

## Amit's 107 propels Mushtaque XI

### SPORTS REPORTER

Amit Majumder slammed a masterful 107 to give Shaheed Mushtaque Eleven a massive 94-run victory over Shaheed Jewel Eleven in the Victory Day friendly match at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Shaheed Mushtaque piled 265-6 in their stipulated 50 overs and then proceeded to bowl out Shaheed Jewel for 171 runs in 42.5 overs.

Left-handed opener Amit, who played for champions North in the Challengers Cup last month, stuck eleven fours and two sixes in his 125-ball essay. He found good support from number three Shamsur Rahman.

The right-handed Dhaka batsman scored 74 runs as the two batsmen shared a 171-run second wicket stand that set up the big Shaheed Mushtaque score.

Leg-spinner Raihanuddin Arafat picked three wickets while veteran seamer Hasibul Hossain took two.

Only a 55-ball 42 from all-rounder Rubaiyat Haque gave Shaheed Jewel some late impetus as they collapsed at the face of a three-wicket haul from leggie Ariful Haque and two wickets each from Mukhter Ali, Humayun Kabir and Tapash Ghosh.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Shaheed Mushtaque Eleven:** 265-6 in 50 overs (Amit 107, Shamsur 73; Raihan 3-36, Hasibul 2-47).

**Shaheed Jewel Eleven:** 171 all out in 42.5 overs (Rubaiyat 42, Sanjay 29, Rashedul 20; Ariful 3-46, Mukhter 2-20, Tapash 2-23).

Result: Shaheed Mushtaque XI won by 94 runs.

## Tigers' tame

### FROM PAGE 17

middle and we could not have a crack in the last few overs. Also I guess we were a touch slow to start with and probably fell short by 30 runs," said Tigers coach Jamie Siddons. "The target for us is to improve every match and there were some good things today (Sunday) that we want to take into the game on Tuesday and we will try not to repeat the mistakes. In bowling we were too short on occasions and our spinners did not get the turn. Horsey also played brilliantly. He made good balls look bad," added Siddons.

Knights coach Andy Moles meanwhile believed the Tigers will come back hard at them in the next match.

"They are a young side and showed a lot of spirit. It will be foolish to look too much into Sunday's performance from them. Today (Sunday) was more a case of getting used to the conditions for Bangladesh. They will get better as the tour goes on and Tuesday could be a totally different ball game. No one in New Zealand think that they (Bangladesh) will be pushovers on this tour."

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first warm-up match between Northern Districts and Bangladesh at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Sunday:

#### BANGLADESH

Iqbal c McGlashan b Arnel 12 Junaid c Horsley b Arnel 73 Imran c McGlashan b Orchard 8 Ashraful c McGlashan b Southee 30 Shakib c Watling b Martin 6 Aftab c McGlashan b Andrews 12 Rahim c Martin b Andrews 15 Reza c Flynn b Arnel 27 Mortaza not out 25 Razzaq not out 0 Extras: (lb-8, w-6) 14 Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 222 Did not bat: Rasel, Shahadat.

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-64, 3-121, 4-142, 5-143, 6-160, 7-177, 8-221.

**Bowler** O M R W Souther 10 0 43 1 Arnel 10 3 40 3 Andrews 10 0 45 2 Orchard 10 0 40 1 Martin 8 0 35 2 Flynn 2 0 11 0

#### NORTHERN DISTRICTS

Horsley c Iqbal b Reza 92 Watling c Rahim b Razzaq 21 Flynn lbw b Mortaza 31 Marshall not out 55 Robinson not out 19 Extras: (lb-5, w-3, nb-2) 10 Total: (For 3 wkts in 42.3 overs) 228 Did not bat: Orchard, Andrews, McGlashan, Southee, Martin, Arnel.

Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-141, 3-181.

**Bowler** O M R W Mortaza 9 0 48 1 Rasel 6 1 32 0 Razzaq 10 1 51 1 Reza 7 0 22 1 Shakib 3.3 0 28 0 Shahadat 7 0 42 0

Result: Northern Districts won by 7 wickets.

