

## Javed leads Dhaka's way



**SPORTS REPORTER**

National opener Javed Omar continued his good form in the Ispahani National Cricket League as he hit a century that helped Dhaka amass 331 on the first day of their four-day game against Barisal at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

If it was the gritty right-hander who dictated terms in the first two sessions in the hosts' favour, it was out-of-favour batsman Hannan Sarker who hogged the spotlight in the final session, taking five wickets to effect a dramatic Dhaka batting collapse.

In reply, Barisal finished the day on 35-1.

At the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar cracked an unbeaten 82 as Khulna ended the day on 144-4 in reply to Rajshahi's, who are being led by his deputy Khaled Mashud, 130.

On the other hand, Chittagong rode on a 167-run fifth wicket stand between Ehsanul Haque and Waseluddin to post 270-8 at stumps after recovering from a precarious position at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

**DHAKA-BARISAL**

Coin-favoured Dhaka were well set for a mammoth total in their first essay, but their formidable middle-order once again saw a sudden collapse like the first round and also in the limited-overs game of the second round at the same venue.

Athar Ali Khan, one of the selectors who was watching the match, was apparently disturbed by the attitude of the local batsmen.

"No doubt the credit should go to the bowler. But honestly speaking, it was the Dhaka batsmen who threw away their wickets on a very good batting pitch," said the former national opener, who praised Javed highly.

The right-hander, who got a 'life' when Anisur Rahman spilled a catch at mid-on, pacer Arafat Salahuddin when he was on 41, hammered 16 fours in his 162-ball innings and

smashed the lone six against leg-spinner Arif Hossain to complete his hundred in style.

The Javed, who hit 53 in the one-day match on Saturday and had scored 92 in the second innings of the first match, innings (106) came to an end when he was caught at cover off Barisal's most successful bowler Hannan.

Javed and Rashedul Haque gave the home team a flying start as they



Dhaka opener Javed Omar stretches for the ball on way to scoring a century on the opening day of the four-day match against Barisal at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

## Abahani feast on Bulbul treble

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khuina**

Maksudul Alam Bulbul slammed a hattrick as Abahani registered an emphatic 5-1 victory over Feni Soccer Club in the final round of the Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

Newcomers Feni however drew the first blood in the match when Majibur Rahman Ritu put them ahead in the 25th minute, but the popular sky and blues managed to lock the first half 1-1 after Bulbul struck his first goal in the 43rd minute.

After the breather, the Dhaka giants regrouped to launch a series of attacks and Abdullah Parvez romped home with a right-footer from a free-kick to give them a 2-1 lead.

Bulbul then extended the lead after eight minutes and he completed his hattrick with two minutes to time to be adjudged man-of-the-match. Iqir Mohammad scored the other goal for Abahani in the 70th minute.

With the match the Khulna-leg was completed and now the second-leg of the final round will kick off in Rangpur on Wednesday, with the match between Brothers Union and Munshiganj Somabesh Club.

Yellow cards: Ibrahim (Abahani) and Kallol (Feni Soccer).

**TEAMS**

**ABAHANI:** Nizam, Prodip, Obaidur, Lajuk, Engasa, Abdullah Parvez, Endem, Iqir, Zahed (Tushar), Bulbul and Ibrahim.

**Feni Soccer Club:** Piru, Ramjan, Mustafizur, Prodip, Kallol, Jahangir, Hanif, Kabir, Shakil (Nazmul), Ritu (Anwarul) and Younus.

**Referee:** Ramkrishna Gosh.

## BCB names U-19 squad for tri-series

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-member squad for the Under-19 Triangular Tournament involving England and Sri Lanka.

Wicketkeeper cum batsman Mushfiqur Rahim, who has played one Test at Lord's, has been retained as captain with left-arm batsman Mehrab Hossain named as his deputy.

The tri-nation meet will start with the match between Bangladesh and England, with the latter having been whitewashed in the five-match series against BCB High Performance Squad, at BKSP on November 30.

