



## Did U Know?

Sachin Tendulkar became the fourth Indian bowler to claim five wickets in an innings against Pakistan, joining Sourav Ganguly -- 5 for 16 at Toronto in 1997; Arshad Ayub -- 5 for 21 at Dhaka in 1988-89 and Venkatesh Prasad -- 5 for 27 at Manchester in 1999.

## What to WATCH

### BTV & DD Sports

India vs Pakistan

Second ODI

Live at 9:30 am

### ESPN

Football Focus

Live at 6:30 pm

Sportscentre

Live at 8:30 pm

### UEFA Champions League

Quarterfinal

Liverpool vs Juventus

Live at 12:30 am (Wednesday)

### New Zealand vs Sri Lanka

First Test, Day Three

Live at 4:30 am (Wednesday)

### STAR Sports

Sportsline

Live at 8:00 pm

India vs Pakistan

Second ODI, Highlights

Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm

### UEFA Champions League

Quarterfinal

Olympique Lyonnais vs Eintracht Frankfurt

Live at 12:30 am (Wednesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

### Ispahani Nat'l Cricket League

(Four-dayer, Day One)

Sylhet vs Chittagong

Venue: Sylhet Stadium

Rajshahi vs Khulna

Venue: Rajshahi Stadium

Barisal vs Dhaka

## Only England on his mind

### Cricket

#### BISHWAJIT ROY

For Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore first thing comes first. He was not even ready to entertain the whisperings of whether he will be at the helm or not after his contract expires in September this year.

Rather, the 50-year-old tactician wanted to make the most of the month-long training, which started at the Army Stadium yesterday, ahead of the demanding England tour.

Bangladesh will embark on their maiden series in England next month with the first Test starting at Lord's on May 26-30.

"Right now I'm not thinking about anything other than the coming English assignment. This particular set of games against England is probably very important. We all know that exposure is very big in places like England, so for us to put up a good showing is even more important on this tour than others," said Whatmore after the first day's workout with 20 probables.

Fresh after a successful home series against Zimbabwe that preceded a mouthful one-day triumph over India, the Sri Lankan-born Australian said that he wanted to take inspiration from those successes.

"The month of January was very good for us and it will definitely help the boys to face a bigger challenge

in England. We will be expecting some of our boys to continue in their progress of improving," said Whatmore.

He however admitted that the current England team, ranked second behind Australia in the ICC Test rankings, would be no less hostile than the biting cold and the



DAV WHATMORE

wicket suited their bowlers most.

"We all know that they rank second in Test. We will play in their own conditions and in May England can get very cold. So, we need to battle the conditions first and then need to battle against the opposition."

"It's a tall task but nevertheless an improving side will have to dwell against this sort of condition," he

continued.

Watmore's last visit to England with the Tigers was in the ICC Champions Trophy last year and it was a bitter experience -- two heavy defeats against South Africa and eventual winners West Indies.

But the witty Bangladesh coach expects a better result in the triangular series, which will follow the two Tests. World champions Australia are the other team.

"It was totally a different competition where we had played only two games. We had not much time to recover from a bad game. A number of other teams had suffered the same fate. But in triangular one-day tournament after two Tests, we have six matches, obviously our goal is to make the final," said Whatmore smilingly.

Regarding the two new faces in the preliminary squad, Whatmore said he was happy to see someone coming and trying hard to make an impression.

"Obviously they were selected on merit. It is good that we have a couple of new faces every now and then coming in. I think you have seen both of them working very hard today in the fitness testing and

pressing their claims to be selected," said Whatmore about right-arm pacesman Shahadat Hossain Rajib and left-handed opener Shahriar Nafees Ahmed.

## NCL ONE-DAYERS Rajshahi ride on Anisur ton

### SPORTS REPORTER

Anisur Rahman Sanchay smashed 101 yesterday to help Rajshahi maintain their lead in the Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League one-day competition with a massive 111-run win over Khulna.

Although the loss was a blow to second-placed Khulna, Sylhet remained hot on the leaders' heels when they snatched a three-wicket win against defending champions Chittagong.

Barisal also won at home, recording their first victory with a three-wicket defeat over an under-strength Dhaka.

Table-toppers Rajshahi have 14 points with seven wins while Sylhet moved to 12 points, closely followed by Khulna (10). Dhaka slipped to fourth place with eight points following their fourth defeat while Chittagong and Barisal are bottom of the table with two points each.

### RAJSHAH-KHULNA

While centuries flowed in the longer version of the National League -- 30 hundreds have been scored in seven rounds -- the limited-overs competition has been starved for hundred makers. After Chittagong captain Azam Iqbal and Barisal opener Imran Ahmed, Anisur Rahman became only the third man to reach the magical three-figure mark.

The number four Rajshahi batter, who struck nine fours and one six in his 139-ball 101, steered Rajshahi to 285-9 at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium. The home side elected to bat but were reduced to 12-2 before Forhad Reza, who smashed a run-a-ball 64 and man-of-the-match Anisur repaired the damage putting on 136 runs for the third wicket.

