# Imran inspires Harmison harms Australia Bangladesh A



**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Tushar Imran shrugged off the tag as an one-day specialist with a career-best 119 to help Bangladesh A conjure up a small yet significant 19-run first-innings lead against Glouces-tershire on the second day of their three-day fixture at Bristol

The 22-year-old could not think of a better time to celebrate his fourth first-class ton and his first against an English county after a not so fruitful tour in England with the senior team last month.

His 119 which surpasses his previous best of 109 not out gave plenty of food for thought for the national selectors, who kept him in the provisional list of 22 for the forthcoming tour of Sri Lanka in August-September.

He reached his 100 off 157 balls that included 17 boundaries and a six. Tushar was the eighth batsmen out in the Bangladesh innings but not before the visitors had taken a four-run lead. Bangladesh A eventually finished on 251. Gloucestershire were 48-1 at tea

with young paceman Shahadat Hossain enjoying an early success like he did in the first innings. Shahadat clean bowled opener Kadeer Ali for one.

But Tushar hogged the spotlight on the second day

Resuming on 36, the dashing right-hander was also involved in a spectacular rebuilding operation with national discard Alok Kapali. The pair added 122 runs for the fourth wicket after the second string national side had slumped to 3-29 chasing the home sides' first innings total of 232 on the opening day. Kapali, who has been out of the

national team for quite sometime, showed plenty of signs of hitting back to form with a measured 59 off 105 balls before being adjudged leg before off Gloucestershire's Sri Lankan leg-spinner Malinga Bandara.

But Tushar, who played only three Tests before the Bangladesh think-tank realised that the strokemaker from Jessore has little future in the longer version of the game with a poor average of 8, showed plenty of it during his 243-minute

vigil at the crease.

Picked in the one-day squad against England after a gap of more than a year the elegant right-hander hammered 19 fours in his 189-ball

### **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the three-day match between Bangladesh A and Gloucestershire at Bristol on Thursday: GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First

innings 232 all out in 58.1 overs



**TUSHAR IMRAN...119** 

(Snell 83 n o, Averis 33, Lewis 47; Russel 2-46, Shahadat 3-73, Jubair BANGLADESH A: First innings (overnight 98 for 3) Nafees c Gidman b Averis Iqbal Ibw b Lewis Imran c sub b Lewis Nazimuddin cAdshead b Averis 5 Kapali Ibw b Bandara Rahim Ibw b Rudge Mushfigur c Fisher b Rudge Russel c Gidman b Rudge Shahadatnot out Jubair b Fisher Enamul jr c Snell b Lewis Extras: (b-1, lb-11, nb-12) Total: (All out in 72 overs) Fall of wkts: 1-10, 2-10, 3-29, 4-151, 5-167, 6-189, 7-195, 8-238, 9-244,

Bowler 3 75 Lewis 12 2 32 Averis 12 3 46 Rudge 21 5 Bandara 61 25 GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Second

## Cricket

AFP, London

Stephen Harmison took five wickets in an innings against Australia for the first time as England bowled out their oldest foes for just 190 on the first day of the first Ashes Test at Lord's here Thursday.

The 26-year-old Durham quick finished with five for 43 in 11.2 overs, including a spell of four for seven in 14 balls that ended the innings before tea after Australia captain Ricky Ponting won the toss and elected to bat.

At tea, England were 10 without loss, a deficit of 180.

Marcus Trescothick was four not out and Andrew Strauss two not out with veteran quick Glenn McGrath still searching for his 500th Test

With Australia in dire straits at 97 for five at lunch, the stage was set for Adam Gilchrist to counter-attack in typically aggressive style.

Resuming on eight not out, the wicketkeeper set about the bowling. But one ball after upper-cutting

Ashes debutant Andrew Flintoff down to the third man boundary, he drove flat-footedly and was caught by opposing keeper Geraint Jones for a 19-ball 26. Legendary leg-spinner Shane Warne, who walked past his own portrait in the Pavilion Long Room

on his way to the middle, played his shots and so too did left-hander Simon Katich. However, the first ball back after the drinks break saw Warne, walking across his stumps, bowled by

Harmison for 28 with five fours. His better than run-a-ball stand

the day he struck Justin Langer a painful blow on the right arm.

Harmison also hit Matthew Hayden flush on the helmet and and then drew blood under Pontina's right eye when the skipper missed an intended hook and the ball came off the peak of the helmet and went above the grille.

But it was swing bowler Matthew Hoggard who took the first wicket when he beat left-hander Hayden's drive and knocked over his offstump for 12.

