



**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 Bangladesh 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

Wily all-rounder Mohammad Rafique was the only Tiger who sensed the earthquake that shook Antigua and Trinidad.

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



## Did U Know?

Four different pitches were used in a Test between England and Australia at Sydney in 1883.



### Shane Warne

(Australian leg-spin legend) "I really admire Sachin (Tendulkar) for what he has to go through every day in India, with a billion people wanting him to do well."

DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh A v England A**  
First Day, Second Four-Dayer  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra

**National Cricket League**  
Day Four (Four-Day)  
**Rajshahi v Dhaka**  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

**Barisal v Chittagong**  
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

**Sylhet v Khulna**  
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium



PHOTO: STAR

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

## Fatullah tie taking shape

SPORTS REPORTER



The run riot continued in the Chittagong Divisional Stadium

when Imran Ahmed and Arafat Salahuddin smashed hundreds for Barisal on the third day of the eighth round. Ispahani 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 smelled victory against Khulna

when they reduced the home team to 87-5 in their second innings after being set a winning target of 211 at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

### CHITTAGONG-BARISAL

This round already saw seven tons after Imran and Arafat achieved the three digit figures to at least keep Barisal hopes alive of drawing the match against the home team.

Resuming the day on 156-3, the visitors lost two more wickets within the space of 30 runs before Arafat joined Imran to plot a rescue act during a 156-run sixth wicket stand.

Imran, who started the day on 75, made 177 runs off 349 balls with the help of 30 boundaries while Arafat struck 16 fours to make an unbeaten 101 off 229 balls.

Spinner Sabbir Khan was most successful local bowler with four for 127.

### DHAKA-RAJSHAHI

Two overnight batsmen Mushfiqur Rahman and Forhad Reza converted their scores to fifties but it was not good enough for Rajshahi to take a first innings lead against Dhaka in the crucial encounter.

League leaders Rajshahi con-

ceded a 65-run first innings lead when they were all out for 292 after resuming the day on 201-6 in reply to Dhaka's 357.

Mushfiqur scored team highest 73 off 153 balls with the help of 12 fours while Forhad contributed 55 off 103 balls that featured eight boundaries.

Dhaka extended their lead to 268 when they scored 203-7 in their second essay with first innings century maker Anwar Hossain scoring highest 54.

### SYLHET-KHULNA

Khulna left-arm spinner Humayun Kabir returned with match figures of ten wickets as he claimed five wickets for 48 to wrap up the Sylhet second innings for 181 runs.

But his effort was not good enough after his team fell in big trouble in the second innings capitulating to 87-5 after being set 211 to win.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

## Sanath still up there

AFP, New Delhi



Sri Lankan batsman Sanath Jayasuriya may be in the twilight of his one-day career but re-mains as prolific as

ever and this is not good news for bowlers ahead of the World Cup.

The 37-year-old opener will be making his last Cup appearance in the Caribbean with his reputation of destroying bowlers' line, length and reputation intact. This was precisely what he did last year.

Left-handed Jayasuriya was a key member of his team's successful story in 2006, scoring more than 1,000 runs with five centuries to remind the opposition that age had yet to wither him.

"Sanath has discovered a well of youth and he amazed everyone with a graphic display of power-hitting combined with explosive batting," said teammate Kumar Sangakkara.

"He has shown that he has not lost the magic touch of being able to single-handedly win matches. He has been doing that for so many years and going into the World Cup he will once again be our batting asset."

Jayasuriya has already set a World Cup on fire. That was in 1996 in the sub-continent when he caught the opposition napping with his consistent over-the-top hitting in early overs.

He is credited with redefining batting in initial overs having fielding restrictions. He has always been more of a scientific hitter rather than a pure slogger and his record proves just that.

Jayasuriya is the only Sri Lankan to have completed 10,000 overs in the shorter version of the game, a feat that can never be matched by those who believe just in whacking the ball.

It is not only power, but also timing which are the main features of his batting. He is quick to spot

error in line and length before despatching the ball to various parts of the boundary.

Jayasuriya is an entertainer when on song, not afraid to loft the ball in vacant areas in a bid to step up the run-rate. His clean and powerful hitting at the top has been instrumental in providing a blazing start for Sri Lanka.

England thought their total of 321-7 was safe at Headingley last year before Jayasuriya played a gem of an innings to steer his team to victory with more than 12 overs to spare.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka star Sanath Jayasuriya cuddles his baby daughter Yalindi in Colombo just before departing for the West Indies on Wednesday.

