



## CricInfo forgets Tigers!

SPORTS REPORTER

While the Tigers were picking up wickets and hitting sixes in Barbados, millions of fans all across the globe were sweating over their favourite team's whereabouts on Tuesday night.

With no television coverage of Bangladesh's warm-up match against New Zealand, everyone were trying to find score updates on websites but were left baffled with at least one of them.

While TigerCricket.com tried its best with its limited resources to inform the viewers of the latest scores, CricInfo left everyone perplexed with its inconsistency and mistakes. TigerCricket.com, the official website of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had its technical backbone put to test with thousands of hits. They regularly cater around 74,000 hits on an average but on Tuesday night, they had 151,493 hits on its homepage.

Although this kind of surge shows how popular the site is, it also puts forth the lack of lavishness on the part of the BCB when it comes to strengthening TigerCricket.com.

It could have been much accessible had the BCB posted a man for this kind of updates in the West Indies.

CricInfo, on their part, disregarded all the warm-up matches on Tuesday save the one between India and the Netherlands. This may have been due to the television coverage provided for the India warm-up match on SET Max, but CricInfo frequently dispatched wrong information when it came to the Bangladesh-New Zealand match. This left millions of followers in a quandary as at the same time, a handicapped TigerCricket.com, which reportedly updated the score from Dhaka over phone, took a long time to open for viewing.



## Did U Know?

Edward Grace, Frederick Grace and William Grace, representing England, provided the first instance of three brothers playing Tests.



### Viv Richards

(West Indies cricket legend)  
"It's important the whole Caribbean realises cricket means so much to us. It's up to us to run with this when it's a success -- not if -- when it's a success. No host country ever won it so we have a wonderful opportunity."

Who wants the West Indies to win the World Cup.



National Cricket League  
Day-4 (Four-Day)  
Dhaka v Sylhet  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

# 'A stepping stone'

INTERNET, undated



New Zealand were lucky enough not to concede their maiden one-day international defeat against Bangladesh as their two-wicket defeat on Tuesday to the Tigers in the warm-up match will not be put into ODI record book, yet it could not dampen the spirit of Habibul Bashar to take inspiration from their stunning success ahead of the big challenge in the main event.

"It was a very good win and naturally we are pleased. It's a stepping stone in the right direction," Tigers skipper Bashar reflected with pride on his team's achievement in the first official warm-up game at the extended Three Ws Oval in Cave Hill, Barbados.

Bangladesh bowled their opponents out for 226 and then reached the target with one over and two wickets to spare thanks to an amazing all-round performance by Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who played a whirlwind knock of 13-ball unbeaten 30 after claiming four wickets for 44 runs.

"We bowled really well and then

had a wonderful opening partnership, which was much-needed. We thought it was a 'gettable' total but we needed a good opening partnership -- and we got it. That was very important. We knew, if we could keep wickets in hand, we could win the game," said the most successful Bangladesh skipper showing praises on 70-run opening stand between Tamim Iqbal and Javed Omar.

After the Tigers expected wins against Bermuda, their one of Group B opponents besides two subcontinent giants India and Sri Lanka, and Canada in the Caribbean the whispering was remained whether Dav Whatmore charges was only good enough against the minnows but anybody can set aside the word 'doubt' for few days after their victory against the formidable Black Caps.

Bangladesh definitely will go for an all-win record before launching the campaign in the mega event when they play their second and final warm-up game against Scotland, whom they recently defeated twice at home, today.

Branding his opponents a 'tricky side', New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming also heaped praise on Bashar's men performance.

"I always think they are an awkward side. They do the basics well,

and Dav Whatmore is a good coach. They've played a lot of international cricket now, have some players with experience and are going to be a tricky side," said the left-hander who made a duck in the match.

"It was a poor performance. It was a day when nothing went right. We batted poorly at the beginning and did not assess conditions that well. We knew it was going to be tricky at the start and we fell flat on our faces," said Fleming as he explained the reason behind the defeat.

"Then we bowled tentatively at the start. We kept clinging on in the field but we just couldn't shake them. It was a great performance from them, and it gives us some problems going forward," he added.

The experienced campaigner also highly applauded the Tigers fielding effort to snatch the game from them.

"We were always there in the game. We fought back after a poor start and if we had reached 250, that would have been enough, we would have won the game. They fielded brilliantly, you saw the run out of Brendon McCullum, and

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh braveheart Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) punches the air in delight after hitting the winning runs as batting partner Abdur Razzak looks on during their warm-up game against New Zealand at the 3W's Oval in Barbados on Tuesday.

## Tanvir takes ESS thru'

SPORTS REPORTER

European Standard School (ESS) confirmed their place in the next round with a convincing win over Islambagh Ashraf High School by eight wickets in the Standard Chartered National School Cricket competition at the Kalindi Cricket ground yesterday.

Bowling first, ESS routed Islambagh for only 93 runs in 29.2 overs with medium-pace Tanvir taking five wickets for only six runs.

As they chased this small total, ESS took only 11.5 overs with right-handed batsman Alam hitting a quickfire 38.

In other matches, Jasim took six wickets to give Incidin Bangladesh a 43-run victory over Haji Abdul Awwal High School, Armanitola Government High School beat Combined International School by 107 runs while Bangladesh Indian International School defeated Mohammadpur Model School by 102 runs.

## A blow for Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER



Rajshahi are set to lose solo lead in the points table of the Ispahani

Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League after managing a draw in the ninth round against Barisal at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The table-toppers scored 230-5 in their second innings on the fourth and final day to settle for a draw but only took two points from the game to increase their tally to 36 points as Barisal gained four points by virtue of a first-innings lead.

Dhaka, now four points shy of the leaders, were breathing on the necks of Rajshahi as they ensured an important first innings lead to confirm at least four points against Sylhet with one day remaining.

### RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Resuming the day on 36 without loss, Rajshahi batted without purpose in their second essay before both the skippers decided to call it a day.

Naeem Islam hit 68 off 178 balls that featured eleven boundaries while Anisur Rahman contributed 47 off 123 deliveries with help of seven fours.

Left-arm spinner Tariqul Islam, who was adjudged man of the match, took two wickets.

### DHAKA-SYLHET

Sharifullah and Mosharraf Hossain extended their overnight scores as Dhaka gained meagre but a crucial 20-run first-innings lead against Sylhet after resuming the day on 268-7 at the Fatullah Stadium.

Sharifullah scored 74 off 128 balls with seven hits to the fence while Mosharraf added 23.

Nabil Samad was the most successful Sylhet bowler picking up four wickets for 66 while paceman Hasibul Hossain captured 3-36.

Alok Kapali then led from the front in Sylhet's strong batting display in the second innings to reach 177-3 at stumps.

Out-of-favour Kapali was not out on 62 and associated in an unbeaten 82-run stand for the

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## Prior pushes England A ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

Matt Prior's better than a run-a-ball 84 not out overshadowed a century by local boy Nazim Uddin as England A cruised to a convincing five-wicket victory against Bangladesh A in the first limited-overs match yesterday.

The English side, who won the two-match 'A' Test series 1-0, took lead in the three-match series as number four batsman Prior throttled the visitors to 263-5 with three overs to spare in reply to the home side's competitive 261-8 at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Prior, who came to the wicket with the second string English side well placed at 96-2, built on a good start to hammer five fours and three sixes in his blistering 72-ball knock.

Opener Will Jefferson smashed an equally combative 68 off 52 deliveries laced with nine fours and a pair of sixes.

Earlier, Tushar Imran's side opted to bat first and one-down Nazim, who came to the wicket in the very first over after Junaid Siddiquee was dismissed for a first-ball duck, dictated the terms with a 120-ball 108.

Nazim, who cracked 13 fours and one six, was removed at the end of a middle-order collapse that saw the second string Tigers lose four wickets in the space of 55 runs. However, Nafiz Chowdhury's 28 off 27 balls and an explosive unbeaten

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## WC to create awareness against HIV

SPORTS REPORTER

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will team up with UNAIDS, UNICEF and the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership against HIV/AIDS at the Cricket World Cup 2007 to highlight the situation of children and young people living with and affected by the deadly disease.

More than two billion television viewers are expected to tune into the showpiece event, which commences on March 11 in Jamaica. Activities at the event will draw attention to the issues facing children and young people affected by HIV and highlight the resources and actions required to address them. The public, especially young people aged 15-24, will get information on the stigma and discrimination around HIV and on how to protect themselves against the virus.

A series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) have been produced, each lasting 30 seconds, which will be available to broadcasters free of charge. The PSAs feature leading players, including Ricky Ponting from Australia and Rahul Dravid from India, speaking about how HIV affects children.

Players and officials from each team will wear the red and blue ribbon of the Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS campaign during their first games and during the final. Players will also visit programmes supporting children and young people affected by HIV.

## Hafeez scripts Pak win

AFP, Port of Spain



Mohammad Hafeez gave an impressive all-round performance to guide Pakistan to an emphatic 77-run victory over Canada in a World Cup warm-up match here on Tuesday.

