

Govt hands over cheques to Rana, Shetu's families

Bss, Dhaka

The government on Saturday provided financial support to the families of two talented cricketers Manzarul Islam Rana and Sajjadul Hasan Shetu, who were killed in a tragic road accident in Khulna recently.

Youth and Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury handed over cheques of Taka three lakhs and Taka one lakh to the families of Rana and Shetu respectively at a simple ceremony at the Chief Adviser's Office here.

Majharul Islam Rony, brother of Rana and Rejowana Alvis, wife of Shetu, received the cheques on behalf of their respective families.

Press Secretary to Chief Adviser Syed Fahim Munaim, President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Agriculture Secretary M Abdul Aziz, Sports Secretary Golam Mostafa Talukder and BCB's chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed directed the sports ministry to provide financial support to the families of the deceased cricketers.

While handing over the cheques, Tapan Chowdhury said it

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Did U Know?

Former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin is the only player in the history of Test cricket to score a century in each of his first three Test matches.



Ian Chappell

(Former Australia cricket captain)
"At the moment he looks like a player trying to eke out a career; build on a glittering array of statistics. If he really is playing for that reason and not to help win as many matches as he can for India then he is wasting his time and should retire immediately."

On Sachin Tendulkar.

What to WATCH

BTV & SET Max
ICC World Cup 2007 (Super Eights)
West Indies v Sri Lanka
Live at 7:30 pm
ESPN

English Premier Football League
Tottenham v Reading
Live at 8:55 pm
Primera Liga
Celta Vigo v Real Madrid
Live at 11:00 pm
STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Osasuna v Sevilla
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore (L) and his Australian counterpart John Buchanan inspect the ground after rain delayed the start of the World Cup Super Eights match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Saturday.

A sweet problem

SPORTS REPORTER



What has already happened in West Indies is something new for the Tigers. Making a second round entry in the World Cup is a milestone for Bangladesh cricket team and thus Habibul Bashar's men invited a sweet problem in their mind-boggling trip.

Spending time abroad is nothing new for the Tigers in a busy international schedule, but staying at least two months in far-flung Caribbean would be something unusual for them.

Usually Bangladesh finished their foreign trip within or little over a month but their Super Eights berth confirmed that the trip has been extended to April 19, the day they play their last match against hosts West Indies in Barbados.

Bangladesh cricket team, which left the capital on February 19, first landed in the Caribbean for the World Cup as they played a tri-nation series involving Bermuda and Canada and two official build-up games against New Zealand and Scotland before entering the showpiece event.

It is not a question whether they were prepared for a long journey rather the point is that the homesickness would be an issue during their

demanding clashes in the second round.

What could be a solution for this problem? The answer is simple: the presence of their beloved family members.

Better if the question were posed to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Have they made any plans about the second-leg to ease the homesickness of the players? It seemed that the authority were also unsure about their team's qualification although the boys had told time and again before their departure.

"Honestly speaking, the second round berth came as surprise for us. That's why we haven't made any plans about that. Undoubtedly the homesickness became an issue because the boys are not usually used such long trip. But the team management are trying their best to make it easy," said Mahmudur Rahman, CEO of BCB.

"We have no plans to send the family members but we will help if anybody want to go there," he added.

Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar's wife Shaon, however, assured everybody that it would not hamper the performance of the team in the second round.

"Yes, homesickness is an issue as Sumon (Bashar) almost everyday tells me over the phone that he

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

WEST INDIES v SRI LANKA

Fight is already on

AFP, Georgetown



West Indies captain Brian Lara is looking forward to an improved performance from his batsmen in a crucial World Cup Super Eights match against Sri Lanka here on Sunday.

The hosts find themselves in a must-win situation early in the second round after losing to defending champions Australia and New Zealand. They have just two points from three matches, courtesy of a win over fellow-qualifiers Ireland in the first round.

The West Indies can't afford another failure in their remaining four matches against South Africa, England, Bangladesh and Sri

Lanka.

"We are down to the fighting part of the tournament now. We've got four games left and we have to win all of them to qualify," said Lara.

The West Indies had begun the tournament on an impressive note when they qualified for the second round with an all-win record, but were found wanting in their opening two big matches in the Super Eights.

The West Indies were let down by batting as they failed to cross the 220-mark against both Australia and New Zealand. Lara alone looked in form, scoring 77 against Australia and 37 against New Zealand.

Their top-order batsmen have yet to fire, with Chris Gayle, Ramnaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chanderpaul still without a half-century after two Super Eights matches.

"We are just not playing well as a team, especially in batting depart-

ment. If we are going to win the World Cup, it's not just going to be one or two of them, or just me. It has to be the entire team," said the West Indies captain.

