

Blood clot found in Titu's head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Photojournalist Anup Titu, injured in police attack at Chittagong Divisional Stadium on April 16 during the Bangladesh-Australia second Test match, underwent a CT scan at Bumrungrad Hospital yesterday.

Titu was admitted at the Bangkok hospital on Wednesday.

Titu's uncle, veteran journalist Tamal Chowdhury, who accompanied him, told over telephone that the scan report showed existence of blood clot in Titu's head.

The physicians, who have prescribed Titu medicines for seven days, said Titu would require surgery if the clot is not removed by this period, according to Tamal.

The Daily Purbokone photographer got critically injured along with 19 other journalists in the brutal police attack on the first day of second Test.

He was first treated at Royal Hospital in Chittagong before being sent to Bangkok for advanced treatment at the initiative of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Tigers to play for pride

SPORTS REPORTER



The excitement is all over, yet Bangladesh have a scope to prove their worth when they meet Australia in the third and final one-day international at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium today.

In spite of only academic interest left in the final battle against the world champions, Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar said that they were not in a position to think about the outcome of the series rather they were focussing on their main objective which is to take every match in same manner.

"There is no stake as we have already lost the series but every game is important for us because we value a win differently," said the Bangladesh skipper yesterday.

There is every chance to see Mohammad Ashraful back in the fold for the final game after the Cardiff hero was rested for the second game following a series of poor showings.

But middle-order batsman Aftab Ahmed and paceman Mashrafee

Bin Mortuza kept the Bangladesh think-tank waiting to select the final eleven.

Aftab missed the second game due to sinusitis and his condition deteriorated yesterday morning. However, medical reports cleared him for the game. Mashrafee, who had both of his knees operated on, suffered a muscle strain during the second match.

"We want to wait till Friday morning to see whether they are fit. There is nothing serious and we are hopeful about their chances to play," informed Bashar.

The Tigers captain, who is in good form hitting three fifties in a row, said that he was looking forward to seeing his top-order get runs in the match.

"We never give up hope. Yes we lost two one-day matches and our performance in the second game was not satisfactory but still we will try to win. But to do that our top order should click."

"It would be fantastic for us if we can finish the series the way we started it. Anything positive in the series will be helpful for the future. I will definitely require a spirited display from my boys."

"I have said time and again that

we lack consistency. The question is not to win every match rather to show the competitiveness," he added.

Bangladesh won at least one match in recent one-day series at home but Bashar knows that repeating the Cardiff episode, where they had upset Australia, will not be easy.

"You should play your best and capitalise on every chance if you want to snatch a match away from Australia. They will hardly give you a single chance as we have already experienced in the series," he added.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH (from): Habibul Bashar (captain), Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar, Mohammad Rafique, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Ashraful, Mashrafee Bin Mortuza, Aftab Ahmed, Tushar Imran, Abdur Razzak, Alok Kapali, Shahriar Nafees, Shahadat Hossain, Syed Rasel.

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Dan Cullen, Brad Hogg, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, Andrew Symonds, James Hopes, Mark Cosgrove, Brett Dorey.

STANCHART SCHOOL CRICKET

Belayet on cloud nine

SPORTS REPORTER

Kamarpara High School routed Siddiqui's International School by nine wickets in the Standard Chartered National Schools Cricket tournament at the Iqbal Road ground yesterday.

Siddiqui's batted first and were skittled out for just 41 runs. It was a single-handed effort as Belayet Hossain took nine wickets in the innings. It was a truly remarkable effort.

Kamarpara High notched up the target in only four overs.

Kalindi High School won by 263 runs at the Jagannath Hall ground as Tariq scored 156 runs in 67 balls, studded with twelve fours and the same number of sixes, as his school piled 394 runs against Manarat International School.

Islami Adarsha High School also passed the 350-mark at the Uttara Friends' Club ground as they won by 174 runs against Rajdhani High School.

