



PHOTO: AFP

**ANOTHER MILESTONE:** India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (C) celebrates his 200th ODI wicket, that of England's Owais Shah, in the third ODI at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur on Thursday.

## Chess Olympiad Men's team defeat Venezuela

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's team improved their position in the Open section of the 38th Chess Olympiad with a 2.5-1.5 win over Venezuela on Wednesday at Dresden, Germany.

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## Did U Know?

Wimbledon organisers take into consideration a player's grass-court expertise and Wimbledon record in seeding the top 16 men and 16 women.



**MS Dhoni**  
(India cricket captain)  
"Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag are also spectacular, but when in full flow Yuvraj Singh really stands out."



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Sports News  
Live from 8:30pm

## India make it 3-0

Cricket

AFP, Kanpur

India crafted a 16-run win in the shortened third one-day international against England here on Thursday to go 3-0 up in the seven-match series.

Chasing a modest England total of 240, the home team were 198-5 after 40 overs when poor light forced an early end to the match, already reduced to 49 overs per side after a delayed start due to morning haze.

The Indians were deemed to be ahead of the required total on the Duckworth/Lewis method.

Indian skipper Mahendra Dhoni, anticipating such an end to the match, resorted to cautious batting, well aware

than another wicket could spell defeat for his side.

The usually aggressive Dhoni scored 29 not out off 51 balls.

It was opener Virender Sehwag who top-scored for the hosts with 68 while Andrew Flintoff finished as the most successful bowler for the visitors with figures of 3-31 off nine overs.

The Indians, who won in Rajkot and Indore by comfortable margins, lost early wickets to be reduced to a shaky 34-2 by the 10th over.

In-form opener Gautam Gambhir (14) holed out off Flintoff while Suresh Raina inside edged Stuart Broad onto his stumps.

Sehwag, dropped by Samit Patel off his own bowling on 47, went on to complete his

31st ODI fifty with a six off Graeme Swann before being caught high in the air by Paul Collingwood off Flintoff.

He hit eight fours and a six in his 76-ball effort.

Yuvraj Singh, who tormented the visitors with centuries in the first two matches, failed to convert his start into a big score this time -- his mistimed pull off Flintoff being taken by Broad.

Harbhajan Singh, declared man of the match, took three key wickets to restrict England on an uneven paced Green Park track.

The off-spinner dismissed skipper Kevin Pietersen (13) and Collingwood off successive overs before sending back Owais Shah.

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PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong batsman Masumuddin drives the ball towards mid-off during his century against Dhaka in the National Cricket League match in Chittagong yesterday.

## Poor start for hockey team

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh President XI suffered a huge 5-1 defeat in their opening match of the 45th Nehru Cup hockey tournament to Bharat Petroleum yesterday.

The local side led the first half 2-0 at the Nehru Stadium in Gurgaon, Haryana with Pundalik scoring both the goals.

Tushar made it 3-0 before Bangladesh reduced the arrears through Rimon Kumar but the visiting defence allowed two more goals. Amar added the fifth while Tushar converted his second and last from a penalty corner.

Bangladesh will take on South Central railway today and ONGC XI on Sunday in their remaining group matches.

## Tariqul puts Barisal atop

SPORTS REPORTER



Left-arm spinner Tariqul Islam snaffled up five wickets to give Barisal a resounding 222-run victory over Rajshahi in the sixth

round of the National Cricket League at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi gave up their top spot on the points table after being bowled out for just 82 runs in the second innings after being asked to chase 305.

The Dhaka-Chittagong tie predictably ended in a draw after Chittagong held off the visitors by scoring 314 for seven on the final day. Masumuddin slammed 102 to ensure that the visitors had no say in the proceedings.

Way in Sylhet, the hosts found themselves in a spot of bother with their score on 93 for five in the second innings after Khulna amassed 364 in their first dig on the third day of this match.

## BARISAL V RAJSHAHI

Barisal took all of 10.1 overs to finish the job of taking three wickets. Talha Jubair cleaned up overnight batsman Suhawardi Shuvo off the first ball faced by the left-hander.

Rajshahi were 48 for eight and in danger of complete annihilation before all-rounder Sabbir Rahman and handy bat Mohammad Shahzad added 26 for the ninth wicket.

But their stand quickly ended when Tariqul jumped in and took the two remaining wickets to complete his five-for.

For his twin half-centuries, Hannan Sarkar was adjudged man-of-the-match by match referee Samiur Rahman.

## CHITTAGONG V DHAKA

Dhaka's approach on the second day was enough for some to suggest it would end in a draw. So Chittagong underlined the claim by batting out the final day.

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## A familiar collapse

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Bloemfontein

In the end it was the same old pathetic story for the Tigers as the batsmen spoiled the good efforts of the bowlers on the second day of the first Test against South Africa at the OUTsurance Oval here on Thursday.

Nothing could have been worse than the way Mohammad Ashraf's men finished the day's play after left-spinner Shakib Al Hasan took his second five-wicket haul that gave them a ray of hope to compete against the world's second-best side.

The senseless batting saw them tottering at 88 for eight in reply to South Africa's mammoth 441 for nine and only a miracle can save them from the follow-on as they were still 353 runs behind the home side's first innings total.

Dangerman Dale Steyn caused the first blow by dismiss-

ing Tamim Iqbal for seven runs and then picked up the wicket of Bangladesh skipper Ashraf, who unnecessarily tried to drive and the ball only reached the safe hands of Neil McKenzie at gully for just one run.

Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini was the most successful bowler as Shakib, Mehrab Hossain and Nayeem Islam did not show any patience to repair the damage. Rather they gave away their wickets to the most experienced South African paceman to almost confirm that they were going to concede the follow-on.

