

## Jewel Rana

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the Mohammadian 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 Mukti Joddha 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 Mohammadian 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-Mohammadian match and also delayed his report.

## Dido due

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Dido will be the 12th foreign coach for Bangladesh after Beckel Hoy 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 Crucianni and Syed Nayemuddin 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 line-up 1994 World Cup winner Bebeto at the Maracana.

As coach he received awards for the youngster 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.



## TALK TURKEY



## Monty Panesar

(England 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.



PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

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

## Dyson wants a spinner



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 Darren 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 Jamaican capital of Kingston in the first of our 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.

Ashrafal 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 excellent.

"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 Siraj 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 midfielders said.

Abahani have matches left against Russel and two other 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

Total: (For 9 wkt 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  
Naeem 4 0 13 0  
Mahmudullah 7 0 19 2

BANGLADESH  
Tamim c Taib b Mpofu 34  
Mehrab run out 2  
Ashraful lbw b Price 3  
Rokibul lbw b Price 14  
Shakib not out 33  
Rahim not out 20  
Extras: (lb-4, w-11) 15  
Total: (For 4 wkt in 32.3 overs) 121

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-52, 3-64, 4-89

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

Bowler O M R W  
Rainsford 6 1 19 0  
Mpofu 5 1 27 1  
Utseya 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.

## 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 keep 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 Ashraful is clearly going through a bad patch but has the full support of his team.

When asked about all the criticism against Ashraful, Shakib said, "It's not easy to captain a side like Bangladesh. Ash (Mohammad Ashraful) 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 Gonzales.

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.

Cilic will now meet dangerous Argentine eighth seed del Potro who came from a set down to beat Luxembourg's Gilles Muller 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 6-3, 7-5.

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

Opportunity for Murali  
Pak-Lankan series-decider today

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.

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 paceman Shoail 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 Shoail Malik, hinting at changes to his team, said his side needs to show more character.

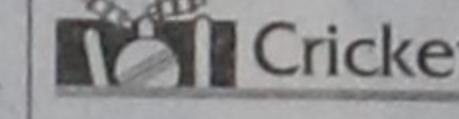
"We let the lead slip in the second match, so it's now a must-win situation in the final game. I hope the players realise that and do not repeat the mistakes of the second match," said Malik.

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

## TEAMS

**PAKISTAN:** Salman Butt, Khurram Manzoor, Younis Khan, Misbahul Haq, Shoail 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 Sandamby, Chamara Kapugedera, Thilan Thushara, Farveez Maharoof, Nuwan Kulasekara, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis.

England's Mission  
Revenge in SA

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,