

## Defeat & disgrace

SPORTS REPORTER in Bloemfontein

Mohammad Ashraf's men had a squabble with the Bangladeshi supporters after their innings and 129-run defeat against the Proteas at the OUTsurance Oval here on Saturday.

Since their arrival in South Africa, the Tigers got all out support and hospitality from the Bangladeshi despite defeat in the one-day series. But the expatriates lost their patience after the heavy defeat in the first Test.

They hurled abuse at the players as they were boarding the team bus and it was not possible for Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to keep his cool. The pace spearhead got down from the bus and got into a heated exchange of words with the fans. To make things worse some other players joined in.

Team operations manager Shafiqul Haq Hira however eased the situation and avoided any untoward incident.

"They [supporters] actually used abusive words and some of our players also reacted as they were also frustrated after the defeat. It's nothing so big," said Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraf.

Over the last few days some



## Did U Know?

South Africa skipper Graeme Smith scored his seventeenth century on the first day of the first Test against Bangladesh on Wednesday.



**Luiz Felipe Scolari**  
(Chelsea manager)  
"He is a player who is very professional and who I like to work with."  
On Michael Ballack.



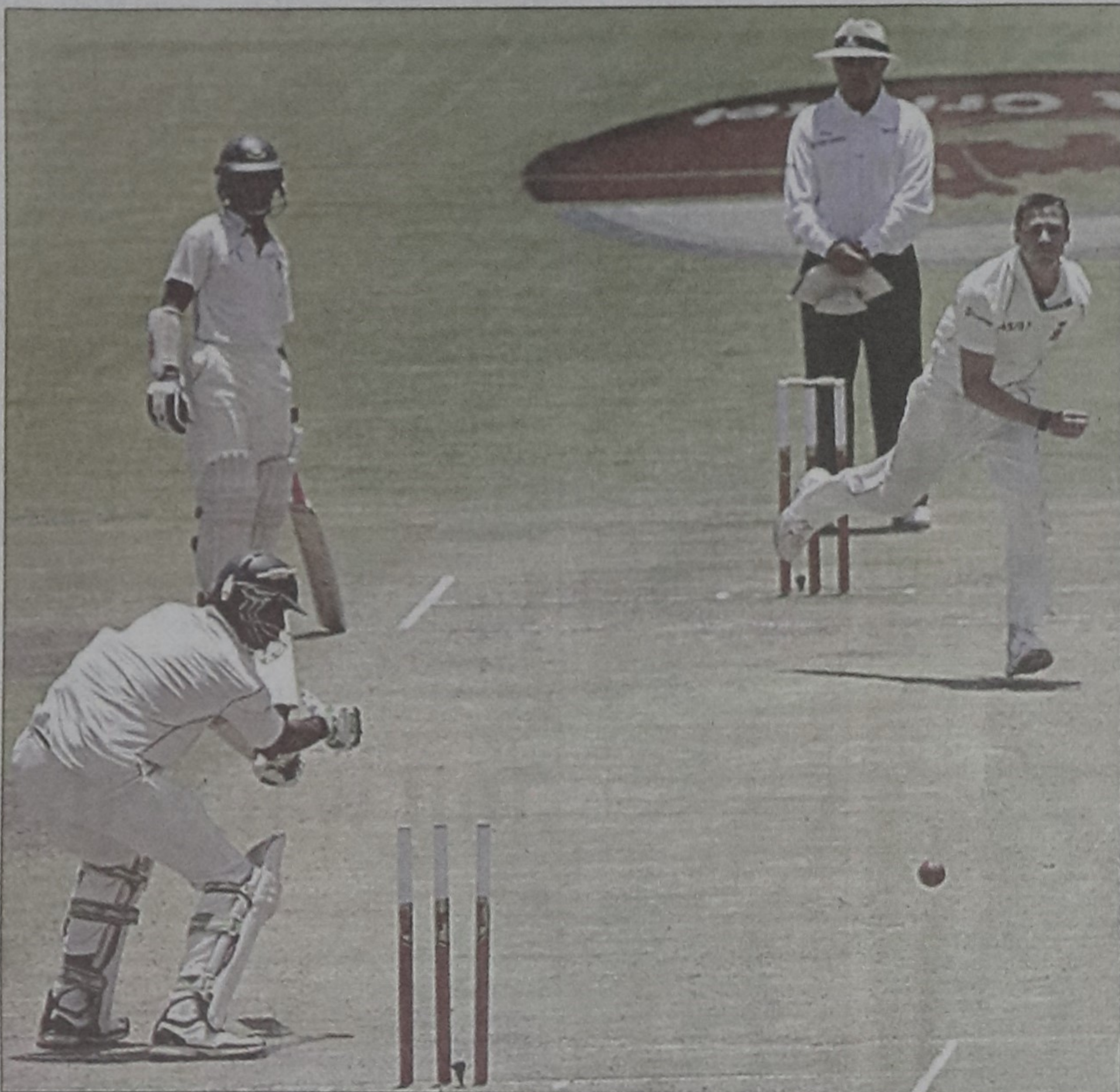
**Neo Cricket**  
India v England  
Fourth ODI (DN)  
Live from 3:00pm

**STAR Cricket**  
Australia v New Zealand  
First Test, Day 4  
Live from 8:00am

**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
Tottenham v Blackburn  
Live at 7:25pm

**STAR Sports**  
Primera Liga  
Deportivo v Bilbao  
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

**TEN Sports**  
ICL World Series  
India v Pakistan  
Live from 8:00pm



South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn (R) dislodges the bails of Shahadat Hossain during Bangladesh's second innings in the first Test at the OUTsurance Oval in Bloemfontein on Saturday.

