

## TOP FIVE INNINGS

SCORE SEASON	OPPONENTS	INNINGS	VENUE	
416 04	West Indies	First	St Lucia	2003-
400 01	India	First	Dhaka	2000-
361 04	Pakistan	First	Peshawar	2003-
331 04	Zimbabwe	First	Harare	2003-

## LUCKY 13

1. I Smith (NZ) 173 v India (22/02/1990) Eden Park
2. C Hall (Aus) 160 v England (10/01/1908) Adelaide Oval
3. Asif Iqbal (Pak) 146 v England (24/08/1967) The AMP Oval
4. D Vettori (NZ) 137 v Pakistan (20/12/2003) Hamilton
5. G Allen (Eng) 122 v New Zealand (27/06/1931) Lord's
6. JT Murray (Eng) 112 v West Indies (20/08/1966) The Oval



**Mohammad Rafique**  
(Ban) 111 v West Indies (30/05/2004) St Lucia

7. S Pollock (SA) 111 v Sri Lanka (20/01/2001) Centurion
8. A Parore (NZ) 110 v Australia (01/12/2001) WACA
9. S Pollock (SA) 106 v West Indies (30/3/2001) Kensington
10. L Kluesner (SA) 102 v India (02/01/1997) Newlands
11. JM Gregory (Aus) 100 v England (01/01/1921) MCG
12. Ray Lindwall (Aus) 100 v England (04/01/1947) MCG

## TON TIGERS

Following are the Bangladeshi batsmen who have scored century in Test cricket:

SCORE MATCH	BATSMAN	AGAINST	VENUE	SEASON
145 01	Aminul Islam	India	Dhaka	Only Test 2000-
114 02	Mohammad Ashraf	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Asian Test 2001-
108 02	Habibul Bashar	Zimbabwe	Chittagong	2nd Test 2001-

# Rafique can't believe it

## Cricket

RABEED IMAM from St Lucia

Mohammad Rafique was finding it difficult to swallow that he had actually hit a three-figure innings and was too awestruck to think when he got to that mark.

"No one's picture came to my mind. I was stunned that I had scored a hundred. I am still surprised that I've scored a Test hundred and that too against the West Indies on their home soil," said a visibly elated Rafique.

"I never thought about the century. The first target was to stay at the wicket. I told my partners that we have to spend time at the crease. I knew that runs would come if you hung around."

"We planned on taking singles and we were rotating the strike. If I made a mistake he would point that out and I would do the same."

"When I reached 50, I could realise that this was my highest

score in Tests. But still I didn't think I'd get ton."

"I wasn't concerned that we were nine down. I said to myself that if the ball was there to be hit, I'd go for it. I just concentrated ball to ball. I saw that I was on 99, but didn't feel anything."

"This is something that has happened out of the blue. Things like that happen in life," said Rafique as he narrated his emotions towards the hundred.

His fantastic feat that made him the seventh Bangladeshi to score a ton, also surprised his delighted coach and skipper.

"It was a surprise to me that he batted for so long I suppose. But I've seen him in the nets a lot and seen a glimpse of his batting in previous games which has shown he has got some technique. He has had the opportunity to work with Owen (Matta) like a few other players in the last month but I didn't think he'd have the ability to bat that long and not give a chance. He has scored a Test century, something I haven't

done!" said the Australian.

"Two centuries in one innings and Ashraf after a little bit chancy innings at the start, deserved a hundred as well. I thought he showed a lot of maturity as a young player batting at number five. I'm extremely happy particularly with Rafique. He showed a few people what he is capable of. Now, unfortunately for him, he has to live up to that expectation and give us some more runs!" said Whatmore.

Captain Habibul Bashar was also singing his praises. "This has been a wonderful day for Bangladesh. I think this was one of our most memorable days in international cricket. And Rafique batted exceptionally. I never thought he would get a hundred, honestly speaking, but I knew he could bat pretty well."

"We were on our feet as he neared that hundred. It was an extremely nervous dressing room. You expect some runs from the tail-enders but not that many. What Rafique has done is unbelievable. There can't be anything better."



WORTH THE WAIT: Mohammad Rafique gets a hug from Tareq Aziz after his century at St Lucia on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Whatmore going to Australia

RABEED IMAM from St Lucia

A grieving Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore is scheduled to leave St Lucia for Australia on Monday following a family loss.

Whatmore's brother-in-law, who had been diagnosed with a brain tumour few months ago, passed away on Friday in Melbourne. The coach is not expected to return for the second Test against the West Indies in Jamaica starting June 4 as he will be attending the funeral.

In Whatmore's absence, the squad's operations manager and chief selector Faruque Ahmed will play the part of coach. It would be the second time in less than a month that the former national captain is going to take on additional responsibility.

Faruque was entrusted with the manager's role after Lt Col (ret'd) MA Latif Khan had to pull out of the trip due to illness before the Tigers left Bangladesh.

Captain Habibul Bashar said that Whatmore's absence will be felt by the team but they would try to carry on the process he initiated.

"It's a very emotional and sad moment for him (Whatmore). So we realise his importance of staying close to his family. We are all very sorry for him."

"As for the cricket, we are all professionals and I think we have to prove that in Jamaica. The strategy remains the same and he has already put everything in place in terms of what our job is. I think we are all matured enough and experienced enough to handle the situation," said Bashar.

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## A day of dreams

## Cricket

RABEED IMAM from St Lucia

It was a day made of dreams. Whether you are a Bangladesh player, fan or journalist or a person totally oblivious to anything associated with cricket, the occasion was very, very special and those who saw from the ground or even on TV, must consider themselves extremely fortunate.

When Mohammad Rafique cracked Ramnaresh Sarwan to the

cover boundary under dwindling light near the end of play, he became the 13th number nine batsman in Test cricket history to score a hundred. An over earlier, the Tigers had posted their highest total in Tests when another Rafique boundary took them to 401. It's the first time they had crossed 400 since the first innings of the inaugural Test against India in November 2000.

The day's play was held up for nearly four and a half hours and when it finally got underway with Bangladesh on 278 for seven, very few expected the Tigers tail to wag.

But it did in style although Mohammad Ashraf (65 not out overnight) could have gone second ball from Tino Best. Wayne Smith just couldn't pick up a low chance at forward short-leg.

Rafique was looking solid, mixing his gung-ho style with a new found responsibility and soon edged Best through the vacant third-man for a four.

Only 2.4 overs had been bowled when rain came in again. Play began 15 minutes later. And immediately

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## Some watched, some missed

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

While most of the country was probably glued to their television sets with bated breathe a small but very significant section missed a piece of history made by Mohammad Rafique in the early hours of Sunday.

The left-arm spinner made a night without sleep worth it when he hit West Indies occasional leg-spinner Ramnaresh Sarwan for

four through extra cover to join an exclusive club of centuries batting at number nine.

But it was a matter of sadness for Rafique's family and friends living at Aganagar, Keraniganj as they missed the finest moment because of a blackout, a part of life in Bangladesh.

"We were all glued to the television but unfortunately failed to watch his feat because of load-shedding. It is very painful for me and especially our eldest daughter Shila who always wanted to see her father in action," said Rafique's delighted wife Shilpi

yesterday.

She said they only came to know of Rafique's magic moment through a BCB office-bearer later in the morning.

Rafique scored 103 in Bangladesh's first innings total of 406-9 on Day Two at St Lucia. The superb knock was not only a milestone for the southpaw but also helped the Tigers surpass their highest innings total in Test cricket, which was exactly 400 in the inaugural match against India in 2000.

"Once we learned that that he had scored a hundred we were

anxiously waiting for a call from him. Our endless waiting ended at 5pm. He was speechless for a few seconds before asking whether we had seen his innings," said Shilpi, adding that it did not really matter now for her since she always believed that her husband had the ability.

Although the inhabitants of Keraniganj, which lies across the river Buriganga, had been deprived of watching a local icon they made it up by arranging a

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## Russians roll on

## French Open

AFP, Paris

Maria Sharapova and Elena Dementieva took huge steps on Sunday towards ending Russia's long wait for a French Open women's champion when both players strode confidently into the quarterfinals.

In the 107-year history of Roland Garros there has never been a Russian winner in the women's singles, but teenager Sharapova's 6-3, 6-1 win over Germany's Marlene Weingartner and Dementieva's impressive 6-1, 6-3 dismissal of fifth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport suggests things might be about to change.

Furthermore, Russia are also guaranteed a third representative in the last eight as sixth seed Anastasia Myskina and Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 11th seed, will face off in their fourth round match later Sunday.

Russia has only been able to boast two finalists here in all of those years

of trying with Olga Morozova losing to Chris Evert in 1974 and Natasha Zvereva humiliated 6-0, 6-0 by Steffi Graf in 1988.

Sharapova, the 18th seed, now takes on either 14th seeded Argentinian Paola Suarez or China's Zheng Jie for a place in the semifinals.

The Russian 17-year-old wrapped up her fourth round match in 67 minutes firing down an impressive 34 winners against the outclassed German in their first career meeting.

Playing in only her second Roland Garros, Sharapova will fancy her chances of making the last four from a top half of the draw which has already lost defending champion and top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Dementieva, the ninth seed, booked her place in the quarterfinals for the first time in her career thanks to her 59-minute dismissal of Davenport.

She will now face either French third seed Amelie Mauresmo or Magdalena Maleeva, the 21st seed from Bulgaria, for a place in the

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MARIA SHARAPOVA

## CCL to be more pro

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

After it was an instant hit, the organisers of the Corporate Cricket League (CCL) are thinking of giving the just-introduced competition a professional shape when the second edition kicks off in October next.

The league committee has decided to pressurise the corporate houses to give more financial benefits to the players as well as open the door for foreign players from first round.

A number of Indian and Pakistani stars came here to play in the tournament and made their presence felt well and true. But in this inaugural version, their entry was restricted until the end of the first round.

"We are thinking of introducing a provision which will enable the houses to resale players on commission. We are working hard to give the tournament a professional shape," said chairman of the league committee Khondokar Jamil Uddin yesterday.

Jamil said that the number of participating teams would also rise to 16 from 12 because they got enormous response from different business houses.

A total of 17 foreigners took part in the just-concluded meet where one player was allowed in the second round and that was doubled for the semifinals and final.

Following foreign cricketers took part in this year's league: Pakistanis Shahid Afridi and Fahad Ullah (Champions ARAF Apparels), Indians Yuvraj Singh and Sandeep Sharma (runners-up Bashundhara Group), Pakistani Abdul Razaq and Kenyan Steve Tikolo (Beximco), Indians Sanjay Bangar, Romesh Power and Pakistani Imran Nazir (GrameenPhone), Pakistanis Younis Khan and Ashraf Ali (Bangladesh Biman), Pakistanis Taufiq Umar and Yasir Hameed (Gazi Tank), Pakistanis Rashed Hanif and Saifullah Magji (Ispahani), Indians Deepdas Gupta and Joydev Mukharjee (Acme).

## Pak academy signs Greg

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Australian captain Greg Chappell has agreed a contract to coach at Pakistan's national cricket academy.

"We have the option of utilising his expertise whichever way we want for 30 days in a year," said a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman.

It is not the first time Pakistan have used overseas experts to work

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**DAY'S EVENT**

**BANGLADESH vs WEST INDIES**  
First Test, Day 4  
Venue: St Lucia  
**LIVE FROM 9:00 PM ON TEN SPORTS**