

# Tigers start from scratch



BISHWAJIT ROY, from Southampton

Bangladesh will get one last chance to restore their battered image in the ICC Champions Trophy when they take on West Indies in their second and final Pool B match at the Rose Bowl today.

Smarting from a nine-wicket defeat against South Africa at Edgbaston four days ago, the boys of Dav Whatmore will be not concerned about the end result. Rather they will desperately hope that the batsmen put some runs on the board for the bowlers to make some sort of contest out of it.

The Tigers, who won the toss and surprisingly batted first in condi-

tions that demanded first use of the ball, were bowled out for 93 against the Proteas. The batting shambles sparked furore both at home and among the few thousand fans at Edgbaston.

Young Bangladesh captain Rajin Saleh said that they want to put behind the South Africa match and hoped to play good cricket against West Indies.

"We don't want to think about who we are playing rather our main concern is to bat for a full 50 overs. We had promised a lot earlier but we couldn't fulfil it. So, it's high time we show that we can play good cricket," said the Bangladesh stand-in skipper at the hotel lobby yesterday.

The 23-year-old also refuted claims the squad picked for the Trophy was the weakest that Bangladesh have ever selected for a one-day competition.

"People may say a lot of things

because we did not perform but I think this is still a talented side," said the right-hander, who scored a duck on his debut as captain in the absence of Habibul Bashar.

But like the previous match Rajin was almost in the dark about the team composition since his coach Whatmore is calling all the shots.

The 50-year-old Whatmore, whose side fought well before going down 3-0 in the one-day series against the West Indies early this year, said that it not time to push the panic button.

"My boys will do something against West Indies before finishing the tournament. And I still believe that they are very much capable of doing it," said the confident Australian.

Despite uproar over his selection for the game against South Africa, Whatmore however said that he

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PHOTO: AFP

WITH HIM THE TEAM PROSPER: Zimbabwe's Prosper Utseya, who made second highest 31, makes room to play the ball through cover during their ICC Champions Trophy match against Sri Lanka at The Oval yesterday.

# Mahmud contests his omission



BISHWAJIT ROY, from Southampton

Former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud blamed the Bangladesh team management for being unfair in team selection.

The angry all-rounder yesterday said that he was deprived by the think-tank's decision over his exclusion from the final line up in the ICC Champions Trophy match against South Africa.

"What is the real criteria to get a place in the eleven? If the answer is performance, then there was no reason to drop me. I performed better in the practice matches before the Champions Trophy," he said.

"If they think my career is over, then why was I picked up in the first place? I am not willing to give anybody the right to play with my career. I wanted to retire from international cricket but it was the Board which

brought back me," said the fuming all-rounder, who announ-ced his retirement from international cricket earlier this year but changed his decision to be a part of Tigers' one-day team ahead of the tour of Zimbabwe.

"Somebody told me that my batting is not good but everybody knows that my inclusion in the side is as a bowler. Actually who in the team did better with the bat? I don't know the reason behind my exclusion but one thing is certain that it is due to performance," he added.

Mahmud was overlooked by coach Dav Whatmore who chose another all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman for the game against South Africa despite the latter missing almost all the practice matches due to a groin injury in the first warm-up game.

The 33-year-old Mahmud was the hero of Bangladesh's historic triumph over Pakistan in the 1999 England World Cup. Besides, he is one of the experienced cricketers in English conditions.

But Mushfiq was preferred because according Whatmore he is multi-skilled.

## TROPHY TREATS

BISHWAJIT ROY, from Southampton

Cricket stars like Brian Lara, Ricky Ponting and Andrew Flintoff are here but Southampton is teeming with excitement for another big occasion.

The port city has been gripped with the Boat Show that runs from September 10-19. It is regarded as the biggest exhibition of boats in Europe. People with a mind for adventure arrive from every part of the continent in Portsmouth each year for the show. It' all happening just a 20-minute drive from the Rose Bowl, the venue for the Bangladesh-West Indies match.

"The Boat Show and Sunsail have come together to offer you the ultimate sailing experience. You can't compare this with a dull cricket match. That's why nobody is bothered about the tournament," said Jerry, a taxi driver.

Local hotels and guesthouses are also full with visitors to the show and not cricket fans.

### RAIN CLOUD AT ROSE BOWL

Weather was the only concern ahead of the Bangladesh-West Indies clash which will take place at the picturesque Rose Bowl Stadium today.

There has been some rain over the last few days and yesterday also.

Bangladesh captain Rajin Saleh and his counterpart Brian Lara have also expressed their worries about the whether.

"Don't call it a one-day international. It's now a two-day game," is how people are terming the tournament's one-day matches here for the provision of keeping reserve days for all fixtures because of the rain.

### ASHRAFUL THOUGHTS

The Rose Bowl wicket, which is just four years old, was playing on the mind of Bangladesh opener Mohammed Ashraf.

