



Bashar awaits tough Canada

TIGERCRIKET.COM, undated

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar is happy with his side's overall performance in the eight-wicket win over Bermuda in the World Cup warm-up tri-series match on Sunday but reckons Canada, their opponent today, will be a tougher proposition.

"We haven't had a chance to watch Canada in action but from the information I have received they seem like a decent side," said Bashar on phone from Antigua.

"Gus Logie (Bermuda's coach) told me that he thinks this Canadian team is better than the one that appeared in the 2003 World Cup. Also, they have won a practice game here against Antigua where they chased 231 with five wickets and more than seven overs to spare. Bermuda were okay but I believe Canada will be stronger," added Bashar about his opponents which had stunned Bangladesh in their last meeting in the 2003 World Cup.

The 34-year-old skipper said that there will be changes in the Bangladesh team for today's game but his only cause for concern was the fitness of premier fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

"Mortaza had a minor foot injury before the last match and

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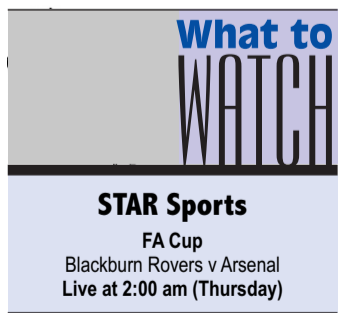
Did U Know?

Anil Dalpat Sonavaria was the first Hindu cricketer to play Test for Pakistan when made his debut against England in 1964.



Virender Sehwag

(India batsman)
"My goal is to give a good start to the team and if I get that, to just carry on and get a big one."
His plan for next month's World Cup.



SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong achieved a milestone in Bangladesh first-class history by reaching 600 runs in an innings on the second day of the eighth round Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The home team declared their first innings at 622-8 after resuming the day on 362-3 to take control of the match against Barisal as they reduced the visitors to 156-3 when stumps were drawn for the second day. Chittagong broke Dhaka's 570 made in an earlier round, interestingly against Chittagong.

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, out-of-favour Khaled Mashud not only continued his poor showing with the bat but also saw Rajshahi struggling against Dhaka in the crucial table-toppers' clash as they finished the day on 201-6 in reply to the home side's 357.

After the first-day's ton galore, Jamaluddin Babu only achieved the three-digit figure on the following day but his 103-run knock was not good enough for Khulna to take first innings advantage against Sylhet at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

CHITTAGONG-BARISAL
Ehsanul Haque failed to capitalise on his overnight score of 44 but Nazimuddin took his half-century to 92 before being trapped lbw by left-arm spinner Tariqueul Islam, who was brutally punished giving away 202 runs in 42 overs.

But the real assault only started for Barisal when wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh, Wasquarani Palash and Sabbir Khan blew the visitors apart. Dhiman smashed 15 boundaries during his 96-ball 81 while Palash smote seven sixes and three fours to hit 81-ball 88.

Sabbir was not out with 38 off 47 balls.

Imran Ahmed and Hannan

Sarker made a confident in reply to the towering total but Gazi Alamgir broke the 82-run opening stand removing Hannan, who scored 43 off 41 balls with nine hits to the fence.

Barisal then lost two quick wickets but Imran kept one side with 75 off 136 balls while Ali Arman accompanied him with 10.

DHAKA-RAJSHAHI
Forhad Reza returned with figures of five for 70 as Rajshahi wrapped up the home side's innings quickly by taking remaining four wickets in the morning as Dhaka were dismissed for 357 after resuming the day on 329-6.

But their early success faded by the poor batting show when they tottered at 37-3 before Junaed Siddique (53 off 126 balls) and

Anisur Rahman (48 off 83 balls) repaired the damage, associating in a 72-run in the fourth wicket.

The stage was set for Mashud to serve his team after he had declared that he will reply to the selectors with performance but the veteran stumper even failed to reach the double figure.

Mushfiqur Rahman (25 not out) and Forhad Reza (39) however came up with rescue act to keep the visitors' hopes alive.

Mohammad Azim was the most successful Dhaka bowler with 3-53 while Talha Jubair picked up two for 34.

SYLHET-KHULNA

Jamaluddin scored 103 off 126 balls with the help of ten fours while Monirul Islam chipped in with 56

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B.League TV rights Channel i's



SPORTS REPORTER

Channel i will telecast at least 40 matches live of the B. League including the Abahani-Muktijoddha opening match on March 2 in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday struck the TV deal with the satellite television channel, which earned the rights for free.

