

Documenta™ Ltd.
Data driven development
- Data Mining
- Powerful Archive Lookup System
- Cataloguing and Filing System
Smart Paperless Digital Office!

Web: www.documenta.com
Email: contact@documenta.com
Address: 65, Mohakhali C/A Dhaka-1212, Ph: 9884635/97/99 Ext: 123, 124.

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 10, 2005, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

BBN Special Offer
WIRELESS BROADBAND
32 kbps Dedicated Full Duplex
@
Taka 14,950/=

Address: 18th floor, 65-66 Mohakhali, Dhaka.
Tel: 9883976, 9883981, 9884635, 9884637, 9884639
Mobile: 019340804, 0171-103845
E-mail: sales@bbsm.net, Website: www.bbsm.net

Tigers can't wait

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Chittagong



Fifth days are pretty special in Bangladesh's Test history. There are very few occasions when they have actually taken a match into the last day and even when they have managed it, most times they turned up at the ground just for the opposition to complete their victory formalities.

Only once did they go to sleep on the fourth day thinking they can win the next day only for Inzamam-ul-Haq to spoil the brewing party on that fateful morning in Multan in August 2003. But nothing can be compared to the emotions that will go through their minds on Monday when the Tigers will try to give the finishing touches to the hopes of an entire nation and they will realistically believe it is possible.

The thrill and excitement in anticipation of a first ever Test victory has gripped the Bangladeshi cricketers and there was a certain buzz about them as they left the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

However, captain Habibul Bashar was not ready to take anything for granted and knows there is a very hard day's work left.

"We have never been in such a situation before. It is stressful because I had to take a lot of deci-

sions in this Test match for the first time like when to declare, how long to bat, how long we will need to get them out," Bashar said.

"I also had to think at one stage about whether we were going to force the follow-on if we had bowled them out before that target. These are all new things for me. But I have to admit that I am enjoying this situation. I have enjoyed every ball of this match. We have been waiting for a final day like this," he added.

When asked whether waiting for another night would be difficult, Bashar said that they had a little time to prepare for something like this but he was not jumping into conclusions.

"After seeing their first innings batting, we know now that they are a good side. We can not relax against them."

"Taking seven wickets from 90 odd overs would not be easy. The wicket has slowed down in four days but there is not as much turn as we had expected from it. Still we are hoping to get some turn and if it behaves like a typical fifth day wicket, we can get what we are waiting for. But I have told my teammates to prepare for hard work because Zimbabwe have a number of good batsmen like Masakadza who is playing well and Taylor who had looked very compact to me. Players like Taibu and Chigumbura

also have the capability to bat long," said Bangladesh's premier batsman.

"We planned to give them 20 overs today but we had to declare earlier than that. At tea, we did not have enough runs on board," he said replying to a question whether the declaration had come late.

With key bowler Mohammad Rafique nursing a hamstring injury, Bashar has some worries but he said that even if the champion performer gave his 80 percent, that would be welcome.

"I am still confident but we all know that the first Test victory will not come easy. We have to work for it. So far, things have gone in our favour. I hope for a better tomorrow."

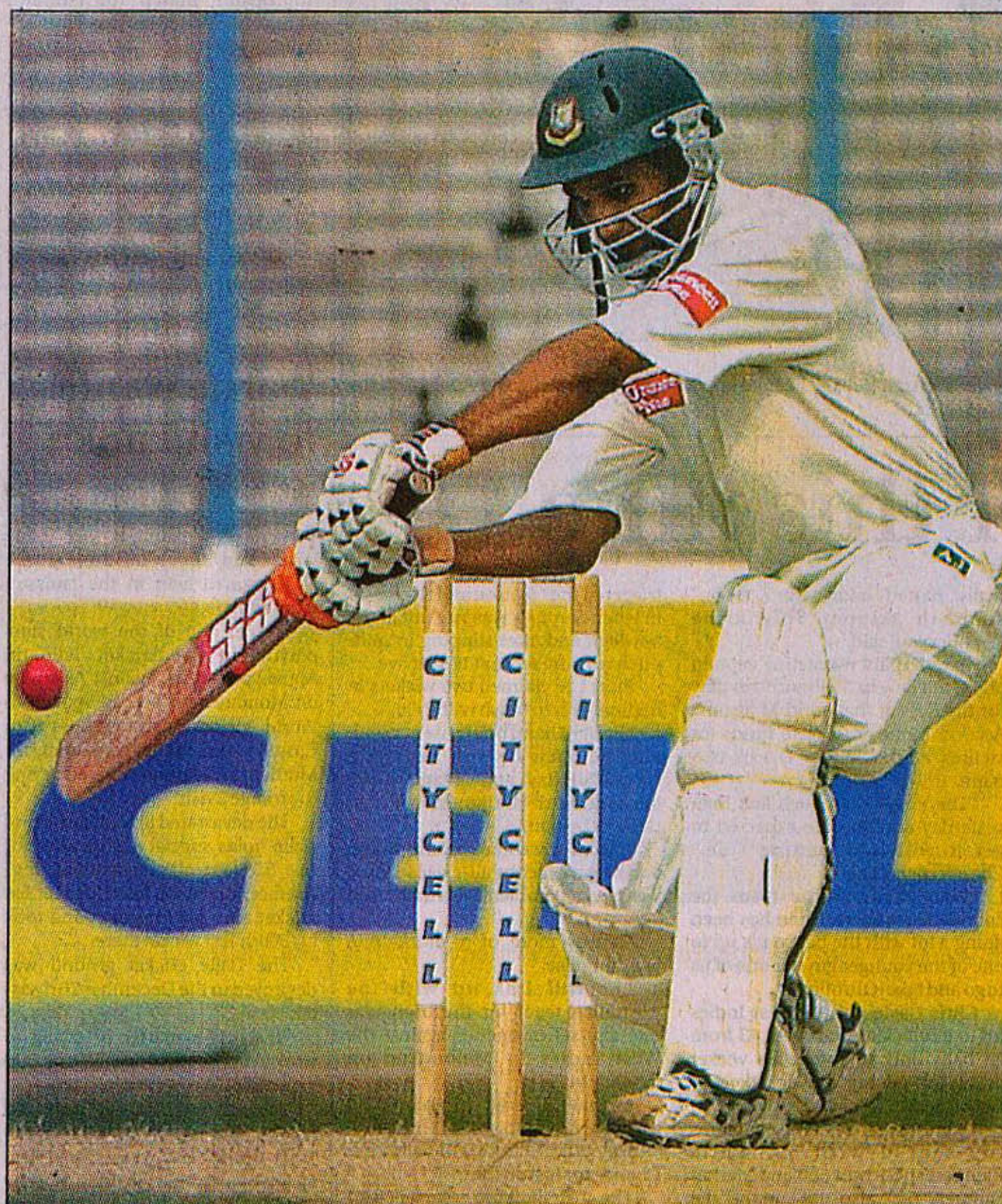
Bashar said he was happy to remove three rival batsmen by close of play. "We wanted to take at least two wickets, so I am satisfied. It will give us a psychological edge."

Bashar's Zimbabwe counterpart Tatenda Taibu as ever remained positive and was still believing his side can chase the kind of target they have never managed to topple in the past.

"Tomorrow is a very important day for us. We have to again occupy the crease and we only need two hundreds and we will be close to winning the game," said Taibu.

"If we can apply ourselves, we

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



LEADING FROM THE FRONT: Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar, who hit another half-century in the second innings, caresses one through cover for a boundary on the fourth day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Bashar's lucky pair?

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar continued to set the trend with his

trusty willow that produced his 19th Test half-century yesterday.

The country's premier batsman, who now has 2,287 runs from 33 Tests, stands out among the pack of Tigers with a few more unique records.

While teammates Javed Omar and Mohammad Ashraful are a distant second with six fifties apiece, Bashar has already crossed the 50-landmark seven times against Zimbabwe alone inclusive of one century.

Not only that the 28-year-old, who has three Test hundreds to his credit, also holds the distinction of scoring a pair of half-centuries five times after his 55 in the second innings of the first Test.

The country's second Test venue has also proved lucky for the elegant

right-hander because it is here that he scored half centuries in both innings of a Test twice earlier. Also, it is the third time Bashar has done this against Zimbabwe.

Javed Omar and Hannan Sarkar, both opening batsmen, are the other Bangladesh players who have scored two fifties in one Test. Javed made 62 and 85 not out on debut against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo in 2001 while Hannan scored 76 and 55 in the Cairns Test against Australia in 2003.

While Bashar stands head and shoulders above his fellow batsman, left-arm spinner excels in the bowling.

The leading wicket-taker of the country in both forms of the game took his Test tally to 66 from 17 games after his fifth five-wicket haul in the first innings against Zimbabwe at Chittagong.

Bangladesh's first innings total of 488 was also their highest in 35 Test. Besides, setting Zimbabwe a fourth-innings target of 361 is the highest

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Blazing Al Shahriar, Hannan

SPORTS REPORTER



Out of favour Bangladesh batsmen Al Shahriar and Hannan Sarkar bludgeoned their way to sparkling centuries in a record

296-run second wicket stand as Old DOHS registered a thumping 218-run victory over Indira Road KC in a Green Delta Premier Division Cricket League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

With the outcome, the newcomers surged ahead in their quest of a grand league title on debut as they took solo lead in the 12-team competition securing 16 points from nine matches, two ahead of holders Victoria Sporting Club and last season's runners-up City Club and

Bangladesh Biman.

Biman handed Orient Sporting Club an 85-run defeat at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium to share the second spot with 14 points from nine outings.

In the another match, Young Pegasus upset giant killers Agrani Bank by six wickets at the BKSP.

Defending champions Victoria will desperately try to win today's crucial match against out of race Mohammedan (10 points) at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium while City Club need to beat Abahani (12 points) at the BKSP to keep their hopes alive.

Old DOHS have two matches remaining against Brothers Union and Abahani.

OLD DOHS V INDIRAROAD

Al Shahriar and Hannan went on a rampage as Old DOHS piled up a

mammoth 345 for 6. Indira Road never even dared to contemplate chasing and were all out for 127 in 35.5 overs.

Indira Road had made a brisk start after deciding to field first when new ball bowler Mahub Alam removed Jamal Faisal for naught in the third ball of the match.

But Shahriar and Hannan had other ideas.

Shahriar, who has been continuously reminding the national selectors, and is coming off a dazzling unbeaten century for BCB XI against visiting Zimbabwe in a three-day match at Chittagong last week, brutally punished the bowlers.

The right-hander's 151-ball 166 was punctuated by nine over boundaries and eleven boundaries.

The partnership came to an end in the 45th over when Hannan was

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Abahani do Usha double



SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani spoiled Usha Krira Chakra's chance to finish the Green Delta Premier Hockey League in style after the Sky Blues inflicted a 2-1 defeat on the new champions at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

Interestingly, the result ensured that the outgoing champions were the only team in 10-team league that had a hundred per cent record against their opponents.

Abahani finished runners-up one point behind Usha.

With little to play for the final match of the League was a dull affair. Indian Prakash Chakle put

Abahani ahead in the sixth minute from a field goal and captain Moududur Rahman Shuvo levelled the margin for Usha in the 29th minute with another field goal.

Veteran Musa Miah, however, with game's third field goal netted the winner in the 61st minute.

Though Usha might not have been successful against the Dhammondi-based club on way to a maiden title, the old-town side established in 1975, can be proud of

the fact they achieved their best success in any competition.

