

V-Day belongs to Shaheed Jewel XI

SPORTS REPORTER

Rokibul Hasan continued on his good run with the bat as he hammered 111 in the Victory Day Exhibition match and led his side Shaheed Jewel XI to a thrashing 149-run win over Shaheed Mushtaque XI at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Shaheed Jewel XI were restricted to 285 for 9. Rokibul was the highest scorer and was ably supported by Junaed Siddique's 33 off 23 balls. Rokibul hit 12 fours and three sixes during his 87-ball stint. For Shaheed Mushtaque, Enamul Haque Jr was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4 for 38. Shahadat Hossain was also among the wickets and ended on 3 for 33.

In reply, Shaheed Mushtaque XI were bundled out for just 136 in 27 overs, with Marshall Ayub top-scoring with 20. Elias Sunny (three for 7) and Naeem Islam (two for 13) were the chief wicket-takers for Shaheed Jewel.

Odds against India

AFP, Johannesburg

The odds seem stacked against India as they prepare to take on world champions South Africa in their first Test series since the retirement of batting icon Sachin Tendulkar.

The first of two Test matches starts at the Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg on Wednesday, a ground which should suit South Africa's formidable fast bowling attack.

India have had minimal opportunity to adjust to South Africa's fast, bouncy pitches.

On a tour controversially shortened to the minimum three one-day internationals and two Tests, they were bowled out for 217 and 146 in the first two one-day games and did not bat in the final match because of rain.

A planned two-day match against a South African Invitation XI was abandoned without a ball bowled.

Under the original itinerary announced by South Africa, but rejected by India, the tourists would have played in two Twenty20 internationals, seven one-day internationals and two two-day games before playing the first Test.

India have won their most recent six Test matches but all were played at home.

They have not played a Test outside India since January 2012 when they were beaten 4-0 in Australia to extend to eight their losing streak away from home. Before that they lost by the same margin in England.

South Africa have gone unbeaten in 13 series in their ascent to the top of the International Cricket Council rankings but their most recent two series against second-ranked India, away in 2009-10 and at home the following season, have ended tied at 1-1.

South Africa boast a stable batting order and a formidable pace attack.

AB de Villiers and Hashim Amla are first and second in the Test batting rankings, with Graeme Smith and veteran Jacques Kallis also in the top 12.

India's highest-ranked batsman is Cheteshwar Pujara, at six, while Virat Kohli and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni are 20th and 21st.



Shaheed Jewel XI batsman Rokibul Hasan acknowledges the crowd's applause after scoring a century against Shaheed Mushtaque XI in the Victory Day exhibition cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Zia finishes 18th

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman became 18th in the 5th London Chess Classic FIDE Open after drawing his ninth and last round game against Russian IM Alexey Slavin at the Olympia Conference Centre in Kensington, London on Sunday.

Zia earned six points from nine games to finish at 18th position, said a press release yesterday.

Fahad leaving for UAE

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman leaves here today to take part in the World Youth Chess Championship, beginning from tomorrow at Al-Ain in UAE. Fahad will play in Under-10 Group. Fahad's father Nazrul Islam will accompany him while BCF official Haroon-Or-Rashid is also going to conduct the tournament as International arbiter.

V-DAY SPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER

USHA BEAT AZAD

Usha Krira Chakra defeated Azad Sporting Club by 3-1 goals in the Walton Victory Day Hockey competition at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Maksud. Ajit and Rubel scored for the winners while Sohanur reduced the arrears for the losing side.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Air Force drew 2-2 against Bangladesh Police. Mukit scored both goals for Air Force while Rana and John scored for Police.

ARMY RETAIN V-DAY TITLE

Bangladesh Army clinched the title of Victory Day Volleyball Competition for the fifth time in a row and ninth overall when they defeated Power Development Board in the final at the Volleyball Stadium in Paltan yesterday. The final was a closely-contested affair

which Bangladesh Army won in five sets (25-21, 17-25, 16-25, 25-16, 25-12). Bangladesh Air Force clinched the third spot beating Titas Gas in straight sets. Masud Milon of Army and Ajay Sarkar of PDB jointly won the most valuable player awards.

BGB TAKE KABADDI TITLE

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) became champions in the Victory Day Kabaddi Competition, despite losing their last match of the group against Bangladesh Army 9-10 at the Kabaddi Stadium in Paltan, thanks to more points earned overall. Bangladesh Police clinched the third spot after beating Fire Service by 37-14 points in an earlier match. Shariful of BGB and Faisal of Police were adjudged the best player of the competition jointly.

ARMY CLINCH RUGBY TITLE

Bangladesh Army clinched the title of Victory Day Rugby Competition after thrashing Flame Boys by 31-07 points

in the final at the Paltan Ground yesterday. Four teams – Army, Flame Boys, Victoria Sporting and Khilgaon Pragati Sangha – participated in the day-long competition and after the league matches the top two teams qualified for the final.

SONALI OTIT HOLD FOOTBALL MATCH

To mark the Victory Day, Sonali Otit Club held a friendly football match among themselves at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday where Green team defeated Red team by 3-1 goals. Former national players Satayjit Das Rupu, Arman Mia and Polo scored one goal each for Green while Abu Faisal scored a consolation goal for the Red team.

Before the start of the 60-minute game, the players observed one minute's silence in memory of those who sacrificed their lives during the War of Independence in 1971.

England still alive

AFP, Perth



Rookie Ben Stokes kept England's faint hopes alive with his maiden Test half-century as the visitors fought to save the

Ashes series against a rampant Australia Monday.

Set an improbable 504 to win, England were 251 for five at stumps on Day Four, still 252 runs behind with just five wickets in hand on a heavily cracked Perth pitch.

Stokes, playing just his second Test, was providing resistance on 72, with wicketkeeper Matt Prior on seven and all of England's top order back in the pavilion.

Australia will be heavily favoured to mop up England's tail on the final day and regain the famous Ashes urn for the first time since 2007 after their big wins in Brisbane and Adelaide.

Most of the lingering optimism for England dried up after tea, when Kevin Pietersen again fell to a rash shot and then Ian Bell was given out on a successful decision review by the home side.

After a catastrophic day for the tourists on Sunday, when they conceded a big lead to the Australians, things only got worse for them on the fourth day.

Centurion Shane Watson and George Bailey humiliated the England attack before Australia declared on 369 for six, making them the first team to be set a target of more than 500 in three successive Tests.

England's chase then got off to a disastrous start when captain Alastair Cook fell for a golden duck, the first of his 100-Test career, from the first ball of their second innings.

Cook, clean-bowled by a beauty from Ryan Harris, also became the first player to suffer the ignominy of a first-ball duck in their centenary match.

Fellow opener Michael Carberry again looked solid, but was trapped lbw by Shane Watson for 31, while Joe Root defended grimly for 125 minutes before being caught behind off Mitchell Johnson for 19.

SCOREBOARD				
AUSTRALIA: First innings 385 (Smith 111; Broad 3-100)				
ENGLAND: First innings 251 (Cook 72; Siddie 3-36)				
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 235-3)				
Rogers c Carberry b Bresnan	54			
Warner c Stokes b Swann	112			
Watson run out	103			
Clarke b Stokes	23			
Smith c sub (Bairstow) b Stokes	15			
Bailey not out	39			
Haddin c Swann b Bresnan	5			
Johnson not out	0			
Extras: (b-8, lb-5, w-5)	18			
Total: (For 6 wkts decl in 87 overs)	369			
Did not bat: Siddie, Harris, Lyon				
Fall of wickets: 1-157, 2-183, 3-223, 4-301, 5-331, 6-340				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	19	5	105	0
Bresnan	14	3	53	2
Stokes	18	1	82	2
Swann	27	8	92	1
Root	9	1	24	0
ENGLAND: Second innings				
Cook b Harris	0			
Carberry lbw Watson	31			
Root c Haddin b Johnson	19			
Pietersen c Harris b Lyon	45			
Bell c Haddin b Siddie	60			
Stokes not out	72			
Prior not out	7			
Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-5)	17			
Total: (for 5 wkts in 67 overs)	251			
To bat: Broad, Bresnan, Swann, Anderson				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-62, 3-76, 4-121, 5-220				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harris	10	1	51	1
Johnson	15	3	52	1
Lyon	15	2	49	1
Siddie	18	6	56	1
Watson	9	1	31	1



Australia batsman Shane Watson celebrates his century on the fourth day of the third Ashes Test against England in Perth yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bailey a la Lara

AFP, Perth

Australia batsman George Bailey equalled Brian Lara's Test record for most runs off an over against England in Perth on Monday.

West Indian great Lara hit 28 runs off an over from South Africa's Robin Peterson in Johannesburg in 2003.

Bailey matched the feat when he took the same tally off paceman Jimmy Anderson in the final over of Australia's second innings on the fourth day of the third Test.

The Tasmanian, in only his third Test, hit three sixes and two fours in the over.

MOST RUNS IN AN OVER		
Batsman	Runs	Bowler
B Lara	28	R Peterson
G Bailey	28	J Anderson
S Afridi	27	Harbhajan Singh
C McMillan	26	Younis Khan
B Lara	26	D Kaneria
M Johnson	26	P Harris

Ashes literally scattered on MCG turf!

INTERNET, Melbourne

Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), the largest cricket ground in the world, was subject to a rather bizarre event recently.

Some 30,000 fans had gathered at this iconic ground, venue to the fourth Ashes Test match on an open day; when some of these fans took the status of this ground as an Ashes Venue literally by smuggling in the mortal remains of their loved ones to scatter on the turf.

Bowling ban on Shillingford

AFP, Wellington

West Indies spinner Shane Shillingford has been banned from bowling at international level after tests found his action illegal, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said Monday.

An independent biomechanical analysis showed Shillingford's elbow extended beyond the permitted 15 degrees on his standard off-break delivery and his doosra, the ICC said in a statement.

"He is suspended from bowling in international cricket until such time that he has submitted to a fresh analysis, which concludes that he has remedied his bowling action," it said.

Shillingford's teammate, Marlon Samuels, was subjected to similar tests, which showed his standard off-break was legal but his quicker delivery was not, meaning he can only bowl his slower ball in international matches.

The actions of the West Indies pair were reported during their team's second Test against India in Mumbai last month.

The ICC ordered them to undergo independent testing which was conducted in Australia while the players participated in the West Indies' first two Tests in New Zealand.

Both players have previously been banned from bowling because of illegal actions.

Samuels did not bowl for three years after first being reported in 2008, while Shillingford was banned in 2010 and returned a year later after undergoing remedial work on his action.

The ICC said if Samuels was reported again for a suspect action in the next two years and analysis backed up the concerns, he would face an automatic one-year ban.

There was no immediate reaction from the West Indies. The ICC said both players had the right to appeal.

The West Indies' third and final Test against New Zealand begins in Hamilton on Thursday. They trail the series one-nil.

