

Pakistan draw first blood

Cricket

AGENCIES, Chennai

Pakistan beat India by 6 wickets in the first one-day international in Chennai on Sunday.

Pakistan opener Nasir

SCOREBOARD

INDIA	R	B	4s	6s
Gambhir b Irfan	8	17	1	0
Sehwag b Junaid	4	11	1	0
Kohli b Junaid	0	5	0	0
Yuvraj b Junaid	2	3	0	0
Rohit b Hafeez b Junaid	4	14	0	0
Raina b Hafeez	43	88	2	0
Dhoni not out	113	125	7	3
Ashwin not out	31	39	2	0
Extras: (lb-11, w-9, nb-2) 22				
Total: (For 6 wkt in 50 overs) 227				
Did not bat: Kumar, Ishant, Dinda				
Fall of wickets 1-17, 2-17, 3-19, 4-20, 5-29, 6-102				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Irfan	9	2	58	1
Junaid	9	1	43	4
Gul	8	0	38	0
Ajmal	10	1	42	0
Hafeez	10	2	26	1
Malik	4	0	9	0
PAKISTAN	R	B	4s	6s
Hafeez b Kumar	0	1	0	0
Junaid not out	101	132	5	1
Azhar c Rohit b Kumar	9	38	0	0
Younis c Ashwin b Dinda	58	60	3	1
Misbah b Ishant	16	24	1	0
Malik not out	34	35	3	0
Extras: (lb-6, w-3, nb-1) 10				
Total: (For 6 wkt in 48.1 overs) 228				
Did not bat: K Akmal, Junaid, Gul, Ajmal, Irfan				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-21, 3-133, 4-172				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	9	3	27	2
Ishant	10	0	39	1
Dinda	9.1	0	45	1
Ashwin	10	0	34	0
Yuvraj	5	0	33	0
Raina	2.1	0	23	0
Kohli	2.5	0	21	0



Pakistan opener Nasir Jamshed plays a pull shot during the first one-day international against India in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Jamshed scored his second ODI hundred, remained not out at 101, and Shoaib Malik made 34.

Earlier, India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni single-handedly resurrected India's innings with a defiant unbeaten century as the hosts recovered from a top-order collapse to post a fighting 227 for 6.

Pacer Junaid Khan justified his captain Misbahul Haq's decision to bowl first in damp conditions with a four-

wicket haul, which cleaned up the Indian top-order, before Dhoni (113 off 125 balls) got going and brought the home team back into the match.

The under-fire skipper, who also completed 7,000 ODI runs during the course of his innings, rescued the hosts with some fine support from Suresh Raina (43) and Ravichandran Ashwin (31 notout) down the order.

Dhoni and Ashwin shared the best-ever seventh-wicket

partnership for India, adding 125 runs.

But to start with, it seemed like a nightmare unfolding for India with struggling opener Virender Sehwag becoming Junaid's first victim.

The Delhi batsman, considered a game-changer for his ability to take the attack to the opposition, swung it Pakistan's way after slogging for 11 balls to get four runs.

The right-hander, already under fire for failing repeatedly in the lost Test series against England, did his reputation no good by failing to pick a Junaid inswinger, which crashed into his middle and off stumps.

What followed was a procession of sorts as the top-half of the Indian line-up made quick return to the dressing room.

Big guns such as Gautam Gambhir (8), Virat Kohli (0) and Yuvraj Singh (2) made blink-and-miss appearances as Junaid worked his magic, getting ample support from Mohammad Irfan and pace spearhead Umar Gul.

The big four of the Indian batting order were all bowled, three of them by Junaid, who seemed unplayable in the damp

conditions as per the over-night train.

'Should be fit for BPL'

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace Bangladesh all-rounder

Shakib Al Hasan has said that he expects to be fit in time for the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20, which begins on January 18. Shakib was earlier diagnosed with a shin injury after Bangladesh's second Test match against the West Indies in November and had been advised to 'stay away from sporting activities' for six weeks.

Speaking to reporters in Mirpur, he said, "I should be fit in time for the BPL. I haven't begun running as yet, but I might do so in a week's time. Despite missing out on the Tigers' win against the West Indies, Shakib had an eventful year on the field.

From guiding the Tigers to the finals of the Asia Cup and winning the Indian Premier League as part of the Kolkata Knight Riders to becoming the quickest Bangladeshi to pick up 100 wickets in Test cricket, Shakib was on the dot throughout the year.

The series of achievements however did not seem to have sated his appetite for success. "I don't think I have done anything great this year. I did reach the 100 wicket mark... but I only played two Tests," said Shakib.