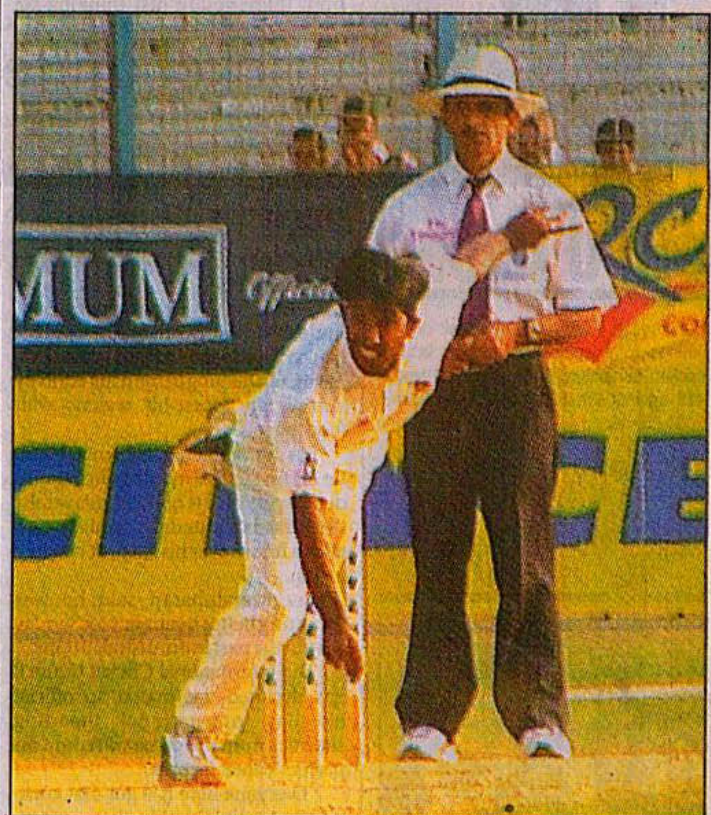
Two-time runners-up Usha had in the past pushed powerhouses Abahani and Mohammedan in domestic hockey but missed out on glory in the latter stages.

The key to Usha's success lay in the recruitment of three Pakistani players including Mohammad Nadeem, the Olympic team captain, and the brilliant tactics of coach Maumunur Rashid.

For Abahani, their only solace was winning the curtain-raiser Club Cup Tournament against arch-rivals Mohammedan, who despite spending hugely on local star players, had a disastrous season.

The Motijheel outfit's title bid suffered because the club could not

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



MAKING EARLY INROADS: Bangladesh paceman Tapash Baisya, who took the first two Zimbabwe second innings wickets yesterday, follows through on a delivery.



BTV & ESPN
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Five
Live at 9:20 am

ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

SET Max
Cricket Tsunami Appeal
Asian XI v Rest of the World
Live at 9:10 am

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Five
Venue: M A Aziz Stadium, Ctg
Green Delta Premier Cricket League
Abahani vs City Club (BKSP)
Uttara vs Agrani Bank (BCS)
Victoria vs Mohammedan (FCS)

Cricket unites for tsunami victims

AFP, Melbourne

World cricket's elite gather here on Monday to raise an estimated 10 million dollars (7.5 million US) for the Asian tsunami disaster.

The Rest of the World, led by Ricky Ponting, will take on the Sourav Ganguly-skipped Asia in a one-day international charity match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as world cricket's response to the shattering events on Indian Ocean shorelines a fortnight ago.

A sellout crowd of about 78,000 and millions of viewers from 122 countries will watch the special match, thrown together at short notice.

Not since Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket in the late 1970s has there been a more star-studded gathering of cricket talent in Australia for one match.

Three of the four all-time leading Test wicket-takers, including the top two Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan, and leading batsmen such as Brian Lara and Ponting will play.

All proceeds from the match will go to aid agency World Vision, which has already raised more than 20 million dollars (15 million US) for tsunami victims this weekend from

a mass concert and telethon.

"Having a gathering of players like this in Melbourne is great for this game and it's obviously going to be great for the tsunami relief fund," Ponting said Sunday.

"It's great to see people have come from all around the world to do whatever we can as a player group and as a cricket community for people that are a lot less fortunate than us."

The match has been pulled together in just 12 days, with most of the players assembling here Sunday for a media conference and light training.

No official estimate has been put on the funds likely to be raised from the match, but privately 10 million dollars is being talked about as a realistic aim, with one million dollars (750,000 US) already generated in ticket sales, one million dollars pledged by the match sponsor and 1,000 dollars a run to be donated by a mobile phone company.

All proceeds from food and drink sales, auctions of signed shirts on website eBay, and a telethon to be held in conjunction with the match on the Nine Network will also swell the coffers to aid World Vision's work in the devastated region.

Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist, who is also a World Vision

ambassador, said he hoped the nation's outpouring of generosity to

help tsunami victims wouldn't be a

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PLAYING FOR A NOBLE CAUSE: Asian cricket superstars listen to speeches at a function in Melbourne yesterday. They take on the Rest of the World side in a charity match here today.



MOBILE SCOREBOARD

Type **CRIC** and SMS* to **2525** to receive the latest CRICKET UPDATES.

*Charge applicable

