

## TIGERS LEAVE FOR CARIBBEAN TONIGHT

# Shakib target Pak scalp

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan said that it would be tough but not impossible to beat Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20, which will get underway on April 30 in West Indies.

high on hope while taking with reporters in an official press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur prior to their departure for the Caribbean tonight. "I think there is a possibility for us to beat Pakistan because right at the moment Pakistan cricket is unsettled with different kinds of crisis and injury problems. So we have to do something in the first match if we want to play the second

round but that doesn't mean we play bad cricket against other group opponents Australia," said Shakib.

Bangladesh will play their first group match against Pakistan on May 1 and second and last group match against mighty Australia on May 5 and before that they will play two preparation games against Barbados XI (on April 27) and England (on April 28).

Coach Jamie Siddons also

echoed his captain's sentiment but said that his boys need to play their best if they want to beat Pakistan, the defending champions.

"Both Pakistan and Australia are tough opponents but realistically we have a chance against Pakistan but in that case we need to play well," said Siddons.

The Australian expressed his satisfaction over his team's preparation before the tournament and said that they have still one-week time and two practice matches to tune up well before the tournament proper.

"The preparation is good and I must say it was much better than the last occasion. The players got the opportunity to play two tournaments - PCL and NCL recently, which is really good. Some players missed out on runs but I think the wicket was low and slow. But definitely the boys will get consistent pace while playing in Barbados," said Siddons.

The Bangladesh coach was also satisfied with the return of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who got back his confidence after playing the NCL T20 tournament.

"As I know he (Mashrafe) lost his weight by seven-eight kg. A ninety percent fit Mashrafe is even good for us," he added.



Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan (L) speaks to coach Jamie Siddons ahead of a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## AB Bank to sponsor Tigers for T20 WC

SPORTS REPORTER

AB Bank has come forward to sponsor the national cricket team for the ICC World Twenty20 that will begin on April 30 in West Indies.

"AB Bank once again came forward to be a partner with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) after a poor response in the bidding," BCB's acting CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury said expressing their helplessness regarding poor response from the companies.

AB Bank has agreed to provide Tk 25 lakh for the two group matches of the first

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## BCB media manager resigns

SPORTS REPORTER

Rabeed Imam has resigned as the media manager of the Bangladesh Cricket Board. He gave the resignation letter on Thursday, although it is yet to be granted by the cricket board.

"Yes he has given the letter of resignation but we haven't accepted it yet," said media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

Rabeed also confirmed that he has given the letter. "I have given them the letter, citing personal reasons," he said.

## Rony the only shining light

SPORTS REPORTER

Rony Talukdar's superb century was not enough to help out the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy on the second day of the four-day match against South Africa National Academy at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

The hosts were bowled out for 251 runs in their first innings and replying to that, the South African Academy were 75-2 in their second innings taking an overall lead of 195 runs with two days still remaining.

The Academy side would have been in deeper trouble had it not been for the right-handed Rony, who struck a whopping 17 boundaries and two sixes in his 104 off 114 balls. He added 133 for the seventh wicket with Tanvir Haider after they were reeling at 73 for six.

Tanvir made a 126-ball 69 that had six boundaries and a six.

For the visitors, Cobus Pienaar, Keshav Maharaj and Yaseen Vallie picked up three wickets each.

Later, Saqlin Sajib removed opener Khayelihle Zondo for 21 and Nasir Hossain ran out David Miller, but those were the tourists' only losses as they regained shape in the final 15 minutes.



### SuperSport2

Indian Premier League (3rd & 4th Place Play-Off)  
Bangalore v Deccan Chargers  
Live from 8:30pm  
ESPN

### English Premier League

Man United v Tottenham  
Live from 5:40pm  
West Ham v Wigan  
Live from 7:55pm  
Arsenal v Man City  
Live from 10:25pm  
STAR Sports

### English Premier League

Hull City v Sunderland  
Live from 7:55pm  
SuperSport3

### Serie A

Palermo v Milan  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

### SuperSport5

Bundesliga  
Monchengladbach v Bayern Munich  
Live from 8:00pm

### SuperSport7

Primera Liga  
Barcelona v Xerez  
Live from 10:25pm  
Zaragoza v Real Madrid  
Live from 12:25am (Sunday)  
Valencia v Deportivo  
Live from 2:25am (Sunday)



Bangladesh A opener Shamsur Rahman guides the ball past point during his sparkling 84 against South Africa A on the first day of the first unofficial Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

# Shamsur dazzles on Day One



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A batted purposefully on the opening day of their first unofficial Test match against South Africa A at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The hosts were all out for 346 runs but some of the batting, especially that of Shamsur Rahman, was splendid to watch even on an oppressively hot day.

The strong South African pace attack had no answer in the first hour of play when the right-handed Shamsur and Shahriar Nafees took command. They added 68 for the first wicket before the left-hander fell caught-behind off Vernon Philander.

Nafees was the more dominant of the two during the partnership, scoring 45 off 51 balls with the help of eight boundaries.

The visitors struck once more within a short time with Johan van der Wath removing skipper Junaed Siddiqui for just one. But the home team found solidity with Nazimuddin coming to the crease, joining Shamsur who had reached his half-century.

The right-hander from Chittagong, Nazimuddin, however missed his half-century by two runs when Dean Elgar had him caught by Alviro Petersen for 48 off 91 balls.

Faisal Hossain and Farhad Hossain both gave Shamsur good support before the opener fell for 84 off 111 balls, in an innings that had 14 boundaries and a six.

But Shamsur's departure did not hamper the A team's approach as lower-order bat Noor Hossain applied himself and added 76 for the seventh wicket with Farhad, who made 38.

Noor also missed a fifty, going for 49 off 81 balls. There was more frustration for the visitors who were carted around by Shahadat Hossain

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# Abahani dispense namesakes

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Abahani recorded their sixth straight victory in the second leg of the Bangladesh Football League when the hosts handed an effortless 6-2 defeat to their Chittagong namesakes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abahani's national striker Enamul Haque struck twice while Motiur Munna, Sheriff Din Mohammad, Awudu Ibrahim and substitute Habibur Rahman Shohag netted one goal apiece in the game played at almost half-speed. Shakhwat Hossain Ronny slotted a brace for Chittagong Abahani.

The 17th triumph in 18 outings kept Abahani in the hunt for a hat-trick of titles with 52 points, seven ahead of rivals Mohammedan

Sporting Club, who have played a match less than the Sky Blues.

Before the start of the game there was a general belief that it would be a cakewalk for Abahani, considering their consistent performance in the league and there was also no slip of that belief as they recorded their biggest victory in the ongoing league erasing the previous best of 5-0 against Muktiyoddha Sangsad though they conceded two goals, the same number they had conceded in their previous 17 matches.

However, the holders should give some credit to their rivals' defenders, who could hardly offer any resistance throughout the game and some termed it as the most 'fair-play game' in the ongoing professional football league.

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Abahani's Nigerian striker Awudu Ibrahim (C) chases the ball during their Bangladesh League encounter against Chittagong Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## TIGERS SPEAK

Before they depart for the West Indies to play the Twenty20 World Championships later today, the national cricketers had things to tell their fans. Here is a run-down...