When asked about how his married life was panning out, Shakib said, "There isn't much of a difference really. I still like coming to the field. Things are how it used to be."

BHF Eleven win V-Day tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation Eleven emerged champions in the Southeast Bank Victory Day Hockey Tournament with a 4-1 win over BKSP in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Chelsea suffered a blow at the break when Cech had to be replaced by Ross Turnbull.

But they did not seem disrupted and after a neat move, Azpilicueta passed inside for David Luiz to drive a shot high and wide of goal from just outside the area.

Fernando Torres also had his first effort on goal midway through the second period, hitting a powerful drive from just outside the area that was turned away by Howard.

Just as it looked like Everton were tiring, Osman burst onto a return pass from Anichebe and was denied by a fine low save from Turnbull.

Chelsea's fourth successive Premier League win takes them up to third in the table, four points behind second-placed Manchester City with a game in hand.

For Benitez, who endured jeers from the Everton fans throughout a game that extended his unbeaten run against them to eight league matches, the only downside was losing goalkeeper Petr Cech to an ankle problem at half-time.

It was a frustrating day for the hosts, who dominated for long

periods and hit the woodwork three times, only to slip to just a third league defeat of the season.

Everton's bench showed just how stretched their squad was by the fresh absences of Phil Neville and Darron Gibson.

But the hosts could not have wished for a better start, which saw David Moyes' men take the lead with just over a minute gone.

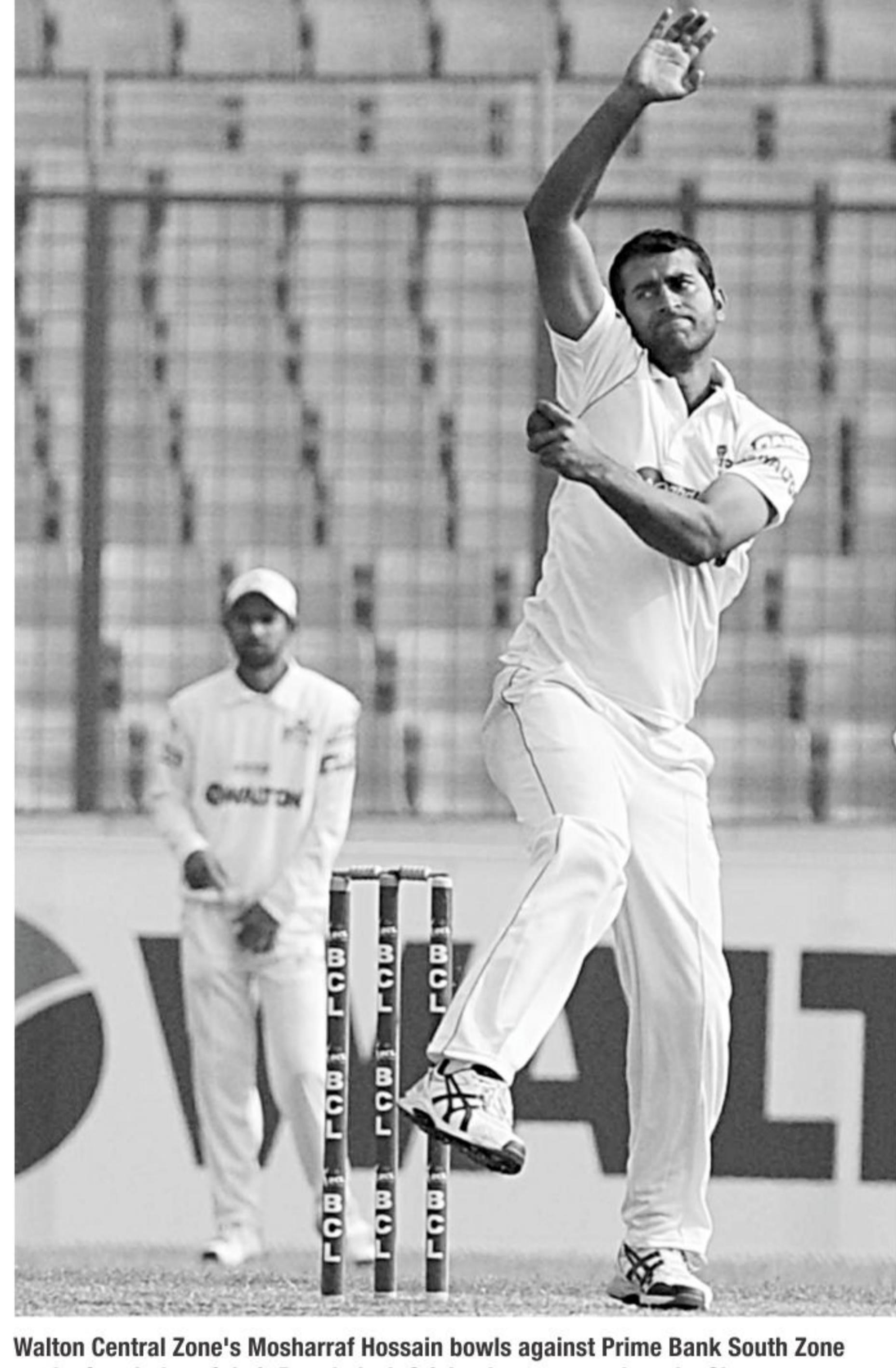
Phil Jagielka was playing out of position at right-back but he charged forward onto a Pienaar pass and his cross was headed against the post by Victor Anichebe.

