



PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM
Bangladesh opener Zunaed Siddiqui leaves the ball during a net session yesterday at the TOI Stadium in Darwin ahead of today's second one-day against Australia.

'It won't happen again' Tigers' second ODI down under today

Cricket

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Darwin

The Bangladesh camp had remained quite since the batting debacle in the first ODI on Saturday. Getting bowled out for 74 has dented the image of the team and the players know that nothing short of a turnaround in the second match today would revive confidence.

Mohammad Ashraful's men were humbled by 180 runs in Saturday's first match after getting dismissed for their lowest ever total.

"We have to be much, much better. A good performance would be getting over 250 or even in the region of 220-230. That'd give us a chance. We know the bowlers now, we failed to adjust to the wicket in the first ODI but I'm quite confident that it will not happen again," said captain Ashraful.

The challenge for the Tigers has been lifting the battered confidence and coach Jamie Siddons spoke separately with the batsmen and the bowlers and emphasized on playing from the heart and not worry about what the opposition have in store.

"Their bowlers and batsmen are no longer unknown. The pitch is also familiar now and hopefully our batsmen would concentrate on building the innings rather than playing shots which is not on, especially on this track," said Siddons.

Bangladesh have been forced to make one change to the team. Batsman Rokibul Hassan has been ruled out due to a thumb injury and left-hander Zunaed Siddiqui gets his chance. Zunaed will open the batting with Tamim Iqbal.

Bangladesh's pace spearhead and vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is calling on the batsmen to come into their own in the second ODI.

"I personally thought that two or three of our top-order batters did not look confident in that game (first match). I am not giving excuses but the drop-in track was difficult for run-scoring and we did not look like working our way out of pressure at any time," said the 'Narail Express'.

Mortaza however believed that the players had the talent to fare much better.

"What I have learnt in international cricket is that you have to go out there with a positive frame of mind and we have to do that on Wednesday. We have to be more than twice as good, play our natural game and get near 220 or 230. That's the only way we can get over Saturday's poor show," he said.

On bowling Mortaza felt the new ball operators much complicated each other.

"In the last game I was bowling tight from one end but Rajib (Shahadat Hossain) was leaking runs. Against Australia it is mighty important to bowl a high percentage of good balls. We had a chat with the AIS bowling coach Damien Fleming during our

warm-ups and he also stressed on making scoring difficult and said that you win yourself a point with every dot ball you bowl against Australia."

Australia have promised another ruthless performance but leg-spinner Cameron White, who took 3 for 5 in the first game reckons the series is far from over for the tourists.

"They've got some dangerous players. They are very aggressive and probably at some stage of the series a couple of their batters will come off. We just have to make sure that we are switched on and don't take anything for granted," said White.

The Tigers had divided net sessions at the TIO Stadium's nets and the Marrara Oval's center wicket yesterday.

The match starts at 9:30am local time (6:00am Bangladesh Standard Time).

TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mehrob Hossain, Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Dhiman Ghosh, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Nazmul Hossain, Shahadat Hossain.

AUSTRALIA: Michael Clarke (captain), Michael Hussey, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Brad Haddin, Shane Watson, David Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Shaun Marsh, Brett Jeeves, Cameron White.

Umpires: Amiesh Saheba and Bruce Oxenford.



PHOTO: AFP
World number one Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his win over American Sam Querrey during their US Open fourth round tie at Flushing Meadows on Monday.

