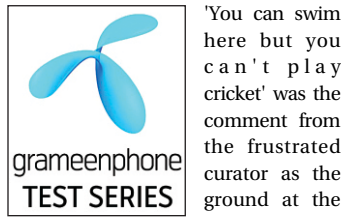


# Shahadat earns praise

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



Divisional Stadium apparently looked like a swimming pool following heavy overnight and morning rain yesterday.

The situation only facilitated on-field umpires Daryl Harper and Billy Doctrove to take a relatively easy decision of calling off the third day's play at 11:15am.

After the second day was almost washed off as well, everybody was concerned about the fate of the first Test of the two-match series especially when the forecast says there would be more rain.

India didn't even come to the ground but Bangladesh preferred to have a net session in the indoors as they were looking forward to bat in the Test after a break of more than a year.

So far only 97 overs have been bowled in the three days with India yet to complete their first innings as they are on 384-6. As a result, the match is definitely heading for a draw but

Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar said that they were not thinking of the outcome of the match, rather they were disappointed at the rain.

"It's really frustrating as two days of the match have been spoiled by rain. We are really unfortunate because we have got the opportunity to play Test cricket after a long gap. There is a no chance for us to win the match but at least there can be a draw. But you know, it's a different taste to draw a match on your own credit as we did in West Indies (in 2004). If you give me the choice, I would definitely prefer playing," said Bashar.

But the 34-year old Tigers skipper said that the remaining two days are still in their hand and they have to bat well if weather permits play ultimately.

"We should do a lot of things in the next two day's if we can play. First target is to wrap up the Indian innings, then we have to bat as long as we can to put a big total on the board," he added.

Praising fast bowler Shahadat Hossain who picked up two wickets including that of master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, the home captain expressed his satisfaction over the performance in the brief session of the second day when only 20 overs were

possible.

"We had the target to pick up quick wickets and we succeeded by claiming three of them. It was very encouraging the way Shahadat bowled and I think we need this kind of a bowler in the longer-version. He has the aggression and his body language is also good. It is always nice to watch someone like him," said Bashar adding that they need more quality pacemen in the pipeline.

He admitted that the team felt to have a pacer short, as the pitch could not behave as they expected.

"The ball didn't turn as we expected and I don't know how it would behave in the next two days," he observed.

Meanwhile, pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who once again complained of back pain, must have breathed a sigh of relief as it gave him an extra day to recover.

"Mashrafe is complaining for back pain but I think it is not too serious and we are hopeful that he will be completely fit soon," informed Bashar. Mashrafe took three wickets in the first innings.

On the other hand, Tushar Imran has returned to Dhaka on Saturday and hopefully he will be available for the final Test starting from May 25 at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur.



SWIM OR SPIN? Groundsmen walk past a puddle on top of the covers after play was abandoned on the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and India at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



## Sachin Tendulkar

(Master India batsman)

"It is really good to get a century after a long time as it is important to score a hundred here. After South Africa (in 2006), I have not played Test cricket for a long time and that's why I was looking forward to playing here. The century has come at the right time. I am looking forward to playing such important innings."

After he scored a century in the first Test against Bangladesh on Saturday.



## BTV & NEO Sports

Bangladesh v India

First Test, Day Four

Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

England v West Indies

First Test, Day Five

Live at 4:00 pm



Kai-Altech Super League Cricket

Abahani v Sonargaon

Venue: BKSP

Mohammedan v Victoria

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Biman v Old DOHS

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

## Doubts grow over autopsy

CRICINFO, undated

While news regarding the ongoing investigation into the death of Bob Woolmer is hard to come by, there are increasing suggestions that the Jamaican police jumped the gun in launching a murder enquiry.

London's Sunday Times said that police in Jamaica have privately admitted that Dr Ere

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

# Either too hot or it rains

AFP, Chittagong



Indian and Bangladeshi officials were forced to duck for cover as inclement weather threatened to consign the first Test at the Ruhul Amin Stadium to a watery grave.

With 83 overs lost on the first two days and rain threatening to wash out the rest of the match, the fate of the short series hangs on the second and final Test, which begins in Dhaka on May 25.

Dhaka, however, is also experiencing heavy rains that are normal for this time of the year and only a

## Just for Sachin

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Sudhir Kumar, an Indian cricket fan, never hesitates to spend his hard-earned money to watch the batting of master batsman Sachin Tendulkar.

