

## Tourists start on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Visiting Zimbabwe A took control as they batted out the entire opening day, losing only four wickets in the four-day match against hosts Bangladesh A at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

When stumps were drawn three overs early because of bad light, the visitors were at 276 for four.

All-rounder Sean Williams batted solidly to score 83 off 134 balls as he shared a 106-run fourth wicket stand with skipper Stuart Matsikenyeri who remained unbeaten on 68.

For the hosts, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque took two wickets while seamers Mohammad Sharif and Mohammad Shahjada picked up one wicket each.

### BRIEF SCORES

**ZIMBABWE A:** First innings: 276 for four in 87 overs (Mawoyo 16, Hove 23, Chibhaba 36, Williams 82, Matsikenyeri 68\*, Chigumbura 37\*, Enamul 2-100, Sharif 1-38, Shahjada 1-35).

## ZC in deep trouble

CRICINFO, undated

The government-backed Sports and Recreation Commission (SRC) is set to read the riot act to Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) after the board was found guilty by Harare magistrates of breaching the country's strict foreign exchange regulations.

ZC was fined around US\$50,000 after pleading guilty to breaking the law with regard to payments totaling more than US\$1.3 million in 2005.

Local media quoted a source at the SRC as saying that by breaching the country's exchange regulations, ZC had also breached SRC laws. "The SRC is serious these days about how sporting associations are being run. We want to call up Peter Chingoka and his board to

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PHOTO: STAR

Dashing batsman Aftab Ahmed plays a full-blooded square-cut during his blistering knock of 66 against Scotland in the first one-day international at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

## Tigers too good for Scots



SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

As expected Bangladesh secured a comfortable victory against Scotland in the first one-day international of the two-match series to establish their supremacy over the visitors at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Habibul Bashar's men showed no mercy to the ICC associate members in a six-wicket success to confirm the Tigers' seventh ODI win in a row when they romped home with 154-4 in 29.1 overs after shooting out Scotland for 153 in 45.1 overs.

Local boy Aftab Ahmed enter-

taind the cheering crowd most in the one-sided affair when the dashing right-hander mesmerised the Scottish attack with three massive sixes and nine boundaries during a 50-ball 66 blitzkrieg to ease the task after a cautious start from southpaw openers Shahriar Nafees (36 off 57 balls) and Mehrab Hossain (8 off 20 balls).

The match, however, gave Nafees and the country's leading paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortuza something to cheer about as the left-handed opener became the first Bangladeshi batsman to score one thousand runs in a calendar year while the "Narail Express" took exactly two wickets to overwhelm Australian paceman Nathan Bracken (45) as most the wicket taker this year with 47 scalps.

Bashar sent the opponents to bat after winning the toss and his new ball pair Mashrafe and Shahadat Hossain bowled their hearts out to

justify the home captain's decision right as their hostile attack cut the Scottish top half for 58 runs inside 15 overs.

An usually aggressive Shahadat was the most successful claiming three wickets for 38 from eight overs while Mashrafe conceded 49 runs from nine overs and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak picked up two for 16.

Ryan Watson felt the heat of the opening salvo as he was grounded after a bouncer from Mashrafe got through his helmet and the profusely bleeding batsman was immediately taken to a hospital. ACT scan detected a fracture but apparently there was no danger for the cricketer.

The visitors, however, managed to reach the three-digit mark thanks to a wagging tail with Colin Smith (30), Glenn Rogers (20) and Ross Lyons (28) showing some effort.

Surprisingly, Sakib Al Hasan

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# A day to remember



NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, from Chittagong

When Scottish batsman Ryan Watson fell ungainly on his stumps to be dismissed hit wicket after being struck on the head by Mashrafe Bin Mortuza yesterday morning, the lanky fast bowler became the highest wicket-taker in one-day international cricket for the calendar year 2006.

The 23-year-old fast bowler became the first Bangladeshi to reach the milestone as he took two wickets during the Tigers' six-wicket victory over visiting Scotland at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. Mashrafe reached 47 scalps, taking over from Australian swing bowler Nathan Bracken who has taken 46 wickets.

Mathematically, Mashrafe's record is untouchable as his closest competitors Nathan Bracken (46) and Brett Lee (44) are not scheduled to play any ODI while Jerome Taylor and Abdul Razzaq must take eight wickets in their last one-day match of the year -- in Karachi today -- to touch the man they call 'Narail

Express'.

His teammate and Tigers vice-captain Shahriar Nafees also reached a significant milestone as

he completed 1,000 runs in a calendar year. The young left-hander glanced opposing skipper Craig Wright to the fine-leg fence to reach

the required 27 runs.

On a near-perfect day for Bangladesh, the two record holders expressed their satisfaction in attaining their respective milestones. Nafees, who scored three centuries in the year, said that the feat was not on his mind when the year began.

"That (the record) was not on my mind after that duck against Sri Lanka back in February, I can remember that," revealed Nafees.

"It is true that we played many matches against them (Zimbabwe and Kenya) but I would say that these were pressure games for us as we just had to win.