Return of Watson

AFP, Darwin

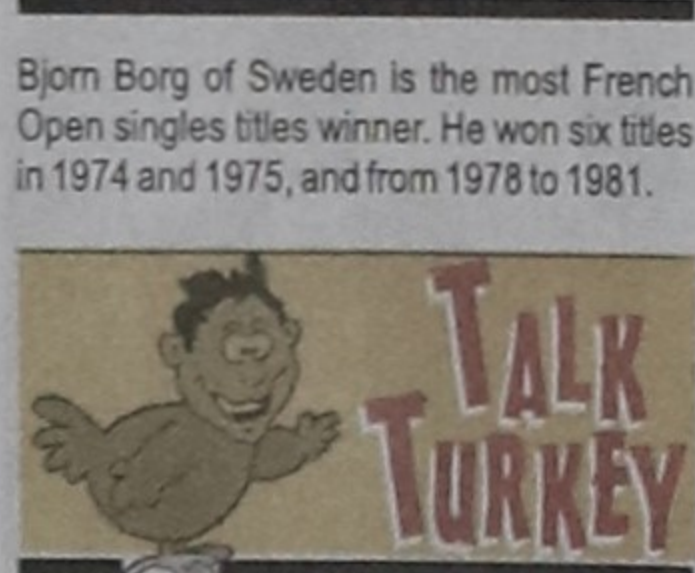
Injury-plagued Australian all-rounder Shane Watson is set to return in the second one-day clash against Bangladesh at the TIO Stadium on Wednesday.

Watson missed the first clash of the series on Saturday due to calf soreness as Australia were reduced to only 11 available players following the decision to send disgraced

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Did U Know?
Bjorn Borg of Sweden is the most French Open singles titles winner. He won six titles in 1974 and 1975, and from 1978 to 1981.



Adriano Galliani
(AC Milan vice-president)
"Ronaldinho was fantastic, certainly the best on the pitch." After the Brazilian delighted the fans on his Milan debut at San Siro against Bologna on Sunday.



STAR Cricket
Australia v Bangladesh
Second ODI
Live from 6:00am
England v South Africa
Fifth ODI
Live from 7:30pm
TEN Sports
US Open Tennis
Day Ten
Live from 9:00pm

'Quitting will be a waste'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Darwin

Shane Watson has no doubt Andrew Symonds will return to international cricket and believes it would be a massive waste of talent if he focuses solely on the Indian Premier League (IPL). Symonds is considering his future after being cut from the Australia squad in Darwin due to the team's concerns about his commitment.

As the highest paid foreign cricketer in the IPL -- he sold at auction for 1.35 million dollars to the Deccan Chargers -- Symonds clearly does not need to play for Australia to earn a living. But his good friend and Queensland teammate Watson believes Symonds has put in such effort turning himself from an ODI dasher into a high quality Test batsman that he would

not walk away from Australia.

"I know Andrew Symonds well and I know deep down he's worked so, so hard and been through a lot of ups and downs throughout his career to play for Australia," Watson said. "I've got no doubt in my mind that he'll be back, hopefully sooner rather than later, when he makes sure that his mind is exactly where he wants to be."

The IPL option might be tempting if Symonds is having trouble staying focused through Australia's hectic international schedule. Watson was named Player of the Series in the inaugural tournament this year and said the league had its own set of serious stressors, which Symonds would need to consider if he intended to concentrate entirely on that format.

"Playing in the IPL there's a lot of pressure on you to play and to perform," Watson said. "I felt that. You know that if things start to not

go great that there's a lot of pressure from your owners, from the people, from the supporters."

"I hope that's not the way he goes because I don't want this to be the last the Australian public see of Andrew Symonds playing for Australia. I personally think that it would be a waste because he's an amazingly talented player and I love watching him play."

Watson said he had seen no signs over the past few months that Symonds had changed, although the team leadership group has had lingering concerns for some time. He has resisted the temptation to call his friend over the past few days but he expects to chat to Symonds soon.

"I know when times aren't going great... it's probably good to have a bit of time to yourself just to gather your thoughts," Watson said. "I'm sure I'll talk to him in the next few days."

Ten ways to improve TV coverage

SPORTS REPORTER

The high-voltage Citycell Federation Cup final between Abahani and Mohammedan on Monday made some viewers sit back and take notice but the viewing experience, on television, left a lot to be desired as usual. Playing standards notwithstanding, local football's presentation can take it a long way in bringing back the glory days.

