

# Tigers scare Pakistan Turns

CRICINFO, St Lucia

Captains'

Pakistan captain Shahid

Afridi admitted that he was a

bit worried when

Mohammad Ashraful and

Shakib Al Hasan were going .

great guns is chase of an ;

was very mature cricket but I

knew I had a few overs from !

pacers such as [Mohammad]

Sami and [Mohammad]

Aamer so I was totally confi-

Shakib on the other hand :

said Bangladesh had paid the ·

price for poor early overs in:

the ball and we didn't start '

well with the bat. In the .

shorter version of game it's :

very hard to come back if you .

don't start well," said the :

Bangladesh captain after ·

"Fifty runs in five overs,

that was chaseable. If either .

of us had stayed in until the !

different game," said Shakib :

Bangladesh will play their

while referring to his dis-

final Group A match against

20th over, it could have been a

their 21-run defeat.

missal at that stage.

Australia on May 5.

"We didn't start well with .

"They played very well, it :

improbable target of 173.

dent," said Afridi.

both innings.

quotes

SPORTS DESK

Pakistan survived a Mohammad Ashraful scare to begin the defence of their world title at St Lucia with a 21run win over Bangladesh.

Kamran Akmal (73) and Salman WEST INDIES 2010 Butt (73) had laid the foundation with a 142-run stand that should've put the game beyond Bangladesh.

But Ashraful, with Shakib Al Hasan for company, took a real pop at an imposing 173-run target, before Mohammad Sami swung a slow-burning game

decisively Pakistan's way.

Bangladesh had been poor for vast chunks of the game, first with the ball, and then in starting the chase. But Ashraful's forceful 91-run stand with Shakib brought them close enough to get Pakistan captain next. jittery with five overs to go.

a fine two-wicket over to effectively end the game.

Mohammad Aamer had throttled Bangladesh's start and Ashraful, who struck 65 off 49 balls, arrived with trouble brewing. Having typically tried all manner of unnecessary improvisation initially, the righthander settled down to playing normal strokes. It's

asked often why he doesn't play those more, and let . Kamran Akmal takes to this be another time. He quickly deposited Abdul Razzaq for a wonderful six over midwicket, but really · left-arm spin immediately, cranked up the heat when he took on Pakistan's : sweeping Abdur Razzak

The first ball of Shahid Afridi's spell, the 11th over, Sami, on his T20 debut, ensured it wasn't to be with was driven exquisitely over extra cover but it was in his next over that he really shook Pakistan up. Again he lofted Afridi, but with such grace and timing that the . Ashraful lets off Pakistan: ball fairly sailed over long-off. A couple of balls later, he : Akmal was yet to settle went squarer and soon after brought up his fifty.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Akmal takes to the leftarmer:

: Bangladesh's strength of : twice for four in the game's second over. Both were bad deliveries down the leg side.

· when, on 13, he attempts a Shakib (47 off 31 balls) showed the world once . pull off Mashrafe Bin : Mortaza, only to miscue it · high up in the air. But a · back-peddling Ashraful : dropped it at mid-on.

> Aamer stars in typical style: · Young pakistan left-arm : spinner Mohammad \* Aamer bowled a fantastic first over and end it with the wicket of Imrul Kayes, yet another occasion on which · he has taken a wicket in the opening over. He also fell Tamim Iqbal on the ground with another beautiful · yorker.

Ashraful lays into Afridi:

· Having tried hard to impro-· vise, Ashraful finally goes : orthodox lofting Afridi effortlessly on the off side · for two fours and a maxi-: mum in two overs. It was an innings to behold from the · pocket dynamo after a long . time.

Shakib gets into the act:

· With the rate creeping up, Shakib slog-sweeps Hafeez for two massive sixes to · leave his side needing 58 off · the last six overs, with eight wickets in hand.

Sami strikes: · Having begun with an : expensive opening spell in his debut T20, Sami comes · back in a crucial 16th over to dismiss Shakib and : Mahmudullah and effec-

· tively seal the game.