PHOTO: CRICINFO

## The coaches' coach

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

His playing days may have ended too soon, but Andrew Zesers knows enough to suggest a growth among the country's cricket coaches.

Zesers, a former paceman from Adelaide who played for Australia on only two occasions, is part of a team of coaches who are in town to conduct the updated Level 2 coaching course at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur in the past week.

The broad-shouldered South Australian, who suffered a shoulder injury very early in his career that forced an early retirement at the young age of 23, stressed that Bangladesh's coaches have a distinct advantage when it comes to the pathway that is being set up for them.

"You have the cricket academies and that is very important for the system and vital for the coaches," said Zesers.

"In Australia coaching is almost voluntary at the primary level. People get off work and then do some coaching

in the evening. For example, the coach's kid is playing in the club and so he contributes," he said before adding, "but here, the academies make it more professional at the basic level for the coaches and they deal with a lot of pressure from very early on."

He also agreed that the vast club structure also adds to the seriousness of the coaches who would always compete with the other for the top jobs.

"The coaches here are excellent, intelligent and I think the three courses have really helped them to that extent," said the man who happens to be of Latvian descent.

But he also warned that the national team would always reflect the poor domestic structure of professional cricket.

"You need a strong, high performance competition where the best players take part. In Australia, our first-class system is fantastic and that contributes to the national team," said Zesers, who has served in the same capacity of Cricket Australia's game education officer in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bahrain and Thailand. He has come to Dhaka several times

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ANDREW ZESERS

## Katich sets the path

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Simon Katich became the first Australian to carry his bat in a Test for more than a decade and set Australia on the path towards victory at the Gabba. New Zealand were barely in the hunt at stumps on the third day but Ross Taylor gave them a glimmer of hope in their chase of 327, which after they stumbled to 4 for 49 must have seemed as attainable as an Oscar for Paris Hilton.

But wickets kept falling around Taylor and the loss of Grant Elliott, who was bowled by a lively Stuart Clark on the last ball of the day, meant New Zealand's slim chances would largely rest with Taylor and the next man in, Daniel Vettori. A deficit of 183 appeared too steep for a team whose lower order in the first innings was about as useful as a Zimbabwean dollar.

The match could have been over already but for an 84-run stand between Taylor and Daniel Flynn, who picked the gaps with sensible shots and rarely took risks. Flynn was bowled by

Mitchell Johnson for 29 and his departure encouraged the already attacking Taylor to go for a few more shots in his unbeaten 67, which ended a drought of seven Test innings in which he had failed to pass fifty.

Their chase had started in the worst possible fashion in the first over when Jamie How was drawn into a drive and edged to second slip off Brett Lee, who let out a roar of joy at picking up his 300th Test wicket. He became the fourth Australian to reach the milestone and, having picked up 2 for 38 in the first innings, it continued form turnaround following his tough tour of India.

Clark also regained his mojo with a pair of important breakthroughs, including a juggling return catch off Aaron Redmond and a positive lbw shout when Brendon McCullum padded up to a delivery that nipped back marginally. Johnson chipped in with Jesse Ryder, lbw for 24, and Katich's unbeaten 131 looked like it would be a match-winning effort.

He carried not only his bat but also Australia's hopes -- they had been in trouble at 6 for 115 late on the second afternoon. But Katich batted well with the tail and but for the

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## South Asian Shooting Asif fires to two gold medals

SPORTS REPORTER

Asif Hossain Khan returned to winning ways and started the 4th South Asian Shooting Championship in Islamabad brilliantly after winning two gold medals on the opening day yesterday.

The Commonwealth and SAF Games gold medalist shot to the top after scoring 694.3 points in the 10m Air Rifles and later was part of the three-man team that won gold in the team event of the same discipline. Saiful Islam and Imam Hossain were the other members of the team that won gold.

Asif bettered his previous score 691 points, with which he won gold in the 2003 edition of this competition.

In the Asian Games of last year in Doha, Asif could not qualify to the finals and even finished third in the national competition.

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## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bachelors Sporting Club played out a 2-2 draw with Barnak Samaj in the only match of the Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Barnak Samaj took lead in the very first minute by a field goal scored by Mithun before Danesh of Bachelors levelled the margin in the 43rd minute from a penalty corner.

Prosenjit put Barnak Samaj ahead again in the 58th minute by a penalty corner but that didn't last for too long. Taleb scored the second equalising goal, also by a penalty corner, just a minute before the final whistle.

## NATIONAL CRICKET

Nilphamari reached the zonal final of the 29th National Cricket Championship when they handed a massive seven-

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## Batters poor, bowlers okay

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Bloemfontein

The crushing defeat handed to the Bangladesh team at the OUTsurance Oval in the first Test of the two-match series was hardly unexpected. What was difficult was finding the answer to the question of whether there had been any improvement from six years ago, which was when the Tigers toured the country last.

Staying true to type, the Bangladesh team tumbled like cards to suffer a humiliating innings defeat inside four days, one of which was granted only due to the blessings of the Rain God.

In their first trip to the country the Khaled Mashud-led Bangladesh suffered the same fate in both Test matches.

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraf however was not ready to accept the fact that they were completely annihilated in the first Test after losing the match by an innings and 129-run -- hardly any improvement in their performance from the first visit.

"I must say we are improving as a team though our performance was not good in the Test. It was not unexpected because we are not used to playing in this kind of pitch," said a dejected Bangladesh captain during the post-match briefing.

"For any team in the world it's not so easy to face the South Africa team in their own condition. So, we have to understand the reality," he added.

The root cause of Bangladesh's poor showings remain the same as the batsmen failed to survive against the versatile pace attack led by new sensation Dale Steyn, who as expected continued his scalp-hunting by taking five

wickets in the second innings. Steyn had a match haul of seven wickets.

"I think South Africa bowled brilliantly. I must say all of our batsmen tried to occupy the crease but ultimately failed to cope with the pace. You have to score some runs if we want to settle in this wicket and that was the reason we chased the bad ball but could not execute properly," explained Ashraf.

Bangladesh skipper maintained his tendency of going into hibernation after playing a good knock as the right-hander scored 5 runs in the second one-day and then made only 1 and 13 in this Test after playing a 73-run knock in the first one-day at Potchefstroom.

"In the first innings it was a half-volley while I could not leave the ball properly in the second innings which I should be. None of our batsmen including me threw away the wickets this time," he defended his position.

Ashraf however was more or less happy with their bowling effort against a strong batting line-up.

"I think our bowlers performance was good in the Test because we took eight wickets in the second day for only 140 runs which I think was a brilliant effort," he said praising his bowlers.

As usual, the Tigers captain promised to show better performance in the second and final Test, which will start from November 26, though there are awaiting another quick wicket at the Centurion.

South African skipper Graeme Smith also said that they were looking forward to the Bangladesh top order clicking in the second Test and hoping for a stiff fight from the Tigers ahead of their tough home challenge against Australia.

"New Zealand came here when we were at our peak in the middle of a lengthy season. I

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## Dismal Zimbabwe

Cricket

AFP, Harare

Two days after a senior ICC delegation turned up to assess Zimbabwe's suitability for a return to Test cricket the country's batsmen ruined everything by clobbering together only 67 runs in a backs-to-the-wall 31 overs against Sri Lanka here Saturday.

Their dismal nine-wicket defeat followed one that was barely better on Thursday in the first of the five match ODI series when Zimbabwe struggled to reach 124.

They have thus made fewer than 200 runs in two innings while the tourists have required only five completed individual innings, leaving some batsmen short of batting practice and with others getting none at all.

Home skipper Prosper Uteya won the toss and decided to bat, defying the accepted tradition at Harare Sports Club in taking the field.

It was, on the evidence of what followed, a bad move.

The Sri Lankans disdainfully knocked off the required 68 runs to win by nine wickets and go two up in the five-match ODI series.

Their score, reached just 10 balls after lunch, was 71-1 in 31 sedate and casual overs.

Zimbabwe brought in Sean Williams to bolster their middle order and he made 10 runs. Tatenda Taibu was top scorer with 12. The Zimbabweans lost their first three wickets for 22 and it was desperately uphill from there.

Ajantha Mendis took four for 16 in six overs while Farveez Maharoof captured three for 26

in eight. Sri Lanka almost polished off Zimbabwe even before lunch.

They were just 16 runs short of victory when the umpires decided to take the break despite Upul Tharanga and Kuma Sangakkara, who were at the crease, wanting to deliver the coup de grace.

However, the two umpires Aleem Dar and Kevin Barbour chose bureaucracy and hunger over an even earlier conclusion to the match. In doing so they only just avoided a gathering rainstorm as the players resumed the field.

The two Sri Lanka batsmen made 29 and 26 respectively after Sri Lanka lost an early wicket.

The ICC visit, made by chief executive Haroon Lorgat and West Indies board president Dr. Julian Hunte, will surely have to produce a negative report after this despite the cricket website "Cricinfo" predicting a whitewash.

Zimbabwe certainly appear no nearer Test cricket since it was obliged to withdraw from the five-day game more than four years ago when Sri Lanka, followed by England and Australia, refused to play Tests against them.

Several senior Zimbabwe players had been lost at the time following acrimonious allegations of racism and financial mismanagement. Several are now prominent in other countries.

The third ODI will be at Harare on Monday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at Harare Sports Club on Saturday:

**ZIMBABWE**

Masakadza c Sangakkara b Maharoof 6

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PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka all-rounder Farveez Maharoof (R) celebrates taking a Zimbabwe wicket in the second one-day international at the Harare Sports Club ground on Saturday.

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