

## Snehashish Ganguly — an intense cricketer

Star Special

Man of the match Snehashish Ganguly, the lightly built left-handed batsman of the West Bengal cricket team, is a commerce graduate.

Born on July 11, 1967, Ganguly made an impressive debut for Bengal against Bihar in the Ranji Trophy in 1987 with a polished innings of 57. His highest Ranji knock so far is an unbeaten 116 which he scored against Karnataka last year.

A stylish batsman, Ganguly is a very intense cricketer with a penchant for offside strokes. Ganguly also bowls right-arm offspin. He has six hundreds to his name in the Ranji Trophy, the most in Indian domestic cricket to date.



Ganguly, who plays for Sporting Union in club cricket in Calcutta along with Bengal team mates Pranab Ghosh, Raja Venkat and Debang Ghosh, plays professional cricket in Scotland for Saint Modans Club.

Among the local players, Ganguly was full of praise for Akram Khan. He was pretty impressed by the accuracy of Saiful who was in charge of Abahani's new ball attack and brought the local side back in the game with a three-wicket haul in his second spell.

the deliveries of the young pacesman skid off the wicket.

Dismissing a comparison with their pacesman Rajiv Seth, Ganguly said that the latter is at least a yard quicker than the Bangladeshi bowler.

He carefully avoided any comment about the nature of his dismissal yesterday when he was given run out for 89, eleven short of what would have been a most deserved century.

Snehashish, whose father was also an accomplished club cricketer, is the elder brother of Saurav Ganguly, another brilliant left hander who has already made it into the Indian team.

Saurav, who played in Dhaka for India in the Asian under-19 tournament a couple of years ago, had gone to Australia with Ashruddin's team and returned to Calcutta last Saturday.

The younger Ganguly was expected to join the West Bengal side in Dhaka last night and is likely to play in the two matches against the BCCB selectors on Feb 13-14 and Feb 15.

When playing, Snehashish concentrates totally on the game, shutting out everything else from his mind. That is a mark of true commitment.

## W Bengal beat a sloppy Abahani

Sports Reporter



Sloppy is not the right word to describe the Abahani fielding which reached its nadir yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. One would like to make no bones about the loss of the Damal Summer champions to the CAB team by three wickets in an exhibition one-dayer, but it was the way in which one of the most popular and powerful names in the local cricket approached their task.

Abahani Krtra Chakra, a little handicapped in the absence of key players like opener Zahid Razzak Masum and pace bowler Golam Nowsheer Prince, drafted Saiful Islam from the Greater Mymensingh Club and Enamul Haq Moni and Shahnazwan Shanu from Bangladesh Biman to plug the holes. Their recruits served them well with Saiful and Moni shining with the leather but atrocious fielding (catching, ground fielding) and above all, wicket-keeping, made a challenging score like 221 in 50 overs look inadequate. Barring a brief flutter at the lag end of the match when pacesman Saiful shook the visitors by taking three wickets in the space of four balls (one of them was a wide) the CAB side in the chase hardly had any hiccups. It was this purple patch in the performance of the local side that took the match to the last over.

Abahani, however, started well in the morning when Ashok Malhotra, the captain of the West Bengal team, beat Abahani skipper Faruq in the spin of the coin and chose to field first.

Mahbubur Rahman Selim, opening the Abahani innings with Indian Raman Lamba looked impressive, playing some lovely strokes based on fine timing, well adjusted with the pace and bounce of the wicket. His one stroke, a forced punch off the backfoot past cover point off Rajiv Seth, the quicker of the two CAB opening bowlers, was a treat to watch. Selim was rather un- luckily run out when the bowler whipped the balls at the batsman out of the crease trying to back up for a single.

Faruq appeared extremely at ease but was dismissed as he tried to sweep a floater from off-spinner Snehashish Ganguly for 12. Akram Khan joined the cautious Lamba and the two batted well without showing any sign of trouble against the spin trio of Snehashish, Anup and Sharadindu.

Akram, who far outshone his illustrious Indian test discard in the variety of strokes and improvisation, was particularly severe on the left-arm slow bowler Anup Das. Playing and delighting the thin crowd with his reverse sweeps in gay abandon, the burly batsman from Chittagong scored a fine 58 off 72 balls.

He struck one four and once stepped out to hoist the bespectacled Anup for an effortless sixer over squarish long on.

