Whatmore seems pleased

Bangladesh should've chased: Mahela



AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Mahela Jayawardene criticised Bangladesh's approach towards Wednesday's first one-day international where they tried to bat out full 50 overs instead of trying to get closer to the target.

"If it was a triangular series and points to be taken, then the last wicket partnership of Bangladesh would have been helpful for them. Otherwise it was pointless. I think they wanted to bat full 50 overs but they should have tried to chase the total instead," said man-of-thematch Jayawardene who smashed

"You should take challenges and as a team and we do the same and try to make sure we achieve them. Khaled Mashud is an experienced batsman but the way he batted really surprised me. Tapash Baisva is one who can play shots and they should have tried at least in the last ten overs to reach closer to the target, which would have been something for them and also for the spectators," added Jayawardene, who is looking forward to be consistent and contribute to the team after picking up the form during the triseries against India and West Indies

About the match, he said: "The most important thing was that we did not lose wickets. So what we needed to do was batting throughout the overs to get a decent total and let the bowlers have a go at

The opposition camp, however did not agree with him.

"It was not meaningless. My instruction was to bat 50 overs. I am glad that they spent some good time in the middle," said Bangladesh

coach Day Whatmore "We just made silly mistakes and didn't take our opportunities.

weren't effected. When we batted, we saw nice piece of fielding (from the opposition). Little bit unfortunate, but that basically is the story,

not making most of the opportunities," said Whatmore. When asked whether expecta-

tions were high after beating Australia, the Lankan-born Australian said he was not bothered about that.

"We feel we are improving but a few things today let us down. We have won matches, may be not many but it was not the case before

"The difference between the two teams is the mental abilities in oneday internationals. Ashraful dropped a catch, but he would take ten out of ten during practice. It's about being able to execute your skill under a little bit more stress, in the heat of the battle. We got beaten humbly, but I know that there are still strengths in this side. We are tenth and lost to the number two side."

He admitted that 270 was a gettable target on good pitch and fast outfield. "I was all in all happy to get that

nine wickets. Last time we took only one against them. (Syed) Rasel was very good on his debut." For Khaled Mashud, who

remained 39 not out in his 100th one-dayer, it was like any other game in the end. "I had excitement before the

game, but once I got on the field it was normal. I checked my strokes because I was told to bat throughout. It was also good to keep Muralitharan at bay and prepare for next match. We were too far away from the target and playing out all the overs was better than trying to chase. Denying them the last wicket was really good because they tried really hard," Mashud told.

fielding even before Bangladesh set

off for Sri Lanka since it has not

been put into practice. The lack of

fielding practice during the build-up

for the tour was also evident in their

warm-up match where they had

dropped several catches against

the Sri Lankan Board President's

hard cricket but they were too soft to

allow the Lankans to amass 269-9,

their second highest total after 296-

4 in 46 overs at this very ground in

the team fumbled, it was veteran

Javed Omar who palmed a brilliant

catch at deep extra cover running

from cover point to help Moha-

mmad Rafique dismiss rival captain

been stopped from reaching his 52nd ODI fifty had Nafees, fielding in the

slips, not dropped him on three off the

Bangladeshi to play 100 limited-overs

matches, also spilt a stumping chance

with the Lankan skipper on 40, but the

wicketkeeper might have been defied

Khaled Mashud, the first ever

However, Atapattu could have

While the younger members of

the 1997 Asia Cup.

Marvan Atapattu.

bowling of Tapash Baisya.

by a deflection off the pads.

Bangladesh promised to play



HE CAN SMILE: Bangladesh pacer Syed Rasel (L), who made a more than impressive debut with 2 for 42, celebrates taking the wicket of Muttiah Muralitharan with Mohammad Rafique in the first ODI at Colombo on Wednesday.

Cricket

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

When Bangladesh were granted

Test status five years ago, the first

target of the Cricket Board was to

make the Tigers into a good fielding

side as that was one area where

improvement could be achieved

much quicker than batting and

national against Sri Lankan at the

Sinhalese Sports Club ground on

Wednesday one could easily be

tempted to say that Bangladesh not

only was the bottom-ranked side but

also the worst fielding team among

It was not that the butter-fingered

fielders have dropped as many as

four catches on top of a couple of

missed run out chances, but it was

their approach towards the art of

fielding that came as a shocking

revelation for the cricket lovers of

Sri Lanka were an athletic side

even before they shot into promi-

nence while a struggling Zimbabwe

still hold an edge in the art of fielding.

the ten Test playing nations.

But after the first one-day inter-

Blame it on fielding

But on Wednesday what the

Bangladeshi fielders had exhibited

during the Sri Lankan innings can be

best described as amateurish.

