

## Tigers guard against complacency

SPORTS REPORTER



A volte-face Bangladesh have been warned against complacency when they go into the second one-day international against Kenya in Khulna today.

The Tigers are flying high after winning the first game at Bogra by a record 131 runs in a match where they had posted 300 runs for the first time.

"We are confident but not complacent. We made a very decent start in the series and now our main target is to carry on the momentum. There is no scope to take Kenya lightly after a convincing victory," said Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar ahead of his first game at his hometown.

The match starts at 9:30am with Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Channel i beaming live coverage

from the Khulna Divisional Stadium, which will make its debut as the fifth purpose-built international cricket venue of the country.

The south-west port city has already been gripped by cricket fever with tickets for the 15,000 capacity stadium sold out.

Bangladesh have announced an unchanged team that set records on a roll in Bogra.

The wounded Kenyans, who came here with an impressive head-to-head record of 6-1, on the other hand, warned that they would bite them.

Bashar however was upbeat to repeat their first match performance in his home ground and take his team to safety by winning the second game.

"We are not thinking about series whitewash or something like that rather our main focus is to improve match by match. It would be really fantastic for us if we could continue our batting flow in the series. We want to improve in every department but you know batting is our

main concern," he added.

"It was refreshing that our top-order got runs in the first match. And they should carry it in the second match just to prove that it was not a fluke. I have confidence in my batsmen because they have the ability to deliver," said Bashar.

The 33-year-old also expressed his satisfaction over the pitch and outfield.

"It is a very good batting wicket and the outfield is fantastic. I definitely want to win the toss here," said Bashar, who is yet to call the coin incorrectly since the home series against Sri Lanka last month.

"We are frustrated by the first match performance but it was not our real strength. We have the ability to play much better cricket. We are determined to bounce back in the series tomorrow," said Kenyan vice-captain Thomas Odoyo while talking to the reporters in the absence of skipper Steve Tikolo.

Kenya, who stunned the world by making it to the semifinals in the

2003 World Cup in South Africa, however have been starving for international exposure since then. It was only last month when they toured Zimbabwe for a five-match one-day series and they did well to draw it 2-2 after losing the first game.

"Bangladesh have improved a lot as they got opportunities to play against international cricket as a Test playing nation which was not the case for us," lamented Odoyo.

Meanwhile, it will be the last match where the 'super-sub' rule will be applicable. The ICC has decided to abandon the innovative idea following criticism of cricketers and fans alike.

### TEAMS

**BANGLADESH:** Habibul Bashar (captain), Khaled Mashud (vice-captain), Javed Omar, Shahrar Nafees, Aftab Ahmed, Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Mohammad

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PHOTO: AFP

ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL: Bangladesh cricketers along with coach Dav Whatmore having a look at the Khulna Divisional Stadium prior to their training session on Sunday.

## Looking at the bright side

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar on Sunday denied allegations of any irregularities in ticket selling for the second one-day match between Bangladesh and Kenya to be held at the Khulna Divisional Stadium today.

"A total of 15,950 tickets have been sold and there were no irregularities in ticket selling," said Asghar at a press conference on Sunday.

Cricketer fans staged a protest rally outside the stadium on Saturday after they had failed to get tickets from different branches of City Bank in Khulna. They also alleged that some local organisers have played a part behind selling tickets in the black market.

Asghar, who is also the law-maker of Khulna, however was more excited to bring the international cricket caravan to the south-east port city.

"This is a dream come true for

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## Chittagong in driving seat

### Tushar leads Khulna fightback with 198



SPORTS REPORTER

Nafees Iqbal and his younger brother Tamim set the tone for Chittagong's victory attempt in the crucial ninth round clash of the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League yesterday, giving the side an imposing 285-run overall lead against Rajshahi with one day remaining.

Chittagong, who share the lead with Rajshahi with 32 points, bowled out their title rivals for 240 in the first innings before reaching 184-1 at stumps on third day of the four-day match at BKSP.

Khulna captain Tushar Imran

celebrated his selection as Bangladesh A team captain for the home series against Sri Lanka A with a magnificent 198 to lead the visitors' fightback against Dhaka while Marshall Ayub's brilliant all-round display brought Barisal in contention for a win against in the other match.

### CHITTAGONG-RAJSHAH

Resuming on 169-7, Rajshahi added only one run before losing overnight batsman Shamimul Haque but Naeem Islam, who was 58 at stumps on Day 2, steered Rajshahi well beyond the 200-mark. The number four batsman, who shared 49 runs with Kamrul Hasan (28) for the ninth wicket, was finally scalped by Yasin Arafat on 96. His five-hour essay was studded with a dozen fours.

Tamim Iqbal dominated the 63-run opening stand when Chittagong began their second innings with a 101-run lead. The left-hander made a 64-ball 49 while his elder brother settled for a patient 81 not out off 184 deliveries. First-innings centurion Nazimuddin was batting with him on 43.

### DHAKA-KHULNA

Tushar Imran might have missed the double-century for a couple of runs but it was enough for Khulna not only to avoid follow-on against the home side at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium but also put on a respectable total of 378.

In reply to Dhaka's 464, Khulna were staring at a follow-on when

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PHOTO: STAR

Mahindra United players pose at a city hotel after their arrival in Dhaka yesterday. They will take on Brothers Union in the AFC Cup fixture tomorrow.

## Sri Lanka A due today

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Sri Lanka A team arrive here this morning to play two Tests and three one-day internationals against their Bangladesh counterparts.