Lamba, meanwhile, col-

lected his runs coolly, hitting occasional boundaries here and there. He was dismissed for 76, made off 108 balls with the help of five boundaries and a huge sixer over long on off Anup again, attempting a cross batted heave against the steady Rajiv Seth. Shanu did not stay long, trapped in front of the wicket by Rajiv.

Ashoka de Silva, the Sri Lankan all-rounder, perished in an attempt to step up the run rate. Akram followed suit, miscuing a pull off Rajiv Seth.

Monti, shaping well, insidged an attempted cut on to his stumps from Sharadindu for 13. Sujun, while stretching forward to Sharadindu, lifted his rear foot to be stumped for a blob and Rajiv and Anup worked in tandem to mop up the tail to still the Abahani score at 221 in 48.4 overs. The last six Abahani wickets fell for only 45 runs.

Rajiv Seth, who got some movement in the air in the morning, came back strongly in his second spell, taking four



West Bengal captain Ashoke Malhotra drives Abahani pacesman Saiful during yesterday's limited-overs match at the Dhaka Stadium. W Bengal won by three wickets.

against Sri Lanka, backed him well with figures of three for 46.

As in the morning, Abahani got off to a flying start in the post-prandial session with Raman Lamba taking two West Bengal wickets with the score on 12. The ball that got Mintu Das as the batsman appeared to have no clue to the inswinger that castled him. That was, however, the end of Abahani's honeymoon as Shrikant Kalyani and Snehashish Ganguly dug in to repair the crumbling innings.

Kalyani, the right-hander originally from Maharashtra, almost tipped to his 52, punctuated with two fours only before holing out to Akram off Effe. Ganguly, the southpaw, survived a chance or two to stroke his way to a match-winning 89 before falling to a dubious run out decision given by umpire Mahbubullah.

Skipper Malhotra steered his side to victory like an expert helmsman with a patient unbeaten 37.

Saiful, returning for his second spell, prised out three batsmen, Raja Venkat, Gandhi and Sharadindu in the space of four balls to revive some Abahani hope but Akram dropped Rajiv who facilitated his side's task with an improvised stroke for four and wicket-keeper Jehad muffed three stumping chances. And West Bengal were home and dry in 49.3 overs with three wickets to spare.

Saiful with figures of three for 34 and Lamba with two for 28 were the successful Abahani bowlers.

Snehashish Ganguly was adjudged man-of-the-match by former Abahani player Alit Islam, the match adjudicator. State Minister for Sports Sadeq Hossain gave the player the MOM crest and a cash award of Taka two thousand.

Earlier, in the morning, Foreign Minister and the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board Mustafizur Rahman was introduced to the players of the two sides. He watched the proceedings for the first few overs.

**SCOREBOARD**

**ABAHANI**

Selim run out	22
Lamba b Rajiv	76
Faruq lbw b Snehashish	12
Akram c Ashoke b Rajiv	58
Anup b Rajiv	9
Ashoka de Silva c Anup b Sharadindu	12
Moni b Sharadindu	13
Sujun st Mintu b Sharadindu	0
Saiful lbw b Rajiv	0
Effe c and b Anup	2
Jehad not out	0
Extras (b4 lb2 wb5 nb6)	17
Total (all out)	221

Fall of wickets: 1/39; 2/63; 3/164; 4/176; 5/196; 6/201; 7/207; 8/208; 9/221; 10/221.

**Bowling:** O M R W

Jayanta Ghose	7	1	26	0
Rajiv Seth	10	1	46	4
Ashoke				
Malhotra	9	0	33	0
Snehashish				
Ganguly4	0	22	1	
Anup Das	8.4	0	42	1
Sharadindu				
Mukherjee	10	1	46	3

**WEST BENGAL**

I B Roy c Jehad b Lamba	1
Mintu Das b Lamba	3
S Kalyani c Akram b Effe	52
S Ganguly run out	89
A Malhotra not out	37
Raja Venkat c Faruq b Saiful	10
Debang Gandhi lbw b Saiful	0
Sharadindu c Ashoka b Saiful	0
Rajiv Seth not out	10
Extras (b2 lb11 wb6 nb1)	20
Total (for seven)	222

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-12; 3-123; 4-182; 5-202; 6-202; 7-202.

