

## Jamie eyeing a fitting end

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

The instruction was there to prepare a true batting track for today's fifth and final one-day match to ease the criticism over the last match's pitch at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. But it was not sure whether it would be possible to bring changes in the character of the track, though it's a new one, with only two days preparation.

The teams were however not too much concerned about the track, rather both focused on how they can improve their own performance.

One may feel there is no stake for the Tigers when they take on Zimbabwe in today's inconsequential last match after the home side clinched the series with one match in hand but Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons has still something to achieve from the last battle against Zimbabwe.

"It feels great to have won the series with one game to go. I guess you can relax a bit but we still have a lot of players who are under-performing. Ashraful has made one score in four hits. Riyad (Mahmudullah), Nayem (Islam) and Zunaed (Siddiqui) have done nothing in this series. So we have a lot of room for improvement. We need these guys to perform to do well as a team against better opposition," Siddons explained.

The Bangladesh coach said there is no scope to be complacent in today's game because winning is a habit which will help the team to push the big opponents, especially when they are scheduled to meet India and Sri Lanka at home in January next year in the tri-nation one-day series.

"It feels good to be winning. The players are getting used to winning and that's a good thing. When we play India and Sri Lanka we'll know how to win and they'll need to play their best cricket to beat us. That's the beauty of what's happening to us at the moment," he opined.

And that's why the Australian was also not interested to give captain Shakib Al Hasan a rest in the match though the all-rounder is yet to recover hundred percent from his groin injury.

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### BTV & SuperSport5

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe  
Fifth ODI  
Live from 9:30am

**Neo Cricket & SuperSport2**

India v Australia  
Fifth ODI  
Live from 4:00pm

**SuperSport3**

UEFA Euro League  
Hamburger v Celtic

Live from 12:30am (Friday)

Erverton v Benfica

Live from 3:00am (Friday)

**SuperSport7**

UEFA Euro League  
AS Roma v Fulham

Live from 12:30am (Friday)

**ESPN**

Sportcenter India  
Sports News

Live at 9:30pm

## U-19s end on a high

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team ended their series against visiting England Under-19s with an eight-run win in the seventh and last one-day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday to take the series 5-2.

This triumph comes on the back of a 2-1 win against the same opponents in their own backyard in July. And this will be considered as a big boost for the young Tigers ahead of the ICC Under-19 World Cup which begins in January next year in New Zealand.

After confirming the series by winning the first four matches, the local boys probably let their feet off the gas a bit as they lost the next two, but came back strongly in the last match to prove their credentials as one of the outside challengers for the World Cup title.

It was an all-out effort in the last game that confirmed their victory. They put on 206 before being all out in the last over against the visitors, thanks to a half-century from opener Saikat Ali and 32 from one-down Amit Majumder.

Skipper Mahmudul Hasan then led from the front as he took three wickets to restrict the English youths to 198 all out in 49.1 overs. There was one consolation for the visitors as their opening batsman Joe Root was named man-of-the-series for his consistent form with the bat.

This series was billed as a preparation for the World Cup by both teams. So this comfortable series victory would, if nothing else, work as a confidence-booster for the young Tigers and go in some way to validate the predictions of coach Minhazul Abedin and captain Hasan that they hoped to finish among the top fours in the World Cup.

Spin attack has always been the strength of the Bangladesh side, with two leg-spinners and a couple of all-rounders in the side. It was due to their efficiency that got Bangladesh out of trouble on number of occasions. Bangladesh team management can now ease a bit about the batting as well which has done better than expected this time around, with most of the upper and middle order batsmen getting runs.

Bangladesh Under-19 side will now host Zimbabwe Under-19s later this month as their last preparation for the World Cup.

### FIFTH ODI TODAY Crucial match for both India and Australia

PTI, Hyderabad

With the seven-match series tantalisingly poised 2-2, India will have to overcome their batting shortcomings when they go into the crucial fifth one-day international against a spirited but depleted Australia here on Thursday.

The Indians, seeking to dethrone Australia from the number one spot in world rankings, will be strengthened by the expected return of Gautam Gambhir, who had to skip last match due to a neck injury.

Although left-hander Gambhir's presence will lend solidity to the top-order, the worrying factor for the hosts has been the lack of good starts in the series so far.

Clearly the onus is on the Indian batsmen to deliver the goods on a track which according to the curator has plenty of runs to offer but will also aid the bowlers.

### School h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Scholastica and BAF Shaheen School & College emerged champions in girl's and boy's group respectively in the 18th Bata School Handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Sports Complex ground yesterday.

Scholastica recorded a hard-fought 4-3 win over Sunnydale in the girl's final while Shaheen School registered 16-12 win over St Gregory's High School in the boy's final.

Raisa Habib of Sunnydale was named the best player in the girl's group while Farman Hossain of St Gregory's was adjudged the best player in the boy's group.

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Players and officials of Bangladesh Under-19 team pose for photographs after a successful home series against their English counterparts at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The youths won the seventh and final limited-overs match here yesterday and clinched the series 5-2. They also won the lone four-day Test.

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