That's why the 24-year old dairy farm worker from Bihar came to Chittagong, that too riding on his bicycle to watch his favourite cricketer bat in the first Test.

"It is for the second time that I have travelled with my bicycle abroad. I first visited Pakistan only to watch Sachin because he is my favourite player and I love his batting," said Sudhir.

"I hardly need any money because I always travel with my bicycle," he said claiming that he has a talking term with the Indian batting stalwart.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajbari, Dhaka, Faridpur and Madaripur posted wins in the Grameen Danone Nations Cup Football Championship at the Manikganj Government High School ground yesterday.

Rajbari beat hosts Manikganj 2-1, Dhaka defeated Madaripur 1-0, Faridpur reversed Rajbari 1-0 while Madaripur salvaged some pride on the day by beating Shariatpur 1-0.

## INTER-DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL

Dhaka reached the final of the NCC Bank inter-district volleyball competition at the Volleyball Stadium.

The capital side fought hard to beat Khulna 25-17, 14-25, 25-23, 15-25, 25-20 in the first semifinal. They will meet the winners of the second semifinal between Dinajpur and Kushtia in the final to be played today.

## TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Sports World and Table Tennis Academy won in straight sets in the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

freakish change in weather patterns will see the second Test run its full course.

The Indian Meteorological Department last week offered to provide an input to the Board of

Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) before future tours are finalised.

But it did not need a met expert  
SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

SUPER FAN: Self-confessed Sachin Tendulkar fan Sudhir Kumar flashes the V-sign during the abandoned third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and India at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

# Tendulkar wants players' input

BBC ONLINE, undated



Sachin Tendulkar says India's players should be involved in deciding who becomes their next coach.

India are looking for a coach after Greg Chappell quit following India's shock early exit from the World Cup.

Former Test all-rounder Ravi Shastri is in charge of the team on a temporary basis for their tour of Bangladesh.

Tendulkar, who scored his 36th Test ton in the first Test in Chittagong on Saturday, said: "We hope that our input would be considered."

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has appointed a seven-man committee, led by president Sharad Pawar, to appoint the coach and also a team manager.

Many former India Test players and cricket pundits have argued that it is time for a homegrown coach after spells under Australian Chappell and New Zealander John Wright.

But Australian Dav Whatmore, who will quit his post as Bangladesh coach after the second Test against India, is thought to be a leading contender.

Shastri, who has said he does not want the job on a full-time basis, is a member of the committee, along with former captains Sunil Gavaskar and Srinivas Venkataraghavan.

It is next due to meet on 4 June,  
SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

## What should Tushar do?

SPORTS REPORTER

Tushar Imran was in a dilemma on whether he would take rest or return to club duties after the middle-order batsman was released from the national team on Saturday.

Drafted in the Test squad but couldn't play the on-going first Test in Chittagong due to high fever, Tushar was told by the team management to take rest for four days before joining the team in Dhaka for the second Test against India.

But on Sunday Abahani officials asked the right-hander to lead the side in today's crucial Premier League match against Sonargaon Cricketers at the BKSP in Savar.

"When I was released from Chittagong, national team operations manager gave me a letter where it was written that I should take rest. But today (Sunday) I've received a phone call from Lipu bhai (Abahani's cricket committee joint-secretary) that I'm cleared to play the match against Sonargaon," Tushar told The Daily Star Sport last night.

But according to the national team management Tushar is not eligible to play any domestic matches.

When contacted Gazi Ashraf Hossain (Lipu) said that they have got verbal clearance from Bangladesh Cricket Board general secretary Mahbub Anam to play Tushar against Sonargaon. Mahbub however was not available last night for his comments.

Abahani is currently leading the six-team Super League of the most glamorous domestic club competition.

## BCB to reveal new coach on June 2

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Bangladesh Cricket Board will take decisions on the new national team coach and captain for next month's Sri Lanka tour in its June 2 executive committee meeting.

BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam informed it when he talked with the reporters at the indoors of the Chittagong Divisional Stadium to disclose the outcome of their discussions with the Indian cricket board high-ups, who returned home yesterday.

"I think the problem of appointing a new coach would be solved at the end of this month and we will take the final decision in our next board meeting on June 2. We will announce the national team for the coming Sri Lanka tour on June 4 and have to decide on the captain for the tour in this meeting," informed the long-serving organiser.