NAT'L SCHOOL SOCCER
Ramu Khijari in finals

SPORTS REPORTER

Ramu Khijari Adarsha High School at Cox's Bazar blanked their home town rivals Al-Bayan Institute 2-0 in the zonal final of the bangla link Tiger Trophy National School Football Championship at the Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday.

Goals by David Barua, who scored six in the qualifiers, and Chowmin took Ramu Khijari School to the final round of the competition.

Two-goal by Rafiqul inspired Azimuddin High School to outplay

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Pakistan cricket legend Wasim Akram shakes hands with an adulating fan during the opening ceremony of a youth academy at the Mohammedan Sporting Club ground on Thursday.

Hardtalk with Akram

In this part of the world Wasim Akram needs no introduction. The legendary former Pakistan all-rounder is currently in Dhaka to commentate on the ongoing series between Bangladesh and Australia. The Daily Star Sport's BISHWAJIT ROY, QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM and MOHAMMAD ISAM had a lively conversation with him at the Sonargaon Hotel lobby where he, sporting an 'Amra Bangladesh' band, spoke about everything from the profligacy of the Bangladesh Cricket Board to Shahid Afridi's retirement from Test cricket. Following is how it all went:

DSS: Why do you think they don't right?

WA: Listen, England, Pakistan, Australia have been playing first-class cricket for decades. But here it only started a few years ago. It didn't even happen on time.

DSS: You've been saying this for the past six, seven years...

WA: But nobody listens. They think that they know more about cricket than me. That is the problem in Bangladesh cricket. People who run the cricket think that they know more than cricketers who have played for 21 years at international level. I am sick of giving them advice now. I am as frustrated as any Bangladeshi.

DSS: Why do you think they don't listen?

WA: Because the people who run cricket here are happy. They think of the same level they played at. You have to think big and that can't happen with them as they

never played that big.

DSS: So the first-class structure is also not right?

WA: Listen, England, Pakistan, Australia have been playing first-class cricket for decades. But here it only started a few years ago. It didn't even happen on time.

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DSS: So, incentives don't matter?

WA: In the beginning it matters, because nowadays it's a professional sport. First-class cricket should be sponsored or the board should pay money to the players. Players will be more motivated

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Champs Trophy launched

Mani hopes for a star-studded tourney

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Legendary batsman Brian Lara has been named captain of the West Indies for a third time, it was announced here on Wednesday.

BRIAN LARA

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Ken Gordon, president of the West Indies Cricket Board, announced on Wednesday during a news conference at his office in the Trinidad and Tobago capital that Lara would replace fellow left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Chanderpaul held the position

over the last year in which he could only motivate the side to a solitary Test win and three victories in limited-overs internationals before resigning almost three weeks ago.

The 37-year-old Lara, Test cricket's leading run scorer, disclosed that he was a little reluctant to take the job, since he had resigned himself to supporting a young captain for the remainder of his playing days and helping him to mature into the job.

It took a lot of support from past and present players to cajole him into reconsidering his decision not to accept the position again.

"This decision came following a lot of thought and consideration

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Afriди to play Test cricket

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has withdrawn his temporary retirement from Test cricket, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Thursday.

Afriди, 26, shocked his team when he announced earlier this month that he was giving up the longer form of the game until after the 2007 World Cup to concentrate on limited-overs cricket.

PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan "has persuaded Shahid Afridi to withdraw his temporary retirement from Test cricket," the board's spokesman Abbas Zaidi said in a statement.

Khan had asked Afriди to review

his decision "in the national interest and had assured him that PCB would be sensitive to the pressures that had led to his earlier decision," the spokesman said.

"Afriди agreed to respond to the PCB chairman's call and dedicated himself to the success of the team."

The decision means Afriди will be available for Pakistan's tour of England in July and August, for the home series against the West Indies in November and also for their tour of South Africa early next year.

Afriди said in mid-April the strain of an excessive cricketing schedule was the main reason behind his decision and that he was not getting enough time to spend with his family.

Former Pakistan cricket legend Imran Khan has said that Afriди's

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

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