Spinner Paul Harris, who could not bat because of an injured thumb he suffered before play started on Wednesday, had the wicket of left-hander Imrul Kayes, the debutant, who was caught at forward short-leg by Hashim Amla for 10 runs while Morne Morkel took the other wicket of Zunaed Siddiqui who was caught at point for eight runs.

Earlier Bangladesh dominated the first session by

taking four wickets thanks to Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who started the day brilliantly for the visitors by removing centurion Hashim Amla. The

leading Bangladesh pace bowler, Mashrafe, uprooted the leg-stump of Amla to put an end to the 225-run second

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STAR FILE PHOTO

Shakib Al Hasan ... the wily left-arm spinner who took 5-130

## BCB board of directors now official

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday officially announced the newly elected board of directors of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Maj Gen Sina Ibne Jamali, who was president of the ad-hoc committee, has been reappointed chief while the NSC has nominated Feroz Ahmed as its representative on the board to complete 25-member executive committee.

The other 23 directors were elected by councillors' votes on November 25.

Although the name of former cricketer Shakil Kaesim, who was development committee chairman, very actively, under the ad-hoc committee, looked to be favourite for the post, Feroz won the nod of the NSC in the end.

Feroz, a businessman from Chittagong and also a member of the ad-hoc committee,

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## Records roll for Smith

SPORTS REPORTER in Bloemfontein

South Africa skipper Graeme Smith might have failed this time to make it a double, but his 157 in the first Test at the OUTsurance Oval on Thursday enabled him to become the highest run-getter against Bangladesh.

The sturdy left-hander, who made two double hundreds in his previous six innings against the Tigers, topped Sri Lankan batsman Kumar Sangakkara (707) with a stunning tally of 716.

"I don't play for such records, but I always look at the team picture and any accolade is pleasing that obviously contributes to getting the team a good result," said the prolific batsman, who also stands a bright chance of becoming the highest run getter in a calendar year with a tally of 1336 runs, 17 runs behind Virender Sehwag's 1353.

On way to his 17th Test hundred, the South African skipper also became the highest scorer in a calendar year for his country surpassing all-rounder Jacques Kallis's previous record of 1288 runs.

"It was very nice to be able to spend a considerable amount of time in the middle. Being able

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## Kepler's wise words

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Bloemfontein

It could have been much better if they didn't spill a few catches but still the Tigers earned the respect from their opponents for the first time in the tour. Captain Graeme Smith and former fast bowler Allan Donald came down heavily on the approach of Mohammad Ashraf's men but Neil McKenzie praised the visitors' bowling effort as a team after the first day's play despite only one success in their account.

The disciplined bowling which got the result in the first session of the second day as they picked up four wickets to hold back the South African run-feast also impressed former South Africa captain Kepler Wessels.

"What's happening in the last couple of days is nothing that good, but I am sure you know that they competed in the first session of the first day. They bowled economically but did not get a wicket unfortunately. They sort of stuck to

their plans. South Africa did not completely run away, though there was a partnership going. So that's a positive sign," Wessels observed.

The former skipper however said that the Tigers batsmen, particularly captain Ashraf, should be 'conservative' in their approach while batting in Test cricket otherwise it would be difficult for them to survive against quality opponents especially in away matches.

"It's not difficult because you work out a game plan, so if some one likes to cut, play off the backfoot, you just play within your parameters. You just cut some of the strokes out, but you still can play aggressively with the stroke that you play well. So just work out a decent game plan, adapt your one-day game plan to the Test arena," he suggested reflecting on the batsmen's tendency of playing too many shots.

He however asked everybody not to expect too much from a very inexperienced side especially the way the team suffered by a mass resignation of the players who joined the rebel Indian Cricket League.

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## Debut of a Diego kind

Football

AP, London

Maxi Rodriguez gave Diego Maradona a winning start as Argentina coach in a 1-0 victory over Scotland on Wednesday, and John Terry atoned for a blunder to lead England to a 2-1 victory over Germany.

Maxi finished off a slick

move in the eighth minute after a run and cross by Carlos Tevez and flick-on by Jonas Gutierrez at Hampden Park in Glasgow. Maradona, who has been hired to turn Argentina's talented players into a team capable of winning the World Cup, spun around and punched the air to celebrate the victory, which was achieved despite the absence of rested stars Lionel Messi and Juan Roman Riquelme.

"We think it is a new era and it was very important to win," said midfielder Javier Mascherano, who was made captain by Maradona. "When you start to play with a new manager the motivation is so different -- maybe it's a little bit extra when you see Maradona on the bench."

Both of England's goals in Berlin were scored by central defenders in another impressive performance by Fabio Capello's team, which has also won all four of its World Cup qualifying matches.

Matthew Upson scored in the 24th minute after Germany goalkeeper Rene Adler missed Stewart Downing's corner. Germany punished a mix up between Terry and goalkeeper Scott Carson and Patrick Helmes equalized in the 64th minute, but the England captain made up by heading home a free kick in the 84th.

"The result is important. The performance was very good because we played in Berlin against a good team. We had a lot of chances to score goals," Capello said. "I liked the attitude of the team. We played with confidence and personality, which is important."

In the only World Cup qualifying game to be played in Europe, the Czech Republic beat San Marino 3-0 to revive its chances of reaching the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

After San Marino kept the Czechs scoreless during the first half, goals by Radoslav Kovac (47th), Zdenek Pospech (53rd) and Tomas Necid (83rd) made it an easy victory and moved the team up to second

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PHOTO: AFP

Argentina coach Diego Maradona shouts instructions to his players during their international friendly against Scotland at Hampden Park on Wednesday. Maradona's first match in charge ended on a happy note as Argentina won 1-0.

## All about Cricket

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