







Shane Bond (New Zealand fast bowler)

"My role in the team is that of the strike bowler. We have some medium-pace bowlers and I am not one of them. My job is to go out and bowl fast as long as I am playing international cricket."



Sportscenter India Live at 8:30 pm

BCCI to invite Azhar to its ceremony

INTERNET, undated

Disgraced former India cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin will be included among a host of high

Same old story for Tigers

ICC CHAMPIONS overs

BISHWAJIT ROY from Jaipur

TROPHY

Aftab Ahmed played an ambitious shot and got out when he was supposed to carry his bat to give Bangladesh a fighting total against the defending champions West Indies in a day-night match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium yesterday. The swashbuckling right-hander

was the top scorer with a 55-ball 59 in the disappointing essay of the Tigers innings but his effort brought hardly any fruit for his side. Rather the same question was raised again: when will the young man learn that sometimes you need to stop playing shots?

The expectation was high about the match after Bangladesh's impressive batting in the first game at Mohali but they were far away from that achievement as they even failed to cross the two hundred mark after they had made 265 runs against the Lankans. Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar had said prior to the

match that they have to prove they

were not only good for one match,

ORPORATE LEAGUE

2006-2007

Stadium

around.

especially in batting but his troops including himself misfired again as they were bundled out for 161 in 46.3

> After the quick dismissal of Mohammad Ashraful (2), Aftab Ahmed joined left-handed opener Shahriar Nafees to snatch West Indies' early initiative and executed

some brilliant shots all over the park. When vice-captain Nafees was strugaling to cope up with the slow and low surface. Aftab launched a counter attack against the Caribbean seam bowlers and he started his innings with an on-side boundary against Jerome Taylor.

He had a magnificent back footed punch for a boundary and played a pull shot in the same over against the same bowler but survived on 15 as Marlon Samuels dropped him at long-leg to frustrate Tavlor.

West Indies skipper Brain Lara looked anxious in the middle when Aftab continued his charge even against Corey Collymore and Ian Bradshaw to give Bangladesh a platform for a challenging total.

Aftab completed his seventh fifty in 41 matches in grand style when he steered Collymore for four through third-man and then leg glanced another boundary to reach

the mark only in 40 balls, which featured seven boundaries and two sixes

But off spinner Samuels changed the tide in favour of West Indies when he broke the 85-run second wicket partnership sending Nafees (38 off 68 balls) back to pavilion. Nafees had tried to cut but only found Chris Gayle at first slip.

And with the dismissal Bangladesh lost their momentum as Sakib Al Hasan who made 67 in the first game, and skipper Bashar were both dismissed for ducks by Collymore. This was the second consecutive duck for the Bangladesh skipper.

Bangladesh's hope were completely dashed when Aftab unnecessarily stepped down to smack Samuels but only holed out to longon where Shivnarine Chanderpaul made no mistake with the catch.

And in an all to familiar story, Bangladesh lost their last eight wickets for 66 runs to bring back old memories.

Dwayne Bravo shattered the lower order to become the most SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Tushar salvages Epyllion

on. There were as many as six ducks in the innings as Epyllion Epyllion were bowled out for just 165 runs in bounced back 46 overs after rain forced a late start. after their shock Left-arm seamer Shafaq Al Jabir loss to Partex took 4 four 29 in his ten over spell. two days ago

The Biman reply was even worse with a 30-run as their innings also had a bad start, victory over and an even worse finish. Discarded group rivals Tigers seamer Taposh Baisya was Bangladesh well-supported by a four-man spin Biman in yesterday's attack of left-armers Nabil Samad, GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket Enamul Haque, Faisal Hossain and League at the Dhanmondi Cricket occasional spinner Tushar as they shared six wickets among them-In other matches of the day, MM selves. Only Jahurul Islam (46) Ispahani defeated Asia Pacific played a substantial kncok for the

Blossom Hotel by 47 runs in a rainnational airliner. interrupted match at the Fatullah Tushar was later adjudged the Stadium, while Partex beat Raju man-of-the-match for his all-round Fish Culture by 77 runs at the BKSP

show Away at the Fatullah Stadium, the match's best player Junaid Imrose struck 73 while Mahmudullah Riyad was unbeaten on 45 as Ispahani scored 193 for

Blossom Hotel in another match that was interrupted by rain.

