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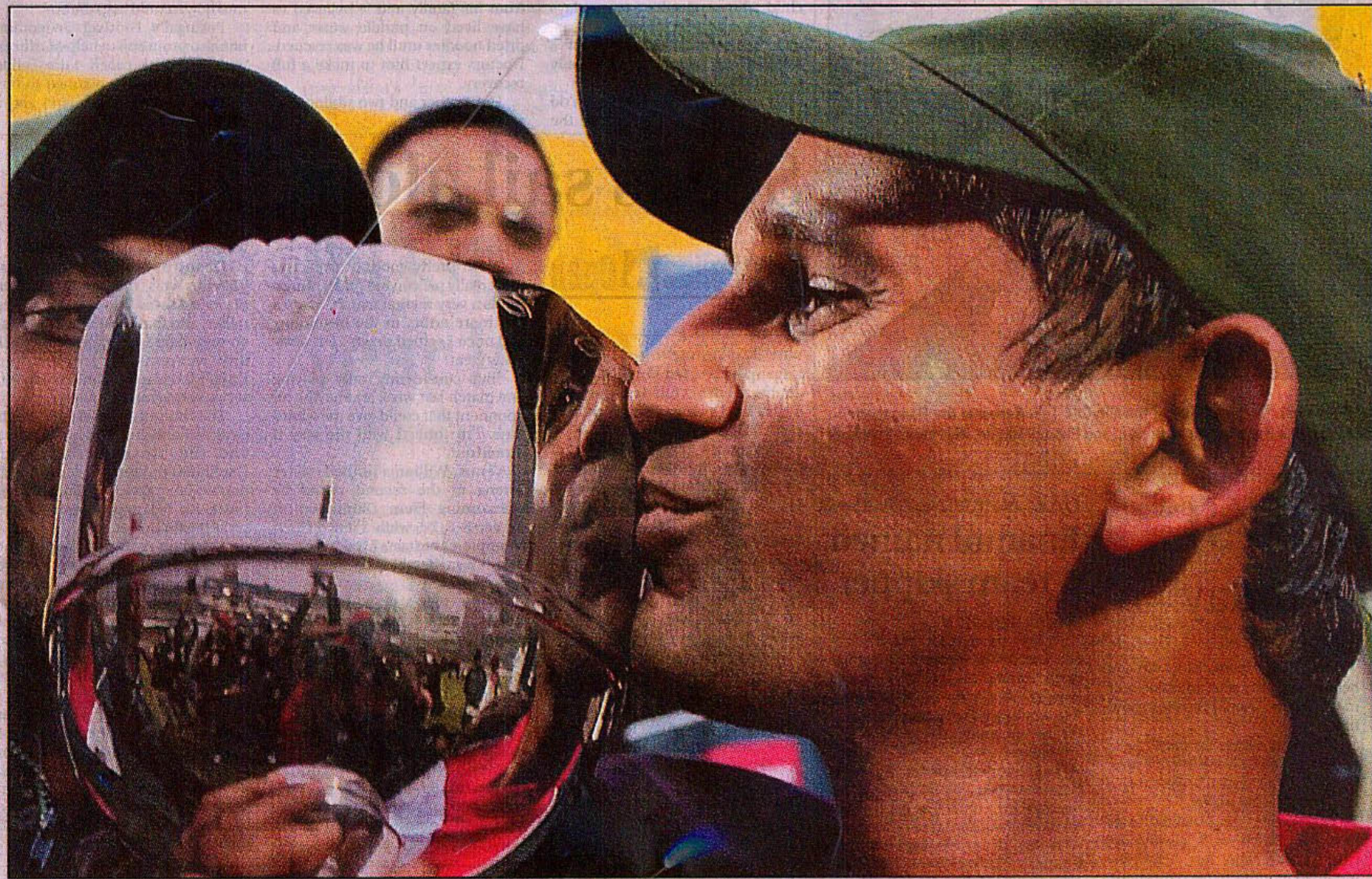
# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19, 2005, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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# NOW COMES THE SERIES



**KISSING HISTORY:** Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar kisses the CityCell Test Series trophy, the first for the Tigers in either version of cricket, at the end of the second and final match against Zimbabwe at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Sometimes a draw is worth more than a victory itself in Test cricket. And one man who knows that better than anybody else is Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore.

Moments after Bangladesh drew the second Test against Zimbabwe at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to complete a historic series victory, the 50-year-old tactician rightly said: "Saving the Test match here went a long way in showing people that batsmen of Bangladesh are not just about crash-bang wallops. They do have the ability to occupy the crease for a long period of time. In the greater picture of Bangladesh's cricket this is very significant. It's better than a win."

Indeed the way the Tigers applied themselves over one and a half days after Zimbabwe set stiff victory target of 374 was a sight to behold considering Bangladesh's past record of tumbling under pressure.

