



Current and ex-shooters brought out a rally in the Gulshan area yesterday demanding exemplary punishment for the people involved in the events of "Black Monday."

Bashar slightly happy

SPORTS REPORTER from Chandigarh

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar said that he wants the same responsible batting from his top-order batsmen when the main event begins.

The 33-year-old skipper was excited with the way his top-order played against PCA XI in the practice game at Chandigarh but he was well aware of the fact that it would be a different ball game when they take on Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe in the preliminary round of the ICC Champions Trophy.

"It is very encouraging to see that our top-order clicked at the right time. But once we do the same in the tournament proper, I can say that our problem is solved because you should understand that it was a practice match and against a comparatively weaker opponent," he explained.

"We have been struggling with this for long so it was refreshing to see that it has worked for a change. I think we couldn't carry our innings further as the problems lies in our mind. I want to see a batsman carry his innings and not be dismissed at 30," he added.

"I was not dissatisfied with the overall performance but the only

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Perfect practice

Tigers trounce PCA XI by 7 wickets



BISHWAJIT ROY from Chandigarh

All the worries of inadequate preparation of the Tigers is now put to rest as they made a solid start to their ICC Champions Trophy campaign with a seven-wicket win over Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) President's XI in a practice match at the Sector 16 Stadium in Chandigarh yesterday.

The win comes as a boost ahead of their October 7 opening clash against Sri Lanka in the neighboring city of Mohali. Bangladesh chased down a modest target of 205 set by the hosts in only 41 overs under brilliant sunshine and in almost perfect conditions -- something which they lacked back home.

Tigers arrived in India with only half a practice match behind them and much speculation about their ground work but middle-order batsmen Aftab Ahmed and Sakib Al Hasan combined to give the Tigers a convincing victory.

The two young batsmen went on to add 120 runs for the third-wicket after they came together with the score on 66 for 2 in the 17th over when opening batsman Shahriar Nafees was dismissed for 29.

Right-handed Aftab blazed away in his 71-ball 76 that included eight fours and two huge sixes, while left-hander Sakib played a composed



AFTAB AHMED... 76



SAKIB AL HASAN... 66 n.o

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

innings of 66 that featured a six and half a dozen boundaries, last of which was the winning runs off spinner Bipul Sharma through mid-

wicket.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore expressed his satisfaction over his charges' performance in the match though, he was a little disturbed by the fielding effort.

"The major encouragement was that we played a full practice match after inclement weather hampered it at home and the boys, positively,

Shooting in disarray

NSF to sue responsible cops

SPORTS REPORTER

whether we can send a good team to the Asiad," said Nazim.

The federation, which demanded exemplary punishment for DC North of DMP Obaidur Rahman, OC of Gulshan Police Station Mahbub, SI Faisal Zaman and SI Jasim, also demanded to know the identity of the others involved in the attack and better treatment for the injured. The shooting officials has decided to attend today's human-chain organised by Sommilito Krira Paribar at Muktagan at 3pm and stuck to their previous demand of forming a judicial inquiry to investigate the incident.

With leading air rifle shooter Asif Hossain Khan injured and Sharmin Akther suffering from fever following the brutal police attack, Bangladesh can hardly send a top-class team to the Doha Games this December.

"If the mental state of the shooters get better, we will resume the camp as soon as possible and see

camp and stayed at the complex hoping that the authority will give them a chance to get into action soon.

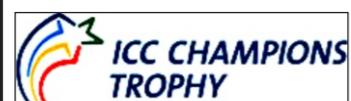
Meanwhile, tension mounted around and the federation high-ups and the shooters seemed to stand on different platforms on the issue. The shooters brought out a rally from the shooting complex yesterday demanding punishment for the guilty but the federation officials did not join.

Ex-shooters have been on the road protesting the police action and been trying to encourage the young shooters forget the horror they have been through. The federation officials, however, want to do it on their own.

Former shooter Abdul Gaffar

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Aussies' point to prove



AFP, Sydney

world cricket.

Ponting's team, who have won 16 of their 24 ODI matches this season, tuned up for the world's second biggest one-day tournament with a crushing 127-run victory over the West Indies in the final of the DLF Cup in Kuala Lumpur on September 25.

The tri-series was Australia's first competitive cricket since whitewashing Bangladesh in three ODIs last April.

Ponting, who also has his eye on regaining the Ashes off England in the five-Test home series later this year, believes Australia has all the bases covered for the Champions' Trophy.

"It's obviously one we want to win. It is the second biggest one-day tournament in the world and it is one that has eluded Australia," Ponting said.

"We have been knocked out in the semifinal in the last two Champions Trophies, but we definitely have the two top-ranked ODI batsmen in

squad and the players to challenge seriously this year.

"We've played some good cricket in Indian conditions before so we can go there now with confidence."

Australia have been knocked out of the Champions Trophy in the last two semifinals, by England two years ago and Sri Lanka in 2002.

Australia will field four of the top-10 ranked batsmen in ODI cricket -- Hussey (1), Gilchrist (2), Ponting (4) and Andrew Symonds (5) -- and three of the top-10 bowlers -- Brett Lee (2), Nathan Bracken (4) and Glenn McGrath (5).

But the team will be strengthened by left-arm speedster Mitchell Johnson and all-rounder Shane Watson, who both did well in the Malaysian tournament.

Johnson snared a career-best 4-11 against India before he was sent

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

to the semis.

"We have been knocked out in the semifinal in the last two Champions Trophies, but we definitely have the two top-ranked ODI batsmen in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

SEE PAGE 18