Captain Hasanuzzaman Rosel hit a responsible, 47-ball 50. Khulna were skittled out for 174 with Mushfiqur Rahman taking four for 46.

### SYLHET-CHITTAGONG

Spurred on by repeated national team omissions, Sylhet captain Alok

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PHOTO: STAR

IN FOCUS: Fast bowler Kazi Shahadat Hossain Rajib (L) and opening batsman Shahriar Nafees Ahmed pose after completing the first training session with the Tigers at the Army Stadium yesterday.

## Exciting newcomers

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

The two fresh faces in the Tigers' 20-man preliminary squad for the tour of England, Shahadat Hossain Rajib and Shahriar Nafees Ahmed both offer something new.

While 18-year-old Shahadat is making quite an impression with his raw pace Nafees, a year older than the tearaway, could become the first specialist left-handed opener for the Tigers if the selectors decide to trust his obvious talent.

But whether they survive the final cut or not, the youngsters are nevertheless grateful for the opportunity to rub shoulders with the country's top names and are quite happy to pursue their individual goals.

The exciting Shahadat said his only

concern at the moment was to bowl even faster.

"I have averaged 90 mph but I'm not satisfied with that speed. I love to bowl fast and I'm confident that I can improve my pace. My dream is to see my name in the genuine fast bowlers' list," said Shahadat after the first training session of the preliminary team at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Naturally aggressive and well-built, Shahadat, who is the country's quickest bowler, said nothing delighted him more than seeing the stumps uprooted by a fast delivery.

"I still don't think too much about variation. I want to beat batsmen with raw pace. I love the sight of stumps cartwheeling," said the six feet three quick who hails from Narayanganj. "I would like to be known as the Narayanganj Express."

After unsettling opposing batsmen in the Under-19 World Cup early last

year, Shahadat had toured England with the U-19s and Zimbabwe with Bangladesh A and he feels the experience gained from those trips would come handy if he is selected.

"I am just beginning my career, so I'm not thinking about the final selection. But if I get the chance, nothing like it because English conditions suit fast bowlers."

"I had enjoyed bowling in Zimbabwe too and I have gained valuable experience from that particular series," said Shahadat, who took 12 wickets in two A team Tests as Bangladesh A thumped the hosts 3-0.

Nafees, who had captained the A team in Zimbabwe and also had English experience with the U-19s, said he was in no hurry to make his full international debut.

"I consider myself extremely lucky that I have received the call up.

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## 2nd Indo-Pak ODI today

### AFP, Visakhapatnam

India captain Sourav Ganguly's failure as a batsman is not putting extra pressure on the team during the one-day series against arch-rivals Pakistan, vice-captain Rahul Dravid insisted on Monday.

Ganguly managed just 48 runs in five Test innings against Pakistan and was dismissed for a first-ball duck in the opening one-day international at Cochin on Saturday which India won by 87 runs.

"There is no pressure because of that and we are sure Sourav will come up with a good performance sooner or later," Dravid said ahead of the second one-dayer in this coastal town on Tuesday.

"Each player in the team has a role to play and there are times when some are out of form. The challenge is to carry people who are out of form and still manage the right

results." India won at Cochin mainly due to centuries from Virender Sehwag and Dravid and a five-wicket haul by part-time spinner Sachin Tendulkar.

### VENUE'S ODI DEBUT

The second one-dayer between India and Pakistan today will be the first international game at the picturesque ACA-VCDCA Stadium, located on the outskirts of coastal town of Visakhapatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It has a capacity of an estimated 26,000 spectators.

The stadium was built only recently and has hosted just one international team before, when the New Zealand took on a Board President's XI in 2003.



PHOTO: AFP

THE MASTER BOWLER! Sachin Tendulkar grabs a tennis ball during training yesterday ahead of the second ODI against Pakistan at Vishakhapatnam today.

## Lara available, four others eligible

### CRICINFO, undated

After weeks of high drama, the sponsorship dispute between the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and the players has finally come to end, with the board directing the selectors to consider Chris Gayle, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Dwayne Bravo and Fidel Edwards for selection for the second Test against South Africa, due to begin on April 8 in Trinidad.

The change in WICB's decision was triggered by the self-termination of Cable and Wireless contracts by Gayle and Sarwan last week, followed by a notification from Cable & Wireless (C&W) to the board regarding the termination of individual contracts of Bravo and Edwards. These four players were dropped from the squad because of a conflict between individual sponsor C&W and the team sponsor, Digicel.

The WICB also said that Brian Lara had agreed to accept the board's invitation to join the team, which he had earlier refused due to the ineligibility of other players.

### SA 143/3

#### STAR SPORT DESK

South Africa were 143 for 3 in their second innings half an hour before lunch on the fifth and final day of the first Test against West Indies at the Bourda Oval in Georgetown yesterday.