

# 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 Dhanmondi 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 off 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

went to lunch with the scoreboard looking healthy 117 without loss.

Left-arm paceman Sajid Islam however had the first success for the tourists in the second over of the post-lunch session when he broke the 120-run opening partnership as Rashedul was bowled for a 96-ball 59 that produced eight

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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 Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Abahani feast on Bulbul treble

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Maksudul Alam Bulbul slammed a hatrick 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 hatrick 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 Yousuf.

**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 Mehrob 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.

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# Hussey denies WI lead



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 Daren 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.



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



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'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.

"We didn't bat well in the last game and that let us down," he said.

"This series has seen the bowlers repeatedly take the initiative away from the other team at the start of the matches, but I'm looking for a better performance from the boys."

"We played well against Sri Lanka that was ranked number two in the world, and now we're playing the team that's currently placed number two."

Meanwhile, undeterred by the barrage of criticism over some of his failed experiments, coach Greg Chappell on Sunday said the team would continue with its policy of trying out new things in view of the World Cup in 2007.

"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 in it

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 curator, 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

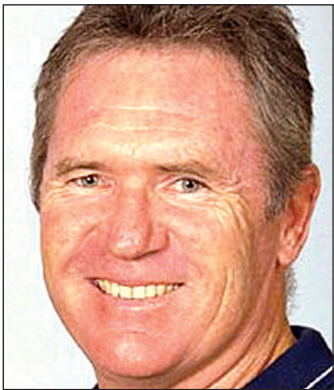
**INDIA (likely):** Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Rahul Dravid (captain), Mohammad Kaif, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik, RP Singh, Supersub: Gautam Gambhir.

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



## Did U Know?

The last Olympic gold medals that were made entirely out of gold were awarded in 1912 Games.



## Allan Border

(Former Australian cricket captain "I pass on my congratulations to Brian Lara. He is a very worthy holder of the mantle of the greatest run-scorer in Test history.")



## 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



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

(Day Two)  
Dhaka Vs Barisal  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
Rajshahi vs Khulna  
Venue: Rajshahi Div Stadium  
Chittagong vs Sylhet  
Venue: Chittagong Div Stadium

## Wasim has a second wife?

PTI, Khandua

A mother of four children in India's Burhanpur district has declared herself a wife of former Pakistani cricketer Wasim Akram.

Krishna, a clerk in a commercial tax department, claims to have accepted Akram as her husband since she saw his performance on television during an Indo-Pak cricket ODI in 1999.

This has led her to shun her marriage to a retired government servant.

Krishna told a group of reporters on Saturday, "I am yet to meet him (Akram). Whether he accepts me or not, I will spend the rest of my life as his wife."

Krishna claims that a "godly figure" clad in white clothes had shown her Akram's face in her dreams, telling her that it was that of her husband's. She claims to have started believing in the 'godly figure' following her family's tremendous improvement in their financial conditions.

Although the change in her behaviour has had little effect on her two sons and two daughters, her husband claims that it has destroyed his family life.

In a quest to meet Akram, Krishna has also paid a futile visit to the Pakistani cricketer's ancestral village in Amritsar.

"Whether he is in England or Lahore, I will meet him one day in my life," she said.

Krishna, who discarded the attire of a Hindu married woman in 1999, claims that she is unperturbed by the response she gets from her office or from the neighbourhood.

# Bangladesh go down fighting



SPORTS REPORTER

Mostafa Chatrabgoun came out of the bench midway through the second half to score twice as Iran blanked Bangladesh 2-0 in their return-leg clash of the Asian Youth (Under-20) Championship at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mostafa's strikes in the 79th and 87th minutes meant the future stars of the Asian football giants ambled into the next year's finals in India with a 7-0 aggregate, after their 5-0 thrashing of an inexperienced Bangladesh side in Tehran last week.

Iran's Brazilian coach, Ademar Fonseca, turned to his prolific striker after the home side put up stubborn resistance, despite being reduced to ten men in the 37th minute of the game.

Mostafa broke the evening's duck in front of a sparse crowd including a few noticeable Iranian expatriates, with a glancing header off a Pooladi Mehrdad corner. He then fired a low shot past Bangladesh youth custodian Mazharul Islam, who had an outstanding match despite conceding two late goals.

Bangladesh started impressively in the repeat clash but were forced to resort to a defensive approach, after their captain Arafat Rony picked up his second yellow card with the game only 37 minutes old.

"They played well in the first 15 minutes. But we assumed control with the progress of the game. It has been a good experience for us to play in this part of the world because the final round next year will be played in a similar condition," said Fonseca after the match. The Brazilian's only discomfort was the longer-than-expected grass in the middle.

Bangladesh coach Hasanuzzaman Bablu was also happy that his boys put up a better fight on home ground after a demoralising defeat in the hostile conditions in Tehran, where the temperature was as low as 3 degree Celsius.

But Babul felt the Iranians might have fielded quite a number of over-aged players.

"I think Iran fielded some players who do not come within the age limit. We have already conveyed this to our federation and hopefully they will raise the issue with the AFC," said Bablu, without elaborating any further.

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# Younis loses his brother

## Won't play in third Test against England



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 a 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 at 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

night.

He has scored nine hundreds and 11 half-centuries in 39 Tests.

Woolmer said Younis' non-availability had disturbed the balance in the team's batting order.

"Younis is a regular at number three and his absence has affected the balance. We may now bring in Asim Kamal at number three and Hasan Raza in place of Shahid Afridi at number six," he said.

The left-handed Kamal, who hit a fighting 99 on his Test debut against South Africa here two years ago, did not play in the first two Tests, while Raza was dropped after failing in the first match.

Afridi, who hit a robust 92 and captured four wickets in the second Test, was not available for selection after being banned for

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

PHOTO: STAR

# Sanath vows to return



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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