

## Yuvraj alone takes care of England

**Cricket**

AFP, Indore

Yuvraj Singh scored a second successive century and claimed four wickets as India thrashed England by 54 runs in the second one-day international here on Monday.

The left-hander, who defied a back injury to hit a match-winning 138 not out in the first game in Rajkot last week, smashed 118 off 122 balls as India piled up 292-9 after a shaky start of 29-3.

Yuvraj then broke England's back with his left-arm spin as the tourists folded for 238 in 47 overs to concede a 2-0 lead in the seven-match series.

"I have worked hard on both my batting and bowling over the last few months and that has started to pay off. I just want it to continue like this," said Yuvraj.

"It was not an easy wicket to bat on and when I walked in at 29-3, I realised I had to spend some time at the crease," he said.

Owais Shah (58) and Matt Prior put on 96 for England's second wicket after Ian Bell was run out in the first over, before Yuvraj removed both batsmen in consecutive overs.

England skipper Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff hit 74 off 69 balls for the fourth wicket to revive the tourists' hopes, but Yuvraj stepped in to dismiss the pair in his final over.

Yuvraj trapped Flintoff leg-before for 43 and then bowled Pietersen for 33 four balls later to finish with four for 28 from 10 overs.

Yuvraj, who turns 27 next month, was an easy choice for the man of the match award after being declared fit to play just before Indian captain Mahendra Dhoni won the toss.

Opener Gautam Gambhir (70) helped him put on 134 for the fourth wicket after a deadly triple strike by 20-year-old fast bowler Stuart Broad had reduced India to 29-3 by the eighth over.

Yusuf Pathan celebrated his 26th birthday with an unbeaten 50 off 29 balls, taking 17 runs off the last four deliveries of the innings bowled

by Steve Harmison.

Yuvraj hit 15 boundaries and two sixes in his 10th one-day century before he was caught behind off Broad in the 44th over.

Pietersen, whose team was whipped by 158 runs in the first match, rubbished suggestions that England were incapable of challenging the Indians at home.

"This is the same squad that beat South Africa 4-0 a few months ago and they must have done something right," the England captain said.

"We improved from the last game, let's hope we can improve some more."

"We had a good start with the ball making them 29-3, but if one of our top four had got a big score it would probably have made the game a lot closer."

The third match will be played in Kanpur on Thursday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between India and England at the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Indore on Monday:

INDIA				
Gambhir b Pietersen				70
Sehwag b Broad				1
Raina c S Patel b Broad				4
R Sharma c Shah b Broad				3
Yuvraj c Prior b Broad				118
Dhoni b Collingwood				15
Yusuf Pathan not out				50
Harbhajan run out				8
Zaheer run out				1
RP Singh b Harmison				4
M Patel not out				0
Extras: (b-3, lb-9, w-4, nb-2)				18
Total: (For nine wks in 50 overs)				292
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-15, 3-29, 4-163, 5-206, 6-239, 7-258, 8-261, 9-274.				
Bowler				
O	M	R	W	
Anderson	6	0	26	0
Broad	10	1	55	4

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ENGLAND'S NEMESIS: Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh flays one over mid-wicket during a sublime knock of 118, his back-to-back century, against England in the second one-day international in Indore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Bowling worries Ash

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER in Bloemfontein

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful was satisfied that most of his batsmen got some runs in the lone two-day warm-up match to gain confidence ahead of the tough two-Test series against South Africa.

But he was concerned about the lack of discipline from the new ball bowlers despite the fact that right-arm pacer Shahadat Hossain had bowled brilliantly in his second spell on the first day and also produced some good deliveries in the final day to finish with a match haul of five wickets against SAA Challenge XI.

"Our performance was not at all bad in the practice match. But still we are well below our 100 per cent in every discipline," said the Tigers skipper after the drawn two-day in Kimberly.

"We have much to improve in our bowling. We conceded too many runs with the new ball which is not good. We need to bowl in the right areas to make sure we are not conceding too many runs in the initial stage which is very important to put pressure on the opposition," observed Ashraful.

"Rajib (Shahadat Hossain) was struggling

in his first spell but bowled well in his second spell but we are looking forward to getting Mashrafe (Bin Mortaza) back for the first Test and I hope it will be a much better show in the main battle," he hoped.

Shahadat however was not happy with his overall performance in the match and admitted that he never gave his hundred per cent in any practice match.

"I didn't bowl well in the first spell. Actually my performance was not satisfactory in the practice match. Honestly speaking I never give my best efforts in a practice match. I am looking forward to the Test series," said the lanky pacer.

He also said that the new bowling coach Champaka Ramanayake has been trying to bring a few changes in his bowling and he would work on the new things in his off-time because it may backfire if he tried anything new right now.

"I got good results following his (Champaka) instructions to dig in the ball as much as possible and to bowl off an open chest. The two changes bring control in my bowling and I think it will be better day by day," Shahadat informed.

The Bangladesh captain was not sure whether the right-arm pacer would share the new ball with Mashrafe but it seemed that he was ready to give Imrul Kayes a chance to open the batting with Tamim Iqbal.

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### LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh joined Faridpur, Rangpur and Habiganj in the finals of the 29th National Cricket Championship when they dumped Dhaka out of the competition with a three-wicket victory in the Tangail Zone final yesterday.

Opener Abdul Majed scored a sparkling 110 to help Mymensingh reach 208-7 in 48.5 overs in reply to Dhaka's 207 all out at the Tangail Stadium.

In other zonal matches, Chittagong (95-1) stormed to a nine-wicket victory against Laxmipur at Noakhali. Joypurhat (101-3) recorded a comfortable 7-wicket win over Panchagarh (100) at Dinajpur. Khulna (94-5) beat Satkhira by five wickets at Jessore and Patuakhali (105-9) snatched an exciting one-wicket victory over Jhalokathi (103).

### DIV II SOCCER

Bangladesh Boys Club maintained their impressive run in the Second Division Football

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## Hansie, no tragic hero

**Cricket**

BISHWAJIT ROY in Bloemfontein

If someone somehow gets to know that you are in the beautiful city of Bloemfontein to cover the cricket series or you have any link with the game then there's no way out for you, he or she will make you go to at least one place which is the prestigious Grey College.

The reason behind the interest is simple as one of their sporting heroes had studied in this institution and he is none other than the deceased South African skipper Hansie Cronje, who was voted the 11th greatest South African in 2004 despite having been banned for life from professional cricket for his role in a match-fixing scandal.

In its 153-year history the institution has produced many sportsmen, especially in Rugby and cricket, as there has been emphasis on the importance of discipline, dedication and hard work, but still there has been special feeling for the former South Africa captain despite his all wrong doings.

At the first sight two Bangladeshi reporters easily got the impression why this institution is related with the sports fraternity. On the vast campus there are number of grounds and none

of these was idle then. Most of the students were playing rugby as it's a winter game. In summer, cricket matches take place in different grounds. Football and hockey are also very popular among the students.

The first one to come across the visiting reporters was a five-year-old pre-primary school student, Krocca.

"Do you know Hansie Cronje?" "Yeah, died in a plane crash" was Krocca's simple answer.

Understandable, at Krocca's age one will only remember the unfortunate death of their school hero who died on June 1, 2002 when a cargo plane crashed on Cradock Peak in the Outeniqua mountain range at the age of just 32.

But Pierre Hugo, who has been involved with the traditional institution for the last twenty-two years as a teacher, have had fond memories with Cronje but the gentleman was not ready to make any comment on their favourite son's involvement in match-fixing.

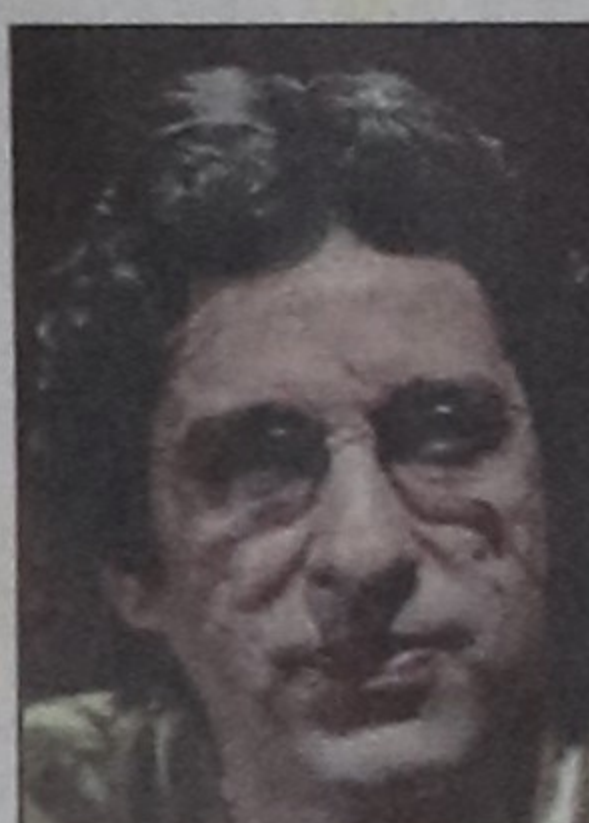
"He was a student of class twelve when I joined the school. To us he (Hansie Cronje) was Wessel Johannes and he was known as Hansie Cronje only after he played the game in the highest level. I don't want to make any comments on the allegations against him," said Pierre, an affectionate follower of cricket.

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### Did U Know?

A bomb tore through the Wimbledon Centre Court during World War II, taking out 1,200 seats.



### Wasim Akram

(Pakistan cricket legend)

"India is a superpower now; it is a hundred years ahead of Australia, which is no more than a village, as compared to India. You don't blame sight screens for poor over-rates."

Replying to Matthew Hayden's comments about India.



**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm



**Nat'l Cricket League**  
(Four-Day, Day 2)  
Sylhet v Khulna  
Venue: Sylhet Divisional Stadium  
Barisal v Rajshahi  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra  
Chittagong v Dhaka  
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

## Arun to be paid homage at BNS today

SPORTS REPORTER

The fans and colleagues of Arun Nandi will get a chance to pay last homage to the late swimmer and freedom fighter whose dead body will be brought to the Bangladesh National Stadium at 10 am.

The dead body of Arun, who died at his sister's residence in Kolkata on Sunday morning at the age of 68, reached in the capital in the afternoon yesterday after crossing the border at Benapole in the morning.

Earlier, a 12-member delegation including Mahbub Rahman Shahin, the newly elected general secretary of Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF), received the body at the Benapole border at 11 am.

The body of the National Sports Award winner was then taken to the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur in the evening, where swimmers and members of the sports arena paid their respect.

The long-distance swimmer and a former Bangladesh Swimming Federation vice-president, Arun went to Kolkata for treatment on November 3 but breathed his last at the West Bengal capital that had made him famous during our Liberation War.

In October 1971, Arun who

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ENTERTAINMENT AT IT'S BEST: Lahore Badshahs opener Imran Nazir sends one for maximum during his magnificent 44-ball 111 in the third and deciding Indian Cricket League (ICL) final against Hyderabad Heroes at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday night.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Rajshahi's solid start

SPORTS REPORTER



Barisal on the opening day yesterday.

Second-placed Barisal, three points behind Rajshahi who are on 58 points halfway through the competition, were bundled out for a paltry 166 in their first innings of the four-day match despite Hannan Sarker's half-century.

In reply, Rajshahi wiped out 96 runs of the total at stumps losing their openers.

Faisal Hossain scored his back-to-back century to give Chittagong a competitive total of 279 for eight against Dhaka while the other sixth round match between hosts Sylhet and Khulna did not start due to poor ground condition.

The Sylhet Stadium was venue for Bangladesh Olympic Association's 'Sports for All' programme on Sunday and it could not be prepared in time.

### RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Playing at their adapted home ground -- the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra -- Barisal failed to make most of winning the toss as they stumbled early after electing to bat.

Paceman Alamgir Kabir removed the two openers with 15 runs on board while his new ball partner Mohammed Shahjada trimmed the middle-order with a three-wicket haul.

Hannan, who anchored with a 77-run knock off 119 balls, shared 83 runs with Nasir Hossain (36 off 61 balls) but spinners Sohrwardy Shuva and Sabbir Rahman shared five wickets between them to clip the tail and put the visiting side on top.

Hannan, who was caught by Sabbir at third-man off Shahjada, hit ten fours and one six before being the fifth man down and the rest added just 36 runs to gift Rajshahi the final

session to bat out.

The visitors also got off to a shaky start as Mahbub Alam (20) and Jahurul Islam (0) departed inside seven overs but Farhad Hossain (36) and Rajshahi skipper Anisur Rahman (34) saw the last 21 overs off without further damage.

### CHITTAGONG-DHAKA

Fresh from his 129 against Sylhet in the previous round, Faisal Hossain smacked a run-a-ball 102 to help Chittagong recover from the early loss of Gazi Salahuddin (0) and his opening partner Nafis Iqbal (14).

However, Masumuddin's cautious 32 off 199 balls during a 68-run stand with Tariq Ahmed set the stage for No. 5 Faisal to begin an adventurous innings.

The left-hander, however, had an ally in Tariq who sent the ball nine times across the ropes and whacked two over-boundaries in a fine 83 off 149 deliveries.

Faisal, who put on 123 runs for the fourth wicket with Tariq, smashed nine fours and four sixes to complete his hundred but lost his cool immediately to be scalped by Ashraful Haque.

Dhaka somewhat got back into the game by claiming the last four wickets in the space of 17 runs with Ashraful and Emon each chipping in with a couple of wickets.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BARISAL First Innings:** 166 all out in 57.5 overs (Rony 4, Faruk 4, Hannan 77, Imran 4, Nasir 36, Raisul 12, Shahin 1, Tariqul 18, Talha 4, Sajul 1, Kamrul 0, extras 5, Alamgir 2-29, Shahjada 3-57, Shuva 3-25, Sabbir 2-1)

**RAJSHAHI First Innings:** 96-2 in 27.1 overs (Mahbub 20, Jahurul 0, Farhad 36\*, Anisur 34\*, extras 6, Talha 2-20)

**CHITTAGONG First Innings:** 279 for eight in 90 overs (Salahuddin 0, Nafis 14, Masum 32, Tariq 83, Faisal 102, Nadim 10, Rezaul 3, Kamrul 6, Tareq 11\*, Younus 4\*, extras 14, Ashraful 2-29, Emon 2-53, Arafat 1-54, Elias 1-61, Riyad 1-46)