

## Bashar again injured?

SPORTS REPORTER

Habibul Bashar's long-awaited return for the first Test against visiting New Zealand may be put back after the Bangladesh captain is believed to have aggravated his injured thumb during the team's net session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Bashar, recently back from undergoing surgery in Australia on an injury he suffered while in training in August, has his sights on an October 19 comeback during the first match of the two-Test series.

However, the country's premier batsman told The Daily Star that there was no damage done.

"The ball hit me while I was batting and I immediately quit the nets. There was slight pain and I went for an X-ray.

"After seeing the report in the evening, however, physio John Gloster assured me that there was nothing to worry about. Both he and a local doctor said the scan revealed no further damage," said Bashar, who missed the ICC Champions Trophy in England.

The selectors are expected to wait as long as possible to include him.

While the six batsmen of the national squad batted at the nets, coach Dav Whatmore was away at BKSP watching the other Test probables who were playing the Kiwis in a three-day match.

The national squad will rest today.

## Delta handball final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Neighbours Siddheshwari Girls College and Vigarunnissa Noon College will meet in the final of the 10th Delta Life women's handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex today.

In yesterday's semifinals, Siddheshwari blanked Holy Cross College 7-0 after leading 3-0 at the break while Vigarunnissa defeated Home Economics College 4-0 at the same venue.

The final will begin at 2.30 pm. The losing semifinalists will compete in the third-place play-off at 1.30 pm.

## BD U-17-CAB 3-dayer drawn

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day match between Bangladesh and CAB (Cricket Association of Bengal) Under-17s ended in a tame draw at the Kalyani ground in Kolkata yesterday.

The local side scored 331 before being bowled out in their first innings in reply to the tourists' 292-9 declared.

**What to WATCH**

**DD Sports and Ten Sports**  
Second Test  
India v Australia  
Day 2, live at 10 am

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8.30 pm  
English Premier League preview  
Taped at 9 pm  
Here we go  
Same day delay at 10.30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline  
Live at 8 pm



John Buchanan  
(Australia cricket coach)

"That sounds like a commentator's comment, doesn't it? There's probably a key lost down there."

Describing in journalese how the Bangalore wicket would disintegrate during the first Test.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TAKE THAT: New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming plays a trademark shot on the on-side on way to scoring an unbeaten century on the opening day of the three-day match against BCB XI at BKSP yesterday.

## Three-day match

# Fleming masterclass



SPORTS REPORTER

Stephen Fleming served an early warning to Bangladesh as he notched up an unbeaten hundred with trademark fluency on the opening day of New Zealand's three-day tour opener at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) yesterday.

Twice drizzles interrupted the game against a strong Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI and only 66 overs of the desired 90 could be bowled. However that did not stop the Black Caps' skipper from cruising to a chanceless 129 off 176 balls before he retired to give his other batters a go. When the second bout of rain and fading lights brought a premature end to the day's play, the tourists were 285 for six having decided to bat first.

The start on a humid morning was however not what New Zealand would have been looking for as their openers Mark Richardson and Matthew Sinclair were back in the pavilion contributing just 18 runs between them. The dangerous Nathan Astle (15) and Scott Styris (5) were also gone cheaply leaving the Black Caps tottering on 84 for four. But Fleming who came in his customary number three position and the highly rated Hamish Marshall (51) first withered the

four-pronged pace attack of the BCB XI and then counterattacked with gusto in a 121-run fifth wicket partnership in quick time.

Fleming was particularly severe on left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury



ALAMGIR ... 3 for 59

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and spanked the gangling youngster for two mighty straight sixes. Nadif, the Bangladesh Under-19 player, was the only slow bowler liberally used by captain Alok Kapali. But he bowled too short and strayed in line. Even when the bowlers got their rhythm right, they found Fleming to be a man possessed.

The left-hander's composure, adaptability and the ease with which he negotiated each and every delivery was a lesson in near-perfect batting and would make any coaching video proud. There was never any evidence of discomfort in his game which was not the case with most of his other batsmen as the 31-year-old illustrated his class with strokes all around the wicket, most never leaving the grass unless intended. Marshall was the ideal understudy as he was just intent on putting away the bad balls and savouring the skipper's innings from the other end.

