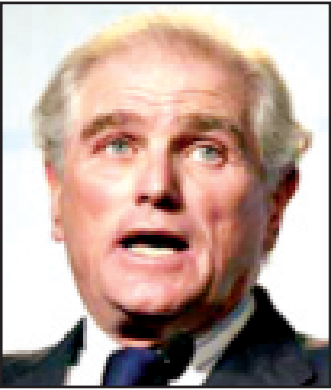




Did U Know?

Twelve countries took part in the first ever Olympic Games which was held in Athens, 1896.



Ramon Calderon
(Real Madrid president)

"(David) Beckham is the kind of player who attracts interest from other clubs and I know he has a lot of offers because he is a key player in many ways."



BTV & SET Max

ICC Champions Trophy
Sri Lanka v West Indies
Live at 2:45 pm

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Wigan v Man United
Live at 5:40 pm
Liverpool v Blackburn Rovers
Live at 7:55 pm
Primera Liga
Getafe v Real Madrid
Live at 11:55 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Arsenal v Watford
Live at 7:55 pm
Reading v Chelsea
Live at 10:10 pm
Primera Liga
Atletico Madrid v Recreativo
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)

Tigers share joy of Nobel Prize

SPORTS REPORTER from Jaipur

Cricket took a backseat at the press box of the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur yesterday as Dr Muhammad Yunus's getting the Nobel Peace Prize became the talk of the day.

The visiting Bangladeshi journalists were informed through the internet that the renowned economist and his organisation Grameen Bank got the Nobel Prize for peace.

Some local journalists also queried about why the Bangladeshi

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

SKP slams Mueyed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sommitlo Krira Paribar (SKP) criticised the National Shooting Federation (NSF) for its delay to send Asif Hossain Khan abroad for better treatment.

The SKP had taken all preparations to send the Commonwealth and South Asian Games gold medalist shooter, hospitalised after brutal police assault, to the Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Nafees silences critics



BISHWAJIT ROY from Jaipur

There were whispers in the audience whether Shahriar Nafees was getting too many awards at the Bangladesh Cricket Board Award Night last month. The left-handed batsman, however, quieted the doubters and made everyone believe yesterday that he has not forgotten his main duty, to score runs for the team.

The 20-year old opener, who was named vice-captain for the tournament following his impressive first season in international cricket which also got him the best cricketer and best batsman awards of the year, rewrote his name in the record book as the first Bangladeshi batsman to score two one-day international hundreds.

Riding on his composed 161-ball 123 not out, Bangladesh reached a decent 231 for six in their share of 50 overs against Zimbabwe in the ICC Champions Trophy preliminaries after the Africans had invited them to bat in the day-night match at the

Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

On way to the highest one-day individual score for the country, he also became only the second batsman to carry the bat after Javed Omar who achieved the same feat in the 2000 Asia Cup at home. Nafees's knock was featured with 17 boundaries and an over boundary.

"I'm very much aware of the fact that I have to retain my place in the team first and scoring runs is the only way to do that. So vice-captaincy and other things are simply secondary issues to me," the young batsman had told time and again when asked whether he would lose his way due to too many accolades.

It seemed that Nafees started his innings where he had left off against Zimbabwe during his maiden ODI century (118 not out) at Harare two months back.

Nafees, who relied on his timing, struggled in the match against Sri Lanka in Mohali making only five but looked good in their disappointing show against the West Indies in Jaipur although his 38-run innings finally could not bear fruit for his side.

But his second hundred in 28 ODI appearances -- the fifth by a Bangladeshi batsman -- salvaged

his side in what is billed as a prestige match after both have been ousted from contention for a second round berth.

Nafees, however, was lucky to survive a chance on nought when Elton Chigumbura floored a tough catch at short cover. He was also dropped after going past the magical three-figure mark.

The Tigers were reduced to 26-2 by the tenth over following the quick dismissals of Rajin Saleh (6) and in-form Aftab Ahmed (3) but young left-hander Sakib Al Hasan once again proved his worth as a potential innings builder.

The 19-year old Sakib, who made a duck in the previous match, joined Nafees for the third wicket and shared 84 runs which not only repaired the damage but also gave a platform for a late assault. On 36, he tried to cut the ball but only edged it to Eddie Rainsford at backward point for a simple catch off Tafadzwa Kamungozi.

Under pressure captain Habibul Bashar, who was dismissed for back to back ducks in the competition which cast doubts over his fitness, however tried his best and took the responsibility during a 40-ball 30.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Acme, F2 share points

SPORTS REPORTER

Rain forced Acme Laboratories and Channel F2 to share points in a group match of the GrameenPhone Corporate League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Play had already carried over from Thursday after rain also stopped play then, but things didn't look bright on Friday as only 38.1 overs were possible. Overnight batsman Nasiruddin Faruk was dismissed for 37 by leg-spinner KM Shakil, but when the score reached 141 for 4, the players had to scurry back to the pavilion at the Dhanmondi ground due to heavy rain.

Epyllion look to accumulate more points as they take on minnows Raju Fish Culture today at the BKSP ground in Savar while Bangladesh Biman face MM Ispahani at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Asia Pacific Blossom Hotel also look to register their first points as they travel to the Fatullah Stadium to take on high-flyers Partex.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan Sporting Club's Prince (second L) launches an attack during their Green Delta Premier Hockey League match against Ajax at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

SL look to cut out extras



AFP, Mumbai

Sri Lanka are desperate to cut down on troublesome extras as they prepare to take on the West Indies in the final qualifying showdown of the Champions Trophy on Saturday.

Although both teams have

already made it to the main tournament starting on Sunday, the stakes will be high in the day-night match at the Brabourne stadium here.

The winner will top the qualifiers and be placed with South Africa, Pakistan and New Zealand in group B of the main tournament.

The loser goes to group A that has world champions Australia, England and hosts India.

Both teams breezed past minnows Zimbabwe and Bangladesh as expected, but Sri Lanka are worried by the high number of extras they conceded in the two games.

The Sri Lankans gave away 21 wides and eight no-balls in their first match against Bangladesh in Mohali and 19 wides and seven no-balls against Zimbabwe in Ahmedabad.

That added up to 9.1 additional overs, a luxury captain Mahela Jayawardene said the team can ill-afford against the established teams.

"We are working on correcting this," he said. "The bowlers were obviously a bit rusty since they had not played one-day cricket since

June."

Sri Lanka were denied useful one-day practice at home in August when South Africa abandoned a tri-series also featuring India due to security reasons, following a bomb blast near their team hotel in Colombo.

A hurriedly arranged three-match series against India was rained off.

Sri Lanka showed their class by beating Bangladesh by 37 runs in their opening qualifying match and then thumped Zimbabwe by 144 runs.

Young opener Upul Tharanga, a 21-year-old survivor of the killer tsunami in December 2004 when his home in Sri Lanka's west coast was washed away, led the way with centuries in both matches.

Sri Lanka have won eight of their last 11 matches against the West Indies, but suffered a 33-run defeat in their last game in Colombo in 2005.

"The West Indies are playing very well and we will have to be at

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

AD



PHOTO: AFP

ZIMBABWE'S BOGEY: Bangladesh opener Shahriar Nafees raises his arms in celebration after reaching his century in the Champions Trophy qualifying match against Zimbabwe at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Friday.