



Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) warms up his arm with some throws during training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## That's it for Hayden

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

One of Australia's greatest opening batsmen Matthew Hayden called stumps Tuesday on one of international cricket's most imposing careers.

The 37-year-old batsman did not go out of the game the way he would have wanted - having to call a press conference to announce his retirement, widely anticipated after his struggling form in Australia's recent series losses.

But the powerfully-built Hayden will be remembered as one of the modern-day cricketing titans, amassing 8,625 runs in 103 Tests at an impressive average of 50.74.

His departure further strips the transitional Australian cricket team of another big-name star following the retirements of celebrated teammates Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Justin Langer and Adam Gilchrist in the last two years.

Only skipper Ricky Ponting remains of the players who twice (from 1999-2001 and 2006-2008) won a record 16 Tests in succession.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

### FACTFILE

**Test debut:** South Africa v Australia at Johannesburg, Mar 4-8, 1994  
**Last Test:** Australia v South Africa at Sydney, Jan 3-7, 2009  
**ODI debut:** England v Australia at Manchester, May 19, 1993  
**Last ODI:** Australia v India at Brisbane, Mar 4, 2008  
**T20I debut:** England v Australia at Southampton, Jun 13, 2005  
**Last T20I:** India v Australia at Mumbai (BS), Oct 20, 2007

### BATTING AND FIELDING AVERAGES

Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
Tests	103	184	14	8625	380	50.73	30	29	1049	82	128
ODIs	161	155	15	6133	181	43.80	10	36	636	87	68
T20Is	9	9	3	308	73	51.33	0	4	37	13	1



LET'S GO HOME DAD: Matthew Hayden (L) gets a kiss from daughter Grace (R) in Brisbane yesterday after he announced his retirement from international cricket.



**Raul**  
 (Real Madrid icon)  
 "I've given 14 years of my life to this badge and I'm still hungry. Nothing could be better for a player than to spend entire professional life at a club like Real Madrid."



**BTV**  
 Tri-Nation Cup  
 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
 Live from 9:00am

**ESPN**  
 Sportscentre India  
 Sports News  
 Live at 8:30pm

English Premier League  
 Man United v Wigan  
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)



**Tri-Nation Cup**  
 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
 Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur  
**Citycell B. League**  
 Arambagh v Sheikh Russel  
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
 Time: 4:00pm

## India to fill gap with SL tour

AFP, Colombo

India will play five one-dayers and a Twenty20 international against hosts Sri Lanka next month to help fill the gap created by their cancelled tour of Pakistan, officials said Tuesday.

The dates and venues for the hastily arranged series will be announced within a few days, Indian cricket board secretary N. Srinivasan told reporters after talks with Sri Lankan board officials.

"India and Sri Lanka have a very long and close relationship

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

## 'Like a final' Slinger Rubel to debut

SPORTS REPORTER



It seemed that the whole Bangladesh team wanted to take inspiration from the very familiar words 'anything can happen in cricket' ahead of their do-or-die challenge against the Sri Lankans in today's tri-series match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The disappointing 38-run defeat against Zimbabwe in the opening match has left a tough job for the Tigers to make an unlikely entry to the final as they go to the last match against their formidable opponents, who demolished the Zimbabweans by 130 runs, in a must-win situation.

A victory of any margin would put Mohammad Ashraful's men in Friday's final but in that case they have to do a miracle considering the fact that they have only had one victory under their belt in the previous 24 encounters. On top of that their recent batting performance has also been terrible.

Under pressure Bangladesh captain Ashraful didn't turn up to talk to the media prior to the match but his deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza said that it's a tough task but not impossible.

"There is pressure obviously when you play a big team like Sri Lanka but I hope that doesn't affect us tomorrow. It is like a final for us because we can only stay in the tournament if we win," said the Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe, who is likely to open the bowling with debutant Rubel Hossain, when he was asked whether the team was under the same

kind of pressure that Ashraful spoke of after the defeat against Zimbabwe.

"We will stay positive. Sri Lanka are a top side but our survival depends on beating them. Positive cricket for us would be to do the right things and sticking to the game plan in all departments," he added.

The bravehearted cricketer also believed that they are capable of defeating any team.

