

LIPRO
Presents
HIMOINSA
DIESEL GENERATORS
FROM SPAIN
Lipro Energy Ltd.
Call: 881747, 8817918, 8818082

More Than Just A Job Site
চাকরি
chakri.com.bd
A Platform for Employers and Job Seekers, to Meet and Exchange Information.
SignUp Now!!!
www.chakri.com.bd

Tigers hinging on Day Two

BISHWAJIT ROY

WARID Cricket Series

The Bangladesh batsmen's estimation of what they would achieve ended up being nowhere in the ballpark as they descended into an all too familiar capitulation on the first day of the first Test against South Africa yesterday.

What happened at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium reflected the recent scenes of Dunedin, Wellington, Colombo and Kandy but the bowlers saved their skins at the end of the first day's play to ensure a stirring fightback.

The total of 192 might show a slight first innings improvement in comparison with their recent debacles but one should not be optimistic enough to find 'progress' in the batting of the Tigers: the permanent headache of the team.

It could have been a completely happy opening day for the Proteas due to Mohammed Ashraf's senseless batting efforts but pacer Shahadat Hossain and ace left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique dealt to turn the table on the away team.

But the big issue for the visitors was not the loss of four wickets for 76 runs but rather the signs of waywardness from the Mirpur pitch which is already regarded as 'mysterious' one.

The dismissal of Jacques Kallis, who had no answer when a delivery from Rafique turned and kept terribly low, gave an indication of what is to come for the remaining

Proteas batsmen if the surface does not improve on the second day.

That was the reason why Bangladesh skipper Ashraf considered even their small total as a reasonable one but he restated that he wants his bowlers bowling in the right spot.

"Right at the moment I don't think our total was too bad to defend. I think the first session of the second day will be very crucial for this Test. If we can pick quick wickets then it will be a different story," said Ashraf, who disappointed the home crowd by giving away his wicket.

"But what we need is for our bowlers to bowl in the right spot because the encouraging fact is that the ball was keeping low," he added.

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur also expressed his concern over the character of the pitch.

"We were really happy with the way we bowled today compared to our performance in the three-day match but at the end we are slightly disappointed as we lost a few top order batsmen," said Arthur.

"But we still have six wickets in hand and I think it will be fine if we can manage 300 or more runs on the board. But definitely it will not be an easy task and we have to work hard in this kind of slow and low wicket," he added.

Arthur also admitted that the first innings is always important in the subcontinent because it often happens that the team bounces back in the second innings.

"It may not be a major factor in our conditions but the first innings is

always important in the subcontinent that's why if we get 300 runs then definitely we will be happy. It is difficult to adjust here because a different technique is required but we have some good players to handle this situation," he said.

The bowling effort provided some solace for the home team in the end but the suicidal manner in which the Bangladesh batsmen threw their wickets away showed that they have hardly learnt anything from their previous mistakes or through the new training regime under Jamie Siddons.

As many as five batsmen in Shahriar Nafees, Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Ashraf, Aftab Ahmed and Shakib Al Hasan horribly threw away their wickets after managing to settle in the middle.

"The batting should have much much better as the wicket was really good in the first two sessions. We had a target of making 250 plus runs but we could not," confessed Ashraf.

Ashraf also admitted his mistake in charging off-spinner Johan Botha with only nine minutes remaining till the lunch break when even the world's greatest batsmen show their patience before any break.

"It was my mistake" was the short reply of the ace batsman.

Coach Siddons was understandably disappointed by his charges' batting performance and found too much excitement as the reason behind the debacle.

"They got too excited which put pressure on them which I think is the reason behind the bad show," he explained.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

zem Prepaid is zem
99 Taka Package Price | 99 Taka Welcome Talktime | 99 Paise / minute World to Other Operators
All zem connections are now available at 99 Taka only. Enjoy all the exciting features of prepaid from one single SIM.
WARID TELECOM



FINALLY THE BIG FISH: A bemused Jacques Kallis has his hands on his knees after being fooled by a Mohammad Rafique delivery late on the first day of the first Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was the first time that Kallis has fallen to the Tigers, with the wily Rafique deservedly taking the honours.

