

# Javed's batting secret

Cricket

AL-AMIN from Chester-le-Street

The net session of the Bangladesh cricket team at the Riverside ground on Monday was closing with the clock ticking at 12 noon and Javed Omar was pleading with former national wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu to bowl another three deliveries.

Nasu, now the computer analyst of the Tigers, was no in a mood to bowl and said that he would hurl one more delivery and Javed happily accepted it.

And when Nasu was bowling the final ball a reporter standing behind Javed quipped humorously: "If you are batting against this kind of bowling then you stand little chance to do better."

But Javed looked very serious.

"No, no I'm concentrating very hard and I can't get out," said the Bangladesh opener who was lone performer in the two-Test against England.

The fact is that the 29-year-old Javed is doing exactly what he said since making his debut against Zimbabwe at Bulawayo in April 2001.

Javed scored 25 and 22 in the first Test at Lord's. He did even better at Chester-le-Street --scored 37 in Bangladesh's first innings total of 104 and then hit 71 in his second essay.

Known as the most difficult batsmen to shift from the crease, Javed is however not the kind of cricketer many would have liked

most to watch.

To be frank, after playing 29 Tests and 35 ODIs the doughty right-hander from the old part of Dhaka, still has nightmares whether he would have a place in the side for the next game.

He is not as spectacular in his style of play like the others, he might have limited strokes up his sleeves and he is not a born talent. But despite being an average cricketer Javed showed that if you work hard you will get your reward.

Javed's contributions might have done little to stop England winning both Tests by innings and inside three days, but he proved a point or two with his defiance against a hostile attack.

"I understand the sentiment of the people. They always cheer even a stroke-filled 25 and talk a lot about the boundaries that guy hits. But even if I'm scoring more runs it hardly gets noticed. I know I can't be as spectacular as the other batsman in the team. But at least they should appreciate my effort and the blows I'm taking against the new ball," said Javed to this reporter after the practice.

Asked what was the secret of his success in England, where others have failed to cope against the moving and bouncing condition, Javed said it was hard work.

"Before coming here I practised with a tennis ball with tapes rolled one side of it so that the ball swings a bit more and bounces higher than what he were used to in Dhaka. It helped me a lot. Besides, I tried to

bat freely and always got on top of the ball," Javed said.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar with a smile on Sunday said that those players who are accompanied by their wives are doing well in the series. Javed took it as a compliment.

"Yes, I brought my wife along and her presence has helped me a lot."

## No action taken against Geraint

SPORTS REPORTER from Chester-le-Street

It seems England wicketkeeper Geraint Jones has escaped unscathed after his apparent act of cheating on the second day of the second Test at Chester-le-Street.

The Kent stumper was charged with a Level 1 offence by the Bangladesh team management after TV replays clearly showed that he took the catch offered by Bangladesh opener Nafees Iqbal in the second innings on the bounce.

A hearing also took place on Sunday but it was learnt from an unconfirmed source that Jones was let off the hook due to "inconclusive evidence".

Bangladesh manager MA Latif, who made the complaint to Australian match referee Allan Hurst, when contacted said that he was yet to make a verdict on that issue.



DON'T FALL DOWN ALREADY: Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (C) getting up from a lying position while his teammates look on during a practice session at the Riverside ground in Durham on Monday.

## Mohakhali's third win

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohakhali Ekadash recorded their third victory in five matches in the First Division Football League when they blanked BRTC 3-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamapur yesterday.

Alauddin shot Mohakhali ahead on the half hour mark while Masum and Ararat completed the rout with late second half goals.

Mohakhali raised their collection to ten points while BRTC stuck on two points after five rounds.

Meanwhile, Dhanmondi captain Kamal Hossain Ratan has been suspended for three matches and fined Tk 15,000 for abusing the referee during their match against Badda Jagarani on Saturday.

Ratan was sent off for kicking a rival player on the ground and later attacked the referee following the red card.

## 'Tiger Pataudi' arrested for killing animals

AFP, New Delhi

Former Indian cricket team captain Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi has been arrested for poaching wild animals, a report said Monday.

Pataudi, who played for India between 1961 and 1975, was detained Sunday after police found the carcasses of a black buck and two rabbits in a vehicle in the northern state of Haryana, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Police sources were quoted by the news agency as saying that two guns, 50 cartridges and two search lights were also recovered.

VN Rai, a senior Haryana police official, said the 64-year-old Pataudi



MANSOOR ALI KHAN PATAUDI and seven others were charged Monday under the wildlife protection law for killing the animals. The former cricket captain was

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## Did U Know?

Habibul Bashar became the first batsman from Bangladesh to register 20 fifties, apart from three centuries, in Test cricket.



### TEN Sports

WC Soccer Qualifier  
Brazil vs Paraguay  
Repeat at 1:00 pm  
West Indies vs Pakistan  
Second Test, Day Five  
Live at 9:00 pm

### ESPN

Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Sportline  
Live at 11:00 pm



### Eddie Barlow

(Former Bangladesh cricket coach)

"One problem is television back in Bangladesh. I think players are influenced by watching India and Pakistan players like Tendulkar and Inzamam hitting the ball all over the place in matches."