Harmison then struck in conventional fashion, Ponting, on nine, opening the face and edging to

Strauss at third slip. That was the start of a collapse

that saw Australia lose three wickets for 11 runs in 15 balls as they slumped to 66 for four.

Flintoff, with his fourth ball in Ashes cricket, had Langer topedging a hook to Harmison at short backward square leg for a 44-ball 40, the innings top score, including five fours.

### **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the first Ashes Test between England and Australia at Lord's in London on Thursday: **AUSTRALIA:** First innings

Langer c Harmison b Flintoff Hayden b Hoggard Ponting c Strauss b Harmison Martyn c G Jones b S Jones Clarke Ibw b S Jones Katich c G Jones b Harmison Gilchrist c G Jones b Flintoff Warne b Harmison Lee c G Jones b Harmison Gillespie Ibw b Harmison McGrath not out Extras: (b-5, lb-4, w-1, nb-11) Total: (All out in 40.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-55, 3-66, 4-66, 5-87, 6-126, 7-175, 8-178, 9-178O M R W Bowler 11.2 0 43

11 2 Flintoff 2 50 0 S.lones 48 **ENGLAND:** First innings Trescothick not out Strauss not out Extras (lb4) Total: (For no loss in 6 overs) 10 To bat: Vaughan, Bell, Pietersen, Flintoff, G Jones, Giles, S Jones, Hoggard, Harmison M

3 2 0 Toss: Australia. Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

5 0

McGrath

## England 79/5

STAR SPORTS MONITOR

England were 79-5 with another 14 overs remaining on an extraordinary opening day of the first Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's yesterday.

Kevin Pietersen (28) and Geraint Jones (30) gave England some breathing space after a frantic first half an hour of the evening session saw Glenn McGrath grabbed five wickets in just 31 balls to turn the Test on its head after the visitors were bowled out for 190 in 40.2 overs. He whipped out all five of the English wickets to fall in a five-over spell.

McGrath dismissed Trescothick (4), Andrew Strauss (2), Michael Vaughan (3), Ian Bell (6) and Andrew Flintoff for a duck as England collansed to 21-5.

### **DIV I SOCCER** Wari finish

SPORTS REPORTER

fifth

Wari Club ended this season's First Division Football League campaign with a 3-1 victory over relegated BRTC at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Jewel opened the account after

three minutes while Shipon added two goals either side of the break as Wari finished fifth in the 8-team table with 18 points. BRTC, relegated to second

division alongside Dhanmondi Club, remained seventh after 14 rounds with ten points

### WACA releases SA schedule

South Africa will have three warm-up matches in Western Australia before the first cricket Test against Australia starting here on December 16. Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA) acting chief Geoff Havercroft said Thursday.

The South African tourists will play Western Australia in a three-day game at the WACA Ground in Perth starting on December 5. followed by the Lilac Hill match against a Cricket Australia Chairman's XI on December 9.

A WA XI will host South Africa in a three-day match on December 11-13, at a venue to be determined, Havercroft said.

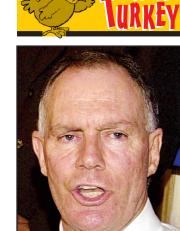
### of 49 with Katich was the best of the innings. And two balls later Katich, on 27, skied an intended hook and was caught behind. Geraint Jones, brought up in Australia, then dismissed Brett Lee off a Harmison delivery that took the inside edge for his fourth catch of the innings. Harmison, pinpointed by McGrath as vital to England's hopes of ending a run of eight successive Ashes series defeats, ended the innings when he had Jason Gillespie lbw for one. McGrath was 10 not out. Harmison, England's fastest bowler, made the team's intentions clear when with the second ball of innings of the first Ashes Test at Lord's on Thursday. SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

THE HARM-IS-ON: England Fast bowler Stephen Harmison, who took five wickets, sends Shane Warne's leg-stump cart-wheeling during Australia's first

### **ESPN**

**Ashes Test Series** England vs Australia First Test. Day Two Live at 3:30 pm Sportscentre Live at 10:30 pm

TEN Sports West Indies vs Sri Lanka Second Test, Day One Live at 10:15 am



**Greg Chappell** (India cricket coach)

"Champion teams are not always necessarily full of champions. They are the teams that do the basics very well. They do ordinary things extraordinarily well and that's what makes the champion team."



enue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Machine McGrath's milestone

Cricket

CRICINFO, London

The opening day of the first Test of the Ashes series at Lord's. The first ball after tea. straight, full and bang on target. Typical Glenn McGrath. Marcus Trescothick tried to force it through mid-wicket, instead the ball took the outside edge and Justin Langer held the catch at slip. And McGrath entered the record books as only the second fast bowler to take 500 Test wickets.