True that Zimbabwe was not the strongest side that had toured Bangladesh, but chasing more than 350-plus on a typical sub-continent wicket and surviving four sessions would test even the very best team.

And in the case of Bangladesh it was a mountain to climb only days after celebrating their greatest-ever triumph in the five-day game in Chittagong.

Many feared another collapse on the cards after the first-innings debacle and a few gave up hope when Zimbabwe took a 290-run lead with four wickets still in hand after the third day's play.

But as it often happens in a classic Test match, there were ups and downs for the next two days and the Tigers rose to the occasion when it mattered most by accomplishing a 'mission impossible' to save the Test match.

Bangladesh might not have achieved the target that only three teams India, West Indies and Australia have accomplished but they did something no less important and that was bat for five sessions to ensure a draw.

They did it by scoring less than two runs an over and nothing could have been better than this: A maiden Test win and a series victory altogether, just four years after making debut on the big scene.

It was a fitting finish to a series that began with Bangladesh amassing their biggest total of 488 in the first innings at Chittagong.

The experienced campaigners started it with Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar scoring back-to-back 50s in the port city while left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique taking another five-wicket haul.

Zimbabwe skipper Tatenda Taibu was even more consistent scoring 330 including an imperious 153 at Dhaka.

But the series will be best remembered for the accession of youth with the record-breaking exploits of left-arm spinner Enamul Haque, who finished man-of-the-series with a haul of 18 wickets including 12 wickets (7-95 and 5-105) in the Dhaka Test alone.

The way the 18-year-old left-arm spinner responded to the task of taking the role of the strike bowler with country's leading wicket-taker Mohammad Rafique being half-fit, says it all

about a real match winner in the making.

The pace duo of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Tapash Baisya always gave the breakthroughs to reduce the workload for the spinners and Mashrafe's batting came as a plus in both the Tests with knocks of 48, 16 and 26.

But it was Nafees, a young man playing only his sixth Test preserved his best for last. He stuck to the team-plan to show patience and bat as long as possible, reaching his maiden Test hundred (121) in the line of duty.

Vice-captain and wicket-keeper Khaled Mashud remained as faithful as ever with his gloves and scoring useful runs in crucial moments, and his unbeaten 28 was on the final day was another example of commitment personified.

**SCOREBOARD**

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings 298 (Taibu 85 not out, Matsikenyeri 51; Enamul 7-95)

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 211 (Rafique 56, Omar 34; Hondo 6-59, Cremer 2-32)

**ZIMBABWE:** Second innings 286 (Taibu 153, Taylor 78; Enamul 5-105, Mashrafe 3-51)

**BANGLADESH:** Second innings (overnight 98-0)

Omar c Taylor b Cremer 43  
 Iqbal c Taylor b Panyangara 121  
 Bashir c Masakadza b Panyangara 2  
 Ashraf c Ibrahim b Cremer 3  
 Saleh not out 56  
 Aftab c Taibu b Panyangara 5  
 Mashud not out 28

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**Kapali & Razzaq return for ODIs**

SPORTS REPORTER

Middle-order batsman Alok Kapali and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaq returned to the one-day side when Bangladesh selectors named a 14-member squad yesterday for the first three matches against visiting Zimbabwe.

The five-game ODI series starts with a day-nighter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

Stylish right-hander Kapali last appeared for the Tigers against New Zealand in October last year while Razzaq, who made a bright one-day debut in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, was kept out of the side after his action was reported during the tournament in July-August.

However, the Faruque Ahmed-led selection committee did not consider opener Javed Omar, left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique

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## Winning the series was more important

BISHWAJIT ROY



Bangladesh's plan was to ensure that the second Test against Zimbabwe would end in a draw so that they could taste a maiden series victory and Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore was delighted by the outcome.

When asked whether they had fancied the idea of trying to win the match at any stage, the shrewd tactician said that it would have been a risk for the home side especially since they had a 1-0 lead in the series.

"I have to say that on a wearing

pitch on the fifth day, when two batsmen are set, it is obviously a lot easier. But when a wicket falls as you take a risk or two while chasing a very large total to win a game, it becomes a lot harder for the next man coming in. If we had done that then we may have been in a difficult position. We were the leaders in the series, they had to chase us," said the 50-year-old Australian at the post match briefing.

Whatmore praised the commitment showed by his charges during fightback in the second innings after struggling first the three days.

"The team realised that they didn't do the right things on the second day. We didn't bat too good in the first innings. I think they were

all very committed in putting a few things right and in the second innings they batted with a lot of commitment and purpose which pleased everyone," he said.

There was never any doubt about who won over the heart of the coach. 18-year-old left-arm spinner Enamul Haque finished with 18 wickets in the series but Whatmore said that he was not surprised by the brilliant success of the young man from Sylhet.

"To be very honest I wasn't surprised. A lot of people, his captain and teammates believed that he had the potential to create a lot of problem for the opposition and he showed a little glimpse of that

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