SPORTS REPORTS

Academies

make draw

The second four-day match of

the GP-BCB Academy Cup

between GP-BCB Academy

team and South Africa

Academy team ended in a

draw at the Shaheed Chandu

Chasing a victory target of

Stadium in Bogra on Saturday.

361 in the second innings, the

GP-BCB Academy team

reached 231 for 8 before

stumps were drawn as the two

teams settled for a draw.

Earlier, they scored 260 runs in

scored 222 in the first innings

and 398 in the second innings

Shaker Ahmed was adjudged

man of the match for his

to post a challenging total.

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The South Africa side

**GP-BCB** Academy spinner

**SEE PAGE 18 COL 8** 

the first innings.

### SA A wrap up Test series

The Daily Star's countdown to the FIFA World Cup

2010 begins today. We take a trip down memory lane

La Celeste prove

Though it was the English who gave the world

organised football, it was the French who

bequeathed football its biggest tournament. The

Federation Internationale de Football Association

(FIFA) had been formed in Paris in 1904 and its

president, Jules Rimet, formulated the idea of a

tournament to determine the best international

side in the world. In 1929, FIFA passed a vote to

host the event. As a country celebrating its cente-

nary of independence and current holders of the

purpose-built in Montevideo and, though building

work was not finished until five days after the tour-

nament started, a carnival atmosphere greeted the

13 teams that had accepted the Uruguayan invita-

Only four European teams -- France, Belgium,

Yugoslavia and Romania -- boarded ocean liners to

go to South America. The Romanian team were the

plaything of King Carol, who assumed the selec-

tion duties. But royalty held no sway in the virgin

competition as the Romanians were eliminated in

the first round. Aside from Yugoslavia, all the

Europeans were knocked out in the first group

stage and the semifinals saw Uruguay line up

against the Yugoslavs while Argentina met United

TO BE CONTINUED

Olympic football title, it proved an excellent host.

Uruguay was the only country to volunteer to

The 95,000-capacity Estadio Centenario was

to start where it all began ... URUGUAY 1930.

pioneers

hold the first ever World Cup.

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

States.

Visiting South Africa A team wrapped up the two-match unofficial Test series 2-0 when they defeated the hosts by 185 runs in the second game that finished yesterday at BKSP. Chasing a mountainous victory target of 411 runs in their second innings, the hosts crumbled for 225 just after lunch on the fourth and final day.

Bangladesh A started the day on 125 for four after three quick wickets in the previous evening had pushed them to a corner. And the fourth day started as badly as the third day had finished when nightwatchman Mahbubul Alam for nought through a run-out in the second over. With half the batting gone, Faysal Hossain tried to resurrect the innings, but found little supports from others. Nazimuddin went for 19 and when Faysal became the seventh man to go for 43 with the total on 197, hopes of saving the match evaporated. The rest of the line-up folded quickly as they reached 225, handing the tourists another comprehensive victory. Left-arm spinner Paul Harris took three wickets while Elgar, Friend and Philander took two wickets each for

South Africa A team. The two teams will be joined by West Indies A in a triangular one-day tournament that starts on May 5 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

**SCORES IN BRIEF** 

SOUTH AFRICA A: First innings 482 all out in 127.3 overs (Petersen 92, Rossouw 81, Kuhn 48, Tsolekile 111, Philander 39 not out, Harris 39, extras 4; Faisal 3-111, Nur 4-146)

BANGLADESH A: First innings 215 all out in 59.2 overs (Shamsur 89, Nazimuddin 53, Faisal 37, extras 12; Harris 6-90,

Tsotsobe 2-29) SOUTH AFRICA A: Second innings 143 for 3 declared in 33.4 overs (Petersen 40, Roussouw 68, extras 12; Faysal 2-34)

BANGLADESH A: Second innings 225 all out in 66.4 overs (Mehrab 41, Shamsur 57, Faysal 43, extras 18; Harris 3-85, Elgar 2-40, Friend 2-23, Philander 2-21)

Result: South Africa A won by 185 runs.

Abahani aim for AFC

President's Cup spot



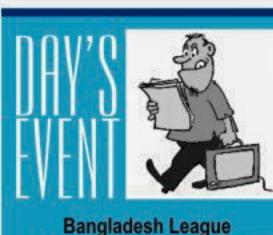
After a long layoff Mohammad Ashraful's bat talked in Bangladesh's opening World Twenty20 match against Pakistan at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Saturday. Here the little right-hander hits a four during his polished knock of 65.

