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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
RISING TO THE OCCASION: Mahmud Ullah Riyad (centre-top) is the toast of his GrameenPhone teammates after single-handedly taking his side to victory in the Corporate Cricket League final against Bangladesh Biman yesterday.

Riyad makes it possible Twenty20 CrameenPhone's

SPORTS REPORTER

Teenager Mahmud Ullah Riyad turned certain defeat into memorable victory as title sponsor GrameenPhone overcame Bangladesh Biman by three wickets in the Corporate Cricket League's Cup final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With all of their main batsmen back in the dressing room Grameen were starting at a loss at 56 for 50 chasing 110 with just five overs of the allotted 20 remaining. When Mashrafe bin-Mortuza was seventh out, Grameen still required 37 from 21 balls. But Riyad had other ideas and hit 30 off just 24 balls while Abdur Razzak Raj contributed 14 (seven balls) to break the hearts of Biman.

18-year old Riyad, a member of the Bangladesh U-19 team that played in the World Cup earlier this

year, came to bat at number seven and changed the game in the period of time over bowled by Biman's left-arm pacer Syed Russel which were for 18 runs. Riyad blasted an effortless six over mid-wicket in that over, at the end of which only six runs were required.

The tall all-rounder then finished the match in style when he glanced veteran left-arm pacer Anisur Rahman for a four with two balls to spare.

Former Bangladesh opener Shahriar Hossain was the only other Grameen batsman to contribute in the top order when he scored 23 off 45 balls. The star-studded line-up of Alok Kapali (1) Mehrab Hossain (0), Tushar Imran (0) and captain Khaled Mahmud (7) succumbed to some poor shot selection and impulsive strokes.

Earlier Biman had won the toss and decided to bat first in the day-night encounter played on a greenish wicket with sporting bounce. But the new ball pair of Mashrafe and

Monjurul Islam were hard to get away. Neither got wickets but stifled the runs conceding 15 and 4 respectively from their 4-over spells.

Biman eventually reached 109 for 4 in their share of 20 overs thanks to Sajjad Kadir who hammered 40 off 30 balls (6x4).

Curiously enough Biman captain Sanwar Hossain who had vowed before the match that he would take the final as an opportunity to show his form, was barely spotted on the field. Sanwar, who has been surprisingly called up to the preliminary camp of the Bangladesh team for next month's home series against India, didn't come out to bat in his customary middle order position. He also didn't fancy bowling his occasional off-spin.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Biman: 109 for 4 in 20 overs (Rashedul 25, Jahangir 11, Sajjad 40, Hasanuzzaman 11, Mushfiqur 4 not out, Elias Sunny 12 not out, Enamul)

Honours evenly shared

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

New Zealand out-batted, out-bowled and out-thought Australia here to defy the odds on Day Two of the first Test they were considered to have little chance of being competitive.

New Zealand's unheralded bowlers seized the initiative produced by all-rounder Jacob Oram's exhilarating unbeaten century in a spirited first innings of 353 to put heat on the world champions at the Gabba on Friday.

In a situation reminiscent of New Zealand's last drawn series here in 2001, the Kiwis doggedly chipped away at the much-vaunted Australian batsmen to have them struggling at 128 for four after 37 overs.

When fading light ended play with three overs left to bowl, Australia were counter-attacking at 197 for four -- 156 runs behind -- with in-form Damien Martyn making an authoritative 59 and new talent Michael Clarke on 31.

Oram, the imposing No. 1 played his finest innings, clubbing 12 boundaries and three piggish sixes in a vintage knock of 126, to revive a Kiwi innings that appeared to be running out of steam when he came in at 138 for five before tea on Thursday's opening day.

Yet he combined in a string of salvaging tail-end partnerships of 58 with Daniel Vettori (21), 3 with Kyle Mills (29) and 36 with Chris Martin (0) to lift the battling Kiwis above 350.

The 26-year-old giant, playing in his 16th Test, raised his second Test century after his unbeaten 119 against South Africa in Hamilton last March and then took to the all-star Australian bowling line-up, hoicking Michael Kasprovicz for successive sixes and slamming Jason Gillespie for six and four off consecutive balls.

Oram's assault rattled the Australians with Test cricket's leading wicket-taker Shane Warne called for two wickets by Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar as he attempted to stifle Oram's scoring with deliveries down the leg-side.

Warne finished his 29th over hurling down a bumper at Oram, who merely collected another run. Such was Oram's awesome hitting that he forced skipper Ponting to ring the boundary fence with fielders.

Warne ended the Kiwi innings three balls after lunch when he had Martin caught at bat-pad by Ponting to finish with 4-97 off 29.3 overs and improve his world wicket-taking record to 545.

Oram's belligerent hitting breathed new confidence and belief into the Kiwis and their bowlers responded with four wickets.