Sri Lanka Cricket has named left-handed batsman Jehan Mubarak, a veteran of seven Tests and 20 ODIs, as captain to lead two separate teams during their 20-day trip. Mubarak also visited with the Lankan senior team for the ODI series against Bangladesh in February.

The first four-day Test will start on March 23 in Dhaka and the second and the final match will take place at Bogra from March 30.

The three one-day matches are scheduled for Bogra (April 4) and Khulna (April 6 and 8).

Dashing middle-order batsman Tushar Imran will lead the second

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## Mahindra arrive for AFC Cup match

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahindra United of Mumbai arrived in Dhaka yesterday to play their second round AFC Cup match against Brothers Union.

The match between the Federation Cup champions of Bangladesh and India will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow at 4pm.

Brothers have lost their opener to Bahrain's Al Muharraq but Mahindra salvaged a 2-2 draw away against Al Ahd coming from two goals down.

The visitors have two Indian internationals -- midfielder Venkatesh and goalkeeper Sandeep Nandy -- apart from Brazilian midfielder Bareto, arguably the best foreign footballer to play in Indian domestic football who switched to the Mumbai club from Mohun Bagan.

## India under pressure



AFP, Mumbai

Swing bowler Matthew Hoggard grabbed two early wickets to put India under pressure in the third and final Test against England here on Sunday.

Hoggard dismissed openers Virender Sehwag and Wasim Jaffer in the space of three fiery overs before India reached 89-3 at stumps on the second day in reply to England's first-innings total of 400.

England were bowled out half-an-hour before tea after resuming on 272-3, with debutant Owais Shah scoring an impressive 88 and stand-in captain Andrew Flintoff 50 for his third successive half-century.

India then found the pace and bounce of the new-ball bowlers too hot to handle as Jaffer (11), Sehwag (six) and Sachin Tendulkar (one) fell in quick succession to leave their team wobbling on 28-3.

Skinner Rahul Dravid (37 not out) and Yuvraj Singh (32 not out) steadied the innings with an unfinished 61-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Hoggard, who bagged seven wickets in the drawn opening Test at Nagpur, again haunted India when he had the hard-hitting Sehwag caught by Shah at first slip off a rising delivery.

Hoggard's extra bounce also led to Jaffer's dismissal, caught down the leg-side by wicketkeeper Geraint Jones.

Fast bowler James Anderson,

playing his first Test in more than a year, then sparked celebrations in England's camp when he removed Tendulkar for one.

Tendulkar, playing on his home ground and making an Indian record 132nd Test appearance, spent 34 uncomfortable minutes at the crease before being caught behind off a loose drive.

The star batsman, without a half-century since his world-record 35th Test hundred against Sri Lanka in Delhi last December, looked out of form and took 13 balls to open his account.

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PHOTO: AFP

England paceman Matthew Hoggard (R) appeals successfully against Indian opener Wasim Jaffer on the second day of the third Test in Mumbai on Sunday.

## Razzaq shines in low-scoring drama



AFP, Colombo

Abdul Razzaq anchored Pakistan during a hard-fought four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the second one-day international here on Sunday.

The all-rounder struck a defiant 41 not out as Pakistan overcame a top-order collapse to pass the home side's meagre 130 and take an unbeatable 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The first match was abandoned due to rain on Friday.

Razzaq played an uncharacteristically subdued 101-ball knock. He did not hit a boundary off the first 98 deliveries before unleashing some big shots to seal a memorable win with over five overs to spare.

Razzaq, who had earlier in the day bagged two wickets, hit seamer Nuwan Kulasekara for a four, a six and then a winning four through mid-wicket off consecutive balls.

He added 35 for the sixth wicket with Mohammad Yousuf (26) and an unfinished 52 for the next with Kamran Akmal (20) after the other batsmen failed to apply themselves on a pitch not conducive to strokeplay.

Pakistan came under pressure after throwing away their first few wickets.

Hard-hitting opener Shahid Afridi

(two) skied a ball from paceman Lasith Malinga for wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara to take a well-judged catch.

Left-hander Salman Butt (four) chased a ball outside off stump from seamer Farveez Maharoof, edging the ball to Sangakkara. Younis Khan (four) was run out soon afterwards.

Captain Inzamamul Haq and Shoaib Malik also contributed little as Pakistan sank to a dismal 47-5 before Razzaq and Yousuf steadied the innings.

"Razzaq made the win possible for us. Sri Lanka fought back very well but I thought our bowlers did a good job earlier in the day by not giving away easy runs," said Inzamam.

Earlier, Sri Lanka crashed for just 130 as Pakistan's seamers justified Inzamam's decision to field first, ripping through the top and middle-order to reduce the home side to 56-7 by the 21st over.

Tillakaratne Dilshan's gritty 48 not out lent the score some respectability in the company of tail-enders. He added 42 with Kulasekara (11) for the eighth wicket and 25 for the ninth with Malinga (15).

Dilshan faced 75 deliveries and hit just three fours as the Pakistani

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What to WATCH

### BTV & Channel i

Bangladesh vs Kenya

2nd ODI

Live at 9:30 am

### DD National

India vs England

3rd Test, Day Three

Live at 10:30 am

### ESPN

New Zealand vs West Indies

2nd Test, Day Four

Live at 3:30 am (Monday)

### Sportscentre

Live at 9:30 pm

### STAR Sports

FA Cup

Man City vs West Ham

Live at 1:55 am (Tuesday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh vs Kenya

2nd ODI

Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

7th National Cricket League

Four-Day Matches (Day Four)

Dhaka vs Khulna

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Chittagong vs Rajshahi

Venue: BKSP-2

Sylhet vs Barisal

Venue: Barisal Divisional Stadium