



FANS ARE BACK FOR A CHANGE: (L) A partial view of the Bangabandhu National Stadium during the blood and thunder B.League clash between Abahani and Mohammad yesterday. (R) Mohammedan's Nigerian forward Paul Mac hurdles over a sliding tackle by Abahani left-back Wali Faisal.



## Did U Know?

Italian soccer legend Dino Zoff was the oldest player to win the FIFA World Cup at the age of 40 in 1982.



### Inzamamul Haq

(Former Pakistan cricket captain) "I am pleased to hear that Bob (Woolmer) was not murdered." After Jamaican police concluded that the Pakistan coach died of natural causes.



**STAR Sports**  
England v West Indies  
Fourth Test, Day Three  
Live from 3:58 pm  
**Primera Liga**  
Real Madrid v Real Mallorca  
Live from 2:00 am (Monday)



**B.League**  
Sk Russel v Ctg Abahani  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Time: 4:30 pm

## WI refuse to tour Zimbabwe

CRICINFO, undated

The West Indies Players' Association has said its players will not undertake an A-team tour of Zimbabwe next month as a result of concerns over safety and the continuing unstable political situation in the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

# Sidebottom pushes WI



AFP, Chester-Le-Street

Ryan Sidebottom took a wicket with the first ball of the match as West Indies struggled to 92 for four on the second day of the fourth Test at the Riverside here Saturday.

At tea, left-arm quick Sidebottom had taken two wickets for 30 runs in 10 overs. He was well supported by Matthew Hoggard (one for 22 in 10) and Stephen Harmison (one for 27 in seven).

But Shivnarine Chanderpaul, dropped on nine, was 37 not out and Dwayne Bravo 14 not out, the pair having put on 37 after West Indies had collapsed to 55 for four in 17 overs.

England captain Michael Vaughan won the toss and elected to field under overcast, seam-bowler friendly, skies after rain had washed out the whole of Friday's first day and delayed Saturday's start by three hours.

He saw West Indies captain Daren Ganga out to the day's first ball when he turned left-arm quick Sidebottom to Alastair Cook at short leg.

Hoggard, who'd missed the last two Tests with a groin problem sustained in the series opener at Lord's, shared the new ball.

The Yorkshireman, in for the dropped Liam Plunkett in England's only change to the team that won the third Test at Old Trafford by 60 runs to take an unbeatable 2-0 series lead, was soon swinging the ball in trademark fashion.

But Gayle drove Sidebottom past the dive of Monty Panesar at mid-off for four and next ball lofted him over mid-wicket for six.

Gayle then struck Hoggard for four through the covers off the backfoot.

But two balls later Hoggard swung a delivery back into the flamboyant left-handed opener's pads and Gayle was lbw for 28 after a 24-ball innings featuring one six and three fours.

Then 32 for two became 34 for three when Devon Smith, deliberately playing no shot, was bowled by a Sidebottom ball that hit his off-stump.

His exit brought in fellow left-hander Chanderpaul, who made 50 and an unbeaten 116 at Old Trafford.

But even Chanderpaul struggled initially, edging a drive off Hoggard to third slip where Ian Bell dropped the head-high chance.

Sidebottom was replaced by Harmison. England's fastest bowler, often wayward throughout this series, generally bowled a full, straight line on his Durham home ground and he was rewarded when, off the last ball of his second over, Runako Morton drove him to Sidebottom at mid-off.

A defiant Chanderpaul reached the landmark of 7,000 Test runs, in his 104th match, with a leg-glanced four off Harmison.

However, Harmison repeatedly went past the outside edge of Bravo, who took 20 balls to get off the mark before batting conditions eased as the sun shone.

Vaughan brought on spinner Panesar, who took 10 for 187 at Old Trafford, and medium-pacer Paul Collingwood in a bid to break the fifth-wicket stand but Chanderpaul and Bravo survived until tea.

West Indies made two changes with Marlon Samuels, a batsman and off-spinner, replacing all-rounder Darren Sammy, who took seven for 66 on Test debut at Old Trafford but subsequently strained a hamstring while batting.

Fast bowler Daren Powell, dropped in Manchester, replaced fellow quick Jerome Taylor.

West Indies have a woeful recent international record having won just two of their last 38 Tests.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the fourth Test between England and West Indies at the Riverside on Saturday:

**WEST INDIES:** First innings  
Ganga c Cook b Sidebottom 0  
Smith b Sidebottom 4  
Morton c Sidebottom b Harmison 6  
Chanderpaul not out 37  
Bravo not out 14  
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1) 3  
Total: (For 4 wkts in 31 overs) 92  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-32, 3-34, 4-55.  
To bat: Samuels, Ramdin, Powell, Edwards, Collingmore.

| Bowler      | O  | M | R  | W |
|-------------|----|---|----|---|
| Sidebottom  | 10 | 5 | 30 | 2 |
| Hoggard     | 10 | 3 | 22 | 1 |
| Harmison    | 7  | 0 | 27 | 1 |
| Panesar     | 2  | 0 | 6  | 0 |
| Collingwood | 2  | 0 | 5  | 0 |

**Toss:** England

**Umpires:** Billy Bowden (NZL) and Aleem Dar (PAK)

**Tv umpire:** Nigel Llong (ENG)

**Match referee:** Alan Hurst (AUS)

# Bashar, a man on a mission



SPORTS REPORTER

There is a tough task lying ahead of the Bangladesh cricket team that left for Colombo yesterday and for someone like Habibul Bashar it has come as a mission of rekindling the reputation as a performer.

It's a big challenge for the 34-year-old immediate past Bangladesh captain to disprove his critics who have the belief that his one-day career is over. Bashar's decision to continue to play one-day cricket is courageous but one of the finest batsmen in the country has to prove in the Test series first.