### **BTV, Star Cricket** & SuperSport2

ICC World Twenty20 Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe Live from 7:30pm England v West Indies Live from 11:30pm

**ESPN** 

**English Premier League** Wigan v Hull City Live from 7:25pm Blackburn v Arsenal Live from 9:55pm



Abahani v Ctg Mohammedan Time: 4:00pm Venue: Bangabandhu National

### Clubs fined for bookable offence

SPORTS REPORTER

Except for Abahani Ltd, Mohammedan SC and Brothers Union, the ten remaining teams of Bangladesh League have been automatically fined for the bookable offences their players committed during the professional football league matches.

According to by-laws, each side will be fined Tk 10,000 if four or above players are booked in a game and the third edition of the professional football league saw 18 such games out of 120 till yesterday.

Muktijoddha Sangsad were on top of the list with four followed by three to newcomers Beanibazar SC. Sheikh Russel KC, Feni Soccer Club and Farashganj SC were fined twice while Chittagong Abahani, Rahmatganj MFS, Chittagong Mohammedan, Arambagh and Shuktara Jubo Sangsad once.

### Raina powers India into S 8s

AFP, Gros Islet

Suresh Raina became only the third man to make a Twenty20 international century as India the Beausejour Stadium here on Sunday.

Victory, which saw India into the second round Super Eights after their seven-wicket win over Afghanistan on Saturday, was built on Raina's 101 out of a total of 186 for five.

Only West Indies' Chris Gayle and New Zealand's Brendon McCullum had previously made centuries at this level. Raina had an escape on five when he was caught off a Morne Morkel no-ball.

It was an expensive error by the fast bowler, with lefthander Raina striking five sixes and nine fours in a blistering assault as he reached his century off 59 balls.

Together with Yuvraj Singh (37) he shared a stand of 88 in 10 overs after the pair came together with India 32 for two in the sixth over after they'd lost the toss.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith had promised his side would be flexible when it came to their openers but few

**SEE PAGE 18 COL 8** 

their first-ever Twenty 20 World Cup match.

## Easy win for India

### Afghanistan impress on debut

AFP, Gros Islet



seven wickets in the teams' World Twenty20 opener here on Saturday but the outsiders TWENTY20 were far from disgraced on west indies 2010 their tournament debut.

Set 116 for victory, India finished on 116 for three with more than five overs to spare.

Earlier, Afghanistan's 115 for eight featured an impressive fifty from opener Noor Ali, well supported in a fourth-wicket stand of 68 by the hard-hitting Ashgar Stanikzai, whose 30 featured three sixes. Ashish Nehra led the Indian attack with

three wickets for 19 runs, his pace and bounce proving too much for several batsmen. Murali Vijay, making his Twenty20 debut in

place of injured India opening batsman Virender Sehwag, made 48 before holing out when his team were in sight of victory. India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won

the toss and elected to field.

The former champions did not have long to wait for wickets, Karim Sadiq caught down the legside by wicketkeeper Dhoni off left-arm quick Nehra for a four ball nought as he tried to pull a short ball. But Ali gave Afghan fans something to cheer

by leg-glancing the first four of the innings, off Praveen Kumar in the third over and he stylish square drove the same bowler for another boundary.

However, Mohammad Shahzad fell in similar fashion to Sadiq and Afghanistan captain

Nowroz Mangal fell cheaply to Ravindra Jadeja. Stanikzai though gave Ali good support beat South Africa by 14 runs at India beat Afghanistan by and smote some impressive boundaries, including a six over midwicket off Harbhajan

> The duo's stand was ended when Ali, whose fifty came off 47 balls with four fours, gave the returning Nehra a third wicket when he too failed with a pull, Dhoni once more taking the

> catch. Then 97 for four became 97 for five when Stanikzai, whose runs came from just 33 balls,

holed out to midwicket off Kumar. Next ball Mohammad Nabi skied Kumar to Dhoni. But Afghanistan got past the hundred mark -- a fair achievement in itself and all the more

impressive given that less than two years ago they were playing alongside Germany and Vanuatu in Division Five of the World Cricket League. However, their score was put in perspective

when Dawlat Ahmadzai's no-ball first delivery of the Indian innings was a no-ball led to a free hit which Vijay struck for four.

However, Ahmadzai did have Gautam Gambhir caught at point for four and Samiullah Shenwari had Suresh Raina lbw for 18.

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

AFGHANISTAN: 115 for 8 in 20 overs (Noor Ali 50, Ashgar 30; Nehra 3-19, Kumar 2-14) INDIA: 116 for 3 in 14.5 overs (Vijay 48, Raina 18, Yuvraj 23, Dhoni 15) Result: India won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Ashish Nehra.



#### in town SPORTS REPORTER

West Indies A team arrived in Dhaka yesterday to participate in a triangular one-day competition also involving Bangladesh A and South Africa A. They will also play two 4day matches against Bangladesh A.

The West Indies A team comprises a few with international experience; most notably batsmen Travis Dowlin, Brendan Nash, Devon Smith.

The triangular meet starts on May 5 and ends on May 14 followed by two unofficial 4-day Test matches with Bangladesh A.

**SQUAD** 

Travis Dowlin (captain), Lionel Baker, Darren Bravo, Odean Brown, Kirk Edwards, Justin Guillen, Imran Khan, Brendan PHOTO: AFP Nash, Nelon Pascal, Omar NOT A BAD START: Players of Afghanistan celebrate an Indian wicket at the Beausejour Cricket Phillips, Shane Shillingford, Ground in St Lucia on Saturday. Despite a predictable defeat, the Afghans impressed everybody in Devon Smith, Gavin Tonge, ChadwickWalton.

### Windies A

Bangladesh League football title for the third successive time, Abahani now target to win the AFC President's Cup qualifiers on home soil as the Group A qualifiers involving four clubs get underway on May 12 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The Dhanmondi-based outfit, who are close

Having set their sights on the professional

to winning their hattrick domestic league titles following the slip of their better rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club, have remained unbeaten for 30 league matches including 11 in the previous edition and coach Amalesh Sen believes his boys will be able to translate their current performance into the qualifiers to fulfil Abahani's dream of playing the finals for the first time.

Abahani, for whom this will be the third appearance in the continent's third-tier club competition, had exited from the previous qualifiers also held in Dhaka by virtue of goal difference against group champions Turkmenistan's FC Asgabad. In their first appearance the Sky Blues returned home empty handed finishing third behind Nepal Police and this time they, having taken the inspiration of the ongoing league's performance, are looking forward to qualifying for the four-team final round.

"From different quarters, I have been regularly receiving phone calls and their only demand is to take Abahani to the finals of the

AFC President's Cup and I am also carrying those messages to the players and ask them to keep their spirit of what they have been putting in the ongoing league and I believe it will not be tough task for the players if they maintain their performance in the upcoming qualifiers," said Sen yesterday.

Abahani have already sent their players' list to the AFC tournament committee keeping only two foreign recruits -- Ghanaian striker Awudu Ibrahim and defender Samad Yousuf. Abahani will miss another Ghanaian striker Sheriff Deen Mohammad as only two foreigners are permitted play.

Nevertheless, hosts Abahani's keen contest will be against Kyrgyzstan's Dordoi Bishkek, who emerged champions twice in 2007 and 2006 and lost in every other final of five editions.

The long-serving Abahani coach said they are trying to collect the footages of other competitors and will decide the formation after their Bangladesh League match against Brothers Union on May 7.

Whether their three vital league matches, to

be held after the AFC President's Cup, on way to their hattrick league title triumphs, will make Abahani light in the qualifiers, manager Satyajit Das Rupu said they are giving equal importance to both competitions. "We are taking three matches of the qualifi-

ers as the Bangladesh League matches and there is no chance to take the competition lightly because we are seriously committed to see us in the AFC President's Cup finals," said the former Bangladesh international.

Coach Sen, however, was a bit worried over SEE PAGE 18 COL 1