

### DHAKA-KHULNA

Out-of-favour paceman Talha Jubair picked up three wickets as Khulna, chasing an improbable winning target of 317, finished on 184 for 5 with opener Nazmus Sadat hammering a 78-ball 66 in the drawn match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Earlier, Dhaka declared their second innings on 230-8 after resuming the day on 114-3 to take an overall lead of 316. Mehrab Hossain Jr was not out with 50 off 144 balls that contained six fours.

Dhaka however benefited by

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

## MCG dances to Calypso beat

AFP, Melbourne



Jamaica celebrated a sprint double at the Commonwealth Games on Monday as Asafa Powell was crowned men's 100 metres champion and Sheri-Ann Brooks won the women's equivalent.

Their double was the first in the Games history for a country since the sport went metric (the first Games under the new system was in 1970) and gave Powell his first major title.

He became the first Jamaican male since the great Don Quarrie in 1978 to land the title while Brooks started on what could be a long road to emulate her idol and compatriot Merlene Ottey.

Elsewhere Kenya's Augustine Choge denied the 79,000 home spectators a golden climax to the evening as he planted himself firmly in the front line of distance runners beating Aussie Craig Mottram in winning the 5,000m and smashing the Commonwealth Games record in the process.

That was a rare reverse for the hosts on a day when they swept the medals in that quintest of Australian specialities, the 20km walk - even having the rare sight of an Aussie male Nathan Deakes winning gold given their men's failings in the pool-

and won the women's hammer through Brooke Krueger.

South Africa too tasted gold - their second of the athletics competition - as Janus Roberts turned silver from 2002 into gold in 2006.

Athletes' careers can turn on luck and Powell so desperate for an individual title as the doubters grew about the fastest man in the world's ability to master a championships and its pressures certainly had his in spades.

The 23-year-old saw two of his major rivals for the title disqualified from his semi-final - including his compatriot and 2005 world silver medalist Michael Frater - for false starts and then he all but took over the lane of his neighbouring runner.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



THE JAMAICAN ROYALTY: Fellow Jamaicans Asafa Powell (L) and Sheri-Ann Brooks are ecstatic after winning the men's and women's 100m sprint gold in the Commonwealth Games at the MCG on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP