



A WELL-EARNED HOLIDAY: With the second Test won with a day to spare the Bangladesh cricket team, which completed a 2-0 sweep in the Test series against the West Indies, went on a sea cruise in Grenada on Tuesday.

## ECB team visiting Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

A two-member delegation from the England Cricket Board (ECB) arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday on a pre-series visit to assess security and facilities ahead of the England U-19 and national team's tour of Bangladesh. The delegation, consisting of ECB cricket operations director John Donald Carr and security consultant Reginald Clyde Dickason visited the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan yesterday. They will visit Narayanganj

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## Strike ends in Windies

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

West Indies' leading players have ended their strike and made themselves available for international duty following the appointment of an arbitrator to settle their dispute with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

Captain Chris Gayle and other star players could now take part in the one-dayers against Bangladesh.

The original 13-man squad picked by the board for the Bangladesh Tests had boycotted the series due to a disagreement over contractual issues. The strike forced the selectors to pick a second-string side which lost both Tests, handing Bangladesh their first overseas series victory.

The WICB and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA), which is negotiating on the

cricketers' behalf, agreed to resolve the impasse by mediation on Tuesday, after meeting with Guyana President Bharat Jagdeo, who is also chairman of the 15-nation trading bloc Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM). Both sides agreed to the appointment of former Commonwealth secretary general Shridath Ramphal as arbitrator.

"It was agreed that in the light of the Mediation Agreement which the Parties expect to lead to the resolution of outstanding issues all the players will make themselves available for selection," they said in a joint statement.

"The mediation team, with assistance from the Caricom secretariat, would begin work immediately," they said. "Both parties have taken this step, mindful of the interest of their respective organisations but conscious also of their wider responsibility to the people of the West Indies and the international sport of cricket."

## Mass reception awaits Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers will be given a mass reception for their historic first-ever away Test series victory against the West Indies.

The Bangladesh cricket team led by all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan won both Tests against makeshift West Indies to achieve the feat.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker arranged a programme to celebrate the success along with the journalists at the NSC Tower conference room yesterday where he announced that they would accord a reception to the heroes after their return.

The Tigers will return home after playing three one-day internationals in the Caribbean and a five-match one-day series in Zimbabwe.

The minister said that the time and venue would be announced later after discussion with all the stakeholders.

Meanwhile, BCB president Lt Gen Sina Ibn Jamali along with the other board directors also attended the programme and informed that they chose two venues—Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and Fatullah Cricket Stadium—to host the eight matches of the 2011 World Cup.

The opening ceremony will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Chittagong and Khulna have been considered as alternative venues for the showcase event.

Later, the State Minister, the Parliamentary Standing Committee chairman Zahid Ahsan Russell, BCB president, sports organisers and journalists celebrated the historic win of the national cricket team by offering sweets to each other.

## Changes on WI team

Cricket

AFP, St George's

West Indies have added a couple of new faces and recalled a few others in a 14-member squad for the first two one-day internationals against Bangladesh this coming Sunday and next Tuesday in Dominica.

The batting has been boosted by the return of left-hander Devon Smith and fellow Grenadian Andre Fletcher, and the inclusion of uncapped left-hander Kieran Powell—all three are opening batsmen.

The bowling too, has been fortified with leg-spinner Rawl Lewis being recalled and uncapped fast-medium bowler Gavin Tonge being added. Making room from the Test squad which was swept 0-2 by the Tigers are Ryan Austin, Tino Best, Ryan Hinds, Kevin McLean, and Omar Phillips.

Smith last played for West Indies on their brief trip to England earlier this year, and Fletcher was dropped after making 53 in the opening match against Australia followed by 13 and three straight ducks in the Twenty20 World Cup in England.

The 19-year-old Powell hails from the tiny

island of Nevis, and has been rewarded for the promise he has shown in West Indies domestic competitions, where he has a reputation for being a clean striker of the ball.

He was a member of the Young West Indies side to the 2008 Youth World Cup in Malaysia, where he scored 253 runs at an average of 42.16 with a strike rate of 124 which made him the second highest scorer in the competition.

