



10 DAYS
TO GO

Shakib steadies Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Habibul Bashar and Shakib Al Hasan led Bangladesh's recovery from a precarious position to reach 158-3 in 36 overs against Canada in their second warm-up tri-series match at the Antigua Recreation Ground yesterday.

The Tigers made a disastrous start after being put into bat when first match centurion Shahriar Nafees was out for a first-ball duck and Aftab Ahmed followed him with second-ball duck. They were reduced to 30-3 when opener Tamim Iqbal fell victim of run out.

Bashar then joined Shakib to repair the damages. Shakib was at the crease on 82 and his captain at 55 when last reports came in.

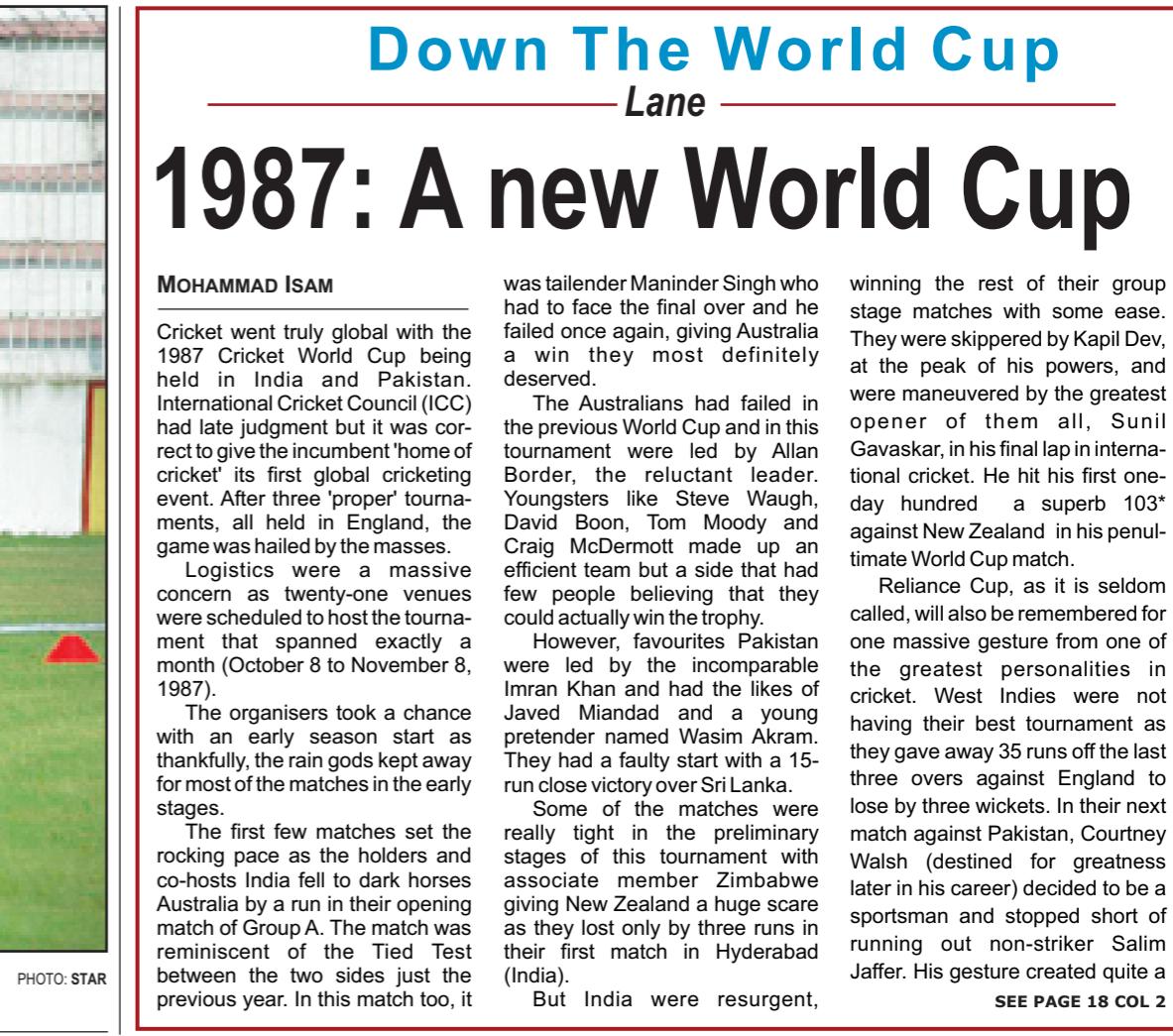
Leading Bangladeshi paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and his new ball partner Shahadat Hossain were included for the match in place of Syed Rasel and Tapash Baisya.

Rafique senses quake!

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh A players take part in a practice session at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.



MOHAMMAD ISAM

Cricket went truly global with the 1987 Cricket World Cup being held in India and Pakistan. International Cricket Council (ICC) had late judgment but it was correct to give the incumbent 'home of cricket' its first global cricketing event. After three 'proper' tournaments, all held in England, the game was hailed by the masses.

Logistics were a massive concern as twenty-one venues were scheduled to host the tournament that spanned exactly a month (October 8 to November 8, 1987).

The organisers took a chance with an early season start as thankfully, the rain gods kept away for most of the matches in the early stages.

The first few matches set the rocking pace as the holders and co-hosts India fell to dark horses Australia by a run in their opening match of Group A. The match was reminiscent of the Tied Test between the two sides just the previous year. In this match too, it

was tailender Maninder Singh who had to face the final over and he failed once again, giving Australia a win they most definitely deserved.

The Australians had failed in the previous World Cup and in this tournament were led by Allan Border, the reluctant leader. Youngsters like Steve Waugh, David Boon, Tom Moody and Craig McDermott made up an efficient team but a side that had few people believing that they could actually win the trophy.

However, favourites Pakistan were led by the incomparable Imran Khan and had the likes of Javed Miandad and a young pretender named Wasim Akram. They had a faultless start with a 15-run close victory over Sri Lanka.

Some of the matches were really tight in the preliminary stages of this tournament with associate member Zimbabwe giving New Zealand a huge scare as they lost only by three runs in their first match in Hyderabad (India).

But India were resurgent, winning the rest of their group stage matches with some ease. They were skippered by Kapil Dev, at the peak of his powers, and were maneuvered by the greatest opener of them all, Sunil Gavaskar, in his final lap in international cricket. He hit his first one-day hundred a superb 103* against New Zealand in his penultimate World Cup match.

Reliance Cup, as it is seldom called, will also be remembered for one massive gesture from one of the greatest personalities in cricket. West Indies were not having their best tournament as they gave away 35 runs off the last three overs against England to lose by three wickets. In their next match against Pakistan, Courtney Walsh (destined for greatness later in his career) decided to be a sportsman and stopped short of running out non-striker Salim Jaffer. His gesture created quite a

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Fatullah tie taking shape

SPORTS REPORTER



ISPAHANI
MIRZAPORE
TEA
8th National Cricket League

The run riot continued in the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

CHITTAGONG-BARISAL

This round already saw seven tons after Imran Ahmed and Arafat Barisal on the third day of the eighth round Isphani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League yesterday.

Opener Imran took his overnight score to 177 and Arafat remained not out on 101 as Barisal coasted to 418-8 at stumps, still a huge 204 runs behind from Chittagong's record-breaking 622-8, dec. after resuming the day on 156-3.

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, the table-toppers clash looks all set for a close finish on the final day although Dhaka were in a better position after taking an overall lead of 268 before stumps were drawn for the third day with three second inning wickets in hand against Khaled Mashud's Rajshahi in an incident-packed third day.

On the other hand Sylhet smacked victory against Khulna when the tremor occurred.

According to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources, Rafique and chief selector Faruque Ahmed were aware that an earthquake was taking place early morning on Tuesday.

None of the players were hurt when the tremor occurred.

AFP adds: Antigua and Trinidad, two countries that will host 2007 Cricket World Cup matches, were jolted by an early

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

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