# **Positive Tigers**



HASAN MASOOD, from Karachi

Bangladesh coach Day Whatmore was confident that the graph of his team's performance would go upwards when the first Test against Pakistan begins in Karachi today.

"I am hopeful that what we have learnt in the last six weeks in Australia would continue here. And that's what we want to do," said Whatmore during the team's final practice session at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday.

"My message to all Bangladeshi people is that Bangladesh is going to try as hard as they can. The team will be as competitive as they can be to show that they are gradually going up," added the Bangladesh

When asked which area did his team need improvement in. Whatmore said that it was not a case of just picking one area.

"If you are going to be competitive against any opposition, you have to do well in all the areas. And that is our objective to show continuos improvement in every depart-

Captain Khaled Mahmud also assured that the team was determined to show that they have improved a lot over the last months under the able guidance of

"Everybody is aware that we have come here to play good cricket. The determination and the commitment in the team is very high that's why we have to do well in every department

"We don't want to leave any room

for the critics. We want to put behind our poor image, said a confident Mahmud.

When asked whether he wanted to play a practice match before the first Test, he said that it would have been helpful had they played a three-day match but lack of time prevented a request being made.

"We came back from Australia on August 9 and then got only eight days before coming here. So it was not possible to ask for such a match.

"But I still believe that won't affect my team because we are in a good shape. We played in Australia, we trained hard for four days in Dhaka and three days here. So, I think it's not a big deal that we didn't play a practice match.

About his opponents, Mahmud termed the home team as clear

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#### **TEN Sports**

Bangladesh vs Pakistan First Test, Day One Live at 11:00 am **Champions Trophy Hockey** Australia vs German Live at 6:30 pm

> Argentina vs India Live at 8:30 pm **ESPN**

English Premier Football League Leeds United vs Newcastle United Repeat at 8:30 pm

> Liverpool vs Chelsea Repeat at 4:00 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm

Western Union world Football Repeat at 9:30 pm

#### **STAR Sports**

Soccer Soap Dream Team Repeat at 8:30 am **English Premier Football League** Arsenal vs Everton Taped Version at 12:30 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm



Inzamamul Haq

(Pakistan star batsman) It is great to be back in the team. Once I was called to the camp I was confident I would be picked in the Test squad."

#### Nipa keeps losing

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

National women's champion FIDE Master Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa lost her third round game against P Priya of India in the Asian Women Chess Championship at Calicut in India on Tuesday

#### Div II chess from today

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

The Second Division Chess League, organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation, starts at 3:00pm at the federation's Chess Room

26 teams are participating in the

### Pitch poses questions

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER, from Karachi

The pitch prepared for the first Test at the Karachi National Stadium has evoked some interesting reaction in both the Bangladesh and Pakistan

The day before the start of the first Test, the feeling was that it was under-prepared.

Local journalists said that the pitch which was originally readied for the match by the grounds staff, was changed at the last moment after Pakistan coach Javed Miandad and captain Rashid Latif had reportedly expressed their dissatisfaction with the track.

They selected a new pitch according to their desire on Monday. just 48 hours before the match apparently to gain home advantage. But the chief curator of PCB Agha Zahid yesterday denied the

allegation claiming the wicket was chosen a week in advance. Although the pitch looked under-

prepared to the naked eye, Miandad backed the chief curator saying that t was absolutely all right for Test

Whatmore brushed aside the controversy saying he didn't mind the home team calling for a pitch of their

surface," said Whatmore

Whatmore said that it was more important for his batsmen to play the bowlers without worrying about the

do is play on whatever pitch is given. And we will be as competitive as we

'We are ready to play on any surface given to us. If the pitch is SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



MR. RELIABLE: Bangladesh batsman Habibul Bashar prepares himself for a net session at the National Stadium in

# Clash of titans today

Hockey

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Hockey heavyweights Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club clash in the final first round match of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League Security will be extra tight at the

Maulana Bhasani Stadium for the biggest match of league. The last meeting of the titans in

June was a bittersweet one especially for Abahani. Immediately after the Club Cup

final, which they lost after a last minute by their arch-rivals, the skyblue players led by captain Mahbubul Ehsan Rana and coach Jummon Lusai assaulted an umpire. The unsavory incident prompted lengthy bans being

imposed on the coach and Abahan

Defending champions Abahani go into the last preliminary game with an impressive all-win record They are currently leading the table with 24 points from eight matches.

Mohammedan, on the other hand, are two points behind playing the same number of outings. The black and whites dropped two valuable points against Mariner Young's Club in their previous encounter.

Abahani's main concern was their reserve bench that only has two inexperienced goalkeepers Selim Junior and Alamgir available.