"I want to get a big score here. I've watched the highlights of the Australia-USA match and I think we should be careful in the early stages. I am a bit worried about the extra bounce," said Test cricket's youngest centurion.

Ashraf said he was feeling slight pain on his left wrist but added that it was not a problem.

"During net practice yesterday, I felt the pain but that is nothing serious. I want to get atleast a fifty here and hopefully we will post a competitive total."

And the little man received the good wishes of a champion batsman in his quest. "Best of luck," said

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### Inzamamul Haq

(Pakistan cricket captain)

"Tendulkar is a great person but without him India still have a strong team and we will take them very seriously."

# Shantoo wants to carry on

## Football

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-17 football coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo wants to prolong his association with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Shantoo, who took over the national U-17s last year, guided the side to the final round of the AFC U-17 Championships in Japan where the youngsters failed to get past the group stage.

But the former national goal-keeper, whose one-year contract

with the BFF expires today, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday that he has only completed the first stage of his programme and would appreciate it if given an extension so that he can continue to work for development of football in the country.

"I feel I need to work with these boys for atleast two more years to make them competitive against top Asian teams. We are still far behind the Asian level but I am proud of these boys because they have shown in Japan that they can fight with any team," said Shantoo who a l s o h a d a

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# Sachin headache for fans

## Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar's omission through injury from a season-opening domestic match next week has raised serious concerns about him playing in the upcoming home series against Australia.

A "tennis elbow" has already forced one-day cricket's premier batsman, with a record 13,415 runs and 37 centuries, to miss three successive limited-overs tournaments including the ongoing Champions Trophy in England.

With the series against Australia three weeks away, doubts have begun to creep into the minds of

fans about whether Tendulkar will be available for all the four Tests.

Tendulkar is currently undergoing treatment in London. But Indian media reports quoted team physio-therapist Andrew Leipus as saying from London that he "was still in a lot of pain and unable to lift a bat".

Tendulkar was excluded by his state team Mumbai for the five-day Irani Cup match against the Rest of India starting in Mohali next week.

The only other first-class match before the Test series is the three-day tour opener at Hyderabad from September 30.

If Tendulkar is forced to miss that game as well, it would be a bold gamble by the selectors to pick him for the first Test in Bangalore from October 6.

The remaining three Tests will be

played in Madras (October 14-18), Nagpur (Oct 26-30) and Bombay (November 3-7).

Tendulkar has not played a first-class match since the third and final Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi in April, but neither has any other member of the current Indian team.

Sourav Ganguly's men have only featured in one-day tournaments since then in Sri Lanka, the Netherlands and England.

"It is a difficult situation as far as Tendulkar is concerned," said national selector Kirti Azad. "We are worried, the whole country is worried. It is an anxious wait to hear the good news about him."

Tendulkar told a television channel last week he was taking it "one day at a time. I am very, very disapp-

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PHOTO: AFP

IT'S RAINING IN BIRMINGHAM TOO: Raindrops make a window hazy as the Edgbaston pitch is under cover yesterday. The Kenya-Pakistan match here was postponed because of the weather.

## ERRATUM

In one of our headings yesterday it was mistakenly written that 'Basher told to stay back'. Actually he is Basher. We apologise the oversight.

## SRI LANKA-ZIM SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe innings in the ICC Champions Trophy Pool D match against Sri Lanka at The Oval in London on Tuesday:

### ZIMBABWE

Taylor c Chandana b Maharoor 13  
Matsikenyeri c Sangakkara b Zoysa 16

Sibandac Jayawardene b Vaas 9  
Ebrahim c Chandana b Zoysa 3  
Vermeulen c Sangakkara b Maharoor 17

Taibu c Sangakkara b Maharoor 16  
Chigumbura lbw b Chandana 57  
Panyangara c Atapattu b Zoysa 8  
Utseya c Jayawardene b Chandana 31

Hondo not out 0  
Rainsford b Jayasuriya 3  
Extras: (b-4, lb-8, w-3, nb-3) 18  
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs) 191  
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-43, 3-47, 4-61, 5-76, 6-85, 7-120, 8-184, 9-188

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	0	42	1
Zoysa	10	2	19	3
Maharoor	9	1	38	3
Jayasuriya	9.1	1	28	1
Chandana	9	0	39	2
Dilshan	2	0	13	0

**SRI LANKA:** Jayasuriya, Gunawardene, Atapattu, Sangakkara, Jayawardene, Dilshan, Jayantha, Chandana, Vaas, Maharoor, Zoysa.

**Toss:** Sri Lanka.



PHOTO: AP

TENNIS GOES TO HOLLYWOOD: Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova arrives at the premiere of the film 'Wimbledon' at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at Beverly Hills in California on Monday.



**BTV**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
Bangladesh vs West Indies  
Live at 3:15 pm

**TEN Sports**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
Bangladesh vs West Indies  
Live at 3:15 pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Liverpool vs Monaco  
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

**STAR Sports**  
Sportline  
Live at 8:00 pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Man United vs Olympique Lyonnais  
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)