

## Tigers chase a dream

### Second Test against WI starts today

Cricket

AFP, St George's

Bangladesh will carry bitter-sweet feelings into the second and final Test against the West Indies starting on Friday at the Queen's Park Stadium Complex.

Bangladesh need only to draw to fulfil a long-held dream of their first Test series victory after they took a 1-0 lead with a 95-run victory in the opening Test at St Vincent.

But celebrations have been tempered following a knee injury to their new captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza which appears likely to sideline him for the match.

Mortaza fell clumsily on his right knee when bowling during the first Test, and spent the last two and a half days off the field.

He underwent a medical scan on Tuesday, and though the results of the test are not as bad as initially feared, the visitors do not want to risk long-term injury to their main fast bowler.

The Tigers have flown out Nazmul Hossain as back-up for Mashrafe, but the way things unfolded in the first Test, the captain may not be missed.

It was Bangladesh's spinners who

made life difficult for the West Indies batsmen in the first Test, particularly the second innings, when Mahmudullah and Shakib Al Hasan -- who is likely to lead the side in Mashrafe's place -- dominated.

The Tigers will consider playing three spinners with Mehrab Hossain Jr the likely choice to fill the breach, particularly if the pitch looks favourable.

Winning the series will be very important to Bangladesh, after they arrived in the Caribbean as rank outsiders.

Fortune favoured them when the long-

running feud between the West Indies Cricket Board and the West Indies Players' Association escalated just prior to the opening Test, and the leading West Indies players decided to boycott the series.

This meant Bangladesh's chances of a Test victory -- and perhaps a Test series victory -- were enhanced, once the hosts fielded a hodgepodge of players with limited Test and international experience.

Fortunately, they kept their nerve through a batting collapse in the first innings, and then a solid, if not formidable West Indies reply, and sealed the deal in over the second half of the match.

As the dispute between the West Indies board and leading players continues, the home team will again field a weakened line-up for the Test.

The batting has been boosted with the addition of Ryan Hinds, one of the leading batsmen in last season's first-class competition.

Hinds played the last of his 14 Tests against England in March this year at Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval, but he is yet to make a meaningful impression at the top level.

The left-hander managed just 91 runs in four Tests against England on their

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## Bonarpara cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rangpur Railway Club defeated Nayabander Sporting Club by seven wickets while TBS Kriha Chakka narrowly defeated Simultair Meghdip Eleven by one wicket in the Bonarpara premier cricket league held at the Bonarpara Kazi Azher Ali High School ground yesterday.

In the first match, Rangpur Railway Club scored 42-3 in their stipulated ten over. In reply Nayabander Sporting Club made 40 runs for the loss of all wickets.

Hira of Rangpur scored 27

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## Did U Know?

In a West Ham United v Wolverhampton Wanderers match in 1970, Bobby Moore managed to knock out a referee with an attempted clearance.



## Jimmy Adams

(Former West Indies cricket captain)

"They want to say, 'All you need to do is agree a figure and you should forget about everything else.' That is sports management in 1952."

On the outdated attitude of the West Indies Cricket Board.



## STAR Cricket

England v Australia

2nd Ashes Test, Day 2

Live from 5:00pm

TEN Sports

West Indies v Bangladesh

Second Test, Day 1

Live from 9:00pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 9:30pm

## WC planning afoot

SPORTS REPORTER



The next central organising committee (COC) meeting for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

will take place in Dhaka sometime in September.

BCB's senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam, who is also secretary of the COC, revealed the information during a press conference yesterday, which he called to disclose the detailed outcomes of the COC meeting held in Mumbai on July 14.

"The COC has decided to hold its meeting at least once ever six-seven weeks and the next meeting will take place in Dhaka sometime in September to work out the progress. You know we have only 18 months in hand to prepare everything for the showcase event," said Anam, a convenor of the budget and operations sub-committee.

The COC met in Mumbai on Tuesday to review the ongoing preparations for the mega event and took some major decisions including the redistribution of the 14 matches that were scheduled to be held in Pakistan. Pakistan has not been given any World Cup match due to security reasons.

After the re-distribution, the highest 29 matches out of 49 will be played in India including one quarterfinal, semi-final and final, 12 matches in Sri Lanka including one quarterfinal and semifinal and eight matches in Bangladesh including two

quarterfinals.

For Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) the immediate job will be to select their two venues as a committee, led by N Srinivasan, will inspect the venues and pitches in October this year. They also have to form local organising committee (LOC) immediately as the deadline by the end of this month.

It was almost six months back when the BCB officials told the press that they were

lagging behind in preparation and with only 18 months in hand there has hardly been any improvement in this regard.

Anam however was not ready to talk in the press conference as a BCB official. "The main objective of this press conference is to disclose the detail outcomes of the last COC meeting. India has already selected their eight venues but Sri Lanka and

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Cricket Board vice-president Mahabubul Anam addresses a press briefing at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Protesters call for government help

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Protesting West Indies players have turned to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Governments for help in their current impasse with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

At the same time, the WICB reaffirmed their commitment to start paying out money owed to the players under what agreements they believe they had already established with them.

These are the latest developments in the continuing saga between the two sides which has led to the leading West Indies players making themselves unavailable for the ongoing home series against Bangladesh.

The action, over pay and contract issues, is forcing the WICB to field an under-strength side for the ongoing home series against Bangladesh which features two Tests, three One-day Internationals, and a Twenty20 International.

But the West Indies Players' Association said late on Wednesday that it had written to Guyana President Bharat Jagdeo to seek his intervention.

Jagdeo is the current chairman of the Heads of Government of CARICOM committee which is similar in its composition and function to the African Union.