Here's a list of 10 things the readers of The Daily Star have pointed out that the organisers should consider before the B. League:

- * The match should have uninterrupted coverage. Otherwise the total viewing experience gets destroyed; not more than a single break (during half-time).
- * The cameras must cover more angles and the match should be played with the crowd in the background and not empty stands.
- * A running clock and a score box should be shown on screen at all times.
- * A better commentary team with presenters and experts, and only two commentators must be used during the match.
- * A call should go out for the return of regular radio commentary.
- * Educate the viewers with more information and trivia about local football and the players. Better terms should be used for skills, tactics, etc.
- * The surface should be taken care of; a greener setting.
- * Teams should be encouraged special skills like free-kicks. Anything to look good on TV.
- * Show more of the crowd so that there is one more reason to go and watch the game in the ground.
- * Coaches must be brought into the game as their facial expressions add drama.

Futsal ready to roll

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh enters futsal era today with a daylong tournament named after two great coaches of the yesteryear Gafoor Baloch and Abdur Rahim.

Although the shortest version of football is popular worldwide and enjoyed by millions of fans as a more skill oriented game, it would be first ever futsal tournament in the country.

The one-day futsal will kick off at 2pm with eight teams, including Monday's Federation Cup finalists Mohammedan and Abahani, playing on knockout basis for three hours.

The daylong event, however, would be a warm-up event for the real show -- the Citycell Futsal Competition -- which begins tomorrow with the eight B. League clubs from Dhaka split into two groups. The semifinals will be held on September 7 and the final is slated for September 8.

Easy win for T&T

SPORTS REPORTER

Motijheel T&T Club blanked BG Press & RC 2-0 in the Second Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Arman struck both the goals in the first half. In the other match, Karwan Bazar Progoti Sangha managed a solitary goal victory over Sadharan Bima at the same venue.

Shipon netted the all-important goal in the 77th minute. At the Army Stadium, Basabo Tarun Sangha beat Kadamtala Sangsad 2-1.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Football Federation's futsal committee chairman Khorshed Babul (3rd from left) addressing a press conference at the BFF Bhawan yesterday ahead of two futsal tournaments to be held in the city from today.

AFP, New York



World number one Rafael Nadal battled his way into the US Open

quarterfinals Monday, outlasting 55th-ranked Sam Querrey 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 to match his best career showing at the Grand Slam event.

The reigning Wimbledon, French Open and Olympic champion is trying to become only the fourth man to win three Slam singles crowns in a row, joining Pete Sampras, Rod Laver and the man he dethroned atop the rankings, Roger Federer.

"Very tough," Nadal said. "I'm very happy for the victory. Now I'm in my best round at the US Open and I hope to play better in the next round."

But Nadal struggled in the face of an epic effort from lanky US 20-year-old Querrey, who nearly made his fourth-round Slam debut as a shocker for the ages and cast major doubt upon whether or not Nadal has what it takes to win a US Open.

"He had to earn that third set and fourth set," Querrey said. "It's nice to know he actually had to go out there and fight for it rather than handing it to him."

The 22-year-old Spanish left-hander bids for his first US Open

semifinal against 35th-ranked American Mardy Fish, who matched his best Slam run from last year's Australian Open by defeating France's Gael Monfils 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

"He's a dangerous player. He's playing very well," Nadal said. "He's playing with big confidence and I have to play very well if I want to win."

The other quarterfinal on Nadal's side of the draw will send British sixth seed Andy Murray against the hottest player on tour, Argentina's 19-year-old Juan Martin Del Potro.

The South American won his 23rd match in a row, beating Japan's 18-year-old Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to advance, while Scotsman Murray ousted a friend, Swiss 10th seed Stanislas Wawrinka, 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

"It's always tough playing against one of your friends," Murray said. "But this is the quarterfinals of my favourite tournament and I had to put the friendship aside."

Murray, who reached his first Slam quarterfinal this year at Wimbledon, assured a rise to fifth in the world with the triumph. He beat Del Potro in May on Rome clay in their only prior meeting when his foe retired in the third set.