Standing in the slips Shahriar

Natees dropped two catches and as

if it was not enough the young left-

hander floored another at long-on

afterward. Mohammad Ashraful

spilled a lollypop at point that even a

If the catching was bad the

ground fielding was worse. Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar

sparked a lot of humour among the

commentators when he let go a cut

shot from Mahela Jayawardene to

the backward point boundary. In

modern day cricket that shot should

the ball that has been a common feature

in present day cricket. While the Bangladeshi fielders were tentative

when gathering the ball, Russel Arnold

showed what ground fielding is all

about. The left-hander ran from short

before hurling it at the bowlers end in a

flash that saw Bangladesh opener

Javed Omar out of his crease when the

There was concern over poor

ball hit the bulls eye.

cover to collect the ball from short gully

Moreover, no fielder was attacking

have at best produced a single.

schoolboy could not have missed.



THE MOHAMMEDAN MAN: Matiur Munna (C), who struck both the goals for Mohammedan, and Hasan Al Mamun of Muktijoddha (R) are in pursuit of the ball during their Premier Bank Premier Football League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Munna special takes **MSC** on the brink

SPORTS REPORTER



Matiur Munna was virtually invisible throughout the season. But the mercurial midfielder rose to the

occasion when Mohammedan needed a special effort from someone special in their crunch Premier Football League match against Muktijoddha yesterday.

He came up with a double strike at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and Mohammedan, with a 2-0 sail over the Reds, are now a victory away from claiming the

Mohammedan will take on defending champions Brothers Union in the last league match on September 9. The clash has already been touted as the 'final' even before Brothers meet lowly Dipali Juba Sangha at the same venue

Motiur has hardly been noticed in the last 16 games, where he failed to score a single goal for the Black and

But the hero of Bangladesh's stunning victory against India in the 2003 SAFF Championship in Dhaka, celebrated another memorable night with a brace in the space of two minutes after the break He sent some 15,000

Mohamme-dan supporters into ecstasy in the 74th minute with a diving header off a low freekick taken by Alfaz from the right. He then stunned Muktijoddha and country's number custodian Aminul two minutes later with a sudden right-footer that crashed into the net amidst deafening roar from the

Mohammedan, who won the first-leg battle against Muktijoddha by a solitary goal, now leads the tenteam table with 38 points from 17 games. The result evaporated Muktijoddha's outside chances of

winning the title. It also poured cold water on Abahani's dream of staying afloat in the title race.

Abahani gave a last gasp twist in the race when they beat Mohammedan 1-0 last Friday while Muktijoddha had humbled Brothers 2-1. But Mohammedan's victory on Wednesday night effectively closed the doors on both clubs.

Mohammedan, who had a forgettable second leg with three draws and a defeat in the last seven games, however played their best match yesterday. They were not to unlucky

Police protection

danger, police said on Wednesday.

some underground Mafia groups.

"Any public figure getting a threat

from Mafia groups is a matter of

serious concern," Sen said, adding

the request for security had not

Armed personnel will provide

round-the-clock security at

Azharuddin's residence and the

gymnasium he runs in Hyderabad,

come from the cricketer himself.

Sen added.

for Azharuddin

AFP, Hyderabad

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Goal feast on **Day Two**

SPORTS REPORTER

The second day of the Pran-Cola school football tournament marked by goal riots at the different city

venues yesterday. Khilgaon Model High School trounced Haidar Ali School 13-0 while Shaheed Nabi High School outplayed Khilgaon Govt Staff Quarter High School by the same margin at the Brothers Union Club

ground. At the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, Nabakumar Institute blanked

Kadamtala Purbo Basaboo SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Sachin skips **Zim Tests**

Cricket

India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar withdrew from next month's Test series in Zimbabwe on Wednesday after failing to recover from an elbow injury, an official said.

"Tendulkar will not be going to Zimbabwe," secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India Karunakaran Nair told the Press Trust of India.

Rookie opener Dheerai Jadhav will replace Tendulkar for the two Test matches in Bulawayo from September 13-17 and Harare from September 20-24, Nair said.

Tendulkar, 32, who underwent surgery in May to repair a tennis elbow, had been provisionally picked for the Test series even though he missed the ongoing oneday tri-series in Zimbabwe also featuring New Zealand.

But the most prolific batsman in the modern game with 23,776 international runs and 72 centuries opted out despite rigorous training at the nets in his home city of Mumbai.

It was not immediately clear if Tendulkar will be able to represent the World team in the International Cricket Council's Super Series against Australia in October.

The Indian team's physiotherapist John Gloster said in a statement that Tendulkar "did not feel confident and

strong enough yet to return to the rigours of Test cricket batting". The strength component of his rehabilitation plan has progressed

positively to this point, but is not yet sufficient to progress to the next

level of competitive play.
"We will continue to constantly review his recovery and progress.