The Sri Lanka U-19 side are due in the capital on November 29. The teams will play each other three times in the league phase. The final is slated for December 14.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Under-19 team returned home yesterday after taking part in the Afro-Asian tournament in Vishakhapatnam where they recorded three wins against Zimbabwe, Pakistan and South Africa after losing the first two games.

"The performance in the meet will help us in the tri-nation tournament. Our only target is to become champions in the meet because the win against Pakistan and South Africa was a morale booster for us," said skipper Rahim.

India stopped South Africa's 20-match unbeaten streak in the second match of the series, but the tourists bounced back with an emphatic 10-wicket win in Kolkata to take a 2-1 lead.

"We've got an eagerness to do well, but that's not putting any pressure on us," Boucher continued.

"Rather, the pressure is on the Indians. It'll be interesting to see how their youngsters handle that."

"Cracks open up when you start losing and it's happening to the Indian team."

India captain Rahul Dravid challenged his batsmen to prove their mettle and force a tied series.

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## Hussey denies WI lead

### Cricket

**AFP, Adelaide**

Mike Hussey shepherded the tail masterfully on Sunday to rack up a second century in consecutive Tests and help Australia seize control of the third Test against the West Indies.

His unbeaten 133 at the Adelaide Oval was, if anything, better than the first innings knock of 137 that earned him the man-of-the-match award in the second Test in Hobart.

Australia were struggling 110 runs short of the tourists' total of 405 with only two wickets in hand before Hussey rallied his team and eked out a 23-run first innings lead.

Australia's bowlers rammed home the advantage by taking two wickets before the close of play to leave the West Indies at 68 for two by stumps, just 45 runs ahead.

Ramnaresh Sarwan was unbeaten on 53 off 61 balls with nightwatchman Darren Powell yet to score.

Hussey confidently farmed the strike, shielding Australia's last three batsmen to bring up a well-deserved hundred and pull the momentum away from the West Indies, swelling his Test average to 110.3 in the process.

"I honestly didn't think I would get the chance to score a hundred here today," Hussey said. "I have to give a lot of credit to Stuart MacGill. He grabbed the situation and told me exactly how we were going to go about it."

"He played really well and it was a great partnership."

The Caribbean tourists had Australia on the ropes in the morning session with exciting young Trinidad all-rounder Dwayne Bravo snaring three wickets in 17 balls.

Australia crumbled from an overnight 229 for three to 277 for seven at lunch and when Brett Lee became Bravo's sixth wicket shortly afterwards Hussey was on 35 with No.10 MacGill at the crease.

Glenn McGrath (5) provided another 39 minutes' support as he shared in a 40-run final wicket partnership with Hussey, who guided Australia to the psychologically-important innings lead.

MacGill (22) was a resolute companion for 116 minutes and helped Hussey put on 93 runs for the ninth wicket to frustrate the West Indies.

Glenn McGrath (5) provided another 39 minutes' support as he shared in a 40-run final wicket partnership with Hussey, who guided Australia to the psychologically-important innings lead.

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PHOTO: AFP

Australian middle-order batsman Mike Hussey executes a pull shot on way to his unbeaten 133 on the third day of the third Test against the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

## A lot to play for India

### Final ODI against SA today

### Cricket

**AGENCIES, undated**

South Africa could clinch their first one-day series win ever in India with victory in Monday's fifth and final match in Mumbai.

The Proteas won their first ever Test series in India five years ago, but has failed to achieve the feat in four previous limited-overs contests.

"We're carrying a lot of momentum into the last match."

"We're eager to become the first South African side to win a one-day series here," said vice-captain Mark Boucher.

India stopped South Africa's 20-match unbeaten streak in the second match of the series, but the tourists bounced back with an emphatic 10-wicket win in Kolkata to take a 2-1 lead.

