

Javed in record books



SPORTS REPORTER

Javed Omar joined the elites who have scored first-class centuries in both innings when the combative national opener struck an unbeaten 104 for Dhaka in National Cricket League against Barisal at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The 29-year-old, who scored 106 in his first essay on Sunday, became only the third batsman in the country to achieve the delightful double after Shahriar Hossain and Shahin Hossain, steering Barisal off-spinner Ali Arman down to the third-man for a single in the final session of Day Two.

Javed's back-to-back hundred gave Dhaka a massive 388-run lead over Barisal, who were bowled out for 131 an hour after lunch. Dhaka closed the day on 188-4 with Sanwar Hossain batting at the other end with 6.

The other highlight of the day was a welcome hundred by Alok Kapali at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. The extremely talented Sylhet middle-order batsman ended his run drought in grand style with an unbeaten 121. His superb knock allowed Sylhet to recover from a precarious start to almost match Chittagong's first innings total of 273. The visitors finished the day on 267-8 with Kapali still there.

Away at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, national and Khulna captain Habibul Bashar might have missed a hundred for 15 runs but his men were on the verge of winning their first-class fixture against Rajshahi with two more days to spare. Khulna were only 13 runs away from victory after Jamaluddin Babu picked up five second innings wickets of Rajshahi, who were bundled out for 140, leaving the tourist to chase only 19 runs.

DHAKA-BARISAL

When his more revered teammates in the star-studded Dhaka line-up continued to struggle, Javed was at his inconsistent best. The gritty right-hander, in a rich vein of form, showed

the others how to bat in the longer version of the game, first repairing the initial damage like he did in the first innings before playing some delightful shots including a huge six over long-off.

Javed held the innings after his totally out-of-sorts captain

Mohammad Ashraf decided against enforcing the follow-on after Barisal fell for 131 in reply to the home side's first-innings total of 331.

In his 155-ball knock Javed hit 16 glorious boundaries including a few perfectly executed hooks, which he had been good at.

"I know I have to score runs because it has always been the insurance for my place in the national team which might not be the case with others. The pressure

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IN PURPLE PATCH: Dhaka opener Javed Omar follows through on a front-foot cover drive on way to scoring 104 not out for his second century of the match against Barisal in the Ispahani National Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Monday.

SA, India square series



SPORTS REPORTER

Rahul Dravid's captain's knock of 78 not out helped India square the five-match one-day series 2-2 with a five-wicket victory against South Africa in the final match in Mumbai yesterday.

Chasing South Africa's 221-6, India romped to 224-5 with 15 balls to spare after local hero Sachin Tendulkar (30 off 44 balls) and master-blaster Virender Sehwag (27 off 20 balls) providing an ideal platform during a blazing 45-run second wicket stand in 33 balls.

Dravid then added 79 runs with Yuvraj Singh (49 off 64 balls) for the fourth wicket to guide the home side close to target.

South Africa won the first and the fourth matches while the third one-day was washed out.

Earlier AFP adds: Jacques Kallis hit a watchful 91 to enable South Africa to post 221-6 from 50 overs.

Kallis held the innings together amidst a flurry of wickets at the other end after Indian captain Rahul Dravid won the

toss and elected to field on the slow wicket at the Wankhede stadium.

India face a victory target of 4.4 runs an over under lights to draw the series 2-2 after the third game in Chennai was washed out.

South Africa, hoping to win their first one-day series on Indian soil, were boosted by an unbeaten 30 off 17 balls by Shaun Pollock at the end.

Pollock hit four boundaries and a six, taking 11 runs in the final over bowled by spinner Murali Kartik.

South Africa's top order was rattled by left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan, who dismissed Andrew Hall in his second over and captain Graeme Smith in his fifth.

Pathan also denied Kallis a century in the 49th over, having him caught at long-on, to finish with 3-20 from eight overs.

Smith, whose unbeaten century gave the tourists a 10-wicket victory in the fourth game in Kolkata on Friday, had scored 24 when he scooped a catch to mid-wicket.

Ashwell Prince (nine) helped Kallis add 41 for the third wicket before he swept Harbhajan Singh to Yuvraj

Singh square-leg.

Kallis, playing safe to ensure not many wickets were lost before the final charge, reached his 56th one-day half-century in the 33rd over with the score at 116-3.

Mark Boucher (35) put on 81 for the fourth wicket with Kallis when he departed to a superb diving catch by Harbhajan on the mid-wicket boundary in the 41st over.