"It is a reality that we can't sell the rights for money. It is better to show the matches on TV rather than no telecast," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal yesterday defending the decision.

"This is the first year of the professional league and we hope to make things better next time because there would be a market," he added.

However, sources said that unofficially, the broadcaster has promised to share if it makes profit from the sponsors.

With only two more days to go for the launching of the inaugural Professional Football League, the transfer scene came alive with the clubs hurrying to complete registrations of their players.

With the deferral of the B. League's start, the original two-month long transfer period, which began on December 15, 2006, was extended till March 1 but most of the clubs have yet to officially register their booters with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Arambagh, who signed the first professional footballer back in December last year, registered ten players two days ago to complete their task while Farashganj, who had signed 14 earlier, confirmed

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Razzaq blow for Pakistan

AFP/PTI, Lahore



Injury-hit Pakistan suffered a fresh World Cup blow Tuesday when all-rounder Abdul Razzaq was ruled out for three weeks with a fractured knee.

Razzaq was hit on the left knee by a ball during practice on Monday and doctors have advised him to take three weeks of rest, followed by another two to three weeks of physiotherapy.

"The reports say it's a suspected knee fracture and he'll be out of cricket for three weeks. Azhar Mahmood will take his place in the squad," Pakistan cricket team media manager Pervez Mir said.

"Razzaq was hit on the knee during a nets session which left a fracture. Razzaq is out and Mahmood comes in his place. It is something we were not expecting but these things happen," he said.

"I am simply devastated. One moment we are practicing and planning for the big tournament and next moment doctors tell me I am out of it," Razzaq said.

"It is hugely disappointing for me

to go out this way," said the all-rounder.

"It is a major blow for us because Razzaq is one of our main players," said Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq.

The 27-year-old Razzaq missed Pakistan's Test series in South Africa earlier this year due to an ankle problem and only returned to play in the one-day series. He was



ABDUL RAZZAQ

to appear in his third World Cup.

He has played 229 one-day internationals for Pakistan and has 245 wickets. As a lower middle-order batsman he is known for his clean hitting, scoring 4,449 runs

with two hundreds.

Coach Bob Woolmer said Razzaq would be missed in the World Cup.

"It is a big blow. We were celebrating Umar Gul's fitness boost when this sad news came," Woolmer told AFP.

Paceman Gul fully recovered from an ankle injury which had threatened his chances of playing in the World Cup. Gul was given the go-ahead by doctors on Tuesday.

Pakistan is already doubtful about key pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif for the World Cup, which starts on March 13 in the Caribbean.

Akhtar is battling with a knee and hamstring injury, while Asif has a recurrence of an elbow injury sustained last year.

Both Akhtar and Asif must also clear mandatory drug tests to feature in the World Cup. Pakistan fly out to the Caribbean on March 1.

Pakistan are in Group D alongside the hosts West Indies, Zimbabwe and first-timers Ireland. Their match against the West Indies at Jamaica kicks off the World Cup on March 13.

Four called up for one-dayers

SPORTS REPORTER

Four players have been called up to the Bangladesh A side that play three one-day matches against visiting England A that begins at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on March 7.

Batsmen Nazimuddin and Junaed Siddique, all-rounders Mahmudullah Riyad, Manzarul Rana and Forhad Reza and pacer Mohammad Shahjada have been included in the A side in place of Mosharrar Hossain, Ziaur Rahman, Enamul Haque and Nasiruddin Faruque.

The players are requested to report to coach Shaun Williams at the Naz Garden Hotel in Bogra at 5pm on March 4.

The selected cricketers will miss the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League matches between March 4 and 13.

SQUAD

Tushar Imran (captain), Sahagir Hossain (wk), Junaed Siddique, Mehrib Hossain, Marshall Ayub, Nadif Chowdhury, Mahmudullah Riyad, Jahurul Islam, Manzarul Rana, Mohammad Shahjada, Nazmul Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, Forhad Reza, Nazimuddin.

BKSP, Rupali keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP continued their brilliant start in the Kai-Alleeh First Division Cricket League when they dismantled Uttara Sporting Club by seven wickets at the City Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, Uttara crawled to 151 before being all out in 48.2 overs. In reply, BKSP reached their target in 36.4 overs.

Riaz Mahmud, Raihan Anas, Golam Kibria and Latiful Azam all took two wickets each when BKSP bowled.

