

Tigers in Antigua

TIGERCRICKET.COM, undated

The Bangladesh World Cup squad reached Antigua after nearly two days of traveling. The Tigers arrived in St. John's via Dubai and London and despite the jetlag the players were in good spirit.

Tigers landed in St. John's at 3:45pm local time yesterday (1:45am Bangladesh Time early Wednesday). It was a 48-hour journey from Dhaka.

The team is staying at the Jolly Beach Resort which is about half an hour's drive from capital St. John's.

"Everyone is fine. It is a very nice resort and very big also. The food is also fine and the players are feeling comfortable. We'll have training today. It takes around an hour to reach the ground," informed team operations manager Ali Asif Khan over telephone.

Bangladesh are in Antigua for a warm-up tri-series against World Cup qualifiers Bermuda, coached by former West Indies star Gus Logie, and Canada starting later this week before heading to Barbados to face New Zealand and Scotland in the official ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 warm-ups at the 3W's Oval.

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Did U Know?

Mark Waugh of Australia became the only batsman to hit three centuries in one World Cup in 1996.



Greg Chappell

(India cricket coach)
"It was never Chappell v (Sourav) Ganguly, never between two personalities. I only look at cricketing issues. Ganguly has come back extremely well and all credit to him. Right now, I have nothing but praise for him."

Shuvo down with typhoid

RAFIQUE SARKER, from Rangpur

Abahani and Rajshahi left-arm spinner Suhawardi Shuvo who fell sick during the four-day practice match against England A has been suffering from typhoid and is undergoing treatment at his house in Rangpur.

He was sent to Lab Aid Hospital where doctors, after a number of tests, advised him to have rest. Therefore, he came in his Rangpur house where he felt sicker. His typhoid was confirmed by Dr. Mafizul Islam Mantu and Dr. Gopal Chandra, after yet more tests.

Only for women!

AFP, Karachi

Male spectators except family members will be banned when Pakistan hosts the eight-team International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's World Cup qualifiers in November, officials said Wednesday.

But officials hailed the decision to stage the matches in this conservative Islamic republic as a sign that the country is becoming more moderate and making efforts to allow women to play sport.

The qualifiers will be played in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore between November 18 and 24, the ICC said in a statement from its headquarters in Dubai.

Besides the hosts, teams from

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PHOTO: STAR

THE WRONG PLACE? Bangladesh A opener Mehrab Hossain contemplates as he stretches with his teammates at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday ahead of today's four-day match against England A.

Tushar wary of English

Four-dayer starts at Mirpur today



SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Tushar Imran expects a tough challenge when Bangladesh A take on their England counterparts in the first four-dayer of the two-match series at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today.

"We are going to face a tough challenge in the series because they are a very good side. I will even be satisfied if we can manage a draw in the series," said Tushar, who is almost synonymous as skipper of the second strings Bangladesh side.

England A, boosted by four players with one-day international experience, already made good use of their only

warm-up match on the tour although it ended in a draw against the BCB Academy team at BKSP.

"I think it's created an opportunity for out-of-favour players like me and the other promising ones to put pressure on the selectors. I think good performance against such formidable opponents count high," said the dashing middle-order batsman.

"It would be an exciting series if we can play as per our potential. I am hopeful because we have a young but talented team," he added.

In and out Tushar also said that he was desperately looking forward to showing his best to earn back his place in the national side before the home series against India in May.

"I want to come up with my best because I believe that I can only put

pressure on the selectors by performance," said the out-of-favour batsman, who toured with the national side in the recently concluded Zimbabwe tour only to play one game before being ignored for the World Cup squad.

The home skipper expects a very good batting wicket in Mirpur although the recent past record in this newly built pitch has hardly produced any high-scoring matches. "From what I saw today it looks like a very good batting wicket," he informed.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH A (from): Tushar Imran (captain), Sahagir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Mehrab Hossain, Jahirul Islam, Nazimuddin Faruque,

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Lesson for Indian fans

PTI, Port-of-Spain

Trinidad and Tobago's Tourism Development Company has announced plans to teach the Indian and other cricket fans visiting during the World Cup how to play steel pan, the only musical instrument to be developed in the 20th century.

The Tourism organisation has prepared a programme 'Pan Sensation' which will give visitors from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bermuda the opportunity to learn to play the steel pan.

There will also be a 'Food Fair' where visitors can taste doubles, roti, dhalpouri, pilau and the like.

Former Miss Universe 1977 Penny Commissioning-Chow, who also serves as Communications Manager, said "we are encouraging people to come forward and keep the fetes and other outings because we will have visitors here for two weeks and we must take advantage of this fact to sell Trinidad and Tobago."

Hayden toe under scanner

BBC ONLINE, undated

Matthew Hayden will have further scans on Monday on his fractured big toe to determine whether he will play in the World Cup.

He was injured during his innings of 181 not out, the best score ever by an Australian in ODIs, in the final one-dayer against New Zealand.

Hayden was hit on his right boot by a yorker from Mark Gillespie.

"I am having scans on Monday and then, hopefully, I will be in a clearer position," the 35-year-old said.

Hayden played out the rest of his innings with a runner, striking a string of sixes to pass Mark Waugh's 173 and record a new highest score

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Tariqul traps Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER



Barisal left-arm spinner Tariqul Islam hogged the spotlight with an eight-wicket haul against hosts Khulna on the second day of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League yesterday.

Young Shamsur Rahman on the other hand shone with the bat on the day as Dhaka buried Chittagong under a pile of runs to take control of the seventh round match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Away at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, Khaled Mashud's home side took a huge first innings lead against Sylhet when they scored 354-8 in reply to the visitors' 200 runs in the first essay.

BARISAL-KHULNA

Tariqul picked up all eight wickets of the Khulna innings in his long 31-over spell as Barisal were on the verge of a first innings advantage.

Khulna finished the second day's play on 209-8, still 74 runs adrift of Barisal's first innings.

Only opener Imrul Kayes and Manjarul Islam chipped in with significant contributions against the

whirl of Tariqul. Imrul made team highest 47 off 120 balls that featured eight boundaries while Manjarul added 41 off 123 balls with the help of six boundaries.

Earlier Barisal were bowled out for 283 after they resumed on their overnight score of 272-9.

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG

After wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain's effort the Dhaka innings saw another hundred with Shamsur hitting 103 to amass 500 runs in their first innings.

The right-hander's 184-ball 103 that featured nine fours and a 100-ball 69 by Sharifullah helped the hosts to add 200 more runs to their overnight total of 300-3.

Chittagong failed to make a bold reply against a mammoth total as they lost three wickets for 71 runs at stumps.

Nazimuddin was batting on 22 and Ehsanul Haque on 16.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

Resuming the day on 56-1, Rajshahi lost their second wicket in the third over of the day when pacer Hasibul Hossain removed bowling-hero Forhad Reza. But Naeem Islam joined Rafiqul Islam to steady the innings during the 71-run third wicket stand.

Rafiqul scored 69 off 151 balls with the help of 11 boundaries and his departure brought Anisur Rahman in action to associate a 157-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Naeem who made the team highest 87 off 196 balls that featured 12 fours.

Anisur smashed a 106-ball 70 with nine fours and a six. In his side's good batting display skipper Mashud (4) failed to show up after his much-debated omission from the World Cup squad.

Former national paceman Hasibul was the most successful Sylhet bowler with three wickets for 56 runs in 23 overs.

BRIEF SCORES

DHAKA: First innings 500 all out in 142.2 overs (overnight 300-3 in 90 overs) (Uttam 62, Anwar 108, Al Shahriar 71, Shamsur 103, Riyad 8, Sharifullah 69, Sajjad 4, Hossain 0, Sunny 18 not out, Talha 0, Mahbulul 20, extras 37, Tareq 3-110, Alamgir 2-56, Sabbir 3-127, Elias Sunny 1-86)

CHITTAGONG: First innings 71-3 in 37 overs (Elias Sunny 12, Nafis 13, Nadimuddin 2, Nazimuddin 22

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'We are on track'

AFP, Sydney



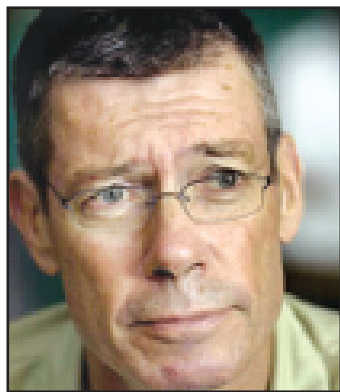
Australia's battered and beaten one-day cricket side limped home Wednesday insisting its World Cup defence was on track despite an unprecedented 3-0 series pasting from the Black Caps in New Zealand.

Australia's winless New Zealand campaign, dubbed a "blackwash" by the media here, followed two losses to England in the domestic tri-series final, with the five consecutive defeats representing Australia's worst run in a decade.

