

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 Nasir to bowl another three deliveries.

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

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

But Javed looked very serious.

"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 was 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.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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 Kamalpur yesterday.

Alauddin shot Mohakhali ahead on the half hour mark while Masum and Arafat 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, Dhamondi captain Kamar 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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BU batter F'pool

Brothers-4, Fakirerpool-1

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

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

What to WATCH

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

Sportsline
Live at 11:00 pm

TALK TURKEY



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

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 Anil.

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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".

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.

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

throws can't throw away Harbhajan!"

Flintoff's action under spotlight

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

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

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