Ashraful Aziz struck a sedate unbeaten 58, with nine hits to the fence. Mushitaq, Gary and Zahid took a wicket each.

In the battle of the banks, Rupali Bank came out on top with an 8-run win over Agrani Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Half-centuries from Shumon Shaha (70) and Kamrul Hasan (50) propelled Rupali to a competitive 235-7 in 50 overs, thanks mainly to some poor fielding from Agrani.

Prosenjit Bose (61) could not make sure that his side won as they Agrani were restricted to only 227-8 in 50 overs.

Zakir slams double ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Zakir slammed the first double-century of the season in school cricket as Kalindi High School dumped Bangladesh International School at the Kalindi Club ground yesterday.

Kalindi could not beat the total scored by National Bangla on January 25, but they piled 454 in 49.3 overs. BIS followed that up with only 81 runs, before being bowled out in 23.5 overs.

Zakir slammed 238 off only 145 balls, crashing twenty-five fours and five sixes. Ashraful took three wickets.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Ashiqur hit a superb 112 off 118 balls as Motijheel Ideal School destroyed National Bank Public High School by 186 runs.

Mirpur Bangla High School and Iqra Model School also won their respective matches.

Down The World Cup Lane

1983: Surprise! surprise!!

The third World Cup, the last to be sponsored by the Prudential Assurance Company, began in England with two fine surprises, when India beat West Indies and newcomers Zimbabwe upset Australia in the opening round of matches, and ended with the greatest surprise of all, when India beat West Indies again, this time in the final at Lord's. None of the eight sides had to make do without a victory.

The competition differed from its two predecessors in format, partly to increase revenue but also to lessen the chances of a side being eliminated through having greater misfortune with the weather than its rivals. In the event, no sooner had the sides started to arrive in England for the 1983 World Cup than the rain, which had made the month of May one of the wettest on record, cleared away.

Most of the matches were played in warm sunshine, and throughout the competition, from June 9-25, interest ran high. After losing their opening match, West Indies carried all before them until failing, for the first time, to win the final. Australia had a disappointing fortnight, and with Imran Khan unfit to bowl for them, Pakistan were a shadow of the side which had trounced India and Australia in the previous winter.

New Zealand's main batting provided them with insufficient runs for a consistent challenge, while Sri Lanka, though they won their return match against New Zealand, were too short of bowling to be a serious threat. Zimbabwe, playing for the first time, having qualified as winners of the ICC Trophy in 1982, made a welcome contribution. Their side included several players with first-class experience, acquired

when, as Rhodesia, their country played in the Currie Cup. Apart from beating Australia they gave West Indies a run for their money at Worcester.

India's unexpected success (they were quoted at 66 to 1 before the competition began) came under a young and relatively new captain (Kapil Dev) and owed much to the presence in

their side of three all-rounders (Kapil, Roger Binny and Mohinder Amarnath) who, at critical moments, found enough in the conditions to help form an effective attack. Who would ever have thought before a ball was bowled that the leading wicket-takers in the competition would

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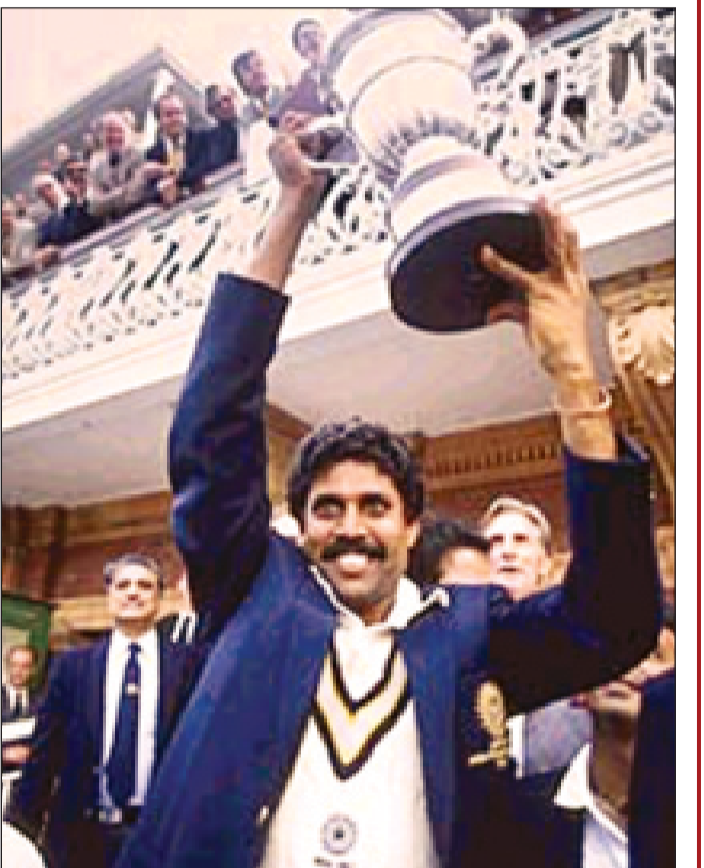