The hotel side were left to score 164 runs in 25 overs after a midafternoon sharp shower at the Test venue. Mohammad Kalim surprisingly played a slow knock of 38 off 66 balls as they were restricted to 116 for nine in 25 overs. Saju Datta took 4-22 for the winners.

Javed Omar struck a patient 73 as Partex rode on his knock to score 243 for six in 45 overs against Raju Fish Culture after the start at BKSP was delayed due to wet wicket condition.

The fisheries company only reached 166 for 5 in their stipulated 45 overs. Monirul Islam top-scored with 39 while Mustakim took a couple of wickets for Partex. Omar was adjudged the best player of the match

BRIEF SCORES

FPYLLION: 165 all out in 46 overs (Sadat 58, Imran 63, Jabir 4-29); out in 45.1 overs



Bangladesh batsman Aftab Ahmed drives on the up during his whirlwind knock of 59 in their Champions Trophy qualifying clash against West Indies at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Wednesday.

South Africa tune up well

AFP, Mumbai

Captain Graeme Smith and Jacques Kallis led from the front as South Africa warmed up for the Champions Trophy with a dazzling batting display here on Wednesday.

Left-handed Smith smashed 90

to make any official comments due to code of conduct. **TIGERS LITTLE-KNOWN** IN JAIPUR

Bangladeshi reporters. He however didn't waste the opportunity to say something positive

Easy win for

A brace by Prince helped Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club crush Ajax Sporting Club 3-0 for their second win in as many games in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League at

the Maulana Bhashani National

Mariners after 16 minutes and

doubled the lead after the breather

with a 47-minute penalty corner.

Prince opened the account for

Shishu sealed the victory in the

In the day's another match, two-

goal Satyendar Singh inspired Sonali

Bank record their first win after two

defeats when they blanked

in the 10 and 48 minutes to secure

Indian forward Satyendar scored

Abahani will take on Azad

(1.30pm) while holders Usha meet

Sadharan Bima (3 pm) in today's

BHF picks 33

Bangladesh Hockey Federation

(BHF) yesterday announced a 33-

member preliminary squad for the

Asian Games to be held on

requested to report to coaches Mahbub Harun and Abdullah Piru on

The squad: Russell Khan Bappi,

Issa Miah, Hedayatul Islam Rajib, Musa Miah, Moududur Rahman Shuvo, Asif-a-Noor, Monirul Alam

Sumon, Mahbub Ehsan Rana and

Russell Mahmud Jimmy (Abahani),

Mahbubullah Shakil, Mamunur

Rahman Chayan, Mohammad Yamin

Hossain, Mashiur Rahman Biplab,

Ashiquzzaman, Maksud Alam Habul

and Ariful Haque Prince (Moham-

medan), Zahid Hossain, Shamsuddin

Tuhin, Mustafizur Rahman Dinar,

Tabib-e-Noor,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Friday at 5pm at the federation.

The players have been

for Asiad

December 1-15 in Doha.

Bangladesh Sporting Club 2-0.

full three points for the Bankers.

Hockey Stadium yesterday.

57th minute.

matches.

UNB, Dhaka

Mariners SPORTS REPORTER

After Bangladesh's impressive show against Sri Lanka at Mohali al media

PHOTO: AFP

SAWAI MANSINGH

ICC CHAMPIONS **TROPHY TREATS** TROPHY

SPORTS REPORTER from Jaipur

The visiting Bangladeshi journalists had to face a common question from their Indian counterparts. Why, they asked, had the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) yet to invite

about the Bangladesh cricket. "One day you will be a very good team like Sri Lanka. ok." he assured

players

skipper

Tigers.

But they made elementary

"Former Bangladesh skipper

blunders in their papers, which simply projected their ignorance

Akbar Khan (Akram Khan)," wrote

one newspaper in an article while

another newspaper named

Mohammd Ashraful as the Tigers

the visiting journalists were sur-

prised by seeing that a well-

circulated local newspaper printed a

big picture of physic Paul Close

while showing the Bangladesh

Most people in the city also have

"Your captain name is Aminul

nadequate knowledge about the

Islam. Isn't it?" asked a shopkeeper

to show his knowledge to the visiting

teams arrival at the Pink City.

The whole Bangladesh team and

about Bangladesh cricket.

Indian cricket board ceremony next month

Azharuddin, who led India at three World Cups, is serving a life ban from cricket for conspiring with illegal bookmakers to fix cricket matches and player performances.

"Azharuddin is among the Indian captains invited for the cricket board's felicitation function next month," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) administrative head Ratnakar Shetty told the Associated Press on Wednesday.

Azharuddin will join all India's past and present living captains at the function, even though the BCCI has banned him for life from all cricket activities -- including playing, coaching or assuming an official position.

The Indian board's ceremony will mark the inauguration of its new headquarters, and is likely to be attended by the world's top cricket officials, beside those representing India's own state associations.

The function will take place on November 4 in the western city of Mumbai, on the eve Champions Trophy's final and one day after the ICC stages its annual awards ceremony in the same city.

Taibu signs for Namibia

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu is set to join Namibia as a quest player for the next six months.

Taibu, 23, turned out for Namibia on Sunday in Windhoek against Limpopo in a South African provincial tournament which runs until next March.

Because the competition is not at full international level, Taibu can play while remaining a Zimbabwean citizen.

"I'm going through the contract at the moment and should sign it in the next couple of days," Taibu told BBC Sport.

"I wanted to be away from the politics in Zimbabwean cricket, and at the same time remain active in competitive cricket, so Namibia is good for me at the moment."

Taibu turned his back on SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

line-up as they shared a 124-run fourth wicket stand after their side four in 45 overs against Asia Pacific were reduced to 18 for three early

Skipper Tushar Imran (63) and

opener Nazmus Sadat (58) sal-

vaged the sinking Epyllion batting

Biman: 135



SIZING THE OPPOSITION? Pakistan paceman Shoaib Akhtar (L) and bowling coach Waqar Younis watch the West Indies-Bangladesh match from the sidelines at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Wednesday.

PCB puts faith in security



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan is taking threats from firebrand Hindus to disrupt the Champions Trophy cricket tournament seriously but hope tight security will foil any sabotage attempts,

an official said Wednesday. "We have already conveyed our concerns to the ICC (International Cricket Council) and since it's a high-profile tournament, we hope all

will be safe," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director of operations Salim Altaf told AFP. The right-wing Hindu party Shiv Sena on Tuesday issued another warning that it would disrupt the

he added, reiterating his party's tournament and protest against the Pakistan team playing in India. stance.

Goyal demanded New Delhi half The Pakistan team picked for the Pakistan's participation in the 10nation tournament, which ends November 5 with the final in the Shiv Sena bastion of Mumbai.

His followers dug up New Delhi's Ferozeshah Kotla ground in 1999, eight years after Sena men damaged Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium to protest against the Pakistan cricket team's presence in India.

taking the matter seriously.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

off 54 balls and Kallis hammered 78 SEE PAGE 18 COL 5 as the Proteas piled up 303-8 from 50 overs after being sent in to bat by the Saurashtra Ranji Trophy team in a practice match.

Saurashtra were restricted to 227-5 in reply to give South Africa victory by 76 runs in the match played on the outskirts of this western metropolis

South Africa take on New Zealand in their first Champions Trophy match at the Brabourne stadium here on Monday. Smith struck 15 boundaries and

three sixes during an opening stand of 107 in 13.5 overs with Boeta Dippenaar, who made 33. Kallis hit 10 fours before being

run out and veteran all-rounder Shaun Pollock boosted the total with a guickfire 32 off 28 balls that included two sixes and a boundary. When the Proteas fielded, fast

bowler Makhaya Ntini took two wickets for eight runs from five overs and Andre Nel chipped in with 2-20 from eight overs.

Saurashtra were reduced to 60-4 by the 21st over before the lefthanded pair of Shitanshu Kodak and Pratik Mehta put on 161 for the fifth wicket. Kodak remained unbeaten on 82 while Mehta topscored with 95 before being run out.