Matthew Hayden continued his run of outs from the Indian series when he was trapped leg before wicket for eight to Kyle Mills in the sixth over.

Justin Langer went two balls after tea to a delivery from off-spinner Vettori which skidded off a crack in the pitch to have him lbw for 34.

Ponting was looking in command but after raising his 24th Test

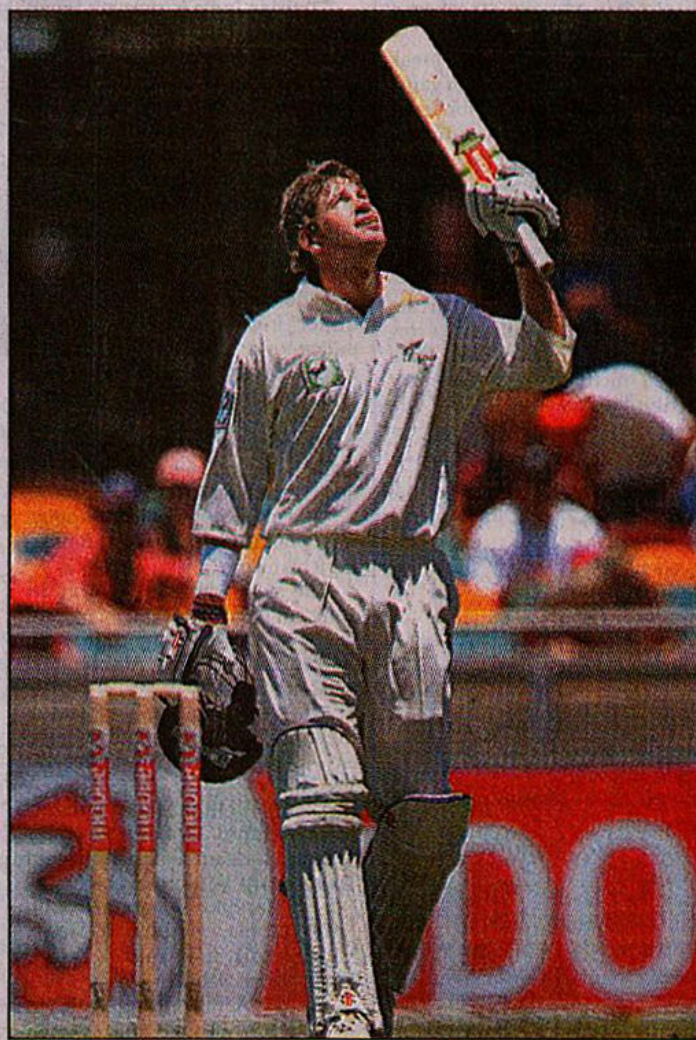


PHOTO: AFP
THIS ONE'S FOR YOU GRANDPA! New Zealand all-rounder Jacob Oram raises his bat to the sky after scoring his second Test century against Australia in Brisbane yesterday.

Premier cricket faces slight delay

SPORTS REPORTER

The much-anticipated Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League is set to start from November 25 although it could be delayed by a day.

Khondokar Jamil Uddin, the chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), said yesterday that some minor issues have to be settled so that could push back the league by a day or so at the most.

"We are yet to decide on whether to use red or white balls in the league. Besides clubs are requested a flexible schedule as some of their players will be in action against India and a Sri Lanka Cricket Academy team next month. It is also necessary to fine tune some of the bye-laws," said Jamil.

During the CCDM meeting on Thursday night, club representatives also expressed their dissatisfaction over the poor quality of the white balls and sought the use of red ones in the league instead. But Jamil said that would depend on the sponsors Green Delta Insurance Company.

"I don't know the terms of the agreement but after having a meeting with marketing committee of BCB tomorrow then I can make a decision," he said.

World Youth chess Parag defeats Russian IM

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hasan Parag made a good start in the World Youth Chess Championship when the Bangladesh junior champion beat Russian International Master Artem Elgin in the first round in the Indian state of Kerala yesterday.

Parag will take on Indian Grand Master Kunderu Humpy in the second round today.

A total of 71 players including eight Grand Masters, 14 International Masters and six FIDE Masters are taking part in the competition.

Harbhajan Surrey's

REUTERS, London

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will play for English county Surrey next year, the club said in a statement on Friday.

The 24-year-old, who has played 39 tests and 91 one-day internationals, replaces Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, who has been plagued by knee problems.

"This is great news for the club," said Surrey manager Steve Rixon.

"With Saqlain struggling to recover from two serious knee injuries I felt we needed to strengthen our spin attack."

"He's one of the world's best spin bowlers and he'll relish the sort of pitches produced here at The Oval."

Harbhajan took 21 wickets in India's recent home Test series defeat by Australia. He made his Test debut in 1997 and has taken 172 wickets at an average of just under 28.

