

U-19s come back in style

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s bounced back strongly to take the lead again in the five-match one-day series against Sri Lanka Under-19s when they secured a 44-run victory against the visitors in the third game at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Nasir Hossain's all round performance helped the Junior Tigers recover from their 14-run loss in the second game at the same venue. Nasir hammered 41 off 67 balls with the help of two fours and then took two wickets for only nine runs in six overs to be adjudged man-of-the-match.

Deciding to bat first, the home side rode on Nadimuddin's 66 to post 203 all out in 49.3 overs. Nadim struck six boundaries during his 106-ball stay while opener Ashraf Hossain chipped in with 26.

S Pathirana was the most successful Sri Lanka bowler with four for 43 runs.

In reply, Sri Lanka Under-19s were all out for 159 runs in 45.3 overs with K Janith making the team highest 47.

New ball bowler Dollar Mahmud caused the initial damage by taking three wickets as the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



GOT IT? Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim dives full length to take a catch off Coach Jamie Siddons during a practice session at the Seddon Park in Hamilton on Saturday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

Knights test for Tigers

Cricket

TIGERCRICKET.COM, Hamilton

The first warm-up match in New Zealand is expected to give the Tigers a much-needed insight into how they are shaping up for the ODI series in two weeks time.

The tourists take on the Northern Knights at Seddon Park today. The game is scheduled to start at 12:00pm (7:00am Bangladesh Standard Time) and each team will be allowed to field 12 players.

Opening batsman Javed Omar, Mehrez Hossain and pace bowler Nazmul Hossain have been left out of Bangladesh's twelve.

James Marshall will lead The State Northern Knights in the absence of regular skipper Daniel Vettori who is in Australia leading the Black Caps in the Chappell-Hadlee series.

Vettori is acknowledged as Hamilton's most famous cricketer son and lives just across the Waikato River on the other side of the

Bangladesh team's hotel.

Vettori apart, the Northern Districts is also home to New Zealand all-rounder Scott Styris. Some other names who have donned the Northern colours in the past include Darryl Tuffey, Adam Parore and John Wright.

Seddon Park is the cricket centre of this quiet and scenic city of 1.4 million and the headquarters of Northern Districts Crickets Cricket association.

The pitch here according to the curator is expected to have consistent bounce but not "great pace".

The pitches were relaid at Seddon Park in 2004 with soil imported from South Island after a history of low-scoring fixtures, including that infamous Test against Bangladesh in 2001-02 which ended in two and a half days including rain delays, and questions about its quality. But after the new soil had been put in, results have been more encouraging.

The Tigers had extended nets yesterday for all the batsmen and the bowlers also bowled lengthy

spells to get into the groove of match conditions.

The weather was overcast at times and a bit windy, unlike the last two days and could be the same tomorrow which will aid seamers which Northern Districts are packed with.

The practice wickets are reportedly similar in nature to the pitches in the centre and Zunaed Siddique, who will open the innings tomorrow sounded confident about the challenge ahead.

"Often the mistake we batsmen make on seaming wickets is that we get on the back foot too early to length balls to allow the movement. Watching the ball till the last and not committing to a particular shot is the key and after batting on these practice pitches I am feeling a lot better. The bounce is not steep and if you can gauge the pace then it is a nice wicket to bat on," said Siddique.

The Tigers will play the Knights again on Tuesday (December 18) and then travel to Auckland on

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Their last shot at glory

Cricket

REUTERS, Mumbai

A quintet of India's golden generation of cricketers have a final tilt at glory in Australia when the team embark on a difficult tour next week.

The four-match series could be the last Test tour of Australia for batting greats Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Vangipurappu Laxman, as well as leg spinner Anil Kumble, and they are intent on clinching their country's first series win on the game's toughest terrain.

India have come close to winning a series on the testing pitches of Australia twice --- in 1986, when the series ended 0-0, and a remarkable one-all draw in 2003-04 when they went 1-0 up in Adelaide.

"The last time we won a Test match but were not able to win the series...the last match (Sydney) was

a draw," Laxman told Reuters.

"This time we all are keen to go out there with the single-minded ambition of winning the series.

"Doing well in Australia is the most satisfying moment for any cricketer...the ultimate one.

"It'll be satisfying for all of us if we can contribute in the series win. I'm sure all of us are looking to achieve that," said the stylish middle-order batsman.

Skipper Kumble, who took 24 wickets on the previous tour, is 37 while Dravid, who scored 619 runs on that tour, will turn 35 in January. Ganguly, captain then, is 35 and Tendulkar is 34 while Laxman is the youngest among the 'fab five' at 33. The next tour in 2011 is surely too far away for them.

This tour begins with a three-day match against Victoria from Thursday, with the first Test starting on December 26.

India clinched their first Test series victory in England for 21 years in August, a year after they

had won their first Test series victory in the Caribbean in 35 years.

This month India recorded their first Test series victory against Pakistan at home since 1979-80, which saw almost all of their batsmen strike form.

"It's extremely important for anyone going to Australia to be confident about himself. So it's good when you are among runs. It helps," said Laxman.

"It's good that we won the series against Pakistan after these years. The confidence of the boys is amazing at the moment," added Laxman, whose greatest moment came in 2001 when he produced an epic 281 at Kolkata to spark a comeback 2-1 home-series win over Australia.

The defeat snapped the Steve Waugh-led Australians' winning streak of 16 Tests, a record Ricky Ponting's side will look to upstage in the upcoming series after their recent victories over Sri Lanka took

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

MEETING AGAIN ADJOURNED BFF donates Tk 9 lakh for Sidr victims

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) meeting was adjourned once again yesterday.

The adjourned meeting of Wednesday was scheduled to resume yesterday, but acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu informed reporters that they postponed it due to illness of president SA Sultan.

Sultan however went up to the Army Headquarters to hand over a cheque in the morning to National Sports Council chairman and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed.

BFF has donated Tk 901,636 to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for the victims of Cyclone Sidr.

Malu, Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Rangamati clinch eves' football title

UNB, Dhaka

Rangamati clinched the title of the second inter-district women's football competition beating hosts Dhaka by 2-0 goals in the final at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Rokhsana Parvin scored the first goal in the 11th minute (1-0) while Suinu Pru Marma doubled the margin in the 58th minute (2-0).

After the final, Suinu Pru Marma of champion Rangamati team received the player of the tournament award while her teammate

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Rajshahi on the ropes

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong's seam bowlers made it difficult for Rajshahi to retain the top spot in the four-day table of the National Cricket League. The visitors came back strongly from their brittle batting to take the upper hand at the end of the second day of their eighth round game yesterday.

Pacer Mohammad Younus returned with figures of 4-22 while Tareq Aziz Khan took two more wickets today to finish with 3-52 as Chittagong managed an 80-run first-innings lead after wrapping up the home side for 118 runs at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

On the other hand an unbeaten 87 by Imrul Kayes kept hosts Khulna on course as they finished the day on 193 for one in reply to Sylhet's 300.

Finally, Dhaka consolidated their position against Barisal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG

From the overnight score of 24-2, Rajshahi lost wickets at regular intervals on the second day to give their opponents a much needed first innings lead. Former national skipper Khaled Mashud tried to occupy one end for more than two hours during his 90-ball 25, the highest score in a pathetic scorecard, but his effort was not good enough to topple Chittagong's first innings total of 198.

Chittagong extended their lead to 193 at stumps when they scored 113 for 3 in 35 overs in the second essay with Gazi Salahuddin making a 67-ball 49 that featured eight boundaries.

Nazimuddin was batting on 19 and Faisal Hossain at 13 when the

balls were drawn for the day.

KHULNA-SYLHET

Despite a 40-run last wicket stand between Nabil Samad and Rashidur Rahman Sylhet fell one run short of securing three batting

bonus points as they were all out for 300 after resuming the day on 228 for six.

