

# Tense win for Dhaka



### SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka survived a tense final session on the third day to snatch a two-wicket victory over spirited Sylhet in their four-day National League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opening pair Javed Omar (92) and Rashedul Haque (78) set Mohammad Ashraful's side up nicely to achieve a comprehensive win for the hosts who were chasing 259 for victory. But left-arm spinner Enamul Haque's 5-75 almost snatched an unlikely result for the visitors.

The holders, who went to tea at 173-0, suffered a dramatic collapse before Shahadat Hossain drove Alok Kapali to the fence to finish the job in style.

While Dhaka received a jolt, fellow home team Chittagong, however, raced to an eight-wicket victory against Khulna thanks to a magnificent nine-wicket match haul by left-arm spinner Illiyas Sunny.

At the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, national opener Shahriar Nafees hammered 83 in Barisal's fight back against Rajshahi. Had Khaled Mashud's men won they could have enjoyed a double success like Dhaka and Chittagong.

### DHAKA-SYLHET

Ace left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique claimed three out of the remaining four wickets as Sylhet resuming on 126-6, were bundled out for 164 in 59 overs.

Sylhet's final flurry came from Enamul who hit a 35-ball 23 before being bowled by pacer Talha Jubair. Rafique and Talha both captured four wickets each.

Showing none of their first-innings' nerves, Dhaka appeared comfortably placed especially as national opener Javed and his seasoned partner Rashedul were displaying an array of counterattacking strokes to confound their opponents.

But the dismissal of Javed, who for

once was aggressive, almost swung the four-dayer in favour of Sylhet.

Enamul made the crucial breakthrough when man-of-the-match Javed was bowled playing the across line. He fell eight runs short of a well-deserved century. The doughty right-hander clobbered 14 boundaries in

his 153-ball vigil.

Shortly afterwards Rashedul, who survived two dropped catches after completing his half-century, was run out from second-day bowling hero Ashiqu'r throw at the non-striker's end. Rashedul scored a 135-ball 78 with 10 fours and a six.

Enamul then removed Dhaka skipper Ashraful (13), Sanwar Hossain (0), Khaled Mahmud (1) and Rafique (1) while leggy Alok Kapali gave perfect support with two scalps.

The match went down to the wire when one down Mehrab Hossain (42) was trapped leg-before by Kapali. It left Dhaka needing nine more runs and Anwar Hossain Munir (6) and Shahadat successfully negotiated the final chapter.

Sylhet captain Rajin was happy with his team performance despite the end result. "We had expected a better performance from Dhaka because they have nine Test players. But I think we played better cricket."

### CHITTAGONG-KHULNA

Though Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar hit consecutive fifties but it was not good enough to challenge the hosts at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

Two left-arm spinners Illiyas Sunny and Yasin Arafat shared eight wickets as Khulna were all out for 258 in their second essay leaving Chittagong just to get 41 runs.

Bashar, who made 68 in the first innings, scored a 93-ball 54 while Tushar Imran added 39 from 85 deliveries.

Sunny finished the match with nine wickets for 88 runs. He took 4-42 in the second innings while Arafat claimed four for 43.

Pacer Al Amin dismissed both of Chittagong's first-innings' heroes Nafees Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed but

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PHOTO: STAR

**LEADING THE WAY:** Bangladesh and Dhaka opener Javed Omar drives the ball to mid-on on way to scoring a match-winning 92 against Sylhet at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.



### Javed Miandad

(Pakistan cricket legend)

*"I am very happy Inzamam has equalled my record. He had all the time to break more records."*

**After Inzamamul Haq scored his Pakistan record-equalling 23rd Test century on the second day of the second Test against England.**



### TEN Sports

Pakistan vs England  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live at 10:20 am

### ESPN

Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Liverpool vs Real Betis  
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)

### STAR Sports

UEFA Champions League  
Anderlecht vs Chelsea  
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)

### SuperSport-3

UEFA Champions League  
Real Madrid vs Lyon  
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)



Nat'l Cricket League (Four-Day)  
(Day Four)

Rajshahi Vs Barisal  
Venue: Rajshahi Div Stadium

# NFL finals in Khulna begin tomorrow



Football

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Nitol-Tata Fifth National Football League finals begin tomorrow in Khulna despite a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the Opposition, organisers confirmed on Tuesday.

Defending champions Brothers Union will take on Khulna Town Club in the opener. The Group A match which will kick off at the Khulna Stadium at 3pm.