"The new coach will not be involved in team selection for the tour," he added.

Bangladesh is expected to leave  
SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

# Cook extends hosts' lead



AFP, London

Alastair Cook followed up his first innings 105 with an unbeaten 52 as England moved further ahead of West Indies in the first Test at Lord's here Sunday.

At tea on the fourth day England were 105 for two, a lead of 221. Kevin Pietersen was 21 not out, having so far shared an unbroken third-wicket stand of 54 with 22-year-old Essex left-handed opener Cook, whose century in this match was his fifth in 15 Tests.

England, whose first innings lead of 116 was thanks mainly to left-arm spinner Monty Panesar's haul of six for 129, resumed after lunch on eight without loss.

Andrew Strauss, captain in the absence of the injured Michael Vaughan, had moved on to 24 when the left-hander was squared up by Corey Collimore and edged to Runako Morton at second slip.

He was replaced by county colleague Owais Shah, also batting on his Middlesex home ground, in what was his second Test and first in England.

Shah, who'd made a nervy six in the first innings, got off the mark by driving pace bowler Collimore for four.

But that was as good as it got for Shah who gloved Collimore down the legside to wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin.

England were now 51 for two with Collimore on his way to a fine opening spell of two wickets for 15 runs in six overs.

Cook stylishly square-cut seamer Jerome Taylor for four and

clipped him through mid-wicket before completing a 72-ball fifty with eight boundaries.

Earlier Panesar's return was the fourth time in his 14 Tests that the 25-year-old had taken five or more wickets in an innings.

And with England a pace bowler short as Matthew Hoggard (thigh) remained off the field and in the absence of the already-injured Andrew Flintoff, it was thanks to Panesar they stayed on top in a match that could yet be drawn.

West Indies resumed Sunday on 363 for seven, 190 runs behind, but having survived the follow-on with senior batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul 63 not out.

Chanderpaul, who'd shared stands of 92 with Dwayne Bravo (56) and 83 with Ramdin (60) on Saturday, succumbed to Panesar's fourth ball Sunday when on 74, the left-hander was hit on the back leg by a ball that gripped and turned out of a footmark.

Chanderpaul, who in the Lord's Test three years ago scored 128 not out and 97 not out, had batted for over four hours and faced 193 balls with nine fours.

Taylor and Daren Powell hit boldly against their opposing quicks before Taylor, on 21, was caught at cover-point off the erratic Stephen Harmison, England's fastest bowler having to wait until his 27th over for a wicket in his first international match since the Ashes tour.

Powell then gave himself room outside leg-stump to belt Harmison through mid-off for four in flamboyant style and next ball followed that up with a textbook cover-driven boundary.

Panesar restored order when last man Collimore become his

fifth lbw victim of an innings where the tourists struggled with his arm-ball.

Powell was 36 not out, West Indies all out for 437.

Matt Prior, the first England wicketkeeper to score a century on Test debut, followed up his 126 not out with a tidy display behind the stumps.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the first Test between England and West Indies at Lord's on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings 553-5 dec (Prior 126 n o, Collingwood 111, Bell 109 n o, Cook 105)

WEST INDIES: First innings (over-night: 363-7)

Gayle b Plunkett	30
Ganga lbw b Panesar	49
Smith b Panesar	21
Sarwan lbw b Panesar	35
Chanderpaul lbw b Panesar	74
Morton lbw b Panesar	14
Bravo c Cook b Collingwood	56
Ramdin c Collingwood b Plunkett	60
Powell not out	36
Taylor c sub (Hodgson) b Harmison	21
Collimore lbw b Panesar	1
Extras: (b-4, lb-17, w-16, nb-3)	40
Total: (All out in 116.1 overs)	437
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-83, 3-151, 4-165, 5-187, 6-279, 7-362, 8-387, 9-424, 10-437.	
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>R</b> <b>W</b>
Hoggard	10.1 3 29 0
Harmison	28 2 117 1
Plunkett	30 7 107 2

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP

START THE BHANGRA, MONTY: England left-arm spinner Monty Panesar (C) successfully appeals for the wicket of West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul as tail-ender Daren Powell (L) looks on during the first Test at Lords on Sunday.