Murad Khan was the most successful bowler taking two more

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

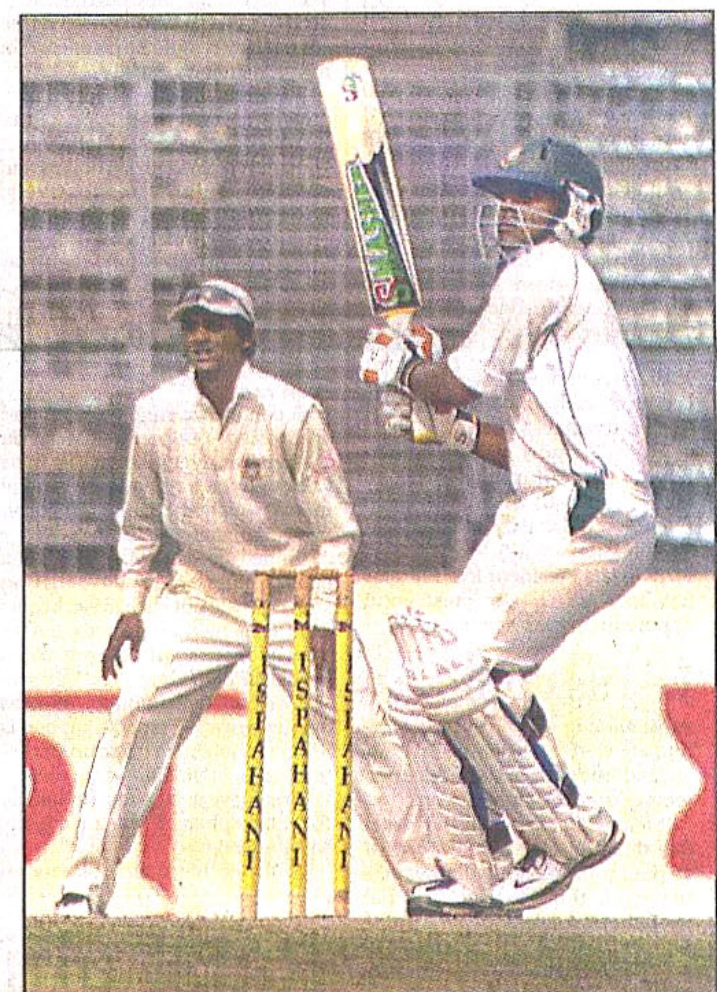


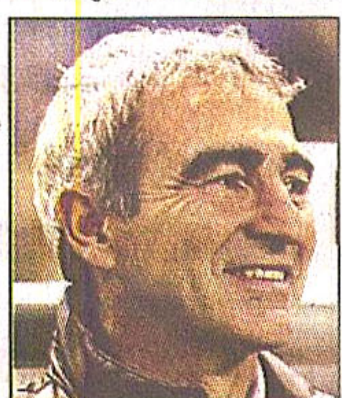
PHOTO: STAR

Barisal captain Shahriar Nafees follows the path of the ball after pulling it during the second day's play of the National Cricket League match against Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



Did U Know?

Fourteen nations took part in the first modern Olympic Games which were held in 1896 in Athens.



Raymond Domenech

(France football coach)
"It's a shame to go looking for a Swede or an Italian. It is as if you are saying to the English coaches: 'You are in England, you are all rubbish and we are going to look elsewhere'."

On the appointment of Fabio Capello as the new England manager.



ESPN

Chappell-Hadlee Trophy
Australia v New Zealand
Second ODI
Live from 8:15am

English Premier League
Liverpool v Man United
Live from 7:25pm
Arsenal v Chelsea
Live from 9:55pm

STAR Sports

FIFA Club World Cup
AC Milan v Boca Juniors
Live from 4:00pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid v Osasuna
Live from 1:55am (Monday)



Nat'l Cricket League
(Round Eight, Day Three)
Barisal v Dhaka
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

Rajshahi v Chittagong
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium
Khulna v Sylhet
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

Looking only ahead

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Fresh from a glorious 169 in the Bangalore Test against Pakistan, Yuvraj Singh is looking ahead to what he hopes will be an equally successful tour of Australia. The pitches will be bouncier, and the quality of the opposition bowlers will be a lot better, but Yuvraj is confident he, and the rest of the Indian team, will cope well.

"Right now, I am practising with hard plastic and synthetic balls in order to get used to the pace and bounce of the Australian tracks," Yuvraj told the Times of India. "I'm generally happy with the way I'm striking the ball. In fact, the time has come for me to concentrate harder in order to emerge a better Test batsman."

Since making his Test debut more than four years back, Yuvraj has only played 20 Tests, thanks mainly to India's experienced and star-studded middle order, which has ensured few vacancies. He has generally done well when given the opportunities -- scoring hundreds

on two previous tours to Pakistan -- and his century in Bangalore means he has an excellent chance of being part of the playing XI for the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. The team has only once practice



YUVRAJ SINGH

game before that match, but Yuvraj was not unduly bothered by that. "If you are playing international cricket, you have to be prepared to play in any condition. Yes, we played the series against Pakistan on wickets that were low and slow

but we are ready for the faster tracks in Australia."

Australia's recent one-day series was marred by plenty of verbal confrontations, suggesting that India's tour could also be a heated one. Yuvraj said India did not want a verbal warfare with Australia but warned they would respond if pushed. "We want a quiet series and our focus is on playing good cricket. But if we are pushed around too much, there will be something from our side too. We are not going to take anything lying down."

Yuvraj felt if the batsmen can post big scores, the bowlers could be effective in Australia. "Injuries have bothered some of our key bowlers recently. Right now, most of them are fit and raring to go. If we can put some good scores on the board, bowlers like Zaheer Khan, RP Singh and Irfan Pathan are quite capable of taking the wickets."

He picked Sourav Ganguly, along with Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman, as a key figure in the upcoming series. "He [Ganguly] is very positive and is showing the desire to stay at the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Rangamati's Suinu Pru Marma (R) jumps for joy after scoring the second goal against hosts Dhaka just before the long whistle in the final of the second inter-district women's football competition at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

এক সাগর রক্তের বিনিময়ে
বাংলার স্বাধীনতা আনলে যারা
আমরা তোমাদের ভুলব না...

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান

যাদের রক্তে পাওয়া
এই বিজয়
সেইসব শহীদদের জানাই
শত কোটি সালাম

আমাদের সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের
বিজয় দিবসের আন্তরিক

প্রধান কার্যালয়: ইকবাল সেন্টার, ৫ম তলা, ৪২ কামাল আতাহুর্ক এডিনিটি
বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩। ফোন: ৯৮৮৭৫৮১-৪, ৮৮১১৪১৭ ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮১১৫৮৩
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সে বা ই প্র থ ম