Tendulkar's 16-year career was interrupted by the tennis elbow injury sustained 12 months ago while preparing for a one-day tour-

nament in the Netherlands. Unable to lift even a cup of tea, Tendulkar missed the Champions Trophy in England in September and the first two home Tests against world

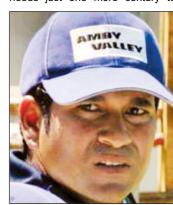
Former India cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin has been provided security after authorities two Tests of the series and played further matches against South received a tip-off that his life was in

"We have provided security to A precautionary medical check-Azharuddin on information that up in England in May revealed a there was threat to his life," Andhra tendon tear in the left elbow which Pradesh state police chief Swaranjit

required immediate surgery. Sen told reporters here. Tendulkar, who has spent half his "I got a call recently from the life playing for India -- he made his Mumbai police commissioner Test debut in 1989 aged 16 -- has saying they got information that 10.134 runs from 123 matches and Azharuddin was under threat from needs just one more century to

Africa, Bangladesh and Pakistan

before the season ended in April.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

break compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's world record of 34 hundreds.

Azharuddin, 42, was banned from cricket for life in 2000 following a Central Bureau of Investigation report that alleged his involvement in match-fixing.

Azharuddin denied the charge and went to court to clear his name. The case is currently being heard in

a Hyderabad court. The cricketer, meanwhile, denied

he had received death threats. "Nobody has called me to threaten me," media reports quoted

Azharuddin as saving

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

England have now won 97, lost 126 and drawn 87 out of 310 Tests played against



TEN Sports

Men's & Women's 2nd Round Live at 5:00 am & 9:00 pm







Michael Vaughan (England cricket captain) "It's too early to say whether we are going to win the Ashes. But we are playing good cricket, we are 2-1 up with a game to play and I am sure The Oval will be an epic like

BD-SL SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international betwee anka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colomb				
SRILANKA	R	N	і В	4
Jpul Tharanga b Aftab Ahmed	60	115	5 80 8	3 (
Sanath Jayasuriya b Tapash Baisya	25	38	26 4	1 0
Marvan Atapattu c Javed Omar b Mohammad Rafique	55	122	92 5	0
Kumar Sangakkara c Shahriar Nafees b Aftab Ahmed	22	36	33 0	0
Mahela Jayawardene run out (Tapash Baisya/Khaled Masl	hud)	50	60 35	5 80
Russel Arnold run out (Mohammad Ashraful)	12	18	12 1	0
Fillakaratne Dilshan c Syed Rasel b Manjarul Islam	1	3	5 0	0
Chaminda Vaas c Shahriar Nafees b Syed Rasel	16	23	192	0
Muttiah Muralitharan c Mohammad Rafique b Syed Rasel	0	2	1 0	0
arveez Maharoof not out	0	1	0	0 (
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-17, nb-3)	28			

Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-51 (Jayasuriya, 8.1 ov), 2-127 (Tharanga, 27.1 ov), 3-178 (Sangakkara, 37.1 ov), 4-186 (Atapattu, 38.5 ov), 5-227 (Arnold, 42.6 ov), 6-230 (Dilshan, 43.6 ov), 7-267 (Vaas, 49.3 ov), 8-268 (Muralitharan, 49.5 ov), 9-269 (Jayawardene, 49.6 ov).

Sri Lanka full substitute: Chandana (Jayasuriya, Bangladesh innings, 0.0

ov)					
Bowler	0	M	R	W	Extras
Tapash Baisya	10	1	57	1	(2w)
Syed Rasel	10	0	42	2	(3nb, 2w)
Mohammad Rafique	10	0	63	1	(3w)
Khaled Mahmud	5	0	26	0	
Aftab Ahmed	10	0	55	2	(5w)
			SE	E PA	GE 13 COL 6

Kiwis reach final duly

Cricket

REUTERS, Harare

New Zealand secured a place in the final of the Videocon Cup triangular series with a workmanlike 27-run win over Zimbabwe in Harare on The Kiwis scored 238 and dis-

missed Zimbabwe for 211 in 49

Zimbabwe's third consecutive defeat in the tournament also confirmed India as New Zealand's opponents in Tuesday's final.

Half-centuries by New Zealanders Nathan Astle and Scott Styris and seven wickets shared by Zimbabwe's Gavin Ewing and Andy Blignaut were the highlights of a dull New Zealand went through the

motions in their innings, while the

Zimbabweans, who lost both Tests

Zimbabweans were more intent on batting out their 50 overs than challenging for victory. It was the best performance of the season so far by the struggling to New Zealand by an innings and were thrashed by 192 runs by the Kiwis and by 161 runs by India in their first two triangular series Off-spinner Ewing had taken just

his previous five one-day interna-But he tied New Zealand down effectively on Wednesday and was rewarded with figures of three for

two wickets at a cost of 182 runs in

Ewing was well supported by fast bowler Blignaut, who took four for

Ewing came on to bowl in the 21st over, and took his first wicket in the 29th when Astle cut hard and was well caught by wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu. Astle's dismissal for 61 ended a

fifth-wicket stand of 62 he shared

with Styris. Ewing completed his haul in consecutive overs when he trapped a reverse sweeping Jacob Oram in front for five and took a return catch offered by Brendon McCullum, who

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

champions Australia in October.

He returned for the remaining

Tendulkar is already the most successful one-day batsman in history with 13,642 runs from 348 matches with 38 centuries

Azharuddin was India's most