**Bowling:** O M R W

Saiful Islam	10	0	34	3
R Lamba	10	0	28	2
S I Effe	9.3	0	43	1
E H Moni	8	0	42	1
Ashoka de Silva	10	0	47	0
S S Shanu	2	0	15	0

## Rajiv Seth — Bengal's Punjabi pacesman

Star Special

Rajiv Seth, the lithe, handsome right-arm medium pace bowler of the visiting West Bengal side who opened the attack against Abahani was considered unlucky by the spectators for not having won the man-of-the-match award in yesterday's match. He produced a tight second spell in which he dismissed four Abahani batsmen including Raman Lamba and Akram Khan and then eased off the

batsman's armour. Seth, who normally moves the ball away from the right hander, was embarrassed when asked whether he tried to apply the teachings of one of the finest pace bowlers in the game. The genial god-fearing pacesman with a ready smile confessed he was keen on getting Lamba's wicket yesterday. Dismissing Lamba before he got his hundred was the in-

centive. He was, however, quick to praise Akram Khan among the local batsmen.

Rajiv's best bowling performance for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy is five for 60 against Bihar in the 89-90 in the Irani Trophy.

When he played for the Rest of India against Ranji champions Delhi, he plays club cricket for Rajasthan Club in Calcutta alongside Saurav Ganguly.

Seth has been in the MRP Pace Foundation, the fast bowler producing project in Madras set up by the tyre company and he has completed a three-year course in the camp.

Dennis Lillee, the legendary Australian fast bowler who comes there for ten days after every three months to impart coaching

to the budding pace bowlers, is Seth's model. Extolling the Australian for his sincerity and vast knowledge on the art of fast bowling Seth said that Lillee's appointment as the coach is the best thing that has happened to Indian cricket in many years.

Lillee, said the admiring disciple, attaches tremendous importance to mental toughness. A pace bowler cannot go too far relying sheer pace; he must always be keen to detect the chink in the

bowling in the first spell and this despite the fact Lamba trounced in the Abahani innings with 76.

A keen learner, Seth admits readily that he still has a lot to learn about bowling fast and it will take him some time to master the nuances of this exciting art.

However, Seth was glad that his first tour outside India had got off to an auspicious start and hoped that in due course he would be able to prove himself in order to attract the notice of the Indian selectors.

That is the hope that, one hopes, will fire up this young amiable man to keep striving in his trade.



## SA to experiment

PERTH, Feb 10: South Africa will spend the next two weeks experimenting with its inexperienced

cricket lineup, captain Kepler Wessels said Monday, reports AP.

South Africa lost to the West Australian state team by three wickets in its opening match in Australia on Sunday, but Wessels said he had been heartened by many aspects of that match.

South Africa plays its opening match of the World Cup tournament against Australia in Sydney on Feb 26.

The South Africans recently were readmitted to international cricket after an absence of 22 years.

Wessels said no player was certain of a place in the team. "We're still learning each other's type of play," said Wessels.

"Everyone in the 14-man squad will be given an equal opportunity to stake their claim for a position.

"Whatever the best combination is before we play Australia will be the team."

Wessels said his team needed time to adjust to Australian conditions.

"We need more practise to get used to the Australian wickets," he said.

"Our bowling attack is the best part of our game. If we can make more runs we should do well because our bowling and fielding support the batsmen."

**IMPRESS DESPITE LOSS**

An earlier AFP report from Perth said: South Africa went down gallantly in their historic first game on Australian soil for 28 years here on Sunday.

Western Australia, the powerful state side which humbled India and the West Indies earlier in the season, scraped home by three wickets with just five balls to spare in a cliff-hanging finish in front of a crowd of almost 17,000 at the WACA ground.

A day-night clash which had hung agonisingly in the balance was decided only when wicket-keeper Tim Zoehrer smacked a delivery from South African firebrand Allan Donald straight down the ground for four at the start of the final over.

Despite their loss, the tourists made a major impression and appear likely to be a major force in the World Cup campaign later this month.

Batting first after skipper Kepler Wessels had won the toss, South Africa made 8-157 in an innings restricted to 47

overs because of the state's slow bowling.

Western Australia stuttered to 7-133 in the 42nd over before being guided home by Zoehrer (28 not out) and young fast bowler Martin McGaughey (13 not out). They finished with 7-159 in 46.1

overs.