"I missed the NCL T20s because I had exams, so you can say that I enjoyed a bit of rest. But I worked hard mentally and I believe this will help me with my game."  
- Mushfiqur Rahim

"I know my Twenty20 strike-rate hardly goes with my batting style but I believe that my batting has improved a lot recently and you might see the changes."  
- Tamim Iqbal

"My main target is to do something for my team."  
- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza

"West Indies is a lucky country for us because we played good cricket there in all our previous trips. I hope my bat will also speak there."  
- Mohammad Ashraful

"My personal target is to keep the economy rate under six and as a team our first target would be to beat Pakistan."  
- Abdur Razzak

"I love to bat at any position and I will be happy to give away only 20 runs in my four overs without even taking a wicket. And as a team we want to reach the second round after beating Pakistan."  
- Mahmudullah Riyad

"I'm well aware of my poor form but I hope to present good cricket to the country."  
- Aftab Ahmed

"It would be my first World T20s, so I will try my best to do something."  
- Imrul Kayes

"I enjoy my role as an all-rounder as there is always a chance for the all-rounder to make up for a bad performance in one department."  
- Naeem Islam

"I think the lack of pace in my bowling works in my favour in Twenty20 cricket as it helps me add variation to my bowling."  
- Syed Rasel

"I'm very much hopeful with my batting because coaches have worked hard to improve it, but I always love to see the stumps rattled as a pace bowler."  
- Rubel Hossain

"In Twenty20 cricket my main target is to try and bowl only dot balls."  
- Shaful Islam

"I enjoy keeping wickets and it would be a great experience for me to accompany the team in the World T20s, even if I don't play any matches."  
- Jahurul Islam

"I am excited because it's my first trip to a World Cup with the national team and I'm looking forward to do something."  
- Sohrwardi Shuvo

### GROUP A FIXTURE

- May 1: Bangladesh vs Pakistan, St Lucia
- May 2: Australia vs Pakistan, St Lucia
- May 5: Bangladesh vs Australia, Barbados

## MSC players skip training

SPORTS REPORTER

Footballers of Mohammedan Sporting Club skipped their training session yesterday, ahead of today's Bangladesh League match against Rahmatganj MFS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

It was learnt that the players skipped the training after failing to sit with the

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# IPL salaries under scrutiny

CRICINFO, undated



The Indian taxman's scrutiny of the mess surrounding the IPL mess is not necessarily limited to the league's officials, franchise owners/managers and partner companies. It is understood the income-tax department is also acting on information of certain players receiving illegal payments from their employers.

A specific episode under assessment goes back to August 2009, when the IPL announced an amnesty scheme for players linked with the unauthorised Indian Cricket League (ICL). Former ICL players who had no international cricket experience were allowed to be signed on by IPL franchises for an annual fee of between Rs 8-20 lakh (18,000-45,000 dollars).

There are reports that at least two franchises breached this salary cap and paid individual players in excess of IPL stipulations. The extra payment was made in cash. It is believed in some cases the quantum of 'black money' payments was substantial and almost doubled the cricketer's fee.

The IPL imposes salary caps on various categories of cricketers. The ICL amnesty

scheme is one example. Players from the Indian squad that won the 2008 ICC Under-19 World Cup were also restricted in what they could earn in a season, depending on their first-class or international experience.

Yet, as became evident during the recent Ravindra Jadeja investigation, this regulation was not considered sacrosanct. The Rajasthan Royals cricketer admitted to negotiating with two franchises to play IPL's third season for a fee of Rs 2 crore (450,000 dollars). Under the IPL rules, he was entitled to only Rs 40 lakh (90,000 dollars). It is unclear how the incremental payment would have been made, had the deal gone through.

Suspensions of a tax dodge by cricketers, with the active collaboration of their franchises, may only be the tip of the iceberg. The issue of salaries and salary ceilings is likely to enmesh the IPL in greater controversy in the coming months. In some respects, it is a microcosm of all that is wrong with the manner in which the league has been run. There are perceptions of the law having been broken -- as in the case of the cricketers under scrutiny -- as well as conflict of interest issues. Whether irregularities or merely angularities, the IPL will need to address these.

**DAY'S EVENT**

GP-BCB NCA v SA Academy  
1st 4-day Match, Day 3  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong  
Bangladesh League  
Mohammedan v Rahmatganj  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: BNS