A haul of 500 wickets in 111 Tests at 21.22 apiece would conjure images of a fiery fast bowler or a mesmerising spinner but McGrath is neither. He is a welloiled machine, an expert tactician, producing high-quality output time and again. He is a master at spotting a batsman's weakness and exploiting it so successfully that the dismissals are almost predictable. A statistical attempt to study his career reveals not a single significant weakness and at 35, McGrath, like fine wine, has only got better with age.

Excluding the first Test of the Ashes 2005, Australia have won 18 of the 22 Tests that McGrath has played against England and he will be keen to tighten the chokehold that Australia have had over England for the past decade. If statistics are anything to go by, the news isn't too good for England. His miserly average of 21.22 improves to 20.03 in Ashes Tests. England's woes don't end there; McGrath doesn't enjoy just playing against England, he thrives while bowling in England where 68 of his 117 Ashes wickets have come at a stingy 18.27 per wicket. He was the highest wicket-taker in the last Ashes series in England in 2001 with 32 wickets at just 16.93.

Often his overs become indistinguishable because McGrath sends down one after the other, each characterised by impeccable line and length, making the batsman sweat for his runs. Inevitably, there would come the predictable error, and McGrath would have his man.

His mastery of the art of giving nothing away to the batsmen is manifest in the manner in which he has taken his wickets; 167 of his wickets have not needed any assistance (61 bowled, 99 lbw, 6 caught & bowled, 1 hit-wicket). Include Ian Healy and Adam Gilchrist and McGrath's scalps near the wicket go up to 305, and this doesn't include batsmen caught at slip or short leg.

Targeting the best batsmen and

pressurising the opposition captain is something that McGrath has often talked about. He has walked that talk. Of the 12 batsmen that he has dismissed most often, seven are former or current Test captains, most of them vital batsmen for their teams. Michael Vaughan will be feeling that pressure with McGrath accounting for him four times in as many Tests. (This report was written just after McGrath had taken Trescothick's wicket)

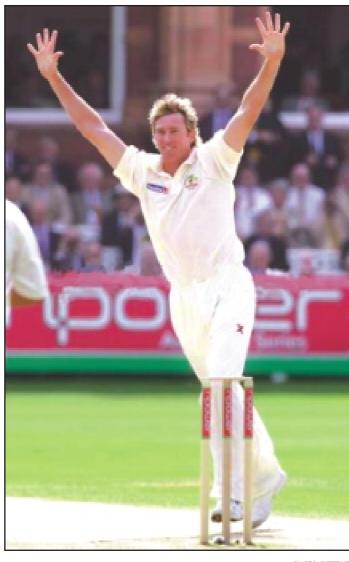


PHOTO: INTERNET

LEAN, MEAN McGRATH: Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath spreads his arms after taking his 500th wicket on Thursday.

Great bowlers necessitate comparisons and McGrath's average stands fourth, behind Malcolm Marshall, Joel Garner and Curtly Ambrose, in the list of best averages for bowlers with more than 200 Test wickets. In fact among Test cricket's top eight wickettakers, McGrath, who currently stands fourth here as well, has the best average.

It is indeed poetic that McGrath

took his 500th wicket at Lord's, his most productive overseas venue (17 wickets in two Tests). His record overseas, 255 wickets in 55 Tests at 21.20 is surprisingly better than his record at home, 244 wickets in 54 Tests at 21.84. England and the West Indies have been McGrath's happy hunting grounds contributing 118 wickets to his tally, from just 21 Tests. He has found bowling hardest in Pakistan where he averages 31 with 19 wickets in five Tests. No opposition has succeeded in getting on top of McGrath consistently and it shows; 25.33 against New Zealand being his worst average.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of McGrath's career is his performance after turning 30 in 2001. At 35, an age when most bowlers are at the bottom of the wrong side of the hill, McGrath keeps getting better. Since 2000-01, he has taken 211 wickets in 47 Tests and averaged less than 20 in five out of seven seasons. He missed most of the season in 2003 because of a serious ankle injury and has had tremendous problems to cope with in his personal life after his wife, Jane, was diagnosed with cancer. Those who didn't know McGrath wrote him off. He returned in 2004, and has taken 69 wickets in 14 Tests at an average of about 18 since.

Robotic consistency is his greatest quality. He has averaged over 23 in just 15 out of his 37 series. That figure drops to ten if you exclude his first five series. He is the sort of bowler whose performances have come to be taken for granted. McGrath has been utterly predictable in his efficiency and

therein lies his greatness.