Toss: Northern Districts

Umpires: AL Hill and DJ Walker

## Selectors mull

### FROM PAGE 17

and has done quite well for the under-19s too. But all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad, with his batting abilities, could leapfrog the two and fly to New Zealand.

The selection committee, who will receive final news on Rasel's injury today afternoon, will have a look at Dollar during the fourth Bangladesh-Sri Lanka under-19 one-day match before making their decision.

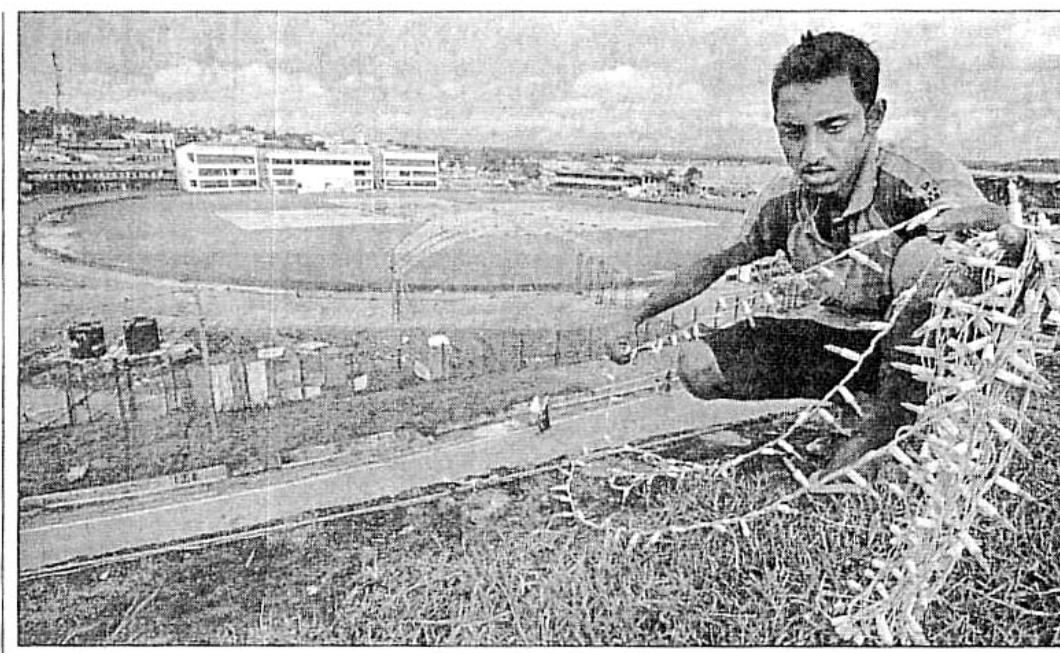


PHOTO: AFP

**GEARING UP FOR THE BIG DAY:** A labourer perched on the ramparts of the Dutch colonial-era fort overlooking the Galle International Cricket Stadium (background) sorts strings of decorative bulbs ahead of Tuesday's third Test between Sri Lanka and England. It will be the first Test since the 2004 tsunami that destroyed this stadium.

## Dead 'Venue' Walking

### Cricket

AFP, Galle

England and Sri Lanka will mark one of cricket's most poignant moments when they contest the third Test at the previously tsunami-ravaged Galle International Stadium from Tuesday.

The stadium, situated close to the Indian Ocean in the country's coastal south, was destroyed by the Asian tsunami in 2004, which killed an estimated 300,000 people in a dozen countries.

Some 31,000 people in Sri Lanka alone perished in the December 26 disaster.

It was rebuilt from scratch with a \$500,000-dollar funding package from Sri Lanka Cricket and, nearly three years to the day since it was demolished, is ready to host a Test match again.

When Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse inaugurates the new stadium on the eve of the match on Monday with both teams in attendance, one man in particular will struggle to hide his emotions.

