

# Morning after the trauma



AL-AMIN from London

It was a dream turned nightmare for Bangladesh in their first Test at Lord's. And a day after their dreadful innings and 261 runs defeat they had to take part in a painful morning training session just outside the grand old venue, where they were both physically and mentally bruised in a three-day mismatch against Michael Vaughan's vaunted England side.

Coach Dav Whatmore's early morning drill plan certainly came from the thinking that practice can only make them perfect or might follow the wistful remark of his paceman Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza who wanted his top order batsmen to stand and face shot-pitched deliveries coming at 90 mph in the nets.

But it is always easier said than done especially in England where India even on their third visit lost four wickets for nought in 14 deliveries at Headingly in 1952.

And Whatmore, who knows the conditions here better than anybody else in the Bangladesh team, expects another battle for survival in the second Test at Durham starting June 3.

"It will be a painful process but we will have to go through it and I'm afraid one or two players might never overcome those," said Whatmore while having breakfast at the Hotel Marriott.

It might sound rude but the fact is that if Bangladesh hopes to put up any sort of resistance at the Riverside ground in Chester-le-Street they need their techniques and heads in better condition.

Lord's is one of those few grounds in England where a visiting team can enjoy their batting. But Durham is not that kind to say the least and England captain Vaughan has already said that they will be as

hard as it can get.

But despite the fear factor of a four-pronged English pace attack Whatmore said that his batsmen are capable of facing it.

"It's just not how you go about your batting but how you adjust to the conditions," said Whatmore adding that most of his boys love to play shots.

And just to curb their appetite for going at everything the 50-year-old has instructed them to show their ability to stay at the wicket during the two-hour nets.

But in the nets no-one was there to bowl the same rising hot stuff that Khaled Mashud faced more times than anybody else in the team during the first Test.

Considered the best player who knows when and how to leave a ball, Mashud showed that aplenty at Lord's. He scored six in the first innings before being unfortunately adjudged leg before while his second knock of 44 was the best effort by a Bangladesh batsman at the home of cricket.

"It maybe because I've been

playing for a long time. But to frank I was always good at leaving the ball," said Mashud while recalling his two-hour battle against Matthew Hoggard, Steve Harmison, Simon Jones and Andrew Flintoff, who eventually took his wicket in the second innings.

"Harmison and Flintoff were a bit difficult because they were capable of making the ball kick. But if one stays at the wicket for a few overs you can see it nicely. Initially, I did not drive because I needed to adjust to the swing. But once I got my eyes

in I played my shots," said the inseparable Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman.

He said that a lot of batsmen have more shots up their sleeves but they desperately lack the application.

"Nothing could have been better had they applied my temperament with their ability to play shots."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chief cricket selector Faruque Ahmed (C) and coach Dav Whatmore (standing 2nd from L) are having an on-field team meeting with the players before a practice session at the Lord's ground in London on Sunday.



## Wasim Akram

(Pakistan cricket legend)

"I don't see myself being a coach since to be honest I'm not an organised person. And to make a good coach you need to be as organised as say like Bob Woolmer, Dav Whatmore and John Wright."



## TEN Sports

French Open  
Round of 16, Day 8  
Live at 4:00 pm  
West Indies vs Pakistan  
First Test, Day Five  
Live at 8:00 pm

## ESPN

Primera Liga  
Real Sociedad vs Barcelona  
Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 10:30 pm

## STAR Sports

Primera Liga  
Mallorca vs Real Betis  
Same Day Delay at 10:30 am  
Azlan Shah Cup Hockey  
Malaysia vs South Korea  
Live at 4:00 pm  
New Zealand vs South Africa  
Live at 6:00 pm  
Sportsline  
Live at 8:00 pm



Premier Football League  
Muktijoddha vs Wanderers (4:00 pm)  
Abahani vs Younmen's Club (6:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Chanderpaul lifts WI



AFP, Bridgetown

Shivnarine Chanderpaul collected his 14th Test hundred, and was eyeing his first victory in the post of West Indies captain after three days of the first Test against Pakistan.

The 30-year-old Chanderpaul was undefeated on 153 -- his first Test hundred against Pakistan -- that was the backbone of West Indies' second innings total of 371.

Facing the highly improbable, if not impossible task of scoring 573 to win, Pakistan reached 113 for four when bad light stopped play with 11 overs remaining on Saturday at Kensington Oval.

The Pakistanis were under severe pressure early, when they subsided to 16 for three before a near hour-long break for rain slowed down the rampaging West Indies.

On resumption, Pakistan lost Bazid Khan, but left-hander Asim Kamal, not out on 38, and the ultra-aggressive Shahid Afridi, not out on 32, got the visitors moving again in a stand of 66, unbroken, for the fifth wicket.

Pakistan suffered an immediate setback when Chris Gayle acrobatically caught left-handed opener

Salman Butt at second slip for a duck off the third ball of the innings from Fidel Edwards, who left the field with a hamstring strain after delivering four balls in his second over.