Blaming the team's batting on watching too much TV.



Premier Football League  
Sheikh Russel vs Dhaka Wanderers  
(5:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# BU batter F'pool

Brothers-4, Fakirerpool-1

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union finally displayed glimpses of their true strength when the defending champions routed Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool 4-1 in yesterday's Premier Bank Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Khokon, Victor Edwards and Liton all got their second league goals and Parvez Babu added the other for the Oranges who stayed top of the table with three successive wins. For bottom-table Fakirerpool who are still without a point, Baten pulled one back. Brothers, who won their first two games by minimum margins -- 2-1 over newcomers Dipali Jubo Sangha and 1-0 over Farashganj Sporting Club -- looked set for another tight finish when the first half was locked 1-1.

But Fakirerpool, who were thrashed 10-0 in their previous encounter against Sheikh Russel KC in the biggest ever defeat in Premiership history, failed to cope with an experienced attack in the second half.

The holders made a bright start when Khokon, unmarked in the penalty box, nodded home a left-flank centre by midfielder Abul after just 14 minutes.

But the lead did not last long as Baten, chasing a through from Rajan at the left side of the Brothers box, calmly placed the ball past goalkeeper Tareq four minutes later.

Russian striker Victor forced two fine saves by rival custodian Shiplu -- who replaced first-choice Nayan who conceded all ten goals against Russel -- from long range before wasting a sitter in the dying moments of the first half.

The last year's top scorer in the

league was set free by Liton on the edge of the penalty area but lobbed the ball over the bar with the goalkeeper at his mercy.

Fakirerpool could have gone ahead in the very second minute of the second session but Tareq's brilliant one-handed save denied Rajan's effort on a rebound from point-blank range after the goalkeeper had smothered on a 40-yard drive by substitute Robin.

Liton then put the Gopibagh outfit ahead in the 57th minute when the midfielder, who replaced Monwar on the half hour, dribbled past two defenders before toe-poking the ball

in to the far corner from a difficult angle.

Six minutes later, Liton set up Victor with a square pass just outside the 18-yard box and the Russian neatly drove the ball with his favourite left foot into the right hand post of Shiplu.

It seemed that Brothers were satisfied with the 3-1 scoreline but there was more in the bag and Parvez Babu sealed the victory four minutes before the final whistle with a powerful shot from 20 yards that deflected into the net off Fakirerpool's stopper Ariful.

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Brothers Union midfielder Liton is sandwiched between two Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool defenders during their Premier Bank Premier Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

# Nadal writes French history



REUTERS, Paris

Fearless and ferocious throughout, Rafael Nadal floored tough Argentine Mariano Puerta on Sunday to become the first man in 23 years to win the French Open on his debut.

The 19-year-old, sporting a sleeveless top and three-quarter-length breeches like some baseline buccaneer, downed Puerta 6-7 6-3 6-1 7-5 to emulate Mats Wilander's 1982 feat.

Sunday's victory was the Spaniard's 24th straight win -- the longest streak for a teenager since tennis turned professional in 1968.

Overwhelmed with emotion at the end, Nadal knelt on court and raised his arms to the skies before running to King Juan Carlos of Spain and clambering over to embrace his tearful family in the stands.

"It's unbelievable," he said, his eyes glistening.

"It's a dream come true. It is one

of the best moments in my career, no?"

"These are important moments. I didn't think I was going to cry, but my whole family was very emotional. In the end, I started crying also."

Nadal felled his solid Argentine opponent with three hours and 24 minutes of withering groundstrokes to become the youngest grand slam champion since Michael Chang won here 16 years ago.

Throughout the match the youngster leapt into the air with the exertion of imparting his crackling top spin, hammering the ball relentlessly into the corners, stretching his opponent to the limit.

It proved too much for Puerta.

The Argentine had still been serving a nine-month doping ban this time last year, and despite losing his first grand slam final, his performance over the last two weeks in Paris will do much to help wipe away the memories of those dark days.

He pushed Nadal as hard as anyone has been able to at Roland Garros although he could not halt his teenage tormentor's charge to the title.

"I gave it everything I had," said the 26-year-old, who was banned for having taken the banned substance clenbuterol for an asthma attack in 2003.

"Physically, he was better than I was. I lost to an excellent player, the best player in the world on clay."

Puerta did as much as anyone to derail Nadal. He took the first set of their match, something no other player managed in the tournament, in a nerve-jangling tiebreak.

But Nadal punched straight back. He has been virtually unbeatable on clay this year, collecting five pre-Roland Garros titles on the punishing surface this season -- more than anyone since Thomas Muster nine years ago.

Those statistics attest to his determination and Nadal showed it on Sunday. He grabbed a break in the fourth game of the second set and romped through it 6-3 to level the match.