Indian trio of Christopher Thomas, Amor Ayamma and MK Prakash has helped Abahani along their way to the top of the standings. But they received a blow with the news that Prakash will miss the

### Shoaib warns BD

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar said Tuesday he has improved after a stint with English county Durham and the national side is set to reap the benefit. "It's hell of an experience and I

now feel I am a improved bowler and can serve the country in a better way," Shoaib told this news agency on the eve of the first Test against Bangladesh here The 27-year-old, known as the

Rawalpindi Express, started his first English county stint with Durham in

He was initially allowed to skip the home series against Bangladesh to continue his county assignment. However, an injury to fellow pace bowler Mohammad Sami forced the Pakistan selectors to summon Shoaib for the series

Shoaib will play the first two Tests against Bangladesh before returnng to England.

"I am enjoying county cricket and now my length is a yard further, just like Australian Glenn McGrath and now I am more for length than speed," said Shoaib, who has twice achieved the unique feat of crossing the 100 miles an hour (160 kilometres an hour) mark with his deliveries.

"I have taken some 35 wickets in seven matches and want to return for another few matches to help the county gain promotion in the first division," said Shoaib, who has taken 88 Test and 145 one-day wickets. "Durham people are very good,

hospitable and I want to do something for them. A rib injury deprived Shoaib of

playing for Nottinghamshire in the "I have always wanted to play

**SEE PAGE 14 COL 5** 

### Indians learning yoga

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

Sachin Tendulkar and India's other top cricketers are being taught the ancient art of yoga by an aerospace scientist, who believes meditation will help them fine tune their body

"Yoga is a way of life," said SN Omkar, a senior scientific advisor to the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science here

"It has to do with the way you nandle things. If applied to a cricketer it helps him beat stressful conditions on the ground and off the ground. It teaches him to keep detached.

"All these are very essential to a modern day sportsman," Omkar told this news agency after a stint with India's 36 cricket probables taking part in a fitness camp here.

At a five-star hotel in India's aviation and technology hub, Omkar attended to batting maestro Tendulkar and put him through the paces with stretching exercises.

Tendulkar, who suffered a groin njury two seasons ago, listened navigating difficult exercises with the help of cushions, mats and

"Essentially one is looking at core muscles (quadriceps, back muscles and hamstrings)," Omkar A suitably impressed Tendulkar

devoted an extra 30 minutes to the yoga session even as teammates wound up for the day "Yoga is not for the back or for

any other injuries," Tendulkar told "It is a very good thing to do. It can only help and cannot damage

anything. So I look at it in a positive way.
"It is the overall mental feel... the feel-good factor helps to relax. I

would recommend it to everyone." Omkar said the cricketers will benefit from yoga as focussed

create harmony of the body and "It is the balance of mind which is vital. One should never get emotionally disturbed," said Omkar, who has been teaching yoga to local cricket-

breathing techniques and stretching

Indian paceman Javagal Srinath, spinner Anil Kumble and batsman

ers in Bangalore for a decade.

closely to his 42-year-old tutor while Rahul Dravid, all based in Bangalore, are regular students of

Omkar said being a scientist

understands the subject of yoga,"

core muscles

against New Zealand at home in world champions Australia.

India are also due to tour Australia later this year for four Test

#### **Asghar sits** Latif's words

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Ali Asghar, the president of the renamed Board of Control for Cricket in Bangladesh (BCCB) yesterday refused to say anything about téam manager MA Latif's interview in Urdu.

"I am not going to make anything about the issue instead I want to see my boys perform in Pakistan," he told The Daily Star Sport yesterday. But the BCCB boss, however,

said that he would talk with to the man in question after the team returns from Pakistan to learn the On Sunday evening, Latif gave

Latif's surprise choice of language sparked off an adverse reaction back in Bangladesh.

#### Usha enter **Super Fives**

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Usha Krira Chakra completed the 'Super Five' line-up yesterday after thrashing Mariner Young's Club 4-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National

Sporting Club in the next phase which is likely to begin on August 22. Usha rode on three goals by Indian Bikramjit Singh and striker Moududur Rahman Shuvo.

They finished their first round campaign with 15 points from nine matches while giants Mariner bagging just nine points from as many matches.

in the third minute and doubled the margin in the 25th minute converting a penalty-stroke. After the break, Shuvo extended the winners lead scoring a field goal in the 65th minute while Bikram

**SONALI BANK-BIMA** 

Earlier in the first match, impressive Sonali Bank came from behind to crush Sadharan Bima 5-1. The bankers led the first half 2-1.

Kishore Kujur, Sumon and Indian Gurandar Singh scored apiece for the winners while Abdul Wahab netted for the losers.

### TV replays to blame

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh Monday blamed television replays for placing too much emphasis on sledging and said modern cricket was played in a good

"There is far too much talk about sledging," said Waugh. "Generally, these days cricket is played in the right spirit and occasionally things do go wrong.