PHOTO: INTERNET

Kapil Dev holds aloft the World Cup after India beat West Indies in the final at Lord's on June 25, 1983.

West Bengal on top Indo-Bangla Games conclude today

BSS, Kolkata

Bangladesh finished behind West Bengal in the first Indo-Bangla Games at completion of all competitions here yesterday.

Bangladesh tallied 30 gold, 34 silver and 18 bronze compared to the hosts' haul of 38-34-32.

The Games will be officially concluded today at the Salt Lake Stadium.

SWIMMING

On the final day of competition yesterday, Bangladeshi swimmers Shahjahan Ali Rony and Doly Akhter clinched their third individual gold.

Rony claimed gold in 100m breaststroke after his success in 50 and 200 metres breaststroke to establish himself as the undisputed king of the event in the region. He took 1:08.45s to win the 100m event at the Subhas Sarobar swimming pool with fellow swimmers Niaz Ali and Karar Samedul Islam bagging silver and bronze respectively.

Doly, who became the fastest woman swimmer at the Games after winning the 50m freestyle on Monday, won the 100m breaststroke in 1:20.83 seconds yesterday.

Other Bangladeshi swimmers Mahfuzah Khatun finished behind Doly for silver.

ATHLETICS

The short-distance Bangladeshi

runners maintained their success on the second day of the athletics competition at the Salt Lake Stadium.

Mohammad Shamsuddin, the fastest man of this competition, completed the double winning the men's 200m sprint.

Shamsuddin raced in 21.90s ahead of compatriot Masudul Karim, who took 22.10s for silver their compatriot Imran Bhuiyan took 22.20s for bronze.

Earlier, Bangladesh lifted their first gold of the day when they won the 4x100m relay in 42.30s with the West Bengal relay team finishing in 43.30s. Shamsuddin, Masudul, Imran and Abu Abdullah made the Bangladesh team.

Of the eight events, West Bengal clinched six gold medals, eight silver and seven bronze medals.

Bangladesh finished with 18 medals with the breakup of five gold, eight silver and five bronze.

TEAM EVENTS

Bangladesh men's football team scored a consolation 3-1 win over West Bengal at the Barasat Stadium. West Bengal had earlier confirmed the gold by winning the first two matches 3-0 and 4-1 in the best-of-three competition.

The women's football match between the two sides ended in a goalless draw at Howrah Municipal

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Islamic Studies student Mohammad Tuhidul Islam Khan became champion while international relations student Mohammad Asad Nur came out runner-up in the annual sports competition of AF Rahman Hall at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Pro-VC Professor AFM Yusuf Haider gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

WOMEN'S CHESS

Sharmin Sultana came out on top of the selection phase of the 28th National Women's Chess competition at the Federation hall-room.

She collected four points while Farzana Hossain claimed second position with 3.5 points.

The final phase will begin from March 3.

GAIBANDHA SCHOOL CRICKET

Gaibandha Government High School defeated Harinsinga High School by six wickets in the schools cricket competition at Gaibandha Stadium.

In a low-scoring affair, Harinsinga were bowled out for only 49 runs in 14.4 overs. In reply, Gaibandha reached the target in seven overs but lost four wickets in the process.

DINAJPUR PACER HUNT

As many as eighteen fast bowlers reached the standard pace of 70 mph in the opening day of the two-day GrameenPhone Pacer Hunt

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PHOTO: FOCUSBANGLA

Gold medalist Shahjahan Ali Rony, flanked by fellow swimmers Niaz Ali (L) and Karar Samedul Islam, celebrates after Bangladesh swept all three medals in the men's 100m breaststroke at the Indo-Bangla Games at Subhas Sarobar in Kolkata yesterday.

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