Querrey fired 20 aces and 52 winners at Nadal but made 50 unforced errors to fall short after

three hours and 13 minutes at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"At the start I was a little nervous but after an hour I was hitting my shots pretty good," Querrey said. "I was just taking my forehand and trying to rip it as hard as I could. He's just too good."

Nadal broke Querrey in the third and seventh games to take the first set in 31 minutes, but in the second, Querrey answered a Nadal break in the seventh game by breaking at love with Nadal serving for the set to equalize at 5-5.

Querrey held and ripped a forehand cross-court winner to grab two break points on Nadal in the 12th game. Nadal netted a forehand on the next point and the fight was on.

"It was very difficult, especially after my big mistake in the second set," Nadal said. "I was playing normal. Nothing special but nothing bad."

Nadal broke to open the third set but Querrey answered in the eighth game, breaking back on Nadal's fifth double fault to set up the pivotal tie-breaker.

Nadal jumped ahead 3-1 in the tie-break when Querrey sent a forehand wide, then won the final four points, three on errant shots by the American, to take the set, jumping for joy when a Querrey backhand went long to seal the set.

"I served very bad in the second

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Akhtar eyes comeback

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Fit-again Shoaib Akhtar vowed Tuesday to use a short stint with Surrey to mount a comeback at international level, saying he would do his best to help the English county side avoid relegation.

Surrey, who look set for the drop as they are bottom of the County Championship table with only three matches to go, have recruited the mercurial Pakistan paceman on a contract until the end of the season.

Akhtar, on the way back from injury and disciplinary breaches, will fly to London on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old said there could be no better launching pad for a return.

"I am honoured to play for a county like Surrey," Akhtar told AFP. "I will do my best to win all three matches for the county and I am fit and raring to go."

Akhtar said he would try and live up to the standards of one of his idols Waqar Younis, who once played for Surrey, and "keep up the traditions of Pakistan fast bowling."

The bowler said his arrival in England has been slightly delayed due to family illness.

"My mother was not well, otherwise I wanted to reach there for the last four or five matches. But still it is a great opportunity for me to prove my fitness before the

Pakistan team fly out to South Africa or for a possible series or against India at home," said Akhtar.

Pakistan's team is lacking international cricket after Australia postponed a full tour to the country over security fears in March.

To add to their woes, the International Cricket Council was forced to postpone September's Champions Trophy until next year after non-Asian teams raised concerns about playing in Pakistan, which has been riven by bombings and suicide attacks.

The postponement deprived Akhtar of the chance to stage a comeback after he was handed a five-year ban by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) over a series of discipline violations.

The ban followed his public criticism of the PCB after he was axed from a list of 15 contracted players in January.

In July, an appeal committee reduced the ban to 18 months but imposed a fine of seven million rupees (93,000 dollars). A Lahore High court hearing suspended the ban but upheld the fine, paving the way for his selection in the Trophy squad last month.

Akhtar promised he had put his troubles behind him.

"The past eight months were disappointing, but now I am focused on my return. I want to bowl at least 15-20 overs in an innings and gain rhythm because we are hosting India late in the year."

Pakistan host India for three Tests and five one-day internationals from December 2008 to February 2009.

Akhtar has played 46 Tests and 138 one-day internationals for Pakistan since making his debut in 1997, but has not played any international cricket this year.

Tk 8 lakh tickets sold during Fed Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) earned more than Tk eight lakh from ticket sales of the just concluded Citycell Federation Cup.

The major portion (Tk 2,92,820), however, was fetched from Monday's final between traditional rivals Mohammedan and Abahani where more than 20,000 spectators turned up at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The BFF sold tickets worth Tk 69,430 for the first semifinal while Tk 67,130 for the second semifinal.

Tournament coordinator and BFF member Fazlur Rahman Babul confirmed a total of Tk 8,42,600 tickets sales during the tournament. Babul added that nearly 14,000 gallery and 596 VIP tickets and were sold for the final while the BFF entertained 4,000 guests apart from school students and registered footballers of different leagues who had free entry.