Coach John Buchanan, who just last month complained that England and New Zealand were too poor to give his team of champions a competitive hit-out, said there was no need to radically overhaul World

Cup preparations.

Buchanan said the Australians would simply put the defeats behind them as they rest for a week, and opening batsman Matthew Hayden undergoes tests on a right big toe fractured by a yorker in Tuesday's loss to New Zealand.



JOHN BUCHANAN

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NZ's form Taylor-made

AFP, Wellington



The decisive manner in which New Zealand thrashed Australia this month has put the spotlight on a shy Ross Taylor who is being hailed as the new saviour of New Zealand cricket.

New Zealand has never been known for consistency and have traditionally relied on spasmodic standout performances to hover in the top half of the world rankings.

But there is no doubting that performances have improved across the board in the past month coinciding with Taylor's growing time at the crease.

The 22-year-old part-Samoan doesn't say much, he prefers to let his bat do the talking and in less than

a year on the world stage the right-hander is averaging 42 from 15 outings.

But it was a slow start, and less than six months ago he couldn't make the New Zealand team for the Champions Trophy.

Such was the dismal top-order batting there, however, Taylor's revival was a formality and he hasn't looked back.

In the second match of the Australian series this month, he led New Zealand to a record-breaking win and their first Chappell-Hadlee series title.

With incredible hand-eye co-ordination, he smashed 117 -- his second century of the season after his maiden against Sri Lanka -- to transform an unlikely chase for 337 into one of New Zealand's most memorable triumphs.

The Black Caps now go to the Caribbean desperate to prove their

victories over Australia were not an aberration.

But after a history of stunning wins entwined with inexplicable failures, captain Stephen Fleming knows not to be too confident.

"We are excited but we want to be become a consistent side," he said.

"We'll continue to be the dark horses in every tournament if we go up and down."

With a small talent pool to call on, the New Zealand team largely selected itself although the trick for coach John Bracewell was getting the right balance of batsmen, bowlers and all-rounders.

Backing Taylor in the batting ranks are the resurgent Lou Vincent and Fleming while Craig McMillan and Peter Fulton are likely to be

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MU demand urgent action

AFP, London



British sports minister Richard Caborn and Manchester United football club have called for urgent action after United fans appeared to be crushed on a safety barrier in their Champions League match.

The club is calling for eye witness accounts and Caborn has urged European football's governing body UEFA to ensure safety in stadiums following United's 1-0 victory over Lille in their last 16, first leg match at Lens's Felix-Bollaert stadium on Tuesday night.

A UEFA spokesman told AFP early Wednesday they would wait for reports from the match delegate and the referee, which must be sent within 48 hours, before making a statement.

At least two supporters, one a schoolboy, were lifted over the barrier while security officials slammed shut a gate which had been pushed open by United supporters trying to relieve the pressure.

What could have been a chilling

reminder of the Hillsborough tragedy in 1989 was not aided by the arrival of French riot police who fired tear gas into the stand.

Ironically Lille play their European matches at Lens because their Metropole stadium does not meet UEFA standards.

But Caborn wants safety checks to be brought forward to weeks in advance of the match, rather than on the day of the game.

He told LBC radio: "I think some of the grounds are not coming up to what even UEFA are saying are the minimum standards and I think one's got to be asking UEFA are they now going to be taking action with those grounds that are not coming up to the standards?"

"Not a few hours before the match but weeks before the match so they go out, they look at those grounds and indeed if they're not up to standard then UEFA - by their own code - ought to be taking action."

"There are a number of grounds where Champions League matches are being played that don't come up to the standard of UEFA."

"Now I think it's up to UEFA to make sure they do carry out inspections and those inspections are

acted upon if they are substantial."

Caborn revealed: "One of the problems you have is that they go and inspect the ground on the day the match is taking place."

"We'll be raising it with UEFA in a very practical way because the independent football commission have a series of recommendations which, if followed, situations like Lille won't happen."

United keeper Edwin van der Sar complained of double vision afterwards, while many Red Devils supporters expressed their disgust at the treatment they had received.

Television companies suggested the problem was caused by stadium officials allowing supporters with tickets for different sections of the ground entrance into that enclosure.

If that is proved, Lille seem set to receive a heavy punishment from UEFA.

United assistant secretary Ken Ramsden met with UEFA delegates, FA representatives who were at the game as well as mem-

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PHOTO: AFP

Anti-riot policemen arrest Manchester United fans on the pitch during their Champions League match against Lille at the Felix Bollaert stadium in Lens on Tuesday.