The Spaniard's retrieving was phenomenal. He slid from side to side to hack back the most viciously-spun shots, groaning and panting

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## Throwing can't throw away Harbhajan!

PTI, London

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, whose action has been under the scanner off and on, added another chapter to the controversy by throwing the ball out of "frustration" in a county match, for which he was called.

Harbhajan, playing for Surrey, was no-balled by umpire Peter Willey on the last day of the four-day match against Warwickshire at Whitgift on Saturday.

After taking just one wicket all day -- on a pitch offering some turn -- Harbhajan threw a half-tracker at Michael Powell and the ball sailed over the batsman and the wicket-keeper over the boundary.

Following a consultation with his partner, the umpire signalled six no-balls.

The England and Wales Cricket Board confirmed that the bowler was no-balled for throwing adding it was "probably out of frustration and the matter would not be investigated any further".

## Sachin brings good news for fans

AFP, Mumbai

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar eased the pain for Indian fans saying he is recovering well from an elbow surgery and will be ready for international cricket again in four months.

"I am progressing quite well and will need at least 14 to 16 weeks to return to competitive cricket," Tendulkar said Sunday night after flying back from London, where he underwent an operation last month.

The tennis elbow had been troubling Tendulkar for nearly a year, forcing him to skip three major one-day tournaments and two home Tests against Australia last season.

"We tried everything, but when nothing worked we had no option but to go for surgery," said Tendulkar, who is also set to miss a triangular one-day series in Sri Lanka featuring the West Indies in early August.

"The doctors have prepared a rehabilitation programme and I will be busy following that during this period," said Tendulkar, who has spent 16 of his 32 years in international cricket.

The fourth-highest scorer in Test cricket with 10,134 runs in 123 matches, Tendulkar is also the world-record holder in one-day cricket with 13,642 runs in 348 matches, including 38 hundreds.

He now needs just one Test century to smash compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's world record of 34.

Tendulkar declined to comment on the appointment of former Australian Test captain Greg Chappell as India's new coach.

"I have not met him yet, so what I can say," he said.

Chappell replaced former New Zealand captain John Wright as India's coach last month.

# Flintoff's action under spotlight

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Allegations that Andrew Flintoff is a chucker were brusquely dismissed by captain Michael Vaughan after England's seven-session defeat of Bangladesh at Chester-le-Street on Sunday.

The claim was made by Peter Roebuck in Saturday's Sydney Morning Herald. In his article, which was syndicated throughout Australia, he wrote that Flintoff's final spell in the first Test at Lord's "contained some of the most blatant transgressions of the law covering legitimate actions seen in respectable company this year".

He continued: "Flintoff's action seems to deteriorate when he

searches for an extra yard of pace and especially when he moves around the wicket and starts to pound the middle of the pitch. Then his naturally open-chested style betrays him."

Vaughan brushed aside a post-match question on the matter. "Peter hasn't been in the country," he said. "He's watching it on TV. I have no worries at all about Freddie's action."

Dav Whatmore, Bangladesh's coach, added that he had "no complaints".

Flintoff was analysed by ICC officials during last September's Champions Trophy in England -- he was one of a number of bowlers who were scrutinised -- and his action was found to be well within the 15 degree limit.

# Inzamam rides his luck

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

A crucial dropped catch by West Indies wicketkeeper Courtney Browne let Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq and, indeed, the visitors off the hook in their second and final Test on Sunday.

Inzamam benefited from Browne's greasy gloves and sped to a half-century to lead his side, who trailed by 30 runs on first innings, to 223 for four when stumps were drawn on the third day.

Fast bowler Corey Collymore, who has collected three wickets for 36 runs from 11 overs for his maiden 10-wicket haul in Tests, had put the skids on the Pakistanis with the

removal of Shoaib Malik for 64 and Asim Kamal for a duck in the space of three balls.

There was a sense of anticipation when Inzamam, who strangely batted at five, arrived to a cacophony of noise from the half-filled Sabina Park. But those loud cheers soon turned to uproarious boos.

Collymore galloped in to bowl with the crowd in the George Headley Stand behind him, and around the ground on the edges of their seat. He delivered a perfectly pitched delivery that moved away from just outside off-stump, and Inzamam groped sheepishly, only to find the edge.

Browne, who has an unenviable reputation of letting off key batsmen in his 21 Tests, flew to his right, and succeeded in getting both his gloves

to the ball, only to spill it, much to the consternation of the bowler, the crowd, and several others around the Caribbean that have been calling for his head for the exact same reason.

Inzamam, like most top batsmen, decided it was too good a chance to waste, and immediately dug in. A couple of meaty pulls off Daren Powell and a few searing cuts off Chris Gayle telegraphed a strong message to West Indies and Browne, in particular.

Inzamam spent close to 1-1/2 hours adding a vital 75 for the fourth wicket with his deputy Younis Khan, who scored 46, before he offered Chris Gayle a tame return catch about 20 minutes before the close.

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Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar comes out of the Mumbai Airport after his return from England late on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP