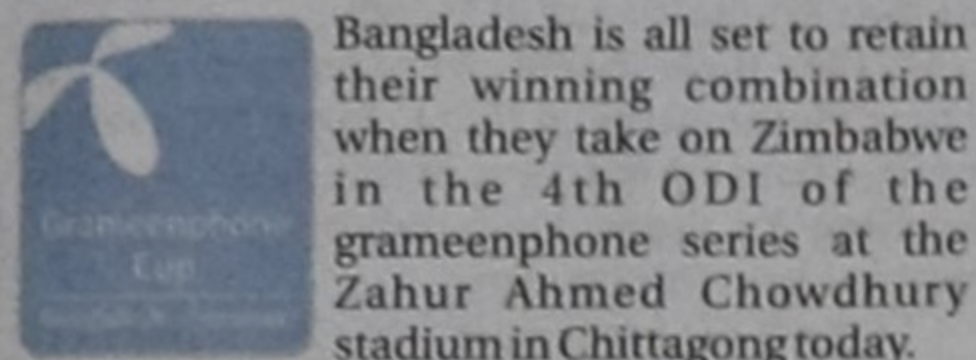


## Series win is the goal

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh is all set to retain their winning combination when they take on Zimbabwe in the 4th ODI of the grameenphone series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium in Chittagong today.

The Tigers need a victory in the ODI to be held at the port city to confirm their third successive series success over the Zimbabweans and their third series victory on the trot after inspiring successes in the Caribbean and Zimbabwe.

"We don't want to break the winning combination. We will continue with it," said Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons hinting that they would stick by the four specialist spinners approach that they adopted in the last game.

However, there is a slim chance that Shahadat Hossain may be called up for his first appearance in the series, if the pitch is deemed to be pace worthy in the morning.

The onus is on the Tigers to close out the series today and Siddons for one seemed confident that his charges would continue the momentum they had built from the last two victories.

"I am always a little bit nervous thinking whether the boys would perform to their ability. As I had said at the start of the tour that we'll get better as the series goes on. I expect that to continue. We think we have done that so far. We

weren't quite ready in the first game but we'll continue to get better," he said.

There has been questions raised over the form of opener Zunaed Siddiqui but Siddons backed the young left-hander.

"I don't have a problem. We were none for 50 in the second game. That was perfect. He [Zunaed] is not performing but the team is winning so why change a winning combination?" he said, stating that Zunaed's problem was that he was hitting the ball in the air too often.

Another player, who has always been the subject of much debate is Mohammad Ashraful. The explosive right-hander admitted yesterday that he is consciously trying to adapt his approach to the game, and hoped it would prove successful in the long run.

"I am trying to change my game a bit. My focus now is to settle down first and then make up later on. I admit this is not what the crowd wants but for greater consistency I have to adapt. I had consciously started slowly in the last match and plan to play the same way in the remaining matches as that approach has brought be runs in the West Indies and Zimbabwe also," he said.

Zimbabwe will be buoyed by the news that captain Prosper Uteya, who had sat out the last two games with an ankle injury, is all set to take the reigns for this game having made a swift recovery. Wicket-keeper batsman Tatenda Taibu is also a doubt.

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PHOTOS: STAR/INTERNET

WILL THE BAT TALK? (L) Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal checks his bat prior to a practice session while (R) Zimbabwe's physical trainer Lorraine Chivandire (L) leads the players in a jogging session at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Cricket Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. Bangladesh and Zimbabwe meet in the fourth one-day international here today.

## Gayle made WI captain again?

CRICINFO, undated

Chris Gayle has been reappointed West Indies captain for the upcoming tour of Australia, according to reports in the Caribbean.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) sat down in Barbados on Saturday to approve the selectors' recommendation of Gayle and several leading dailies in the region have reported Gayle's return as leader for the tough tour. The WICB was expected to name a 15-man squad later on Monday.

Gayle, 30, has not played international cricket since the home series against India in July due to the ugly contractual dispute between WICB the players' union. In his absence, the selectors were fielded depleted teams, led by Floyd Reifer, against Bangladesh and in the Champions Trophy. The name of Daren Ganga, who captained Trinidad & Tobago to the final of the inaugural Champions League, has been closely linked in the ever-changing story of the captaincy.

Gayle has led the side since 2007 but said in May that he wasn't intending to remain in the job in the long term and would also consider giving up Test cricket in the near future. His comments frustrated the WICB's new chief executive Ernest Hilaire, who said in September that Gayle's future as the captain was not guaranteed, but after several months

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**BTV & SuperSport5**  
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe  
Fourth ODI  
Live from 10:30am

**TEN Sports & SuperSport2**  
Pakistan v New Zealand  
First ODI  
Live from 6:00pm

**TEN Sports & SuperSport3**  
UEFA Champions League  
AC Milan v Real Madrid  
Live from 2:15am (Wednesday)

**SuperSport7**  
UEFA Champions League  
Man United v Csk Moscow  
Live from 2:15am (Wednesday)

**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 9:30pm



**Bangladesh v Zimbabwe**  
Fourth ODI  
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium  
Citycell Bangladesh League  
Mohammedan v Mukti Juddha  
(5:30pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Aussies draw level

Cricket

AFP, Mohali

Doug Bollinger and Shane Watson shared six wickets as Australia beat India by 24 runs in the fourth one-day international here on Monday to square the seven-match series 2-2.

Left-arm paceman Bollinger took 3-38 while Watson picked 3-29 to bowl out India for 226 in 46.4 overs after Cameron White top-scored with 62 in Australia's total of 250 all out in 49.2 overs.

The Indians failed to exploit helpful batting conditions in the day-night encounter at the Punjab Cricket Association stadium, with none of their batsmen scoring even a half-century.

Sachin Tendulkar (40) and Virender Sehwag (30) got good starts while Harbhajan Singh (31) slammed five fours and a six in a late assault but

the Australians held their nerve in the end to carve an impressive win.

The world champions, sent in to bat on a placid track, were also indebted to captain Ricky Ponting who struck his third half-century of the series and shared a 64-run stand for the second wicket with Watson (49).

India began their chase in rollicking fashion with Sehwag smacking seven fours off left-arm paceman Mitchell Johnson, who turned 28 Monday.

Sehwag's belligerence was snapped when he turned the face of the bat and ended up splicing Bollinger to Watson at mid-off.

Tendulkar fell seven runs short of completing an unprecedented 17,000 runs in one-dayers when he was adjudged leg before off-spinner Nathan Hauritz. TV replays however suggested the ball would have missed leg-stump.

Yuvraj Singh (12) was out to

a direct throw from Ponting at short cover while captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (26) was caught behind off Bollinger. Earlier, a disciplined effort in the field by the generally sluggish Indians resulted in four run-outs and contained Australia to what looked like a below-par total.

Left-arm paceman Ashish Nehra picked 3-37 and also ran out White while Harbhajan was back among the wickets after an indifferent show in the previous games, picking 2-48 off his 10 overs.

Ponting hit five fours and a six in his 59-ball knock for his 73rd half-century in one-day internationals while Michael Hussey chipped in with a fine 40 off 41 balls.

Watson, named man of the match, and Ponting helped Australia regroup after the cheap dismissal of opener Shaun Marsh, trapped leg-before by Nehra for five.

Watson was unlucky to

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## Abahani trainer leaves early

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's Argentine trainer Diego Alvaro was scheduled to leave the capital last night, almost one month before his four-month contract expires.

Alvaro came in Dhaka in late July as a trainer and struck a four-month contract with Abahani for the third Bangladesh League. The Sky Blues underwent a three-week conditioning camp at BKSP before the start of the season's curtain-raising tournament Federation Cup where they finished behind champions Mohammedan.

About Alvaro's early leave, Abahani official Satyajit Das Rupu said that Alvaro had asked for an early release due to family problem and his appeal was granted.

It was however learnt that the one-and-a-half month

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## Gazi Tank rebound

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounders Forhad Hossain and Forhad Reza combined to put in a spirited performance for Gazi Tank Cricketers to inflict a thumping 115-run defeat on Cricket Coaching School (CCS) in their second match of the Premier League Cricket at Fatullah yesterday.

The victory in a way also lifted the gloom from over the powerhouse following their shock defeat in the first match.

On the other hand, it was a complete reversal for CCS after they had easily won their first match against Partex. Hapless Partex, however, couldn't get out of the losing fold as they went down to Kalabagan by five wickets at BKSP, while Biman continued their fine run with a comfortable five-wicket victory over Old DOHS at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Gazi Tank, who were utterly disappointing in their first game of the season, played a ruthless game as they saw their star batsmen finding their feet in this match. Hard-hitting opener Nazimuddin scored 31 runs while left-hander Shahriar Nafees, batting at number three, scored an excellent 65 with six boundaries and two over-boundaries. Gazi Tank skipper Alok

Kapali, who didn't play in the first game, got out without scoring.

However, it was the Forhads, Hossain and Reza, who took care of the CCS bowlers. Hossain scored 45 well compiled runs while Reza blasted 42 off just 21 balls including four huge sixes as Gazi posted 245 before being all out in 49.4 overs.

And then the two Forhads made sure that they had an easy victory as they shared six wickets among them to bowl CCS out for 130 runs in 39.2 overs. Reza started the rot ousting both the openers cheaply including that of skipper Uttam Sarker who had scored an unbeaten century in the previous game. Hossain later came in to bowl and took four quick wickets to cap off a memorable day. One-down batsman Taposh Ghosh played a lone hand for CCS as he scored 56 runs in a losing cause.

Meanwhile Kalabagan Krira Chakra got their first win of the campaign as they ran comfortably home with a five-wicket win over Partex. Partex were asked to bat first and made a good start with their openers putting on 79 runs before being separated. Gazi Salauddin scored 52 while Mahub Alam made 43. But then came in Kalabagan spinner Rockybul Hasan and turned things around with a masterly spell of 6-27 to reduce Partex to 215 all out in 49 overs.

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PHOTO: AFP

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (2nd from L) celebrates with teammates after dismissing Australia's Shane Watson during the fourth one-day international at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali yesterday.

## Kiwi-Pak ODI series starts in UAE today

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

While a one-off victory does not always indicate future form, Shane Bond has said New Zealand will review their notes from the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal ahead of the series against Pakistan.

The two sides meet for the first of three ODIs today having recently completed a close tussle in South Africa, where New Zealand came out on top by five wickets. Both teams will play each other in the UAE before heading back home for three Tests, and Bond, the rehabilitated fast bowler, is targeting the limited-overs fixtures.

"We'll redraw the stuff we had last time on them," he said. "It worked pretty well in terms of the bowlers, we knew what we had to do. Obviously this time we'll have to adapt to the surface which will be flat and slow like Pakistan

conditions."

New Zealand's batting has not been noticeable for anything outstanding of late, and the absence of an injured Jesse Ryder has been a serious blow. This put more emphasis on the bowlers, said Bond. "The bulk of the experience is now in the bowling line-up. In terms of being a bowler coming back into the team we have to lead from the front and do well which puts pressure on us but we quite enjoy that. If we don't lead we can't rely on the inexperienced blokes to do it all the time."

Bond was confident that he had quickly adapted back to the pace of international cricket after nearly two years on the sidelines due to his ICL deal. Bond, 34, collected six wickets at 40.33 in New Zealand's Champions Trophy campaign. Although at times expensive, most notably when his nine overs against Sri Lanka cost 82 runs, he also proved that he remains a potential matchwinner, as when he

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## Under-19s lose again

SPORTS REPORTER

Having already wrapped up the seven-match series winning the first four games, the Bangladesh Under-19 cricketers now lost two in a row as they went down to their English counterparts by three wickets in a close encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Gaining in confidence after their first win of the tour, England skipper Azeem Rafiq sent the hosts in to bat. Opener Anamul Haq held things up at one end, but saw wickets tumble at the other as the hosts were reduced to 66 for four in 21 overs.

Anamul had a 92-run sixth wicket partnership with Shabbir Rahman who scored 53 runs off 57 deliveries that

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## Stalemate at the BNS

SPORTS REPORTER



Arambagh KS held Brothers Union to a goalless draw while Chittagong Abahani recorded a lone-goal win over rivals Chittagong Mohammedan in the Bangladesh League yesterday.

Mithun Chowdhury struck the all-important goal seven minutes into the second half to give the port city's Sky Blues a first win in their second match at the MA Aziz Stadium. It was the second successive defeat for Chittagong Mohammedan, who were well beaten 6-1 by visiting Arambagh in their league opener last week.

Chittagong Abahani raised their points tally to four from two outings, equal with Arambagh, Brothers and Farashganj SC after giants Abahani, Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel jointly lead the table with six points each.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Arambagh and Brothers played a fast-paced game with attack and counterattack though no one could find the target in the 90-minute regulation time.

However, Arambagh, who came to play in their second match after thrashing hosts Chittagong Mohammedan 6-1, enjoyed superior ball possession against the falling giants Brothers, who won their first match with a last-gasp goal from Ghanaian Enok Bentil against Mukti Juddha Sangsad.

Arambagh striking duo Nigerian Shubair Muhammad Omobolaji and local Alfaz Ahmed

threatened from the beginning and Shubair came close to putting Arambagh ahead in the very sixth minute when a powerful free kick from outside the area narrowly went wide of the sidebar and then the Nigerian striker floated over a close-range shot much to the relief of Brothers goalkeeper Iran Sheikh.

Brothers mustered their first shot on the target in the 14th minute when Bentil forced Arambagh goalkeeper Mitul Hasan to a diving save. Brothers players frequently tried their luck with long range shots, but they could hardly trouble Mitul.

Mitul's counterparts Iran was also solid under Brothers post as he brilliantly saved the Gopibagh-based outfit foiling a Moloy drive off a Shubair square pass inside the box on the half-way mark of the first half.

Iran also made two good saves in the second half to deny Alfaz and Kenyan Nicodemus Anunda while substitute Maksudul Alam Bulbul almost gave Brothers a lead seven minutes from time when he let loose a powerful shot outside the box, but Arambagh goalkeeper Mitul fabulously gripped Bulbul's shot in his second effort.

Both coaches were happy after collecting one point each from the match.

"Definitely our side played good game compared to their performance in the Federation Cup and I would have been more happy if they could collect full three points from the match. However, I am happy to have earned a point against Brothers Union," said

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## Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrani Bank won by one run against Indira Road in a nail-biting finish in the First Division Cricket League yesterday. Chasing a victory target of 150, Indira Road failed by the slimmest margin as they ended up scoring 148 for 9 in 50 overs. Maruf Reza top-scored with 50 for Agrani bank while Indira Road's highest came from the bat of Manik Kumar (41).

In the other matches of the day, Sk. Jamal Dhanmondi Club defeated Gopibagh Friends Association by 7 wickets while Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club beat Young Pegasus by 14 runs.



PHOTO: STAR

England Under-19s' Ateeq Javed is about to sweep one during his unbeaten 63 against Bangladesh Under-19s in the sixth youth ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.