A fiery 4-29 burst from 10 overs by Western Province fast-medium bowler Meyrick Pringle was not quite enough to contain Western Australia.

Donald had a meagre 1-30 return from his 9.1 overs, but left no doubts that the man labelled the world's fastest white bowler will be a key figure in the Cup series.

"We had some troubles with our batting because the ball swung around a lot, and Western Australia's attack bowled well."

Though the South African batsmen just failed to make enough runs, they impressed with their whippet-like running between wickets.

The energetic attack was supported by tigerish fielding form skilfully set placements and pin-point throwing.

South Africa's innings would have been a sorry affair but for a spirited sixth-wicket partnership of 66 in 73 minutes by Jonny Rhodes and Brian McMillan.

Coming together with the score a traumatic 5-66 in the 28th over, they injected substance with some enterprising hitting.

Rhodes, a 22-year-old from Natal, was not without his luck. He was dropped at 23 and 31 before falling to the first of two marvellous catches at short cover by veteran Terry Alderman.

The tourists never fully recovered from a hair-raising start, in which, Alderman removed openers Wessels (six) and Mark Rushmore (nine) in his opening seven overs.

Alderman (2-28) was wondrously supported by returning left-arm champion Bruce Reid, whose 10-over stint gave him outstanding figures of 1-12 — just the type of form the Australian selectors were looking for from the beanpole-slim operator with the World Cup campaign so close.

**Zimbabwe denied vital practice**

BRISBANE, Feb 10: Heavy morning rain Monday robbed Zimbabwe of vital practice in the lead-up to the World Cup cricket tournament, which begins on March 22, reports AP.

## MSC—W B tie today

Sports Reporter

The visiting West Bengal cricketers play their second match today against Damal Summer runners-up and current leaders of the Navana Premier Division league table Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium.

The 50-overs-a-side match starts at 9.15 am with the lunch break at 12.50 pm.

The Mohammedan squad is: Sudarshan Samantika Guruge, Minhazul Abedin Nannu (Captain), Azhar Hossain Shantoo, Jehangir Alam, Rafiqul

Alam, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Golam Faruq Suru, Waheedul Ghani, Mohammed Ali, Jehangir Talukder Dulu, Janak Champika Gamagee, Shahidul Alam Ratan, Ilyas Talukdar, Masrur Ahmed Mithu, Ahmed Didar and Abu Idris Nabin.

Roqibul Hassan, former captain of the national cricket team and Mohammedan Sporting Club, is the adjudicator for the man-of-the-match award for today's game.

Reza-e-Karim, a BCCB official, is the match referee.

## Mariners march on

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club recorded their seventh consecutive victory in the Green Delta First

Division hockey league beating Azad Sporting Club 3-0 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mariner Youngs led 1-0 at the breather.

Abu Tarek put Mariner Youngs ahead towards the close of the first session by converting a penalty corner (1-0).

Veteran Jamil Parvez Lulu doubled the margin in the 47th minute with a spectacular field goal (2-0).

Abu Tarek scored his second goal of the match to command a 3-0 lead.

Mariner Youngs now have fourteen points while Azad have just two from seven outings each.

Later in the afternoon, Usha Krtra Chakra edged past Sonali Bank by a solitary goal.

Syed Muzammel scored the all-important goal for the winners in the 62nd minute by converting a penalty corner.

The victory takes Usha's points tally to four from six games while Sonali Bank have five points, also from six encounters.

**Hartland not in NZ W Cup squad**

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 10: Test opener Bleir Hartland was Monday omitted from the 14-man New Zealand cricket squad for the World Cup tournament beginning later this month, reports AP.

Hartland made a duck and 19 in his two innings during the drawn third Test against England, which ended earlier Monday.

Martin Crowe, who has suffered from dizzy spells and a knee injury during the Test series, will lead the New Zealand team.

Middle-order batsman Mark Greatbatch, all-rounder Chris Harris, medium-fast bowler Willie Watson and utility player Gavin Larsen were added to the other 10 players who played in the third Test.

New Zealand also named the same squad for its remaining two limited-overs matches against England to be played on Wednesday in Dunedin and Saturday in Christchurch.

New Zealand begin their World Cup campaign with a match against co-host Australia in Auckland on Feb 22.