11th SA Games in Nov-Dec '08

SPORTS REPORTER

The 11th South Asian (SA) Games will be held in Dhaka during winter next year, it was decided at a meeting of the South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC) yesterday.

A total of 15 disciplines for the regional Games were finalised with hosts Bangladesh getting the option to choose two more disciplines in three months.

Although the Games were due to be held early in 2008 after a few delays, the hosts will decide a time between November and December.

It was also surprising to see disciplines like volleyball, basketball, badminton, wrestling, cycling and rowing make way for handball, archery and squash.

Twenty-one delegates from national Olympic committees of seven South Asian countries, including five from hosts Bangladesh, took part in the meeting with Bhutan being absent.

Chief of SAOC organising committee and president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed presided over the meeting.

"We had to accommodate requests from different sides and we finalised the decision on the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3

A Shuvo day Youths topple England



SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Suhawardi Shuvo salvaged, inspired and ran ragged to help Bangladesh clinch a 13-run win over England yesterday in the ICC Under-19 World Cup at the Royal Selangor Club ground in Kuala Lumpur.

Shuvo first undertook a rescue operation to make sure his bowlers had a total to bowl at after the top and middle order stooped to 49-7 in the 14th over. His bat produced an unbeaten 56 off 100 balls to take the young Tigers to 149 in 42 overs. In the second essay of the game, Shuvo led by example again; athletic fielding and bowling a typically tight spell of left-arm spin as the young English batsmen had

little to show for, being bowled out for 136 runs in 47.4 overs.

The win gives Bangladesh a match against South Africa in the first quarterfinal at the Bayuemas Oval tomorrow, while England's loss gave them the tougher opponent from Group B India.

But it could have been the exact opposite. On a moist wicket, in-form opener Ashraf Hossain fell for a second-ball duck to paceman James Harris. Nadimuddin Mintu, Rony Talukdar and Mahmudul Hasan Limon followed suit as Harris picked up five wickets including the wicket of Nasir Hossain (4). Bangladesh were tottering at 27-6 when Limon fell lbw to Harris.

And when wicketkeeper batsman Ashiqui Islam fell for a 21-ball 16, the match was there for England's taking. The crowd of around a hundred Bangladeshis went quiet as their boys were in deep trouble.

But Shuvo, who stood at the other

end, had a willing ally in Dollar Mahmud and the two first had to make sure of a decent score. That they did with the help of a lot of singles, rather than boundaries. Dollar, a tail-ender at best, scored a 77-ball 36 while the skipper was patient in his unbeaten 56. The two added 81 for the eighth wicket. Shuvo added a further 19 with Rubel Hossain as Bangladesh were closed at 149.

The crowd were in high spirits and it was learned that a momentum shift was evident, as the youngsters felt confident with a talented bowling line-up.

James Taylor cracked two boundaries in a 30-ball 24 but wicketkeeper Ashiqui cut short his stay with a brilliant diving effort in the eighth over. That was England's first wicket to fall in the tournament and as predicted, their untested middle-order crashed at the face of an inspiring bowling and fielding display.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Today's events in Bangla Games

SPORTS REPORTER

Competitions in all nine disciplines of the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games will start today in Dhaka and outside the capital.

Swimming will begin at 10am at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur while athletics will be held at the Army Stadium in Banani from 10-12am.

The daylong shooting competition start at BKP, Savar at 9am while the Twenty20 cricket match takes place at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

The local male footballers take on West Bengal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4pm while the eves contest at Narshingdi Stadium at 3pm.

Volleyball, kabaddi and kho kho matches will be played at their respective courts at the Outer Stadium in the afternoon and the basketball match at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

2ND INDO-BANGLADESH BANGLA GAMES A subdued start

SPORTS REPORTER



The 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games got off to a colourless start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, frustrating the moderate holiday crowd who had expected a grand exhibition.