"And when they do go wrong you have 20 or 30 television replays and people come to talk about it," Waugh told the gathering of cricket lovers after delivering a talk on "Leading a Winning Team".

Former Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee recently reacted sharply to Indian batting legend Sunil Gavaskar's comments last month accusing Australia of harming the game's image through their on-field sledging.

Lillee said: "Sledging has gone

on since W.G. Grace and it will go on as long as any sport is played, not

might come to blows if personal abuse was not stopped immedi-

Australians. Waugh said sledging was often 'misinterpreted" and there was

"My definition of sledging is when someone has been giving personal views in a one-on-one situation or a group of individuals against one person. I believe that is sledging,

He said the Australians did not indulge in sledging and it was not acceptable in world cricket.

said on the cricket field and we have examples of it during the last six to 12 months. I am very aware that we

#### Zia wins

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Bangladesh Grand Master Ziaur Rahman beat International Master Mohamadesi Shahin of Iran in the third round of the Masters Tournament of the Abu Dhabi Chess Festival on Monday.

But GM Niaz Murshed lost

against GM Vasily Yemelin of Russia in the round.

Both Niaz and Zia earned 1.5 points each so far.

#### College b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Aga Khan College and BN College earned comfortable wins in the First College Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday. Aga Khan registered their first

victory thrashing RAJUK Uttara Model College 72-47 after leading the first half 33-15. Ibrahim caged highest 31 points while Siam 12 and Asif eight for the

winners. Anirban scored 17 and Tanveer 16 for the losers. BN College defeated Academia College 68-36 after dominating the

first half 40-16. This was BN College's second win in three matches while Academia

suffered their third defeat in a row. Arif was the top-scorer for BN College with 25 points while Golam



A goalmouth action during the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Mariner Young's Club and Usha Krira Chakra at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday

# because of his experience and the **CRAIG McMILLAN**

second child.

Cairns has been picked for the

Omkar's Yoga Mandir (Yoga

"In yoga there is no weakness.

another devoted to honing cricketing skills from September 1 to India face a busy international schedule with two Test matches

# Kiwis recall McMillan

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand batsman Craig McMillan has been given the chance to resurrect his international career after being picked for the Black Caps' tour of India and Pakistan beginning next month.

McMillan, who suffered a nightmare run late last year and during the World Cup in southern Africa, had been dropped for New Zealand's tour of Sri Lanka in April. But he has been drafted back into the New Zealand squad

belief that he can still reproduce his best form, selector and legendary former all-rounder Richard Hadlee "Craig is very keen to reestablish himself in the team as a senior player and to contribute

"His experience will be vital in India and the opportunity is now there for him to perform and reclaim

again," Hadlee said

New Zealand's touring party that will be missing strike bowler Shane Bond, who is recovering from an injury, and all-rounder Chris Cairns,

steady displays in New Zealand's whose wife is expecting the couple's domestic game, Hadlee said.

one-day leg of the tour. Also returning to the team after an injuryenforced absence is batsman

Bangladesh coach Dav

"My team is ready to play on any

"Well that (pitch) may be an issue for others to dwell on but all we can

helped him to teach yoga. "The training that I get in the institute has greatly enhanced my understanding of yoga. Scientific temperament adds to the way one

"For cricketers, I have specific courses which help to improve the

Everything is a strength. The fitness camp, which lasts until August 27, will be followed by

October followed soon after by a limited overs tri-series also featuring

### matches.

Bowler Michael Mason will take Bond's place in the Test team, and

had impressed selectors after

"Michael (Mason) has been a

consistent performer in the State

Championship and State Shield for several seasons and has earned his call-up," Hadlee said. "He has the ability to bowl long spells of consistent line and length. which will be useful on pitches that may not offer a lot of assistance,"

"Over the next two weeks, he will

be attending the Denis Lillee, Chennai-based, bowling clinic which should be of benefit to him." Richard Jones was retained in the side as a top-order batting "Through circumstances beyond

Hadlee said.

his control Richard was not given an opportunity when he was selected for the tour of Sri Lanka," Hadlee SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

an interview in Urdu that was carried on Pakistan Television.

Stadium. They joined holders Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Sonali Bank, Ajax

Young's failed to book their seat The winners dominated the first half 2-0. Bikram opened his account with a field goal to put his side ahead

completed the rout three minutes before final whistle after he converted a penalty-corner

Sohel struck twice while Indian

just cricket. If they think it's too bad, the authorities are there to stop it." Gavaskar warned that players

'Those who are defending sledging are those who practice it," he said, taking a swipe at the

much "conjecture" about it.

"Occasionally there are things

do not want that to happen in my

scored highest 12 for Academia SEE PAGE 14 COL 5