## How the BCB pays



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), the most affluent sports body in the country, spends a large amount of money as salary of its staff, players and foreigners to run the show as was found in a salary statement for December last year.

The most interesting part that the statement shows is the wage disparity in the board's monthly payment.

In the salary statement dated 31-12-2006, it was found that the board's foreign recruits including national coach Dav Whatmore, who draws the highest salary of Tk 690,000 per month excluding other facilities, are paid significantly more than the local staff members.

Eight foreigners received Tk 2,854,254 in that particular month in a total expenditure of Tk 7,518,389 whereas a total of 23 contracted players, for whom the game is actually played, drew Tk 1,119,500. Shaun William, the national man-

ager of game development was paid second highest Tk 4,14,000 while Paul Chapman, national team trainer, Tk 390,954 and Allister De Winter, High Performance Manager, Tk 3,45,000.

It is also surprising that only Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (Tk 89,000) gets more money than chief selector Faruque Ahmed (Tk 87,000) in the national team.

The gap has no limit in payment of the administrative department as CEO Mahmudur Rahman draws above Tk 400,000 as monthly salary whereas the second man, Nizamuddin Chowdhury, has a salary of Tk 70,000.

Chief accounts officer Zahirul Islam receives more than one lakh taka while the second man, who is the finance manager, is far away from the amount as he receives Tk 38,500 only.

Another interesting fact the statement revealed was that no system is in offer for an increment as office secretary (Mokbul Hossain Russel) was awarded three

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

## Tushar wants better batting Second 4-dayer from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Tushar Imran wants much better batting performance from his boys to level the four-day series against visiting England A when the second and final Test begins today at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Bangladesh A lost the first match at Mirpur by five wickets but the home team skipper was not at all unhappy with his boys' performance in the first game though they missed an opportunity to come up with a draw.

"I think we played good cricket in Dhaka although we lost the match. After the first match we got the confidence that it is not impossible to beat strong England A side. I only hope much better batting in the first innings because we lost the grip in the first match in the first session of the first day," said a confident Tushar, who smashed two half-centuries in the first four-dayer.

He expects a hard and bouncy wicket in Bogra. "The pitch is good where you just need a disciplined batting," he informed.

Bangladesh A made only one change from their last squad as right-arm paceman Nazmul Hossain will play in place of Mohammad Sharif, who is suffering from stomach illness.

## Indo-Bangla Games end

BSS, Kolkata

Bangladesh finished the first Indo-Bangla Games with a haul of 82 medals, including 30 golds, while West Bengal excelled in the friendship competition with a collection of 104 medals which includes 38 golds.

In total, West Bengal won 38 golds, 34 silvers and 32 bronzes.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Down The World Cup Lane

## 1987: A new World Cup

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 faulty 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

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## Last gasp preparation



SPORTS REPORTER

All the big guns will complete formalities of registering their footballers for the B. League before the deadline ends today.

Only Arambagh and Farashganj settled the issue previously but the top five, being cautious mostly about checking foreign players, have kept the federation waiting till the last moment.

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra, billed as a contender among the 11 teams, went to trade yesterday when they registered 22 booters including five Moroccan players.

With local players' contract all but secured, the heavyweights, however, were sweating over their foreign collection as their ITCs (International Transfer Certificate) have yet to arrive.

Sheikh Russel are apparently in no trouble with the papers of

defender Burdeep, midfielders Egrir and Saad and forwards Younes and Khobashi but other teams are having tense time.

Abahani, reportedly the top-budgeted club, are in great danger as none of their three Argentine imports are guaranteed to start in tomorrow's opening match against Muktiyoddha Sangsard, who are the strongest team on paper.

The sky-blues officials expected the ITCs of defender Mariano Carlos Caporale, midfielder Mariano Cesar Sanchez and striker Hector Hernando Parodi to arrive soon but they were uncertain whether the papers would be in hand in time.

"We are in constant touch with the Argentine FA. We have a person taking care of the business there and hope that the necessary documents will arrive in 24 hours," told manager Satyajit Das Rupa adding that they are satisfied with all three booters, brought by their Argentine coach Diego Cruciani, who was also the ex-national coach of Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

Long-serving Indian trio (L-R) Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar pose for a photo together before departing Mumbai for the Caribbean on Wednesday.

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