The first rain delay happened an hour after lunch with New Zealand on 245 for five. When play resumed another hour later, Fleming did not come out and instead let Jacob Oram and Brendan McCullum have some practice.

"It was good day for me. In terms of the team, I guess it was a bit disappointing that more guys did not go on and did not spend some time

## Corporate Cricket

## Twenty20 makes debut today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first ever Twenty20 cricket competition in the country will be launched today with the start of the Second GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League today.

All 12 corporate houses will be involved on the opening day with six matches scheduled to be played at three venues.

Defending champions ARAF Apparels will take on Plate winners of the first version Gazi Tank in one of the two matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. GrameenPhone face MM Ispahani later at the same venue.

The starting time of two matches at every venue is 9.30 am and 1 pm.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, two newcomers Eppyllion Group and Robinex Group are pitted against AKTEL and Acme Laboratories respectively.

In the day's mega match, Beximco will meet Biman Bangladesh in the afternoon at the BKSP in Savar after the match between CityCell and Partex.

The 18 first-round matches will be played over three days with two-day gaps in between.

## Good news for Razzak

SPORTS REPORTER

There was some encouraging news for left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak Raj who has been working to rectify his bowling action which had been reported by match officials during the Asia Cup in July.

The 22-year-old yesterday received a vote of confidence from the coach directly responsible for the correction process, Richard McInnes.

"He is showing good signs. We haven't cleared him yet officially but it is looking positive. I am happy with his progress. It has probably happened quicker than I had expected," said McInnes, who is the manager of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s High Performance unit, at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP).

The Australian explained that it was now up to the bowling review committee of the BCB to monitor Razzak in the Corporate Cricket League (CCL) that starts from today before he is given the green signal.

"Once we are satisfied with his action in a match situation, we can give him a clearance and he can play international cricket," said McInnes adding that as it was only a level one report against Razzak, the home Board was therefore authorised to clear him after scrutiny.

"We will just send a report to the ICC (International Cricket Council) once we allow him. That is why we want to be hundred per cent sure."

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## Sachin leaving Indian squad for treatment

REUTERS, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar, who has missed the first two Tests against Australia due to an elbow injury, is to leave the Indian squad and return to Mumbai for treatment on Friday.

Tendulkar, out of action since August due to tennis elbow, has been a part of the Indian squad but was ruled out of the second Test, which started in Madras on Thursday.

"The matter was discussed with the team management and it was decided that Tendulkar should return to Mumbai for his treatment," said Karunakaran Nair, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

India, 1-0 down in the series, are hoping their leading batsman will be fit for the third Test starting in Nagpur on October 26. The fourth and final match will be played at his home town, Mumbai, early next month.

## Div II soccer Bright start for Sunrise

SPORTS REPORTER

Newcomers Sunrise Sporting Club upset Mirpur Chalanika 1-0 in the opening match of the Metropolis Second Division Football League yesterday.

Tutul scored the all-important goal on the hour mark at the Bir Shrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamapur.

East End Club will take on Little Friends and City Club play Shantinagar Club in today's two matches.

# Kumble the killer

## Warne touches Muralitharan

AFP, Madras



AUSTRALIA II  
INDIA 2004-05

India's spin king Anil Kumble grabbed seven wickets for 25 runs to skittle world champions Australia for 235 in a dramatic start to the second cricket Test here on Thursday.

India replied with 28-1 in 13 tense overs before close of play as Shane Warne removed new opener Yuvraj Singh to draw level with Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan's world record of 532 wickets.

The leg-spinner, who had Yuvraj caught behind for eight, will return on Friday confident of claiming the mantle of Test cricket's leading bowler on a wicket affording bounce and turn.

Virender Sehwag was unbeaten on 20, while nightwatchman Irfan Pathan had yet to score.

Kumble's spin twin Harbhajan Singh chipped in with two wickets as Australia collapsed after a first wicket stand of 136 to lose their last eight wickets for 46 runs.

Australian captain Adam Gilchrist's delight at winning his second consecutive toss was short-lived as Kumble ripped through the batting either side of tea.

The leg-spinner finished with 7-48, his 25th five-wicket haul in 86 Tests which took his career tally to 409 wickets.