Nikica Jelavic moved out of the way of the rebound to leave Pienaar the space to thump a shot into the bottom-left corner.

Croatian striker Jelavic

was allowed to burst through midfield and after his shot was blocked by John Heitinga, Juan Mata's follow-up was saved by goalkeeper Tim Howard.

They went even closer when Cesar Azpilicueta's cross ran across the



Walton Central Zone's Mosharraf Hossain bowls against Prime Bank South Zone on the fourth day of their Bangladesh Cricket League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Robiul lights up day of draws

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The first-round match of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) between Walton Central Zone and Prime Bank South Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium eventually turned out to be a draw at the end of the fourth day yesterday. However, for a moment it seemed as though Robiul Islam's terrific opening spell, which included four wickets in the very first over of the fourth innings, would produce a win for South Zone.

South Zone, after beginning the day on 31 for 1, were bundled out for 216. Central Zone required 127 runs to win their first game of the BCL. It seemed as though it was going to be just a walk in the park for the Central Zone, but Robiul took the new ball and removed Asif Ahmed, Mohammad Ashraful, Marshal Ayub and Mehrab Hossain Jr in the span of six balls. He later picked the wicket of Shamsur Rahman and reduced Central Zone to 18 for 5.

It took a patient 50 off 83 balls from Mahmudullah Riyad to save Central's blushes. They ended the day on 93 for 6. Earlier, Mosharraf Hossain ran through South Zone's batting order as he claimed four wickets. Shahadat Hossain and Elias

Sunny chipped in with three and two wickets respectively.

There were no surprises in the day's other match though. The contest between Islami Bank East Zone and BCB North Zone, at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, was expected to be a stalemate. East Zone roared on an unbeaten century from Dhiman Ghosh and some hard hitting from Faisal Hossain down the order to cross the 400 mark. They finished the day on 419 for 8. Spinners Saqlain Sajib and Suhraward Shuvo took two wickets each for the North Zone.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE: First innings 343 all out in 73 overs and second innings 216 all out in 66.4 overs (Tushar 65, Rubel 44; Mosharraf 4-68, Shahadat 3-72).

WALTON CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 433 for 9 dec in 115.4 overs and second innings 93 for 6 in 29 overs (Riyad 50 not out; Robiul 5-17)

Result: Draw

Player of the match: Mosharraf Hossain
BCB NORTH ZONE: First innings 499 for 6 in 131 overs.

ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE: First innings 419 for 8 in 114 overs (Dhiman 107 not out, Faisal 91; Shuvo 2-61, Saqlain 2-64).

Result: Draw

Player of the match: Dhiman Ghosh.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Paving	24	Conger or moray
1	Paid	goop	41	"— is life!"
4	Taxi	45	Con	game
7	Expert	48	Absolutely	
12	Potential	47	Pair	syrup
13	Lennon's	52	Use a	towel
14	Similar	53	Photo-	shop
15	Citric	54	Reading	matter, for
16	Under-	55	short	reduction
18	Jeremy of	59	90-degree	shape
19	Tijuana	56	Therefore	old name
20	Rolling	57	57 Tokyo's	Bailey
21	stone's	58	58 Deli loaf	lack
22	nightfall	DOWN	21	22
23	Antitoxins	1	Any of	22
27	— de	150 in the	23	24
28	deux	Bible	Revue	25
29	Mainte-	segments	41	26
31	nance	Solution time: 25 mins.	42	43
34	Quibblers		43	44
35	split these		44	Rulebook
36	wiggle?		45	compiler
37	"Rabbit,		46	Desperate
38	Run,"		47	Housewife"
39	author		48	Director
40	Feedbag		49	Preminger
41	morsel		50	Doo
42	piratic		51	follower
43	quaff			