There were doubts over the start of the premier football competition of the country, which has already been delayed twice. But tournament committee secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu informed from Khulna that the local organisers had decided to begin the tournament on schedule.

"The local organisers, who are involved with both the political parties, have agreed to keep sports out of the hartal. The Khulna District Sports Association held a meeting with political parties and they have confirmed that the match would not be interrupted," Malu told The Daily Star over phone.

"There has been much enthusiasm about the event, especially after a local

club's qualification to the final round. A colourful rally was held today (Tuesday) to attract fans and we are hoping a big crowd. Kacharipara SC of Jamalpur have already arrived here and Brothers and Bangladesh Army are expected here tonight," the deputy general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation added.

Khulna Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman is expected to inaugurate the Khulna leg.

Four matches will be held in Khulna with the biggest attraction being the Muktijoddha-Mohammediyan match on November 26.

## Bangladesh play Iran today

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play Iran today in their away match of the AFC U-20 Football Championship qualifiers.

Bangladesh, which left Dhaka on Sunday, will host Iran on November 27 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Under-17 team left Dhaka yesterday to play their second-leg qualifying match against Sri Lanka on November 25 in Colombo.

## Nat'l team play Abahani today

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation is expected to announce the final national squad for the SAFF Football Championship after today's warm-up match against Abahani.

It will be the second preparation match for the SAFF champions who have been training under Argentine coach Diego Cruciani at BKSP, Savar. The match will kick off at 4pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The national team, who defeated Mohammedan 2-1 earlier, will round off their preparation at home with another game against Brothers Union on December 1.

Five players will be dropped from the 25-member squad that will start defence of their SAFF title in Pakistani port city of Karachi early next month.

Drawn in Group B along with regional rivals India, Nepal and Bhutan, Bangladesh open their campaign against Bhutan on December 8.

The Indian national team began their final preparation under coach Syed Naemuddin in New Delhi on Monday with 29 probabilities including star footballer Baichung Bhutia. Veteran IM Vijayan was ignored by Naemuddin, who picked many new faces for the two-time winners.

Hosts Pakistan and Sri Lanka have had hard training and will play a number of practice matches abroad.

Pakistan's new Bahrainian coach has already taken the team to Bahrain for four games. The team is expected to have the services of Jeesan Rahman, a Pakistani-born midfielder who plays for English Premiership club Fulham, during the trip.

Sri Lanka, in the meantime, are already in the middle of a three-week tour of Thailand as part of their preparation.

## Ban on Sajjad

### SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Division wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadir has been handed a one-round ban and a fine of Tk 2,000 for sledging against Sylhet players during their first round first-class match of the ongoing National Cricket League.

Sajjad will miss both the one-day and four-day home fixtures in the second round against Barisal.

Sylhet captain Rajin Saleh complained twice about Sajjad's sledging to match referee Hemayet Ahmed Siddiki who imposed the punishment on the third day.

It was learned that Dhaka were unhappy about the ban as the cricketer had not been warned first. Also, the cricketer refused to accept the official letter at first but obliged later.

## Third one-day international washed out

AFP, Chennai

Heavy rain and a water-logged ground forced the third one-dayer between India and South Africa to be abandoned without a ball being bowled here on Tuesday.

The incessant rain over the past two days soaked the Chidambaram Stadium and umpires Daryl Harper and Krishna Hariharan called off play 45 minutes after the scheduled start time of 2.30 pm (0900 GMT) as the weather showed no signs of clearing.

With no provision for a reserve day, the five-match series remains locked at 1-1 after South Africa won the first match in Hyderabad by five wickets and India drew level with a six-wicket win in Bangalore.

India's success ended South Africa's 20-match unbeaten streak just one victory short of Australia's world record of 21 consecutive wins. The remaining two matches will be played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Friday and the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai next Monday.

India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar will wait till Friday to become the most capped player in one-day history by surpassing Pakistani Wasim Akram's world record of 356 appearances. Tendulkar, 32, who has scored more runs (13,877) and centuries (38) than any batsman in one-day cricket, played his 356th game in Bangalore.

# Eng on a par with hosts

## Bell, Pietersen hit centuries at Faisalabad



AFP, Faisalabad

Kevin Pietersen and Ian Bell steered England close to safety with contrasting centuries in the second Test against Pakistan here on Tuesday.

Ashes hero Pietersen hammered a 137-ball 100 and Bell a watchful 115 as England reached 391-7 in their first innings at stumps on the third day in reply to Pakistan's 462.