"We will keep trying different things in different games. Sometimes they will look normal, at other times may look out of the ordinary," Chappell told reporters.

"It's a long journey to the 2007 World Cup and we would continue to do what needs to be done irrespective of what others think," the Australian said.

Chappell, whose tenure as the Indian team coach extends till the World Cup in the West Indies, also said that the entire Indian team, including himself, had learned a lot by playing against a tough team like South Africa which would stand it in good stead for the mega event.

The Indian coach also sprang to the defence of Sachin Tendulkar, who is having a lean run after a blazing return to cricket from an injury lay-off.

On the other hand, preparations are on in full swing at the Wankhede Stadium. Final touches are being given to the pitch and security is at an all-time high.

The wicket here has come under tremendous public discussion and interest ever since India beat Australia in just two days in a Test match here a year ago. But the newly appointed coach, former Test cricketer Sudhir Naik, says that he has followed the method of gradual compression when preparing the wicket and is confident that it has something for everyone.

**TEAMS**

**INDIA (likely):** Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Rahul Dravid (captain), Mohammad Kaif, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik, RP Singh, Supersub: Gautam Gambhir.

**SOUTH AFRICA (likely):** Graeme Smith (captain), Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Ashwell Prince, Justin Kemp, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Johan Botha, Andre Nel, Charl Langeveld, Makhaya Ntini, Supersub: Justin Ontong.

## Sanath vows to return

### Cricket

**AFP, Colombo**

Sri Lanka's former captain Sanath Jayasuriya vowed Sunday to fight back and reclaim a place in the Test squad after being dropped for the upcoming series in India.

"I was feeling disappointed on the day the team left for India," the left-handed opener told AFP. "The team that I have been part of for so many years was leaving but I was playing a club match here."

The 36-year-old was dropped for the three-Test series starting in Chennai on December 2 after struggling with both form and fitness in seven one-day matches against India in which the Sri Lankans were thrashed 6-1.

But the island nation's most capped Test player with 100 appearances said he had not given up hope.

"This setback has made me more determined and increased my hunger

for runs," said Jayasuriya, who is his country's highest run scorer in both Tests and one-day internationals.

"I had some injuries and then form too deserted me but I am keen to work hard on my game and get back in the team."

"It's actually a bit difficult to cope with it when you are out of the side but it's a part of the game when you are a professional and I am cool about it," he added.

Jayasuriya, a hero of Sri Lanka's World Cup triumph in 1996, said he had been consulting former Test player Sidath Wettimuny in a bid to sort out some technical problems.

"My ultimate goal remains the 2007 World Cup but the first target is to get back into the team," said Jayasuriya, who plans to concentrate on domestic cricket for the time being.

"I am playing in domestic matches and am keen to get runs and get my confidence back. During the one-dayers in India I

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Action from yesterday's AFC Under-20 Championship return-leg match between Bangladesh and Iran at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## Younis loses his brother

### Won't play in third Test against England

### Cricket

**AFP, Lahore**

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer said Sunday Younis Khan's absence for the third and final Test cricket Test against England here was a big blow.

The Pakistani batsman pulled out of Tuesday's match following the death of his brother.

"Younis has lost his brother and will not play in the third Test. It is big blow to our team," said Woolmer, whose team lead 1-0 in the three-match series following their 22-run win in the first Test at Multan.

The second Test ended in a draw Faisalabad.

Younis, who made 121 in the last two Tests against England, returned home after hearing the news of his brother's death in Ukraine Saturday

### What to WATCH

**DD Sports**

India vs South Africa

Fifth ODI

Live at 3:00 pm

**STAR Sports**

Australia vs West Indies

Third Test, Day Four

Live at 6:30 am

### DAY'S EVENT

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

Dhaka Vs Barisal

Venue: Dhamondi Cricket Stadium

Rajshahi Vs Khulna

Venue: Rajshahi Div Stadium

Chittagong Vs Sylhet

Venue: Chittagong Div Stadium