BRIEF SCORES

South Africa 303-8 in 50 overs (Smith 90, Dippenaar 33, Kallis 78) and Saurashtra 227-5 in 50 overs (Kotak 82, Mehta 95; Ntini 2-8, Nel 2-20)

Rain disrupts NZ practice

PTI, Mumbai

Heavy morning showers Wednesday forced the cancellation of the scheduled ICC Champions Trophy warm-up tie between New Zealand and Mumbai at Wankhede Stadium.

"The practice match between New Zealand and Mumbai had to be cancelled due to wet ground conditions and will be held on Thursday at the MIG Club ground where the other scheduled practice match could be started in time as it was not affected by rains," said Champions Trophy tournament director Ratnakar Shetty.

The two-hour showers, which SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

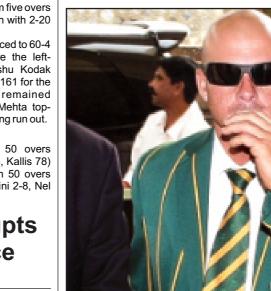
Tigers in the country for a full series? In the recently concluded fiveyear span Future Tour Programme (FTP) Bangladesh had played full away serious against the all Test playing nation except India.

India had twice cancelled the series previously and interestingly there is also no slot in the newly approved six-year FTP plan.

"This is unfortunate. Bangladesh board have to take the issue seriously and if needed they should start campaign but we have doubt whether our board are actually interested about the visit," said a renowned cricket writer.

"What's wrong about the visit? Money is a factor in cricket now but that doesn't mean you do everything for money in the game" surprised another reporter.

Since the Bangladesh team arrived in the country and visited the venues the players also talked about the issue but they didn't want



THE RETURN: South Africa batsman Herschelle Gibbs arrives at a hotel in Mumbai on Wednesday.

TURNING HEADS lot of interest about the Bangladesh

The Mohali Stadium is known as the best ground in India all over the world but the new look Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur is all set to challenge it.

Within two years the stadium has got a new shape as the local authority, Rajashtan Cricket Association, has not only renovated its old traditional establishments but also given it a modern impression.

The stadium and its adjacent area looks like a sports complex where they have built an academy with all modern amenities including indoor practice facilities.

During Jagmohan Dalmiya's tenure the venue had hardly got the opportunity to stage an international match but that all changed SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Gibbs in India, kept under wraps

AFP, Mumbai

South Africa's Champions Trophy squad threw a security blanket around Herschelle Gibbs after he arrived in India on Wednesday to be probed for match-fixing allegations.

Gibbs arrived in the western metropolis of Mumbai where the South Africans are based for the 10nation tournament and was promptly whisked away to the team hotel to avoid a large contingent of mediamen stationed at the airport.

Team officials declined to entertain questions on Gibbs and did not allow him to be interviewed by the media, saying he was tired after the long journey from Johannes-burg and needed rest.

Gibbs, who was accompanied by lawyers and arrived four days after the rest of the South African squad landed, is set to be questioned by Delhi police over match-fixing allegations dating back to 2000.

Gibbs was fined and suspended for six months by South African cricket authorities after he admitted accepting money from disgraced former captain Hansie Cronje to under-perform during a SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

PHOTO: AFP

Altaf said the ICC had already

PHOTO: AFF

sent Pakistan a security plan for the tournament, which was proof it was

Champions Trophy is entirely Muslim although Test regular Danish Kaneria is a Hindu. "Our opposition will be swift and ferocious if Pakistan dare to play on Indian soil," Jai Bhagwan Goyal,

president of Shiv Sena's New Delhi chapter, said on Wednesday, Pakistan play their opening

match in the Rajasthan city of Jaipur on October 17. They take on New Zealand in Mohali on October 25 and South Africa at the same Punjab

"Pitches can again be dug up Many things can happen which we will not disclose now as it will alert the security agencies," Goyal said in an interview

"But whatever we do it will be a powerful and very visible protest,

"Judging by the stringent measures the ICC have taken and also the security provided to the Pakistan team on last year's tour of