Two overs later, Younis Khan, leading Pakistan in place of the suspended Inzamam-ul-Haq, was run out for a duck too. A lack of communication with Yasir Hameed left them both at the batsmen's end, and Chanderpaul had a direct hit on the stump's at the bowler's end from mid-off.

Hameed never exuded confidence, and three overs later was put out of his misery when he was caught behind for 11 off Daren Powell.

Bazid came to the wicket and was busy consolidating his side's position with Kamal when the rains arrived, but following the stoppage Bazid was adjudged lbw to Corey Collimore for 23 to leave Pakistan 47 for four.

Afridi and Kamal however, batted circumspectly to slow West Indies' progress.

Earlier, Chanderpaul swept leg-spin bowler Danish Kaneria to fine leg for two runs to reach his landmark before his side was dismissed about five minutes before the scheduled tea break.

Left-hander Chanderpaul hit 10 fours and two sixes from 254 balls in 5-3/4 hours of dogged batting that helped his team tighten their grip on the match, and puts them in the frame for their first victory in a Test, since an innings and 99 runs win over Bangladesh at Kingston last June.

Before lunch, Chanderpaul, who scored 92 in the first innings, was within reach of his hundred, but the wicket of Wavell Hinds left West Indies on 271 for five at lunch.

After West Indies continued from their bedtime position of 168 for four, Hinds had enjoyed a bit of fortune on 21, when Kaneria dropped a return catch, but the leg-spin bowler had the last laugh when he bowled him just before lunch.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**WEST INDIES:** First innings 345 (Lara 130, Chanderpaul 92, Hinds 28, extras 38; Razzaq 3-58, Shabbir 3-66, Kaneria 3-114)  
**PAKISTAN:** First innings 144 (Younis 31, Butt 27; Edwards 5-38, Collimore 3-20, King 2-46)

**WEST INDIES:** Second innings 371 (Chanderpaul 153 not out, Hinds 52, Gayle 50, Lara 48; Afridi 3-49, Razzaq 2-36, Shabbir 2-70, Kaneria 2-115)

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings 113 for 4 (Afridi 38 not out, Kamal 32 not out; Edwards 1-0)

## 3-day practice match starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-day trial match between two different BCB selections to prepare the Bangladesh A team for its tour of England will start today at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Bangladesh A tour England in July-August.

Out-of-favour Alok Kapali will lead the Reds against the Mushfiqur Rahman-led Greens.

Tushar Imran earlier led the Green side in the three limited-over games but he will not be available along with left-arm spinner Manzarul Islam Rana. They are currently on national duty in England.

Four players Khaled Mahmud, Tushar Imran, Manzarul Islam Rana and Nazmul Hossain -- will join the Tigers in Hossain for the triangular one-day tournament.

## Bat didn't cause Sachin's injury

PTI, New Delhi

Indian cricket team physio John Gloster on Sunday said that the recent surgery gave Sachin Tendulkar the best chance to permanently cure his elbow injury and return to action at the earliest.

"The idea of doing the procedure is to get him the best possible chance of playing cricket at the earliest," he told a television channel in Mumbai.

Gloster also said that the main cause of Tendulkar's elbow injury was not the weight of his bat.

"I don't think that is the main cause. The bat Sachin is using he has been using for the last 16 years. What make and what weight he should use I'm not going to interfere at all," he said.

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## Open tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

The men's singles quarterfinals and semifinals of the Scandex Bangladesh Open tennis tournament will be held today at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

Amol Roy, Kanchan Ram, Akhtar Hossain, Alamgir Hossain, Ranjan Ram, Henry Mandol, Laxman Ram and Dipu Lal will compete for the last four places after winning their respective matches yesterday.

Meanwhile, Sathi Sarkar defeated BKSP's Ma Hai Ching 6-0, 6-2 to reach the women's singles final while Bhabna of Naogaon eliminated Khushbu of BKSP 6-1, 6-1 to advance to the girls' under-14 final.

# 'Axing Bangladesh folly'



AFP, London

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore insisted calls for the country to be stripped of its senior international status were "folly" despite seeing his team thrashed by an innings and 261 runs inside three days in the first Test against England here at Lord's.

His first Test on English soil ended in Bangladesh suffering the tenth largest Test innings defeat, the Asian makeweights now the beaten side in three of the biggest 10 Test innings triumphs of all time.

Whatmore's men, who have won just one of their 37 Tests, now head to Durham for the second and final match of this series starting on Friday.

That gives them little time to absorb the impact of being bowled out for 108 and 159 while in between conceding 528 for three declared, Marcus Trescothick making 194 and England captain Michael Vaughan 120.

Although the International Cricket Council (ICC) remain adamant that Bangladesh will not lose

their place among the 10-strong Test elite, Saturday's result is bound to lead to renewed questions about their future.

However, when asked if they should remain a Test team, Whatmore told reporters: "The simple answer to that is yes."

"Trying to achieve what everyone wants us to achieve is tough but to solely take Bangladesh out of international status full representation is just pure folly, ridiculous. We need to have a means to an end."

Like neighbours India and Pakistan, Bangladesh's 140 million population is passionate about cricket.