Harbhajan removed the aggressive Justin Kemp for 11, forcing him to sweep another catch to Yuvraj to make South Africa 178-5.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South African innings in the fifth and final one-day international against India at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday:

SOUTH AFRICA	
Smith c Harbhajan b Pathan	24
Hall b Pathan	4
Kallis c Kaif b Pathan	91
Prince c Yuvraj b Harbhajan	9
Boucher c Harbhajan b Sehwag	35
Kemp c Yuvraj b Harbhajan	11
Pollock not out	30
Botha not out	3

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Aussies almost there



AFP, Adelaide

Australia need 106 runs with eight wickets intact to complete a 3-0 series whitewash of the West Indies after Shane Warne produced Monday his best-ever Adelaide Oval bowling performance.

The Australians had a few early flutters losing the wickets of Justin Langer and skipper Ricky Ponting, but have the momentum heading into the final day after dismissing the Caribbean tourists for 204 in their second innings.

Australia have already retained the Frank Worrell Trophy with comprehensive wins in Brisbane and Hobart but it was Warne's 6-80 off 33 overs that swung the momentum and left the home side needing 182 to win.

Outstanding young all-rounder Dwayne Bravo showed pluck with a pugnacious 64 to give the struggling Windies hope of setting a more challenging total, but once he was out shortly after tea, the innings folded.

At the close, Australia were 76 for two with Matthew Hayden on 38 and Brad Hodge on 10 after Corey Collymore picked up the wickets of Langer for 20 and Ponting for three.

"We're quietly confident but a couple of quick wickets early tomorrow and the West Indies are right in the game, anyone who thinks the game is over, then you haven't been watching the same game or seen the conditions," Warne said.

Warne flummoxed the West Indies batsmen with his wrist-spin taking five of the eight wickets to fall Monday. The visitors lost their last eight wickets for just 136 runs.

Test cricket's leading wicket-taker took his career tally to 645 wickets in 132 Tests and, with two Tests still to play before the end of 2005, Warne looks set to break the record for the most wickets in a calendar year.

His 84 wickets this year, mean he is just one behind Australian fast bowler great Dennis Lillee's record of 85 set in 1981.

Warne also became the highest wicket-taker in Tests at the Adelaide Oval -- one of his least favoured grounds

-- surpassing Lillee's previous best of 45 with his 51.

The West Indies' cause was undermined by three questionable umpiring decisions in the dismissals of Ramnaresh Sarwan (64), Dwayne Smith (0) and Denesh Ramdin (28).

Warne had the West Indians in a spin in the morning session and celebrated with the prized wicket of first innings double-centurion Brian Lara for 17 when he edged to the outstretched left hand of Matthew Hayden at slip.

He also captured the wickets of nightwatchman Daren Powell,

bowled around his legs for two, skipper Shivnarine Chanderepaul caught at short leg by Brad Hodge for four, and Dwayne Smith leg before wicket for a two-ball duck.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third and final Test between Australia and the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 405 (Lara 226, D Bravo 34; McGrath 3-106, Lee 3-111)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 428

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SEE THE MAGIC: Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne celebrates taking his fifth wicket in the second innings of West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Monday.

Serie A in shame again



AFP, undated

Juventus restored their five-point lead at the top of Italy's Serie A after defeating Treviso 3-1 on Sunday.

AC Milan had closed the gap to two points with a last-gasp win over Lecce on Saturday but Juve responded to the pressure with a victory in Turin where they went a goal down.

However, the weekend was overshadowed by events in Sicily where Messina's African defender Marc Zoro was reduced to tears after being subjected to racial abuse by the visiting Inter Milan fans.

The Ivory Coast international was targeted when he went to collect the ball near the away supporters' section and after a chorus of insults he tried to get the game called off.

The fourth official told him it wasn't possible and Zoro broke down in tears before saying he wouldn't play on.

Zoro's teammates managed to persuade him to continue and his decision was roundly applauded by the Messina crowd.

At the Delle Alpi stadium, Francesco Parravicini gave Treviso a shock 25th minute lead but Juventus

hit back with goals from Adrian Mutu and David Trezeguet before half-time.

Juve, who were without suspended French pair Lilian Thuram and Patrick Vieira, rode their luck at times in the second half before Alessandro Del Piero eased their jitters eight minutes from the end.

Juventus have 36 points from their 13 matches played, five more than Milan who beat Lecce on Saturday.

Del Piero's goal took his Juventus total to 180 to leave him just two behind the club's all-time top scorer Giampiero Boniperti.

"I hope I can leave my mark just like he did," Del Piero said.

Florentina's five-match winning run was ended but they managed to salvage a 1-1 draw at Roma.

Damiano Tommasi tucked away Antonio Cassano's cross in the second minute to put Roma ahead before Philippe Mexes brought down Gianpaolo Pazzini in the box midway through the second half.

Mexes was shown a red card and Toni converted the penalty for his 16th goal of the season.

Florentina remain in third place on 29 points, three ahead of Inter who won 2-1 at Messina thanks to goals from Alvaro Recoba and Esteban

Cambiasso.