The New Zealand squad is: Martin Crowe (captain), John Wright, Rod Latham, Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford, Mark Greatbatch, Chris Harris, Dipak Patel, Chris Cairns, Ian Smith, Murphy Su'a, Danny Morrison, Willie Watson and Gavin Larsen.

Tony Blair, Chris Pringle, Justin Vaughan and Bryan Young have been placed on standby.

## Lamb's career-best denies Kiwis



WELLINGTON: A broken leg for England bowler David Lawrence and a scuffle involving team manager Micky Stewart marred Monday's final day of the third cricket Test against New Zealand, which ended in a draw, reports Reuter.

The final Test petered out to a draw after England batsman Allan Lamb, with a sturdy century, foiled New Zealand's hopes of a consolation victory in the three-match series, which England won 2-0.

England declared shortly before tea at 359 for seven after Lamb's best Test innings of 142, setting New Zealand the virtually impossible task of scoring 232 in just over two hours.

Lawrence had just started his third over when he collapsed while delivering in pain, writhing and bellowing in pain.

England manager Bob Bennett told a news conference later Lawrence had suffered a severe injury.

"He's broken his left knee cap. It's in two pieces. It will need tension band wiring. I'm advised that this does not necessarily mean the end of his career," Bennett added.

He said Lawrence would be operated on in a Wellington hospital and would not be fit to fly home for at least two weeks.

Lawrence, England's fastest bowler, only rejoined the team for the third Test after injuring his side soon after the start of England's tour of New Zealand.

Temper flared as England players and Micky Stewart, whose son Alec is an England opener, carried Lawrence from the field on a stretcher.

**SCUFFLE**

Stewart pushed away television New Zealand cameraman Vaughan Scott as Scott tried to film Lawrence, and then made repeated attempts to grab the camera. "Get out of the bloody way," he shouted.

One England player said: "I'm going to stuff that camera up your arse," and wicket-keeper Jack Russell also grabbed the camera as Lawrence was carried to dressing rooms.

Scott said: "I've been doing this for 23 years now and it's the first time it's ever happened to me. It was completely unprovoked."

The incident soured the final day of a close encounter between England and New Zealand that saw the home side recover after losing the first two Tests, and after a dis-

World Cup squad of 14, which was announced after the Test.

Su'a then bowled Dermot Reeve first ball and Botham followed 15 minutes later for just one run to put England in trouble at 254 for six.

But Lamb, with his 14th Test century in 77 Tests for England, anchored the innings with Russell, and England captain Graham Gooch played it safe, avoiding the temptation to make a risky declaration.

England finally declared 10 minutes before tea at 359 for seven.

New Zealand lost three quick wickets, two of them to Botham, before play ended with New Zealand on 43 for three and the match was drawn.

AP adds: The break in Lawrence's knee cap was horizontal and the knee-cap had separated to "an inch and a half to two inches," England manager Bob Bennett said.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe, who was batting at the time, said: "I've never seen anyone in that sort of pain before."

The tourists began the day with Allan Lamb on 24 and Robin Smith 41.

**SPORTING CROWE**

They had added nine runs when Crowe made a sporting gesture that eventually turned the Test away from his side.

Lamb, on 33, edged a ball from Chris Cairns to Crowe who dived forward at first slip to take the ball on the half volley.

The batsman stood his ground but was given out by umpire Steve Dunne. Wicketkeeper Ian Smith, however, wasn't satisfied the catch had been taken cleanly and Crowe motioned for Lamb to stay at the crease.

"It was nicked left, I got down and it felt good in the hand," Crowe said.

"Smithy wasn't happy, though, and that was good enough for me."

Lamb went on to record his highest Test score of 142, surpassing his previous best of

139 made against India at Lord's in 1990.

New Zealand spinner Dipak Patel finished with figures of seven for 199 from the match and Murphy Su'a took five for 149.

England and New Zealand next meet in a limited-overs international in Dunedin on Wednesday.

**SCOREBOARD**

**ENGLAND:** First innings 305 (A Stewart 107)

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 432 for nine declared (J Wright 116, A Jones 143)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings (overnight 171 for three)

Gooch c Rutherford b Cairns 11

Stewart c Smith b Patel 63

Ilick c Smith b Su'a 22

Smith c and b Su'a 76

Lamb c Latham b Patel 142