"We knew that if we could make winning a habit against minnows then we will be in a position to fight against the top sides. We won most of those matches and we are now more confident," said Nafees who scored 36 against Scotland on the day of his record.

But young Nafees voiced his dissatisfaction in not being able to play Test cricket often.

"For me the ultimate (challenge) is Test cricket but there are

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PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

**JUST FOR THE RECORD:** Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortuza (L), who became the highest wicket-taker in one-day internationals in the year 2006, poses with teammate and vice-captain Shahriar Nafees who reached one thousand runs in the calendar year during the first match against Scotland at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

## City Bank to sell tickets today

SPORTS REPORTER

The City Bank Limited will sell tickets for tomorrow's second and final one-day international between Bangladesh and Scotland from its five city branches today in spite of a government holiday.

The branches are Bangabandhu Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhanmondi, Uttara and Mirpur.

A bank official informed yesterday that they have decided to keep the branches open from 9am to 12 noon.

## Chess team fare well

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh rounded off their campaign in the 15th Asian Games in Doha on Thursday night, securing an admirable seventh place out of 21 countries in the mixed team classical chess event.

Both football and hockey teams returned after frustrating performances and the only medal Bangladesh won from the Games that concluded yesterday in the

Qatar capital is a bronze in kabaddi.

Bangladesh also took part in athletics, swimming, shooting, weightlifting, judo, taekwondo, golf, snooker and archery without any distinction.

In their ninth and final match of the Swiss League, the Bangladesh chess team lost 2-1 to mighty China, who settled for silver with 17.5 points.

Both the Bangladeshi male players, Grandmaster Reefat Bin Sattar and International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib, drew against their oppositions -- GM Yue

Wang and GM Xiangzhi Bu respectively -- while Shamima Akhter Liza went down to WGM Xue Zhao.

India, who had ensured gold with a match in hand, emerged as unbeaten champions when they shared points with Kazakhstan in the final round, their only draw after eight consecutive wins.

The Indian chess team featured three GMs, Sasikiran Krishnan, Harikrishna Pentala and Humpy Koneru who had also won the women's rapid chess gold at the Asiad.

Bangladesh clinched seventh

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### TEN Sports

Pakistan v West Indies

Fifth ODI

Live at 12:30 pm

### ESPN

Australia v England

Third Ashes Test, Day Three

Live at 8:15 am

English Premier Football League

Charlton Athletic v Liverpool

Live at 6:40 pm

Arsenal v Portsmouth

Live at 8:55 pm

### Primera Liga

Zaragoza v Valencia

Live at 2:55 am (Sunday)

### STAR Sports

South Africa v India

First Test, Day Two

Live at 2:30 pm

English Premier Football League

Reading v Blackburn Rovers

Live at 10:00 pm

Aston Villa v Bolton Wanderers

Live at 11:10 pm

New Zealand v Sri Lanka

Second Test, Day Three

Live at 3:30 am (Sunday)

## Sangakkara stands alone



AFP, Wellington

An unbeaten century by batting machine Kumar Sangakkara helped Sri Lanka overcome an atrocious start to take first-day honours in the second cricket Test against New Zealand here Friday.

A determined Sangakkara was at his majestic best as he produced a near flawless 156 not out while wickets tumbled around him, with Sri Lanka all out for 268 and New Zealand 66 for four in reply at stumps.

In a frenetic day on a pitch which offered the batsmen plenty, 14 wickets fell including six ducks.

In a repeat of the opening stanza in the first Test in Christchurch, Mahela Jayawardene again won the toss, chose to bat, and was let down



KUMAR SANGAKKARA...156 n.o

by his openers.

This time Chris Martin was New Zealand's chief destroyer, posting figures of three for 20 as Sri Lankan wickets fell at regular intervals and they went to lunch at 112 for four.

But Sangakkara was undaunted and the pitch held no fears for him as he backed up from his unbeaten century in the first Test.

He found an ally in Chamara Silva to put on 121 for the fifth wicket, and was then joined by Prasanna Jayawardene to add a further 37 runs.

Silva, who was out for a pair in his Test debut in Christchurch, made amends with a well earned 61 before edging James Franklin to Stephen Fleming at first slip.

Jayawardene, who was dropped by Brendon McCullum when on four, and later edged Shane Bond between McCullum and Fleming,

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## India pin hopes on Sourav

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

India fought against a hostile pace attack to reach 156 for five at stumps on the first day of their first Test against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium Friday.

VVS Laxman was caught behind in the last ball of the day, having scored 28 off 67 balls, bringing Mahendra Dhoni to join Sourav Ganguly, who was batting on 14 in his comeback Test.

As soon as Dhoni walked out to bat the umpires, having checked their light meters, offered the light to the batsmen who made no hesitation to accept it.

The departure of captain Rahul Dravid on 32 brought Ganguly to the wicket.

Earlier, Dravid and master batsman Sachin Tendulkar staged a recovery after their team lost two early wickets.

Tendulkar was out for 44 shortly before tea was taken early because of an approaching thunderstorm. India were 101 for three at the break, with Dravid unbeaten on 30.

Dravid was particularly watchful, eking out his runs in 139 minutes off 73 balls. Tendulkar was also

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