Middle-order batsman Hafeez top-scored with a solid 61 to help Pakistan post a challenging 273-8 and then grabbed three wickets with his tidy off-spin to restrict Canada to 196.

"Our batsmen and bowlers had good workouts in this game. We did a little bit of experiments by sending Younis Khan up front which allowed some other players to feature in the game," said Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer.

"It was (skipper) Inzamamul Haq's decision to try out Younis as an opener. It is an option, but don't read too much into it. Our main target is the opening World Cup

match against the West Indies on March 13."

Canada began the chase on an impressive note when Geoff Barnett (28) and Abdool Samad (27) put on 60 for the opening wicket, but could not keep the momentum against Pakistan's pace-spin combination.

Hafeez was brilliantly supported by seamer Rao Iftikhar who ended an early Canadian flourish with three wickets. Seamer Azhar Mahmood was the other notable wicket-taker with 2-24.

Kaiser Ali scored 37 and Ashif Mulla 31, but Canada never looked like threatening their opponents' total in a game reduced to 48-overs-a-side due to the collapse of a sightscreen. The game was held up for more than an hour.

"It was an exciting game and it showed us how much work we need to put up in the coming matches," said Canadian coach Andy Pick.

"We hope that after the World Cup some fundings come to Canada so that we can meet our expenses for cricket in the devel-

opment area."

Hafeez was not the only Pakistani batsmen among runs as Inzamam and wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal also made half-centuries.

Akmal built on the efforts of Inzamam (59) and Hafeez, smashing a brisk 56 not out off just 37 balls with the help of four sixes.

Pakistan were struggling at 66-4 after being put in to bat, but Inzamam and Hafeez bolstered the innings with a 93-run stand for the fifth wicket.

The Pakistani captain smashed 11 fours in his 64-ball knock before being caught in the covers off left-arm spinner Sunil Dhaniram.

Hafeez hit one six and five fours in his 71-ball knock.

Canadian seamer Henry Osinde did the early damage with two wickets to eventually finish with 2-41. Former West Indies fast bowler Anderson Cummins and Dhaniram grabbed two wickets apiece.

Pakistan are in Group D with the West Indies, Zimbabwe and Ireland, while Canada are in Group

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## India in different Dutch

AFP, Daniel Town



India gave further proof of the chasm between Test and non-Test playing nations, when they crushed the Netherlands by 182-runs in their World Cup warm-up match on Tuesday at the Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium.

Half-centuries from skipper Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar, India's two most celebrated batsmen, lifted the 1983 champions to a formidable 300 for nine from their allocation of 50 overs, despite a five-wicket haul for Ryan ten Doeschate.

The Netherlands failed to mount a serious challenge to the imposing

target and were dismissed for 118 in 37.5 overs as the Indians completed the cakewalk.

The manner of the Dutch's side's demise will no doubt continue to fuel the debate about whether the ICC Associate nations have a right to be taking part in cricket's major showpiece.

India are one of the world's marquee sides, but the Netherlands face the might of reigning world champions Australia, new world No. 1 South Africa, and World Cricket League finalists Scotland in Group A of the competition.

Their top-order batsmen found scoring difficult against the new-ball pair of Irfan Pathan and Shantha Sreesanth, then their spin bowling wizardry of Harbhajan Singh, in particular, Yuvraj Singh, and Anil Kumble cruelly exposed the Dutch middle order.

Harbhajan had Alexei Kervezee and Daan van Bunge both stumped for 14 and four respectively to leave the Dutch on 69 for four.

The Dutch then lost their last six wickets for 10 runs in the space of 44 balls, as Yuvraj collected four wickets for 12 runs from 3.5 overs to end as India's most successful bowler.

Earlier, India imposed themselves early on the Netherlands' bowling, but they gifted their wickets in the latter stages of the innings.

Dravid hit five fours and two sixes in the top score of 74 off 92 balls, and batting star Sachin Tendulkar supported with 61 off 59 balls which included five fours and two sixes.

Dravid and Tendulkar added 116 for the fourth wicket, but ten Doeschate bowling a full length and varying his pace picked off Virender Sehwag, Sourav Ganguly, Yuvraj, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and Harbhajan to end with five for 55 from his allotment of 10 overs.

The Indians face West Indies in their second and final warm-up contest on Friday at the same

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PHOTO: STAR

England A batsman Matt Prior appreciates the applause following their victory against Bangladesh A during their limited-overs match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

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