"I don't think (Bangladesh's) problem was in ability. We have the ability and players have shown that they are capable of wonderful things. I think the problem is in the mind and we tend to lose focus every now and then," he observed.

He also dismissed the notion that Bangladesh can only win against big teams when conditions favour them on a given day and not through the skills of the players.

"That is a very unfair opinion. We have beaten teams in different conditions home and away. And to play good cricket we don't need a good day. We have pushed teams regularly but maybe haven't had the results," he said.

"The players have given their all and we rejoice or feel disappointed in the same way fans do in regards to the success and failure of the Bangladesh team. I hope people realise that it is the players who win games through hard work and should support us," he added.

But undoubtedly they have to come out from their brittle top-order batting if they want to prove their capability. It has been the main concern for the Tigers as the bowlers continued their impressive showing even in the last match against Zimbabwe but Mashrafe assured that they worked out on the mistakes to get out of the problem areas.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Mohammedan ruin Brothers hopes

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan crushed Brothers Union 3-1 in the clash of heavyweights yesterday to move to the second place in the Citycell B. League.

Nasir Hossain, Alamu Bukola and Hedayetullah Robin scored for Mohammedan in the first half while Zahid found the target for the Oranges from a 90th minute penalty.

The defeat, Brothers' second in 13 matches, was a severe blow for Wasim Iqbal's side in the title race as they stuck to 26 points -- six behind leaders Abahani.

The way the Black and Whites started the game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and stormed to a 3-0 lead by the break should serve as a warning for archrivals Abahani and third-placed Sheikh Russel, who are on 32 and 27 points respectively.

Maruful Haque's men narrowed the gap with Abahani to four points with a match in hand after four consecutive victories -- their best run so far this season.

Mohammedan, however, should thank the gaffes by Brothers' vulnerable backline, which was crudely exposed in

absence of Nigerian holding midfielder Divine, who had successfully played his role in the first-leg as a shield in front of the back four before being released by the club for a career in the Jamaican league.

Although Mohammedan had absolute domination in the first half, they had to wait for the rival mistakes to open the scoring.

Centre-back Saikat nodded

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Nasir Hossain shoots to score Mohammedan's opening goal against Brothers Union during yesterday's Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## Dave happy with progress

SPORTS REPORTER

ICC general manager David Richardson was impressed by the way Bangladesh cricket has made significant progress.

"The thing that impresses me most about Bangladesh is the level of enthusiasm for the game and they are never short of it. Every time I go there, I find the same passion and commitment which is pleasing," said Richardson reflecting on his participation in the Bangladesh Catch the Spirit week.

"The BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) has made significant progress in setting up an infrastructure capable of supporting cricket played at the highest level," he added.

The former South Africa wicketkeeper has also congratulated the BCB for celebrating its Catch the Spirit week during the triangular one-day series in Mirpur.

"Bangladesh's Catch the Spirit week has set a great example for other members to follow," said Richardson, who carried the Catch the Spirit flag which will fly to the ICC Members across the globe to promote the centenary and the spirit of cricket.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board organised some fantastic activities to celebrate 100 years of international cricket and were an excellent reflection of the passion for cricket in the country," he added.

During the Bangladesh Catch the Spirit week, Richardson watched the tri-nation opener between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, interacted with a range of ICC's stakeholders including the Bangladesh Cricket Board and local media, and participated in the HIV/AIDS-awareness programme.

He also attended a special centenary youth game at the Bangladesh Sports Institute (BKSP).

## Rajshahi start with a bang

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi took advantage of Chittagong's wayward bowling and won the opening match of the Women's National Cricket League by 150 runs at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The home side gave away 78 extras including an unbelievable sixty wides as Rajshahi made 243-8 from 50 overs. In reply, Chittagong were bowled out for a meagre 90 runs in 32.2 overs.

Mina Khatun was the second top-scorer after the extras, scoring 48 off 60 balls while captain Panna Ghosh made 41 with five boundaries. Champa Chakma, who gave away just three wides, took three wickets for 43 runs.

Lota Mandal and Tithi Panna later blew through the Chittagong batting line-up taking three wickets each. The hosts' Sanjida Islam scored a patient 35 off 61 balls.