But rather than the game it was the treatment of Zoro which made all the headlines.

Zoro said it was about time the Italian football authorities took a stand against the racists.

"I don't accept it when people come to my home stadium and shout racist insults," he said.

"I'm used to it when it happens away from home, but not here. These people don't love the sport and they must understand we are not animals - I want respect."

Meanwhile, the Italian Football Federation has ordered all games in the country this week to kick off five minutes late to allow players to demonstrate their opposition to racism.

The Federation said that all the midweek Italian Cup fixtures along with next week's league games at all levels down to amateur football would be delayed with the players taking to the field holding banners declaring 'No to Racism'.

Elsewhere, Lazio beat Empoli 3-2 courtesy of Fabio Liverani's late winner, while two goals from

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Faisal, Emily, Tarek & Wali may be axed

SPORTS REPORTER

The national footballers today enter the last week of their preparations for the SAFF Football Championship which begins in Pakistan on December 7.

The defending champions' training is now going on in full swing at BKSP under Argentine coach Diego Cruciani whose worries about a few minor injuries following a warm-up match last week was over yesterday when he got back all the 24 players at practice.

Bangladesh have already played two warm-up games against local clubs Mohammedan and Abahani, but their chances to play another before their departure to Karachi looks remote as Brothers Union would not be available for Wednesday's proposed exhibition match.

"It would have been better had we played another match, especially as we are expected to reduce the team to 20 by Wednesday. But teams are busy due to the ongoing National League," told assistant coach Jubair Nipu on Sunday overphone.

"A few players including Aminul were hurt during the last game (against Abahani) but every one has recovered. We are still looking

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Exciting wins for Uttara, Pegasus

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttara Sporting Club and Young Pegasus recorded thrilling wins in yesterday's First Division Cricket League in the city.

Uttara (263-7) snatched a 10-run victory against Young Pegasus B (253-10) at the Dhaka University ground. Opener Tanjir Ahmed kept Pegasus B's hopes alive with a blazing 63 off 60 balls but his efforts went down the drain following a middle order collapse. Islam Khan topscored with 62 and Nadim hit an unbeaten 48 for Uttara.

The senior Pegasus, however, were fortunate to earn a one-wicket win, thanks to a 32-run tenth wicket stand between Muktar and Saklain. Despite being reduced to 123-9, Pegasus reached 155-9 in reply to Dhaka Mariner Young Club's 154 all out at the City Club Ground.

At BKSP, Nasir and Sajjadul captured three wickets each to help Surjo Torun (96-4) beat Gazi Tanks (95) by six wickets.



WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS? Messina defender Marc Zoro (R), who was in tears after being racially abused by Inter Milan fans, is being held back by Inter's Adriano during their Serie A fixture at St. Filippo Stadium on Sunday.



Did U Know?

When choosing locations for the Olympic Games, the IOC specifically gives the honour of holding the Games to a city rather than a country.



Dwayne Bravo

(West Indies all-rounder) "I don't think I or any all-rounder could be classed as good as Sir Gary (Sobers), but one thing is you know he's from West Indies and he's played a big role, he's always there for us and I would love to one day be in his shoes."



TEN Sports

Pakistan vs England
Third Test, Day One
Live at 10:50 am

STAR Sports

Australia vs West Indies
Third Test, Day Five
Live at 6:30 am



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

Dhaka Vs Barisal
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Rajshahi vs Khulna
Venue: Rajshahi Div Stadium
Chittagong vs Sylhet
Venue: Chittagong Div Stadium

Muktijoddha lead Chess League

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad maintained solo lead in the Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League defeating Sonali Bank 3-1 in the third round at the BCF hall room yesterday.

Foreign Grand Masters Abhijit Kunte, Aloyzas Kveinys and Bangladesh coach Edvins Kengis all won their respective boards, but local International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib lost to Moniruzzaman Khan.

With 10.5 points, Muktijoddha have opened up a one-point lead over joint-second Bangladesh Biman and holders Leonine Chess Club.

Biman beat Farshganj 3-1 while Leonine defeated Narayanganj City Chess Club by the same margin.

In other matches, Destiny 2000 blanked Friends Chess Power 4-0, BJMC beat Dhaka University 4-0, Titas Club beat Faith Chess Club 3.5-0.5, Dolphin Chess Club beat Anushillan Daba KC 2.5-1.5 while Pradip Sangha and Shaheed Mufi KDD shared points.

Div II hockey

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Barnak Samaj romped to their second win in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League thrashing Raktim Sangha 6-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

Barnak led the first-half by a solitary goal. Shakil netted four goals while Mithun added two for the winners.

In the day's other match, Dilkusha blanked Tejgaon Agragami 4-0 at the same venue after leading the first-half 1-0.

Tapu struck twice while Faruque and Reza shared the rest.