The West Indies may have won 24 of their 42 one-day internationals against Sri Lanka, but have to raise the level of their all-round performance against a team which have been competing hard in the ongoing tournament.

They will not like to remember their last clash against Sri Lanka when they were shot out for a meagre 80 before suffering a nine-wicket defeat in the ICC Champions Trophy match at Mumbai in India last year.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

A team improve batting, yet lose

SPORTS REPORTER

Even a much improved batting performance was not enough for Bangladesh A to taste their first victory in the trip as they lost the first game of the three-match one-day series against Sri Lanka A by five wickets at the Colombo Cricket Club grounds in Colombo yesterday.

Losing both the four-day matches due to fragile batting, the second string Bangladesh batsmen bounced back in the first limited-overs game when they piled up 284-8 in their stipulated 50 overs after deciding to bat first.

The home team however overtook the total quite convincingly as they romped to 285-5 in 43.3 overs thanks to an unbroken sixth wicket partnership between two Test batsmen Chamara Kapugedera and Kaushal Lokurachchi.

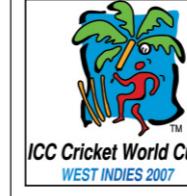
Sri Lanka A were reduced to 146-5 in 25.3 overs but Kapugedara scored an 80-ball 63 with the help of six fours and a six and Lokurachchi played a blazing knock of 77 that saw eleven fours.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

WOOLMER MURDER CASE

Shields calls old friends

AFP, Kingston



A team of British detectives is expected to arrive in Jamaica next week to assist in the Bob Woolmer murder investigation, two weeks after the Pakistan cricket coach was found strangled in his hotel room.

Jamaica deputy police commissioner Mark Shields confirmed to AFP on Friday that officers from Scotland Yard's Special Crime Directorate had been sought in order to "review" the progress of the murder investigation.

It was the latest twist to a who-dunit that has shocked the genteel sport of cricket and threatened to eclipse the game's showpiece tournament, the World Cup, which is taking place across the Caribbean.

Woolmer's naked body was discovered by a chambermaid in his 12th floor room at the Pegasus Hotel on March 18, one day after

police have failed to announce any significant breakthroughs; with Shields saying this week detectives

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Rajshahi atop alone

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain made an unbeaten 113 as Dhaka recovered from their second round defeat to secure a 39-run victory against Chittagong at BKSP to follow leaders Rajshahi while Barisal registered their first win after beating all-losers Khulna by 10 runs in a high-scoring match at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET
Anisur Rahman hit an 85-ball 82 with the help of nine fours and a six and then took three wickets for 23 runs as Rajshahi maintained their winning run and brightened their chance of retaining the title. The two were sharing the top spot before this round.

Apart from his innings, out-of-

50 overs.

After a century in the second round Alok Kapali hammered a 38-ball 59 that featured six fours and four sixes and Sadiqur Rahman

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



National defender Mohammad Sujon (left) takes a ride on a rickshaw van as he crosses the Indian border at Petrapole checkpost on Thursday. The tall centre-back, who had his right ankle operated on in Mumbai on March 12, told this photojournalist that he did not get any financial support from the Bangladesh Football Federation although he picked up the injury while training for the AFC Challenge Cup in March last year.

BBC ONLINE, undated



Former Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has denied that members of his team may have been involved in match-fixing.

Inzamam hit back at the team's critics during a news conference in Lahore, which followed their first round exit from the Cricket World Cup.

Questions have been asked about the manner of their defeats by West Indies and Ireland in the Caribbean.

"It's unfair to talk about match-fixing now after the World Cup defeats," the 37-year-old commented.

"The loss to Ireland was the most difficult day of my life. I take all the responsibility." Inzamam accused the Pakistan media of "unnecessarily tarnishing" the team's image.

"No-one knows what the team went through after the loss to Ireland. Players live in fear of what happens if we lose. The media knows only how to attack us and not support us," he said.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has responded to the team's early elimination from the World Cup by suspending the players' central contracts - which will be replaced by performance-based deals for

future series and competitions.

Despite that, PCB chairman Dr Naseem Ashraf said it was "not the time to panic or overreact" even though people were "angry and disgusted" by the team's results.

A three-man performance evaluation committee of former Test players Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Altaf and Salahuddin Ahmed has been set up and will report to the board within 30 days.

Inzamam, meanwhile, is still hoping to continue his international career despite deciding to give up the captaincy.

Although he has retired from one-day internationals, he wants to continue playing for the team in Test matches, although that will depend on a new selection committee which has yet to be appointed after the previous three-man panel resigned.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Former Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq walks past a collage of legendary players to attend a press conference in Lahore on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: AFP

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TODAY'S MATCH

Team Time Venue

West Indies v Sri Lanka 7:30 pm Guyana

Ad

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