## C'Ron wins FIFA gong

Football

AFP, Zurich

Manchester United and Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo was on Monday named FIFA World Footballer of the Year for 2008.

Ronaldo, who is also holder of the prestigious Ballon d'Or for the European Footballer of the Year, beat off competition from 2007 winner Kaka

### RESULTS

1. Cristiano Ronaldo (POR)	935	pts
2. Lionel Messi (ARG)	678	
3. Fernando Torres (ESP)	203	
4. Kaka (BRA)	183	
5. Xavi (ESP)	155	
6. Steven Gerrard (ENG)	98	
7. Samuel Eto'o (CMR)	58	
8. Iker Casillas (ESP)	49	
9. Andres Iniesta (ESP)	37	
10. David Villa (ESP)	37	
11. Andrei Arshavin (RUS)	36	
12. Frank Lampard (ENG)	33	

(Brazil), Lionel Messi (Argentina), Fernando Torres (Spain) and Xavi (Spain).

"It's an overwhelming moment in my career and I'd like to dedicate this award to my family, friends and colleagues," he said.

"Winning the Champions League for me was the most memorable moment of 2008," added Ronaldo, who scored in the final but missed a penalty in the penalty shootout against Chelsea.

### PAST WINNERS

2007: Kaka (BRA) AC Milan  
 2006: Fabio Cannavaro (ITA) Real Madrid  
 2005: Ronaldinho (BRA) Barcelona  
 2004: Ronaldinho (BRA) Barcelona  
 2003: Zinedine Zidane (FRA) Real Madrid  
 2002: Ronaldo (BRA) Real Madrid  
 2001: Luis Figo (POR) Real Madrid  
 2000: Zinedine Zidane (FRA) Juventus  
 1999: Rivaldo (BRA) Barcelona  
 1998: Zinedine Zidane (FRA) Juventus



DOUBLE DELIGHT: Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo poses with the FIFA World Footballer of the Year 2008 trophy in Zurich on Monday. Ronaldo is also the current holder of the prestigious Ballon d'Or title.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

## Nasir takes Barisal ahead

SPORTS REPORTER



Nasir Hossain struck a crucial unbeaten half-century to take Barisal on top of the National Cricket League one-day competition after a seven-wicket win over Khulna at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Just like the first-class tournament, Barisal and Rajshahi are at each other's throats but for the northern rivals it was a bad day as they lost to Chittagong by three wickets. Chittagong and Rajshahi are now both on eight points each.

Sylhet and Khulna have six points respectively while Dhaka, who beat Sylhet by six wickets, gained their second win.

All three matches were curtailed due to heavy fog in the morning.

### BARISAL-KHULNA

Middle-order batsman Nasir Hossain struck six boundaries and a six to score 58 off 87 balls as Barisal reached the winning target in 36.5 overs after Khulna made 147-9 in 40 overs.

He added exactly hundred runs for the undefeated fourth wicket stand with Shahin Hossain, who contributed 39 runs with the help of three boundaries.

Earlier, military medium Arafat Salahuddin took three miserly wickets to restrict Khulna, who had three ducks in the middle-order.

Taibur Rahman struck 54 off 89 balls. Salahuddin was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

Barisal's discarded national paceman Sajjidul Islam and left-armer Tariqul Islam took two wickets each.

### RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG

Man-of-the-match Tariq Aziz took four wickets as Chittagong held back Rajshahi for just 140 runs in 38.5 overs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. The right-arm seamer took three top-order wickets and removed tail-ender Shafaq Al Jabir to finish with four for 32 from 9.5 overs. Only all-rounder Sabbir Rahman showed some fight, scoring 31 off 37 balls.

In reply, Chittagong rode on Tariq Ahmed's 39 and an unbeaten 35 by Mahmudul Hasan to win with seven overs to spare. Tall batsman Tariq cracked seven boundaries in his 44-ball innings.

Shafaq and Saqlain took three wickets each for Rajshahi.

### DHAKA-SYLHET

Nadif Chowdhury used his big-hitting ability to match-winning use as he smashed three sixes and two boundaries in his unbeaten 59 off 53 balls.

The right-hander added 67 undefeated runs for the fifth wicket with senior pro Javed Omar, who made 32 off just 24 balls.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4