Ganguly allowed to play Kanpur Test begins today

Cricket

AGENCIES, Kanpur

India captain Sourav Ganguly was cleared to play in the first Test against South Africa starting Saturday after the International Cricket Council (ICC) said it would not be determining his appeal against a two Test ban until after a November 25 teleconference.

Ganguly was given the unprecedented ban by ICC match referee Clive Lloyd following India's slow over-rate during the six-wicket defeat by Pakistan in a one-day international at Eden Gardens, Calcutta, earlier this month.

But when Ganguly announced his appeal against the ban it was always questionable if the ICC would conclude proceedings before the start of the first Test in Kanpur.

In such circumstances the ICC's own code of conduct clearly allows for cricketers to continue playing while their case is heard and a statement issued by the global governing body Thursday said Ganguly was "free to take his place in the first Test against South Africa."

match in India's last Test against Australia but experienced leg-spinner Anil Kumble and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh are generally preferred to him.

Coach John Wright said top batsmen Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul

David and Vangipurappu Laxman would be under pressure to perform after their recent 2-1 loss to Australia.

But he added: "The poor form of the batsmen is of no concern. These

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

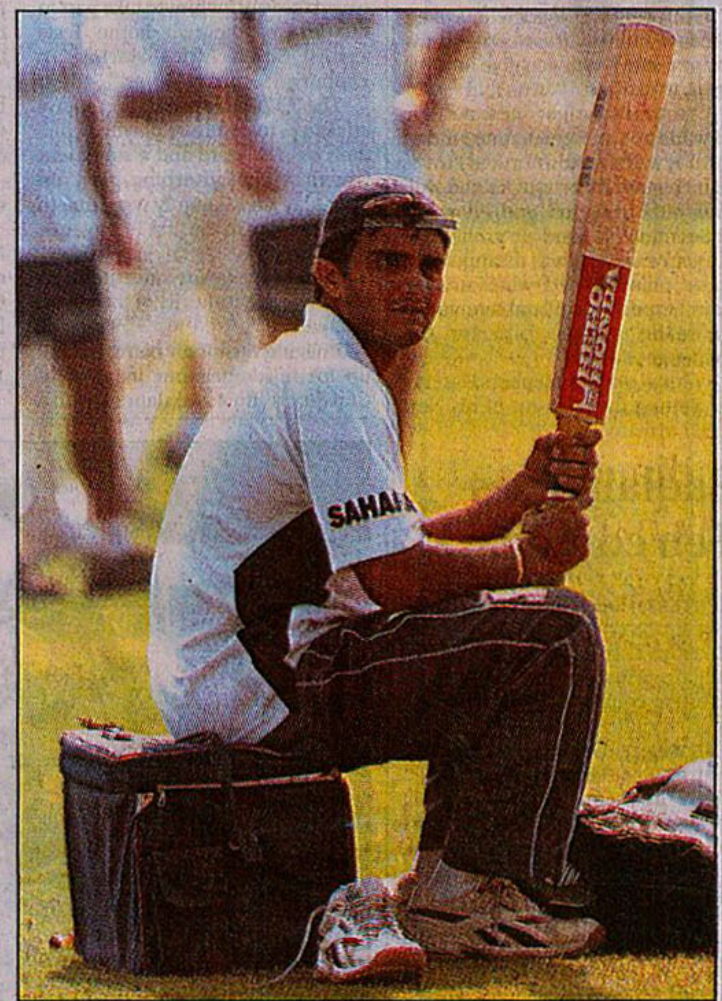


PHOTO: AFP
BAN, WHAT BAN? India captain Sourav Ganguly waits for his turn to bat during a practice in Kanpur yesterday. Ganguly, who faces a two-match ban, was allowed to play in the first Test against South Africa by the International Cricket Council.

Was Imran bent too?

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Former Pakistan great Imran Khan Friday backed proposed changes to cricket's throwing laws and said he would love to see how much his arm bent when he used to bowl during his illustrious career.

"I would love to see how much my arm used to bend. I was under the illusion that my arm was always right and did not bend," said Khan.

"It would be interesting to see through the modern technology how much the former bowlers used to bend their arms," said Khan who is now an MP.

"I would not mind if I was found bending the arm, how much we used to bend the arm would be interesting to note," said the 52-year-old Khan, who took 362 wickets in 82 Tests and 182 in 175 one-day games between 1971 to 1992.

"When we used to play, such a modern technology was not used and I have always said that the bowling law was faulty but now I am happy that this has come under discussion and it should be solved," said Khan.

An International Cricket Council

(ICC) committee of former Test players, supported by scientific equipment last month found that almost every international bowler straightened their arm at some stage of delivery.

The committee was headed by



IMRAN KHAN

ICC general manager David Richardson, a former South African wicket-keeper, also including former Test stars like Sunil Gavaskar, Aravinda de Silva, Angus Fraser and Michael Holding.

It recommended a new rule allowing bowlers to straighten their

arms by up to 15 degrees.

Khan said the new rules should be implemented in the right spirit.

"I think now it should not be left to the umpire because the umpire could not see the angles with a naked eye."

"It should be left to match referees who sit in the box and analyse every action whether the stipulated regulations of 15 degree are violated."

The ICC committee found that even current bowlers like England's Steve Harmison, Australian Glenn McGrath and South African Shaun Pollock are chuckers under existing rules.

They also conceded that former greats Australian Dennis Lillee, Khan, New Zealand's Richard Hadlee, England's duo of Fred Trueman and Ian Botham also threw the ball, if judged on modern equipment.

If the proposed new ruling is accepted by the ICC chief executives' committee of the 10 Test-playing countries at Melbourne in February, Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan will be allowed to bowl his controversial 'doosra' delivery which turns the 'doosra' from his normal off-break.

Oram-some hundred

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Brisbane

It was clear from the moment Jacob Oram strode to the crease that the giant New Zealand all-rounder was intent on making a big hit in his first Test against Australia.

As one of the tallest and heaviest men ever to play for his country, Oram cuts an imposing figure on the field but the impression he left on the Aussies was not the size of his frame but the size of his score.

Swatting boundaries to all parts of the Gabba, Oram blasted a career-best 126 not out against the most potent bowling attack in the world to steer the Kiwis to a first innings total of 353.

His 258-minute, 178-ball innings featured 12 fours and three gigantic sixes but was built on the back of a composed display that tormented the Australians after they had New Zealand in trouble the previous day.

"It's my second Test century, but it means a lot more to me, today a lot of factors added up to the reason why it was so special: Australia (is the) best team in the world, it's in

their own backyard, first Test of the series for me ... it was just a very special day," said the imposing New Zealand who was playing in his 16th Test.

"The time I went to the wicket yesterday we were in a spot of bother, so to turn our ship around and play a leading hand in that was very special to me."

Oram was criticised in New Zealand for failing to show any emotion when he made his maiden Test hundred (119 not out against South Africa last March) but there was no mistaking his feelings on Friday.

After driving Jason Gillespie through the covers and scampering through for the two runs he needed to reach triple figures, he kissed his bat and pointed to the sky.

He dedicated the innings to his late grandfather, who died three months ago after losing a battle against cancer.

"That was for my grandfather, he died three months ago," Oram explained.

"He was probably my heaviest critic but at the same time I know he was very proud of what I had achieved."

"He died of cancer and I know he'd said to the doctors two years ago he wanted to be alive when I played my first Test and he managed to see that at the Basin Reserve (in Wellington)."

"He was probably my biggest critic but he was also a great supporter of mine and was proud of my achievements. I wish he could have been here."

At 1.98 metres (6ft 7in) tall and with a broad build, Oram could well have been lost to cricket after years of being pestered to play rugby but he never fancied himself as an All Black despite coming from the rugby heartland of Manawatu.

He chose soccer instead and was good enough to earn selection in the New Zealand Under 20s team as a goalkeeper before concentrating his talents on cricket.

Oram, 26, made his Test debut against India in 2002 but injuries have stalled his career and it was not until this year that he began to show his true potential.

Although he bats left-handed, he bowls right and is recognised as an astute thinker having captained his first-class team at 20. He has already

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



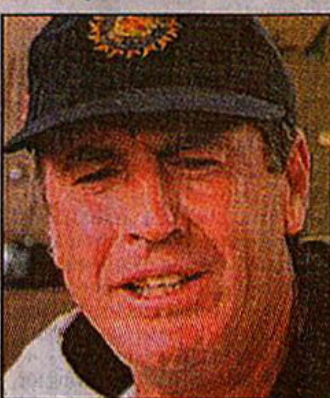
Did U Know?

Sachin Tendulkar was out first ball in his first two international matches and managed only 7 runs in his third.



TEN Sports

India vs South Africa
First Test, Day One
Live at 9:50 am
ESPN
Australia vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Three
Live at 6:00 am
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Middlesbrough
Live at 8:55 pm
Man City vs Portsmouth
Live at 8:55 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Barcelona
Live at 3:00 am (Sunday)
STAR Sports
Tennis Masters Cup
Live at 7:00 am
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 6:40 pm
Chelsea vs Bolton
Live at 8:55 pm



John Wright
(India cricket coach)
"This pitch is surely going to help spinners."

Before the Kanpur Test against South Africa.

Div I chess Nov 25

SPORTS REPORTER

The First Division Chess League will begin on November 25 at the federation hall-room.

Sixteen clubs will take part in the meet.