The 33-year-old had joined the exclusive 400-wicket club in the first Test at Bangalore last week which India lost by 217 runs.

"The Chepauk is probably the best wicket in India for spinners because it gives bounce along with turn," said Kumble.

"I have always enjoyed bowling here and I am glad we got them out early.

"Don't forget Harbhajan's contribution today because he kept the other end tight and enabled me to

attack. "Hopefully the batsmen will deliver for us and we can keep the Aussies under pressure."

Openers Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer gave the Australians a flying start by going to lunch at 11-0, their 12th century stand in 62 innings.

But the Indians, backed by some 27,000 cheering home fans at the

Chepauk, fought back strongly through Kumble and off-spinner Harbhajan.

Harbhajan struck in the ninth over after lunch when Hayden miscued a lofted drive and was caught at mid-off by Venkatsai Laxman.

Hayden made 58 including six fours and two sixes.

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PHOTO: INTERNET

ON CLOUD 'SEVEN': India leg-spinner Anil Kumble (R), who claimed seven Australia first innings wickets, here celebrates scalping Adam Gilchrist at the Chepauk yesterday.

# Atapattu propels Lanka



REUTERS/AFP, Lahore

Sri Lanka captain Marvan Atapattu stroked a fluent hundred (111) to guide his team to a commanding total of 293 for six against Pakistan in the last match of a triangular one-day tournament on Thursday.

Atapattu hit his 11th one-day hundred and put on 146 runs from 159 balls with Kumar Sangakkara (69) to place Sri Lanka in a strong position in the dress rehearsal for Saturday's final.

Playing in his 223rd match, Atapattu anchored the innings after pacer Rana Naved had removed openers Saman Jayantha (9) and Sanath Jayasuriya (10) for a total of 26 in 7.1 overs.

Sri Lanka added 49 runs in the dramatic last five overs in which Pakistan fast bowler Muhammad Sami was stopped from bowling by umpire Simon Taufel for intimidatory bowling.

Sami having received an earlier warning in the innings bowled a bouncer to Dilshan on the first ball of the 48th over, which was called by Taufel who asked captain Inzamam-ul Haq to take him out of the attack.

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar also had a miserable day as he went for 30 runs in four overs and was not called on to bowl again by Inzamam in the innings.

Atapattu reached his hundred in the 43rd over off 104 balls by playing

Rana to fine leg for a double but was run out two overs later.

His innings lasted 114 balls and included eight fours and two sixes.

Atapattu made the home side pay for dropping him at 31 on an easy paced track when Yasir

Sangakkara brought up his 18th fifty off just 62 balls.

The teams earlier observed a minute's silence in memory of the late Australian all rounder Keith Miller who passed away this week at the age of 84.

## SCOREBOARD

First innings scoreboard in the last day-night league match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the tri-series at Gadaffi Stadium on Thursday:

### SRI LANKA

Jayantha c Moin b Naveed 9  
Jayasuriya lbw b Naveed 10  
Atapattu run out 111  
Sangakkara b Afridi 69  
Jayawardene c Malik b Sami 18  
Dilshan not out 32  
Kandamby c Afridi b Razzaq 6  
Chandana not out 10  
Extras: (lb-4, nb-6, w-18) 28  
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 293  
Did not bat: Vaas, Zoysa, Fernando  
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-26, 3-172, 4-233, 5-244, 6-270

### Bowler

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sami	8	1	35	1
Naveed	10	1	65	2
Akhtar	4	0	30	0
Malik	10	0	45	0
Razzaq	10	0	57	1
Afridi	8	0	57	1

ATAPATTU ... 111

Hameed put down a difficult chance at square leg off Shoaib Malik.

It was the third wicket stand between Atapattu and Sangakkara, who faced 82 balls and hit eight boundaries, that gave impetus to the innings after a rocky start when 39 were scored in 10 overs with the loss of the two wickets.

**PAKISTAN:** Inzamam, Hameed, Butt, Afridi, Malik, Youhana, Moin, Razzaq, Sami, Akhtar, Naveed  
**Toss:** Pakistan.

**Umpires:** Simon Taufel (Australia) and Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan).