

## Jewel Rana

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the Mohammedan management in future.

Recalling the most memorable chapter of his career, Jewel said that winning the SAF Games final against Nepal is still his best.

"It was unbelievable. We were almost on the brink of elimination from the competition but bounced back to win the title against all odds."

"I haven't got much sad memories but I feel that the pool system in football has really damaged the game. Sometimes, the club's had 'gentlemen's agreement', sometimes the federation forced it on teams. May be this was the reason why Abahani never made me an offer. I regret not playing for them," added the veteran, who had also played for Muktiyoddha and Brothers Union -- the remaining big names of domestic football.

He believed that the Bangladesh Football Federation has taken initiatives to develop the game and president Kazi Salahuddin has many plans.

"But the president alone can't do anything. He will need the right man at the right place. Four years is also not enough to do something really good. With good support, it is possible for him to build a bright future."

## Russel edge

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James with a powerful drive after hard work by Alfaz.

Meanwhile, the B. League committee later cautioned Russel coach Wajed Gazi and banned their manager Shahabuddin Tipu for two matches for illegally entering the ground during their match against Mohammedan last Tuesday.

The referees' committee decided not to give match commissioner Ibrahim Nesar any further match in the B. League after he failed to give a detailed report of the Russel-Mohammedan match and also delayed his report.

## Dido due

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Dido began as the 12th foreign coach for Bangladesh after Beckel Hofst and Gerhard Schmidt of Germany. Naser Hejazi (Iran), Oldrich Swab (Switzerland), Man Young Kang (Korea), Otto Pfister (Germany), Samir Shakir (Iraq), George Kottan (Austria), Englishman Mark Harrison, Argentine Diego Cruciani and Syed Nayeemuddin of India.

Dido began as a professional for Flamengo and played only twice for Santos in the Brazilian top division including a match against his former club Flamengo which had in the lineup 1994 World Cup winner Bebeto at the Maracana.

As coach he received awards for the youngest head coach of a national team, best coach in East Asia (2001) and best coach of International Football Festival (2005).



## Did U Know?

Nilesh Kulkarni is the only Indian cricketer to have taken a wicket with the first ball he bowled in a Test match. In the first Test of the 1996-97 series against Sri Lanka at Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, with the very first delivery he bowled he had Marvan Atapattu caught behind by Nayan Mongia for 26 and became the 12th bowler in Test history to do so.



## Monty Panesar

(English spin bowler)

"Three guys approached us and said they were police officers looking for drugs. They took our mobile phones and stuff and said they would meet us at the top of the hill." Explains how he was mugged for his mobile phone in Johannesburg.



Sheikh Russel's Rakibul Islam (R) is under pressure from Rokonuzzaman Kanchan, who scored Muktiyoddha's only goal, during their Citycell B. League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Dyson wants a spinner

Cricket

AFP, St John's

John Dyson is looking for a spin bowler to make a big impact on the West Indies' home Test series against England, starting next month.

The West Indies coach is expecting the series to be "tense, hard-fought" cricket, but he believes his side can gain an edge if they can identify and select a match-winning spin bowler.

"The series is a further opportunity for a spinner to make a major contribution to the bowling effort," he said.

Historically, spin bowling has not featured prominently in the West Indies' attack, and it has done so far less in the last three decades, particularly when the Caribbean side ruled international cricket between 1980 and 1995.

But the quest to find a champion spin bowler has been revived under Dyson who has been willing to experiment with the likes of Suleiman Benn, Nikita Miller, and Amit Jaggernauth in recent international matches.

Dyson however, feels it's an important role and expects the contenders to use the ongoing West Indies domestic first-class championship to advertise their suitability.

"Hot competition for the spinning role

exists between Suleiman Benn, Nikita Miller, Amit Jaggernauth, Dave Mohammed and others, and all should be desperately keen to impress the selectors in the regional four-day matches," he said.

"Whoever is ultimately given the job must provide the wicket-taking variety West Indies need to balance the established pace attack."

Dyson also believes there is room for a new face in the fast bowling bowling department, although he is satisfied with the work of the established trio of Jerome Taylor, Fidel Edwards, and Daren Powell, if others are not.

"The trio is no longer a 'rookie' combination and big things are expected of them," he said.

"Edwards had a fine series in New Zealand and returned his best ever haul of seven for 87 at Napier. His pace and controlled aggression will be important weapons in the home series and strong support from Taylor and Powell will be required to bowl out England in the Tests."

England face West Indies on February 4 at Sabina Park in the Jamaica capital of Kingston in the first of four Tests.

This will be followed by Tests in Antigua (February 13-17), Barbados (February 26-March 2) and Trinidad (March 6-10) before the two sides play a Twenty20 International and five One-day Internationals between March 15 and April 3.

## Bowling good

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"If our batting had clicked like the bowling we could get much more international success in the last few months. So, we have to work hard on our batting and I think the coming premier division cricket league will be helpful for us to return among runs," he added.

He however said that it was not easy to bat on this pitch and that was the reason the low-scoring games were produced in the tri-nation and three-match one-day series.

"Yes, most of our players are stroke-makers and that's why it was not so easy for us to score runs here. But as the bowlers were in good form, the management had decided to give them the advantage," he explained.

"I was lucky enough as we won the toss in three games. In the first game I made a mistake by deciding to bat first. The toss was a really important factor," he confessed when asked about how he evaluated his team's 2-2 record against the Zimbabweans.

Ashraf praised his bowlers, particularly his deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

"We were under pressure after the defeat in the first game but the bowlers did an excellent job especially what I believe is that Mashrafe is in his peak form for the last one year. And Shakib was excel-

lent. I believe that as a team we are improving," said Ashraf.

Zimbabwe skipper Prosper Uteya also heaped praise on the Tigers as he believes that Bangladesh has been improving day by day in the international arena.

"Bangladesh is showing improvement and they deserved the victory. We should work out our top order failure, though given the conditions it was not easy to bat here," said Prosper.

Mohammad Ashraf might be a relieved man after the series win but in no way can he relax because the boos of the supporters while he was receiving the trophy will ring on in his ears for a long time to come.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third and final one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Friday:

**ZIMBABWE**  
Sibanda lbw b Mashrafe 0  
Masakadza c Mehra b Mashrafe 10  
Matsikenyeri b Mashrafe 10  
Taibu c Rahim b Rubel 12  
Williams b Mahmudullah 38  
Uteya lbw b Mahmudullah 6  
Chigumbura b Shakib 7  
Dabengwa not out 21  
Price b Shakib 7  
Rainsford c Rahim b Shakib 1  
Mpofo not out 1  
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-4) 6

Total: (For 9 wks in 37 overs) 119  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-19, 3-31, 4-44, 5-69, 6-84, 7-87, 8-103, 9-110

**Bowler** O M R W  
Mashrafe 8 0 26 3  
Nazmul 7 0 27 0  
Shakib 8 4 15 3  
Rubel 3 0 17 1  
Naem 4 0 13 0  
Mahmudullah 7 0 19 2

**BANGLADESH**  
Tamim c Taibu b Mpofo 34  
Mehra run out 2  
Ashraf lbw b Price 3  
Rokibul lbw b Price 13  
Shakib not out 33  
Rahim not out 20  
Extras: (lb-4, w-11) 15  
Total: (For 4 wks in 32 overs) 121  
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-52, 3-64, 4-89

Did not bat: Mahmudullah, Naem, Mashrafe, Nazmul, Rubel

**Bowler** O M R W  
Rainsford 6 1 19 0  
Mpofo 5 1 27 1  
Uteya 7 0 32 0  
Chigumbura 4.3 0 18 0  
Price 7 2 9 2  
Dabengwa 2 0 8 0  
Matsikenyeri 1 0 4 0  
Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets to clinch three-match series 2-1.  
Man-of-the-match: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.  
Man-of-the-series: Shakib Al Hasan.  
Toss: Bangladesh.  
Umpires: Enamul Haque and Zameer Haider.

## Spotlight on archrivals

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However, to maintain their recent impressive run -- which saw Amalesh Sen's side win five matches out of the last six with a clean sheet -- Abahani must make sure they do not repeat the same mistakes they had committed in both the previous clashes against Mohammedan.

Veteran coach Amalesh, who is a fan of the 4-4-2 system, had picked up five defenders for the Federation Cup final and fielded Nazmul as a rightback in the first leg match against Mohammedan but failed to hold on to the leads on both occasions under tremendous pressure.

In fact, Abahani's problem lies in the strength of their backline where they have three quality centre-backs in Sujon, skipper Samad Yussif and Ghanaian recruit Samad Yussif and the team think-tank always wants

to accommodate them.

"We will have four backs. Samad is certain to start in central defence and Walyat left. The rest will be decided tomorrow," Amalesh told yesterday.

If the Sky-Blues cannot ignore their captain, currently the weakest of the trio, rightback Siraji will make way for him.

"Abahani have always been positive and we will play our natural attacking game because if we win tomorrow, we will be 90 percent closer to the title. We also have two big matches to play and go for draw today," the former national midfielder said.

Abahani have matches left against Russel and two oppositions -- Brothers Union and Rahmatganj -- who had beaten them in the first leg. Admitting that Joy and Abul have become a bit slow in the middle, Amalesh said he would

rely on his firepower of Emily and Emeka, who have scored ten and 12 goals respectively, and playmaker Ibrahim.

"We have been creating numerous chances but we also have to cut down on the misses," the Abahani veteran added.

However, Abahani were sweating over Ibrahim's availability for the match as the Ghanaian was yet to be in Dhaka as of writing this report.

Ibrahim left for Holland on personal reasons after their 4-0 win over Arambagh but he reportedly flew out of Amsterdam on way to Dhaka and was due to land last night.

## Eng players can play IPL

AFP, London

England stars such as Kevin Pietersen and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff will be able to play in the Indian Premier League (IPL) after signing their national central contracts on Thursday.

Talks between England's players and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on the signing of the annual deals had stalled over how long they would be allowed to play in the IPL, a cash-rich Twenty20 tournament bankrolled by the wealthy owners of franchise teams.

England all-rounder Paul Collingwood was quoted as saying Thursday by the BBC: "They (the contracts) have been signed by the players and we are waiting on the IPL to come back with confirmation."

The ECB had said it would only allow players to compete in the competition for two weeks -- a period which IPL chief Lalit Modi said was too short to be of use on or off the field to the competing teams.

But now the ECB have agreed their Test players can play in the IPL for a three-week period beginning in April, soon after the conclusion of the current West Indies tour which formally started Thursday.

Modi told Sky Sports News: "We need to figure out very quickly if the English players can be part of it."

"Of course we would like them to be part of it."

## Super Shakib

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other teammates and our team can rise through the ranks in international cricket. I also believe that more players from Bangladesh will make it in the ICC Championship rankings" he added.

Shakib also came up with a popular saying, "It's easier to achieve independence but difficult to maintain, so I have to be keen on my feet on the ground."

When asked which one of his performances was his best, the all-rounder smiled and said, "actually my memory is not that sharp, however I can remember a few batting performances."

While Shakib is having a ball on the field, his captain Mohammad Ashraf is clearly going through a bad patch but has the full support of his team.

When asked about all the criticism against Ashraf, Shakib said, "It's not easy to captain a side like Bangladesh, Ash (Mohammad Ashraf) is not scoring at the moment but I do not think he is batting badly. It's just a matter of time before he comes back from the rust and makes a big score."

There has been a lot of debate on the pitches in Mirpur which has produced low scoring games so far and Shakib believes that it would be difficult if the same pitches are prepared for the upcoming series against Pakistan in March, owing largely to the opponent's strong seam attack.

## Ivanovic

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Dozens of Bosnian and Serb youths hurled plastic chairs and other missiles at each other, leaving one woman with minor injuries. About 30 people were thrown out as skirmishes continued outside.

"A number of people got into a chair-throwing contest between two groups with the result that 30-odd people were ejected from Rod Laver," said Inspector Chris Duthie of Melbourne East Police.

"We're charging two on summons and one will be receiving an on-the-spot fine." A male streaker also invaded one court and danced around, naked from the waist down, in another security lapse.

The Australian Open was first marred by violence in 2007, when Serbian and Croatian fans attacked each other with flagpoles, bottles and boots.

Then last year, police used pepper spray to subdue rowdy elements watching a match between Konstantinos Economidis of Greece and Chile's Fernando Gonzalez.

Friday's incidents took the gloss off Djokovic's hard-fought 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) victory.

"I'm really sad to hear about it," said Delic when told of the violence.

"As I said a couple of days ago, there's absolutely no place for that here. This is a tennis match."

While Djokovic went through, Spain's 11th seed David Ferrer crashed out to Croatia's Cilic 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-4.

## Opportunity for Murali

Pak-Lankan series-decider today

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Muttiah Muralidaran needs five more wickets to become the highest wicket-taker in one-day cricket history as Sri Lanka take on Pakistan in the third and deciding one-day match here Saturday.

The wily off-spinner needs two more wickets to become only the second bowler to cross the 500-mark in limited overs internationals. Another three would help him overtake Pakistan's Wasim Akram's one-day tally of 502.

The 36-year-old Muralidaran is already the world's top wicket-taker in Test cricket with 769 in 125 Tests.

Muralidaran took 3-19 to help Sri Lanka thump Pakistan by 129 runs in the second day-night international in Karachi on Wednesday, levelling the series at 1-1 to set up an intriguing final match.

Pakistan won the first match, in Karachi, by eight wickets on Tuesday.

Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene said however winning the match -- and with it the series -- was the priority.

"Definitely it would be great to see Murali achieve that record. Winning the match and the series would be the top priority, and on the way if Murali achieves that record we would definitely celebrate," said Jayawardene.

Muralidaran, who made his one-day debut against India in 1993, has 10 times taken five wickets in a match in a 323-match career.

Jayawardene was happy his team learnt

from the mistakes of the first match.

"We didn't repeat our mistakes of the first match and the guys showed a lot of character, so it's necessary we continue that. Lahore will be a new ground and we will assess the situation and hope to execute our plans."

Jayawardene would also look to his other spinner Ajantha Mendis, who took three wickets in the second match after going wicket-less in the first.

Pakistan are likely to drop struggling pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Sohail Tanvir -- Akhtar has managed just one wicket for 88 runs and Tanvir's only wicket in the series cost 85.

Rookie paceman Sohail Khan and off-spinner Saeed Ajmal are tipped to take their places.

Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik, hinting at changes to his team, said his side needs to show more character.

"We let the lead slip in the second match, so it's now a must-win situation in the final game. I hope the players realise that and do not repeat the mistakes of the second match," said Malik.

"The second match should be behind us and we must move on and win the last match," said Malik.

## TEAMS

**PAKISTAN:** Salman Butt, Khuram Manzoor, Younis Khan, Misbahul Haq, Shoaib Malik (captain), Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal, Sohail Tanvir, Iftikhar Anjum, Umar Gul, Sohail Khan.

**SRI LANKA:** Sanath Jayasuriya, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Thilan Kandamby, Chamara Kapugedera, Thilan Thushara, Farveez Maharoof, Nuwan Kulasekara, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis.

## England's Mission

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

England will launch a bid for Test revenge over South Africa next December at SuperSport Park in the Highveld town of Centurion.

The showdown heralds the start of a four-Test series that continues until mid-January and takes the visitors to Kingsmead in Durban, Newlands in Cape Town and the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

Graham Smith-inspired South Africa edged hosts England 2-1 in another four-Test series last year before coming unstuck in an ODI series they lost 4-0 with one fixture washed out.

The appeal of the next series will be heightened by a fierce rivalry between prolific run-getter Smith, who recently led his country to a 2-1 series triumph in Australia, and South Africa-born England batting star Kevin Pietersen.

While Smith was hailed as a hero after back-to-back victories in Perth and Melbourne, Pietersen lost the England captaincy following a power struggle with coach Peter Moores.

Pietersen wanted Moores removed and the outcome was both lost out although the Durban-reared batsman has pledged his loyalty to new captain Andrew Strauss and both are touring the West Indies.

England arrive in South Africa on November

7 and play a 20-over day-night match against South Africa A in the central city of Bloemfontein three days later.

Then come two Twenty20 internationals followed by a 50-over warm-up against South Africa A ahead of five ODIs that take the tourists to Johannesburg, Centurion, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban.

A couple of two-day games against South Africa selections in East London precede the Test series and England Cricket managing director Hugh Morris is happy with the itinerary.

"We are grateful to colleagues and friends in South Africa who have worked with us to provide what we believe is an exciting and well-balanced tour," he said in a statement.

## TOUR SCHEDULE

Date	Match	Venue
Nov 13	1st T20I	Johannesburg
Nov 15	2nd T20I	Centurion
Nov 20	1st ODI	Johannesburg
Nov 22	2nd ODI	Centurion
Nov 27	3rd ODI	Cape Town
Nov 29	4th ODI	Port Elizabeth
Dec 4	5th ODI	Durban
Dec 16-20	1st Test	Centurion
Dec 26-30	2nd Test	Durban
Jan 3-7	3rd Test	Cape Town
Jan 14-18	4th Test	Johannesburg



Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain, ndc, psc (5th from L) inaugurated the two-day long 10th Square Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) yesterday. KGC vice-president Maj Gen Md. Shafiqul Islam, ndc, psc, Maj Gen (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan and Brig Gen (ret'd) John Gaj from Square Group were present on the occasion.

## Proteas leap in front

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Ponting made an even faster start, getting off the mark with a stylish push through extra-cover for four, and pulling the next two balls for boundaries.

Marsh was smartly stumped in the 23rd over and Mike Hussey made only 12 before he was sent back following neat fielding from AB de Villiers.

Ponting did not add to his three fours before he was out for 29 in the 29th over chipping tamely low to short mid-wicket.

Skipper Johan Botha then collected a third wicket when he lured Brad Haddin down the pitch and collected a firm low return catch.

There was no major acceleration, with runs added in steady fashion, but the final five overs saw the final five wickets fall for 30, with four deliveries unused.

South Africa's task was soon highlighted by Shaun Tait's second delivery of the innings, clocked at 148.8 km, and his pace created two chances in the first over.

Hashim Amla was dropped by Ponting at second slip and Herschelle Gibbs was put down by David Hussey at backward point.

Amla was needlessly run out in the sixth over when he set off for a single when Gibbs

was still taking evasive action from a short delivery.

Gibbs underlined his capabilities by backing away to leg and launching rapid left-arm seamer Mitchell Johnson over extra-cover for six, before pulling the final ball of the over intricately through the leg-side.

Jacques Kallis, who passed 10,000 one-day runs during a composed half-century, provided a useful foil as Gibbs began to play some stunning strokes.

Stepping down the pitch to Tait, one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket, Gibbs drove through the covers for four, before riling the paceman further with a similar shot next ball.

His brilliant knock came to an end in the 19th over, however, when he guided one straight to slip, which began something of a slide.

Three wickets fell for 23 in seven overs, before Mark Boucher began to rebuild the innings in typically nuggety fashion.

Some superb work from Warner in the outfield saw Neil McKenzie comfortably short of his ground and left the requirement at 61 from 61 balls with four wickets left.

The South Africans quickly took the batting powerplay and

powerful left-hander Morkel smashed Johnson for successive fours on either side of the wicket.

Then a shafted cut shot flew out to Shaun Tait at third man but he spilled the chance diving forward and to his left, resulting in a third four in the over and leaving less than 50 needed.

Hauritz was brought back to bowl the 46th over, but Morkel smashed the second ball into the second tier at mid-wicket and added two more boundaries into the leg-side to leave his side five runs from victory.

Trying to finish the match with another mammoth six he was well caught by James Hopes sliding across at deep mid-wicket, but the work was all but done and skipper Botha applied the gloss with a thumping cover drive for four.

"We were a lot short with our batting, at one stage we were looking for 300," Ponting said. "We've been 30 or 40 short in all three games so we've got to look at that."

"We pulled it really back nicely in the field," Botha commented.

"Hopefully we can finish it off in Adelaide and that would be great for the team," he added, referring to the fourth match of the series which takes place on Australia Day, on Monday.