So everybody is looking forward to see how he responds in Sri Lanka under this circumstance, especially when the captaincy burden is gone after he lost the hot seat to star batsman Mohammad Ashraful.

"After playing for a long time in the national team, there is hardly anything to prove as a player. But it's altogether a different tour for me as this time I am not the captain of the team rather my main focus is to return among the runs to keep my place as a performer in the team," said Bashar yesterday.

Bangladesh will first be involved

in a three-match Test series and the 34-year old right-hander has to shine with the bat to force the selectors to remain in the island for the one-day series.

"I am not concerned about my career and right at the moment my main objective is to score runs as much as I can. The one-day series is not in my mind because I am only focusing on the Test series. I know how difficult the condition is but I am very confident," said the Tigers' most successful Test batsman, with 2884 runs in 44 Tests that included three hundreds and 24 half centuries.

Bashar's Test average of 33.53 is a stark contrast to his one-day career where he holds an average of 21.68 in 111 games.

The successful skipper always loved to keep his voice low which, however, was not at all possible during his three-year stint as a team leader but now he has got the opportunity to maintain his serenity.

"Don't you think I am very jolly man? Maybe I was not always the centre of attraction but I was always in the there, somewhere! The fact is that my batting was a bit

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

# Tasty derby drawn



AL MUSABBIR SADI

Abahani and Mohammedan did a favour to football when they brought back excitement to the ground after a long time.

The two perennial foes shared points in a goalless draw in the crucial B. League match yesterday and although the result may have hampered their championship race, the dying game witnessed the high voltage drama that was the trademark of any clash between the two heavyweights.

It was not the usual electric atmosphere of a houseful Bangabandhu National Stadium but before the season's highest attendance -- a 20,000-strong crowd -- the Dhaka derby came alive and both sides had a goal disallowed in the second half, leading to arguments all around the venue.

"It was an entertaining game and I think one side should have won for the crowd. I am sure they have enjoyed a tense Abahani-Mohammedan match after a long period," told Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, whose side shared the lead with Abahani on 23 points.

Although Abahani have played one match less to Mohammedan's 13, Manik has the comfort of having played against three big names at

the start of the second leg.

After heavy seasonal rain, the pitch was heavy and slow but that could not stop the title contenders from being lively.

Farhad, who won a first team place in absence of suspended Nigerian striker Emeka, rushed early blood when he got behind the rival backline chasing a freekick by Kamal. But the former Abahani forward's left footer from a tight angle ran wide at the far post after five minutes.

Three minutes later, Kamal pulled off a stunning save to foil a superb combined effort between Abahani's debutant foreign pair Obi Mikel John and Souleyman Nchouwat. Mikel picked up the Cameroonian 'Djibril Cisse lookalike' with a diagonal pass but Nchouwat's overhead shot was headed out off the goalline by Kamal after Liberian custodian Paul James was beaten.

The rest of the first half was all sky-blues but they clearly failed to find a solution to keep the ball on target. Abahani enjoyed superior ball possession and put tremendous pressure on the rival three-man central defence, which conceded a series of freekicks just outside the area.

Abahani made nothing off the setpieces while long-range efforts by Ghanaian Ibrahim and Nigerian Mikel hardly bothered a panicky James.

Mohammedan came close to score from a rare counter attack on the stroke of halftime but Zahid's

chipped shot from the right after a long throw by Nigerian centre-back Peter Odafe kissed the crossbar.

Abahani began the second half with fresh vigour and Ibrahim shot the ball into the sidenetting in the first minute before the indefatigable Ghana attacker set a chance for Ujjal, who dribbled one defender but fired wide from inside.

Abahani, who had won the first leg match 1-0, took off holding midfielder Pranotosh to push a more attacking Abul but Mohammedan picked up the momentum midway through.

Substitute Belal, famous for his powerful and long throws, did not get a good grip on the ball because of wet conditions but his 70th minute throw unsettled the otherwise tight Abahani defence. After a partial clearance, Zahid hammered the ball into the roof of the net but the assistant referee's flag was up for a foul as goalkeeper Biplab had one eye poked by a Mohammedan finger.

Three minutes later, Zahid was denied by the woodwork again when his header on Farhad's corner hit the underside of the crossbar before Wali kicked the ball out of their area.

An Ujjal corner then ran through a forest of legs as Mohammedan made a great escape, seconds before substitute Emily found the net with a diving header seven minutes from time.

Emily, who replaced Nchouwat four minutes earlier, outran James for a low centre by Zahed to nod the ball into the near post but referee

Mansoor Azad had spotted a foul by the Abahani striker on the keeper although his assistant kept the flag down.

In the injury time, Abul's cross ran harmlessly across the Mohammedan goal as no Abahani player could get the final touch.

"It was unfortunate to see Emily's goal disallowed," said a furious Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu. "The goalie was nowhere near Emily so how could it be a foul?" questioned the former national midfielder.

"We controlled the game and our opponents only threatened from two setpieces. Had Nchouwat's early attempt not been cleared off the line, it would have been a different result. We created ample chances but the finishing was poor as usual," he said adding that Joy was booked early for a simple foul so he could never go for a hard tackle again.

"The same referee did not bring out the card when Mohammedan players committed serious fouls."

Mohammedan coach Manik, who had criticised the referee heavily after their 1-1 draw against Muktiyoddha last week, however, refused to comment.

"Ask the referee, everyone saw what happened today. To me, we

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



New Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful (L), wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud (2nd from R) and former national captain Akram Khan (R), who has just joined as selector of the Tigers, fill out the embarkation cards while wily spinner Mohammad Rafique (2nd from L) looks on prior to the departure of the national team for Sri Lanka at the Zia International Airport yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 18 COL 7