"We've got all the potential ingredients, it's incredible," said Whatmore, who coached Sri Lanka to the 1996 World Cup.

One suggestion repeatedly put forward is to split Test cricket into two divisions, with teams such as Bangladesh and fellow strugglers Zimbabwe playing each other more often, in a bid to create meaningful competition, rather than suffer regular hammerings at the hands of the likes of Australia and England.

Another proposal is for Bangladesh, which has no first-

class cricket structure in place, to play more games against the leading associate or non-Test nations.

But former Australia batsman Whatmore said of two divisions: "I don't think so." And as for extra matches against non-Test countries, he added: "I'm not sure that's the answer because comparing us to any of the associates that's foolish as well."

However, he admitted it was tough trying to maintain morale as the defeats piled up. "Yes the confidence does get knocked around a bit and we've got to guard against that."

"But having said that we had a lot of losses and came across a great victory against India (where Bangladesh won a one-day international in Dhaka by 15 runs in December).

"And then we backed that up with a history-making Test and one-day series win against Zimbabwe (on home soil in January). It is possible to get beaten, beaten, beaten and win."

Vaughan, whose team face

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## PREMIER BANK PREMIER LEAGUE

# Russel start on wrong foot



SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's runners-up Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra stumbled in their first appearance of the new Premier Football League season when promotees Farashganj Sporting Club handed them an upset 1-0 defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday.

Sheikh Russel were facing a challenge to prove that their success on Premier League debut last year was not a fluke but the performance they put on yesterday gave no indication of a bright future.

The spirited Farashganj, with a clutch of experienced booters, celebrated their return to the top flight of domestic football with a 48th minute goal courtesy of a penalty taken by Nigerian striker Felix.

The old Dhaka outfit were awarded the spot kick when Russel defender Yousuf saved a Walid header from goalline with his hand. Referee Ehsanul Haque sent off Yousuf for his moment of indiscretion.

Russel, who had displayed some quality football in three tournaments leading up to the league, never produced the same brand with ten men.

Felix, the sturdy marksman, tested the rival defence several times and Russel custodian Biplab saved his side at least twice.

However, it could have been a different story if Russel had capitalised on their first opportunity just after the breather. Moroccan striker Rachid and midfielder Hanif Pradhan both failed to tap in a low cross from substitute Tanveer that ran across the face of the goal.

Farashganj's impressive goalie Zia then fisted away a brilliant free

kick by Moroccan Egrir Mohammed.

In front of the empty stand, Russel had the first opportunity. Having broken an offside trap, Hanif raced into the box but his first time volley was spectacularly parried by Zia.

The first 45 minutes ended goalless as Felix's shot from a handshaking distance sailed over the helpless goalkeeper and the bar in the first half injury time.

Red card: Yousuf (Russel).

Yellow cards: Jony, Walid (Farashganj), Sharif and Nayan (Russel).

## TEAMS

**FARASHGANJ:** Zia, Khaled, Faisal, Apu Barua (Rajib), Scylla, Arup, Kabir, Amirul (Rony), Johnny, Felix and Walid (Palash).

**RUSSEL:** Biplab, Aminul, Deen Mohammad, Pradip, Yousuf, Monir (Riaz), Sharif, Nayan (Yousuf), Hanif (Anwar), Egrir and Rachid.



PHOTO: STAR

Farashganj's Nigerian forward Felix (C) tries to dodge a Sheikh Russel defender during their Premier Bank Premier Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday.

# Bhaji cleared conditionally



AFP, New Delhi

Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has been given a provisional clearance to bowl, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced in a statement on Sunday.

Harbhajan's action was brought under the scanner after a recent home series against Pakistan but the ICC said he could continue if he bowled with the action that was cleared during tests in Australia earlier this year.

The decision follows a report by bio-mechanist Marc Portus who felt that the bowler used a different action during the Pakistan series but was unable to reach a conclusion.

"There is no doubt that the action analysed in the University of Western Australia showed Harbhajan bowling with an action that is in accordance with the regulations," said ICC General Manager of Cricket, David Richardson.

"The analysis of the action used during the Pakistan match identifies some differences including the position of the feet and the speed of the delivery."



HARBHAJAN SINGH

"However, Portus was unable to reach a definitive conclusion on the action used against Pakistan because of the quality of the footage and the camera angles used."

"On this basis the ICC has

advised the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) that Harbhajan is able to bowl in international cricket provided his action is consistent with that used in the University of Western Australia laboratory.

"Should his action deteriorate, it is possible that the match referees would again report him and this would raise the prospect of further bio-mechanical analysis," said Richardson.

The Indian cricket board was relieved at the decision.

"We welcome the decision and believe that no bowler is licensed to throw. But at the same time, if a prima facie case cannot be established against the bowler, he should be allowed to play with a free mind," said BCCI secretary Karunakaran Nair.

"This cricket-friendly decision would not only lift the morale of Harbhajan, but also other bowlers around the globe," he added.

Richardson said Harbhajan would be given an opportunity to

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