Former Sri Lanka Test spinner Jayamanda Warnawera, the stadium's long-time manager, still finds it hard to believe that his ambition to bring cricket back to Galle has been realised.

"I can't tell you how I feel to be able to return to this beautiful ground to Test cricket," Warnawera, who played 10 Tests between 1986 and 1994, told AFP.

"I had promised myself that Test cricket will be played here again and I have lived up to that vow. It's a very emotional and exciting time for me."

Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene said he was delighted to return to one of his favourite venues, which lies at the foot of the historic 17th century Galle Fort, a UNESCO world heritage site.

"It is one of my favourite venues.

It's definitely going to be an emotional time for most of our guys. Lots of them in the team are from this part of the country," Jayawardene said.

Like many people around the world, Jayawardene remembers exactly where he was when news of the devastating tsunami began to filter through.

"We were playing in New Zealand when the tsunami struck and the first pictures we saw were that of Galle and we saw the ground underwater.

"But we have moved forward as a nation and a team, we just need to concentrate on the cricket in hand."

At least four Sri Lankan cricketers were personally affected by the catastrophe.

Sanath Jayasuriya's mother was saved by clinging to the branches of a tree, three relatives of fast bowler Dilhari Fernando were drowned when their train to Galle was submerged, leg-spinner Upul Chandana's mother was rescued by a young man and Upul Tharanga's home was destroyed.

The record-breaking bowler Muttiah Muralidaran, who left Galle just before the tsunami struck, raised funds and distributed aid to the survivors as an ambassador for the UN World Food Programme.

The star who surpassed retired Australian Shane Warne's world record tally of 703 wickets in the first Test in Kandy, also persuaded his spin rival to visit Galle and raise funds.

The stadium is a special place for both men. Muralidaran claimed his 400th wicket here and Warne took his 500th.

England vice-captain Paul Collingwood, who made his Test debut at the ground in 2003, hopes the Test will put smiles back on the faces of local fans.

"Emotional is a fitting word to use," said Collingwood. "The events that happened here three years ago means you have to put everything into perspective and give them a lot to credit for what they've done to the ground."

"It is going to be a very sad occasion in many ways but we have seen how the Sri Lankan people have reacted to such a disaster. They are trying to rebuild their lives and we will try to put some smiles back on their faces."

Controversy, however, threatens to mar Galle's moment of celebration.

With Liverpool's defence anticipating an inswinging delivery from Giggs, the Welshman instead drilled a low ball to Rooney, who was, inexplicably, completely unmoved on the edge of the area.

The England forward made the most of his freedom, unleashing a first-time shot was bound for the bottom corner to the right of Jose Reina before Tevez stuck out a boot to send the ball into the opposite corner of the net.

Liverpool's attempts to quickly get back on level terms after the restart were spearheaded by Gerrard, who thumped one drive into van der Sar's midriff before volleying Kewell's astute cross wide.

Kewell made way for Ryan Babel with 25 minutes left and the Dutch winger went close with a shot that flashed across van der Sar's goalmouth ten minutes later.

But with United largely content to sit back and soak up the pressure, it was a counter-attack from the visitors that produced the best of the second-hand chances.

With 13 minutes left and only

Reina to beat, Rooney somehow managed to side-foot Ronaldo's curling low cross wide of the target.

## India will fear

### FROM PAGE 17

Hadlee series, could make the cut for the series against India if the selectors opt for an all-pace attack.

India take on Ricky Ponting's men in a four-Test series starting December 26 here and Akhtar felt the hosts will need to prepare quick and bouncy tracks to shake up the formidable batting line-up of the visiting side.

"If the Aussies make nice quick pitches, they will be jumping all over the place," he said.

Akhtar, who was rendered ineffective in the recently-concluded three-Test series against India due to ill-health and placid tracks, felt the game was loaded heavily in favour of the batsmen and called on the administrators to give a thought to the bowlers' plight.

"Cricket has become so boring. I don't like the regulations in the game. Too many rules. You can't bowl like the days of Bodyline," he said.

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