## 2nd leg from today

**SPORTS REPORTER** 



ryice first Bank Premier Football League starts today after a four-day break when leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club take on bottom-table Dipali Juba Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The second leg

Mohammedan, the only unbeaten side in the ten-team fray have 23 points with seven wins and two draws while Dipali have so far collected two points from nine firstleg games in their first Premiership

The match will kick off at 5 pm.

The good news for Mohammedan is that their Sierra Leone striker Donald Robert has become match fit after a month-long injury but the Black and Whites management is reluctant to give him a first team place ahead of in-form striking duo Alfaz and Maniu.

Both the forwards have scored five goals to top the scorers' list and it would be difficult to see a change in their winning combination, which has kept the popular Motijheel outfit on top against all odds.

Mohammedan, with good team effort and hard work by coach Kazi Jashimuddin Joshi and manager Imtiaz Sultan Johnny, have not only wiped out memories of a wretched start to the season but also sustained pressure from pretournament favourites Brothers Union and Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Although defending champions Brothers are breathing on their neck

Teams	М	W	D	L	GF	GΑ	Pts
MSC	9	7	2	0	20	5	23
Brothers	9	6	2	1	19	7	20
Muktijoddha	9	5	1	3	14	10	16
Abahani	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Farashganj	9	4	2	3	7	7	14
Russel	9	3	3	3	17	7	12
Arambagh	9	2	4	3	11	13	10
Youngmen's	9	2	1	6	11	28	7
Wanderers	9	0	4	5	6	21	4
Dipali	9	0	2	7	12	24	2
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with 20 points, Muktijoddha are a distant third with 16 points.

Brothers look like the only side to challenge the Mohammedan supremacy as it would be an uphill task for Muktijoddha to establish themselves as a title contender, especially after a shocking defeat to Youngmen's Club in their last

Muktijoddha sacked coach Shafigul Islam Manik midway through and it would need some magic from Austrian George Kottan. the former Bangladesh national coach, to inspire the Reds to claw their way back in the title race by covering a seven-point deficit.

Other heavyweights Abahani, at fifth place on 15 points, look like non-hopers and would be busy to fight for their pride. They have not finished below third in the history of the league and the inexperienced team, handled poorly by a weak management, would surely be happy if they can keep their record intact in the end.

## **BFF** confirms Argentine boost



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh football team is set to get enough time and more importantly a taste of Argentine flair when they start their preparation for the SAFF Football Championship to be held in Pakistan this December.

The defending SAFF champions, who are without a coach since their triumph in the regional football tournament in January 2002 at home, are expected to begin their camp in mid September under Argentine coach Diego Andres Cruciani.

After a lot of confusion over the employment of an Argentine coaching staff, it looks certain that Cruciani and fellow Argentine trainer Victor Ariel Colman will arrive in Dhaka on August 2 to join the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

"We have already sent them the schedules. When they confirm their departure, we will send the tickets. They are due here on August 2,"

BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal told yesterday. They will take charge of the

national team and later and also work with the under-23 team for the South Asian Games," he said. Cruciani, an associate of legendary

Argentine World Cup winning coach Cesar Luis Menotti, and the trainer will receive 4,000 and 2,000 dollars respectively as their monthly salary. The BFF will provide 1,000

dollars from its own fund while the NSC and the National Team Management Committee will arrange the rest.

"We want them here early so that they can watch the Premier League matches to assess the strength and weaknesses of the players," said Helal. He was optimistic of starting the national camp by September 10 with the Premier League expected to finish on August 28.

The BFF has also decided not to let the members of the final squad play in this year's National Football League.

"National interest should come first and we don't want the clubs to interrupt our preparations like the past. If we think it would be helpful for our preparation, we can release the players on condition. I think three months is enough time to prepare the team properly to defend the title.

It was also learned that the coaches' agent Victor Yacullo wanted to visit Dhaka to be a part of the contract signing. The Argentine agent, who will receive 3,600 dollars as his share for a one-year contract, wanted the BFF to pay his passage but the Helal has turned down the request.

"He would get his money automatically but we don't need him here. It is an expensive trip, so we don't want to pay for it." Helal also said that he would use

the coach and the trainer to assist the age-group teams but will not give them full charge. Meanwhile, the national team will

use green shirt and white shorts as their first choice iersev and red and white as the alternative for the future. The decision was taken by the BFF after the body was criticised for using blue shirt during the last SAFF Championship, which is no part of our national colours