It was a cultural programme rather than an 'opening ceremony' that marked the inauguration of the Games of Friendship, a sporting rivalry between the Bengali speaking citizens of Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed declared the opening of the five-day event where more than 400 athletes will fight for 67 gold medals in nine disciplines.

There were, however, promises of a brighter finish when the first Army paratrooper made a perfect landing on the lush green of the Bangabandhu Stadium with the national flag.

He was followed by fellow paratroopers, carrying flags of India, the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and the Games logo, who received cheers despite stumbling on landing.

BOA president and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed welcomed the guests before Bengal Olympic Association president Parelph Nath Mukherjee said that in time, the Games could become the main sporting attraction of the people either side of the border.

What followed next on a bright spring afternoon reminded everyone of the dreariness of the winter that just passed by.

During the march past of the athletes, the local women wore red,

blue and yellow but that could not hide the drab colours used for the males.

Then there was the biggest disappointment of all. The rest of the show was held on a stage in a corner of the big bowl and when the dancers arrived, they were performing with the recorded theme song instead of Ayub Bachchu delivering it live.

The leading singer of the country also skipped the live concert after the conclusion of the opening ceremony although famous bands Souls and Dalchhut and singers Shakila Zafar, Kiron Chandra Roy, Pathik Nabi and Sonia were on stage.

The Shilpakala Academy artists tried to cover the lapses with different dances but it never got beyond just another cultural function.

The fireworks were the only exception of the Tk 30-lakh ceremony and perhaps the magnificent display saved the organisers' blushes in the end.

What to WATCH

NEO & Super Sports 2
Bangladesh v South Africa
First Test, Day Two
Live from 10.00am
ESPN
English Premier League
Birmingham v Arsenal
Live at 6.40pm
Liverpool v Middlesbrough
Live at 8.55pm
Star Sports
English Premier League
Fulham v West Ham
Live at 8.55pm
Newcastle v Manchester United
Live at 11.10pm

Bangladesh v South Africa
First Test, Day Two
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium



YOUTHS U-TURN: Bangladesh U-19 players celebrate the fall of another England wicket during their final group game in the ICC U19 World Cup at the Royal Selangor Club ground in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Bucknor raises wrong finger

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Famous Jamaican umpire Steve Bucknor is in his elements again. This time it was Mohammad Rafique, who fell in his trap of oversight, misjudgement, the dreaded nod and yes, that slow, camera-hogging raised index finger.

Rafique must have been puzzled to see the man who has umpired in more Test matches than anyone else giving him out in that manner yesterday.

The ball hit his bat and deflected for six inches into his front pad.

Morne Morkel, who delivered a beautiful yorker at the stumps, understandably appealed till he got the decision of his fancy.

Some at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium heard the thick decision thudding into the pad and when television replays confirmed yet another bad decision, there was an uproar.

61-year-old Bucknor's prolonged international career resumed yesterday after the infamous Sydney Test in January, after which it was Mohammad

Cricket Council asked him to return home.

The forced separation from the gruelling job should have been a sobering experience but it seems nothing has changed and the tough schedule is still taking its toll on the tall man from Montego Bay.

Some say that it all evens out in the end, i.e., some good decision will go Rafique's way but is it also applicable for Bucknor? Is he balancing out the good work of yesteryears with some terrible decisions now?

This may be for him to answer, but where does ICC stand in this raging debate? There seem to be no age-limit for umpires and no regulation of the amount of matches they have to stand in.

In a widening game with even more implications of each game (India's threat of returning home if he wasn't removed from the subsequent Perth Test), a man with waning performance has no place.

The man who stood in five successive World Cup finals from 1992 to 2007 must be tired of all the criticism on top of the outrageous scheduling, but why still be in the game when you know you're game is up?



FIVE-FOR MORKEL: South Africa quick Morne Morkel is jubilant after bagging his first five-wicket haul in the opening day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Friday.

SMS Puzzle
10th FEBRUARY থেকে
এবং জিতে নিন
আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার
www.smspuzzle.com
2583