Ashley Giles (23) and Shaun Udal (six) were the not-out batsmen when bad light stopped play with 12 overs remaining.

England began the day on a shaky 113-3 before Bell and Pietersen restored their team's fortunes, with each batsman making his second Test century.

They added 154 for the fourth wicket to deny Pakistan a breakthrough for nearly three hours, batting confidently against both pace and spin on an easy-paced track.

Pakistan managed to break the stubborn stand with the second new ball, when Shoaib Akhtar had Pietersen caught by Mohammad Yousuf at mid-on off a mistimed pull in the afternoon session.

But England had already avoided the follow-on mark of 262 when the 25-year-old Pietersen departed after smashing three sixes and six fours.

"I was disappointed that I was not scoring runs but I knew a big score was round the corner," said Pietersen, who managed just five and 19 in the opening Test at Multan.

"It's just a case of patience. I like to succeed. I like to get through to the nineties and I don't remember I have spent more than 10 balls in the nineties in my career."

Bell said his Test hundred here was the best of his career.

"It is a sort of come-of-age innings, but I wish I was still batting on 150 at the end of the day's play and helped my team get closer to Pakistan's total," he said.

Wicket-keeper Graeme Jones then built on the Pietersen-Bell stand, scoring a gutsy 55 for his fifth Test half-century before being trapped leg-before by leg-spinner Shahid Afridi.

Pakistan, leading 1-0 in the

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PHOTO: AFP

**MINE IS COMING:** England batsman Ian Bell (L) congratulates his teammate Kevin Pietersen after he scored a century against Pakistan on the third day of the second Test at Faisalabad on Tuesday. Bell also scored his ton later.

# Dravid given Test reins

## Ganguly's success era comes to an end



AFP, Chennai

Rahul Dravid was on Tuesday named India's new Test captain in place of Sourav Ganguly after the selectors rewarded him for leading the team's one-day resurgence.

The five-man selection committee, headed by former Test wicketkeeper Kiran More, named Dravid, 32, captain for the three Test matches against Sri Lanka starting on December 2.

The prolific batsman, who was last month handed the task of improving India's dismal one-day performance, responded by recording a resounding 6-1 win over Sri Lanka in the recent home series.

India are currently locked 1-1 in the five-match limited-overs series against South Africa, winning the second game in Bangalore on Saturday to end the Proteas' 20-match unbeaten streak.

"We have complete faith in Dravid's leadership," More told AFP. "I am sure he will do a good job in the Test matches as well."

The selectors would have given

Dravid a longer term but left the decision to the new committee that will be in place after the Indian cricket board's elections on November 29.

The gruelling season till July includes home Tests against Sri Lanka and England and tours of Pakistan and the West Indies.

Dravid's elevation ends Ganguly's reign as India's most successful Test captain with 21 wins, but the left-hander is expected to return to the Test squad after being ignored for the one-dayers.

The Test squad will be picked on Wednesday.

Dravid, a long-time deputy to Ganguly, has led India in five Tests in the captain's absence, with mixed results.

Under Dravid, India won and lost a Test each against Australia and Pakistan last season, while the fifth against New Zealand was drawn.

Dravid, who was named the International Cricket Council's player of the year in 2004, has scored 7,871 runs at an average of 58.30 in 91 Tests with 20 centuries.

Ganguly, 33, was captain for the tour of Zimbabwe in September in which India lost the one-day final to

New Zealand before defeating the weakened hosts 2-0. It was their first Test series win outside the sub-continent since 1986.

The tour was, however, marred by a highly-publicised row between Ganguly and coach Greg Chappell, the former Australian captain and batting great who took over the Indian team in June.

Ganguly said Chappell asked him to drop out of the Test series due to his poor form. The coach later wrote an e-mail to cricket board officials in which he said Ganguly was physically and mentally unfit to lead India.

"We were not satisfied with Sourav's leadership over the last few seasons," More told reporters. "We are expected to defeat Zimbabwe but we have not won consistently against the bigger teams."

"Rahul on the other hand has done well in the few opportunities that came his way. We have to look ahead and Dravid is clearly our captain for the future."

The first Test against Sri Lanka will be played here from December 2-6, followed by the second in New Delhi from December 10-14 and the third in Kanpur from December 18-22.



PHOTO: AFP

**KOLKATA FUMING:** Cricket fans in the Indian city of Kolkata on Tuesday demonstrate outside Eden Gardens in protest against Rahul Dravid's appointment as Test captain replacing their beloved home boy Sourav Ganguly.