The 34-year-old Lewis played the last of his 26 ODIs for West Indies against South Africa on February 3 last year, and has not done his talent much justice in his sporadic appearances.

Tonge, a 26-year-old from Antigua & Barbuda, has also been rewarded for consistent performances with the ball in domestic competitions, and is also a handy lower-order batsman.

The rest of the side which is again being led by left-handed batsman Floyd Reifer comprises mostly the players that played in the preceding two Tests, as well as fast bowler Nelon Pascal, who was part of the Test squad, but did not play in either of the two matches.

The first two ODIs will be staged at Windsor Park which has been significantly upgraded and allows Dominica to host its first international matches.

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## Malik puts Pakistan atop

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Former captain Shoaib Malik hit an unbeaten 106 on Wednesday to put Pakistan on course for a face-saving victory in the third and final Test against Sri Lanka here.

Pakistan, who lost the first two Tests to hand Sri Lanka a decisive lead in the series, finally flexed their batting muscle to pile up 300-5 in their second innings by stumps on the third day.

Kamran Akmal returned unbeaten on 60 after adding 114 for the unbroken sixth wicket with Malik as Pakistan established an overall lead of 366 runs with five wickets in hand.

Sri Lanka will need to put on their best batting display in the series to record a 3-0 sweep over the remaining two days after failing to cross 300 in any of the five previous innings.

Pakistan appeared to have thrown away the advantage of a 66-run first innings lead when, starting the day at 16-1, they lost three quick wickets to slip to 67-4 before lunch.

Malik and Misbahul Haq led the fightback with a 119-run stand for the fifth wicket, staying together for the entire post-lunch session to frustrate the Sri Lankan bowlers on a hot and humid day.

Misbah made 65 before he gifted his wicket after tea, attempting a wild heave off seamer Angelo Mathews that took the edge to wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara.

Malik reached his second Test century just before close by lofting left-arm spinner Rangana Herath for a six, having survived a missed stumping by Sangakkara in the bowler's previous over.

The hosts missed a second spinner alongside Herath after dropping Ajantha Mendis to accommodate veteran seamer Chaminda Vaas for his final Test in a four-man pace attack.

Vaas, who claimed one wicket in the first innings, was kept out of the firing line till the 33rd over on Wednesday before sending down 14 unsuccessful overs for 29 runs.

Pakistan had added just six runs to their overnight score when Fawad Alam fended at a

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Pakistan middle-order batsman Misbahul Haq flicks the ball off his pads during his fine knock of 65 on the third day of the third Test against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground yesterday.

## 'England still can win'

Cricket

AFP, London

England coach Andy Flower has insisted his side can win the Ashes even if star men Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen are ruled out of the remainder of the series through injury.

Fast bowler Flintoff defied a knee problem, the latest in a lengthy list of injuries, to take five wickets for 92 runs as England won their first Test against Australia at Lord's in 75 years on Monday.

England's 115-run victory put them 1-0 up with three to play in what Flintoff had said, on the eve of the match, would be his final Test series.

Pietersen, meanwhile, has been struggling with an Achilles injury that dates back to England's tour of the Caribbean in April and a decision on whether he needs an operation

could be made this week.

It was widely thought that if England were to regain the Ashes, both Pietersen and Flintoff had to feature throughout.

But Flower, asked by reporters at England's hotel here on Tuesday if his team could win the series without their two star names, said: "Definitely, without a doubt."

"But we are going to have to play very good cricket. Remember, we are playing against the No 1 side in the world. We know that they will re-group and come back strongly at us."

Flower denied reports that Pietersen had already ruled himself out of the third Test, which starts at Edgbaston on July 30.

"No that's not the case at all, definitely not. I don't know whether an operation is the right action to take, that will be made by the end of this week, those sorts of decisions."

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Abdullah Al Saif (L) of Banashree Model School and Tanjina Akhter of Motijheel Govt. Girls' School pose with their trophies during the presentation ceremony of the Standard Chartered 11th National School Chess Championships at the NSC Tower Auditorium yesterday.

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