In the past, the CARICOM Heads have played a leading role in similar disputes, particularly when Keith Mitchell, the former Prime Minister of Grenada, was the chairman of the Heads' sub-committee on the sport.

WIPA Executive President Dinanath Ramnarine said in a letter to President Jagdeo that the players felt confident that the Heads of Government through its chairman would be able to find a mechanism to resolve the dispute.

"We at WIPA are fully conscious of the importance of cricket to the economy and unity of the region, and the psyche of its peoples -- matters in which you and other Heads of Governments are continuously and intrinsically involved," said Ramnarine.

He added: "Our players are deeply mindful of this responsibility they shoulder on behalf of this important group of stakeholders. It is, therefore, in this context that we at WIPA wish to have a speedy resolution to these issues."

A meeting date has already been suggested, but there are no details to suggest that both sides have agreed to the see the Guyana President.

Meantime, WICB vice-president Dave Cameron told the Caribbean Media Corporation, the regional news agency, that the players will begin to receive payments for the tour of England and the recent home ODI series against India shortly.

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PHOTO: AFP

England captain Andrew Strauss (R) and his opening partner Alastair Cook complement each other during a devouring 196-run stand on the first day of the second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's in London yesterday.

## U-19s salvage brave draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s lower-order fought hard to manage a draw in the second and final four-day against England Under-19s on the final day at the County Ground, Derby on Wednesday.

But still the home side won the series as they registered a ten-wicket victory against the visitors in the first four-day game.

After the visitors had slipped to 103 for six, number seven batsman Shabbir Rahman played the key role to defy the home side with a gutsy unbeaten knock of 51 that contained six boundaries.

And he got good support from Nur Hossain (22 off 51 balls) and Alauddin Babu (28 off 57 balls).

A fine spell from off-spinner Azeem Rafiq was not good enough for England Under-19s to make the series 2-0 as Bangladesh Under-19s scored 204 for eight in the second innings in reply to a target of 375.

Earlier Bangladesh made 302 runs in their first essay in reply to the home side's 392.

The two teams will now face each other in a five-match one-day series which starts at Grace on Saturday.

## School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Thirteen players of Class VI-X Group (boys) share the lead in the 11th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament with full three points after the third round matches at the NSC Tower Auditorium on Thursday.

They are Abdullah Al-Saif, Ikramul Haque Siam, Debotpal Dey, Rupesh

Jaiswal, Raju Ahmed, Rakib Hasan Rana, Nurul Huda Sagar, Fazle Rabbi,

Shubham Das, Saiful Islam, Md. Bappi, Sudipta Biswas and Nazmus Islam.

Eight players share the lead in Girls' Section with three points after the third round matches. They are Ahely Sarkar, Protiva Talukder,

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## Strauss, Cook lift hosts

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss made the most of some poor Australia bowling with a century on the first day of the second Ashes Test here at Lord's on Thursday.

England at tea were 255 for two with Strauss, who'd won the toss, exactly 100 not out on his Middlesex home ground and Kevin Pietersen unbeaten on 22 as the hosts pursued a first Test win over Australia at Lord's in 75 years.

Strauss, together with fellow left-handed opener Alastair Cook (95), shared a record-breaking first-wicket stand of 196 before completing his 18th Test century and fourth at Lord's off 178 balls with 15 boundaries.

Mitchell Johnson did separate England's openers but figures of one wicket for 77 runs in 11 overs were testament to the left-arm quick's waywardness.

Swing bowler Ben Hilfenhaus, the one member of a four-man attack, depleted

when Nathan Hauritz had to go off the field injured, to maintain some control, dismissed Ravi Bopara and at tea had figures of one for 49 off 20

overs.

England, who had to survive a top-order collapse before clinging on for a draw in last week's series opener in Cardiff, resumed after a lunch in a commanding position of 126 without loss.

Strauss was 47 not out and Cook, batting with rare panache, 67 not out with 56 of his runs in the first session.

Off-spinner Hauritz was twice slog-swept for four in three balls by Cook.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting was in something of a quandary.

And he was faced with a real problem when Hauritz had to leave the field midway through an over after dislocating the middle finger of his right, bowling hand when he failed to hold an extremely tough return chance off a low, hard-hit Strauss drive.

Even Hilfenhaus was pulled for four by Cook when he erred in dropping short.

Wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, who'd been having a difficult match, let through four byes off part-time spinner Marcus North.

And even Ponting, normally a brilliant fielder, saw the ball go through his legs to the delight of the crowd.

Ponting returned to Johnson, whose first eight

overs had cost 53 runs.

But his first ball back was square cut for four by Strauss and when he dropped short, Strauss cut him over the slips for four more.

When Strauss and Cook took their stand before 182 they'd surpassed the England's first-wicket partnership record against Australia at Lord's set by Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe back in 1926.

However, there was to be no 10th Test century for Cook, lbw to an unusually straight Johnson delivery that kept a touch low, having faced 147 balls with 18 fours.

Bopara looked stylish while making 18 but, playing down the wrong line, was plumb lbw to Hilfenhaus and England were 222 for two.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the second Ashes Test between England and Australia at Lord's in London on Thursday:

ENGLAND: Firstinnings  
Strauss not out 100  
Cook lbw b Johnson 95  
Bopara lbw b Hilfenhaus 18  
Pietersen not out 22  
Extras: (b-15, nb-5) 20  
Total: (For 2 wks in 62 overs) 255  
Fall of wickets: 1-196, 2-222

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PHOTO: STAR

Participants of the Standard Chartered 11th National School Chess Championship are contemplating their moves during the third day's play at the Auditorium Lounge of the National Sports Council yesterday.