

## Batting let Tigers down

SPORTS REPORTER

ICC WORLD TWENTY20 WEST INDIES 2010

Bangladesh's self-destructive batsmen muffed up a wonderful opportunity provided by the bowlers as they bowled out of the World Twenty20 after conceding a 27-run defeat against Australia in their final Group A match at Kensington Oval in Barbados last night.

On a lively wicket that produced bounce and spin, the Bangladesh bowlers gave a genuine chance to ruffle a few feathers with an inspired performance that helped restrict Australia to 141-7 from 20 overs.

After the Australian innings the equation for the Tigers to qualify to the next round was to reach the target of 142 in 19 or fewer overs at the expense of defending champions Pakistan.

But that hope was nipped in the bud when they were reduced to 15-4 in no time. Imrul Kayes was out for a duck in the first over, playing early a lofted drive straight to mid-on where David Hussey took the catch. And just to prove coach Jamie Siddons correct Mohammad Ashraf (0), who scored a wonderful fifty in the first game against Pakistan, glided the ball to deep third man, where Shaun Tait took a diving catch, for a three-ball duck.

Aftab Ahmed (1), coming in place of the injured Tamim

Iqbal, attempted a pull shot but ended up offering a tame catch at David Warner. Mahmudullah Riyad (2) is known for playing the orthodox way but he too played a rash shot straight Mike Hussey at square leg.

After that it was a demanding job to rebuild and then play catch up and that too was dashed after skipper Shakib Al Hasan got out to an outstanding catch by the elder of the Hussey brothers at mid-wicket after scoring a run-a-

ball 28. Bangladesh eventually scored 114 before being all out in 18.4 overs.

Earlier, Bangladesh seam and spin took the Aussies by surprise as they struggled to put bat to ball and except a dogged late show from

Michael Hussey and Steven Smith, the Tigers were well on top of the game. The two added 74 much-needed runs for the seventh wicket after they had slipped to 65 for six in the 13th over.

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Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan (C) celebrates after dismissing Australian batsman David Warner (not in picture) during the ICC World Twenty20 Group A match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## BANGLADESH LEAGUE Shuktara do double over Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Bottom-ranked Shuktara Jubo Sangsad maintained their hundred percent winning record against Chittagong Abahani when they handed a lone-goal defeat to the hosts at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

It was the third victory in 19 matches for newcomers Shuktara, who are still in the red zone despite the win and with 13 points they are equal with newcomers Beanibazar SC against whom they recorded their other triumph.

Idris Mutebi struck the all-important goal in the sixth minute.

Chittagong Abahani, who also suffered a lone goal defeat to Shuktara in their away match, stuck to 17 points from 19 matches.

At the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni, hosts Feni Soccer Club came from behind to beat Rahmatganj MFS 2-1 but not before Rahmatganj had conceded an own goal.

Idris Kasirye put Rahmatganj ahead in the 26th minute before Monayem Raju leveled the margin in the 62nd minute.

Rahmatganj could have returned with a valuable point, but the luck was not with them as Shimul struck an own goal in the 77th minute to award hosts Feni a victory.

Feni Soccer lifted their points tally to 28 from 19 outings to keep their fourth position in the points table while Rahmatganj with 10 defeats remained glued at 19 from as many matches.

## DAY ONE OF NATIONAL ATHLETICS

### Postal boost for athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

While other government organisations continue to desert the sports arena, Bangladesh Postal Department made a quiet yet very significant debut in the 35th National Athletics Championship that got underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

It might be a token participation for the postal department considering the participation of ten athletes under their banner but former discus-thrower Amjad Hossain was excited at the prospect of a bigger role in the future.

"It was possible because we have a sports-friendly director general in Mobasser-Ur-Rahman", said Amjad, who is a postal operator.

"This is just the beginning and we initially planned to work with our own athletes who have come from different districts and divisional offices," he said, adding that the postal department would recruit potential athletes in the future in an effort to fight for pride at the national level.

Coach Lokman Ali, also a former athlete and a supervisor of the postal department, informed that a proposal of recruiting potential athletes is

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## Sajib sets new record

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngster Sajib Hossain set a new national high jump record by clearing 2.11 metres as he won gold in the men's event on the first day of 35th National Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The HSC examinee from BKSP, who sat for his latest exam on the 27th and will have the next on the 10th of next month, bettered his own previous mark by 0.01 metres, set at the SA Games earlier this year where he had finished fourth.

Sajib's effort was 0.16 metres higher than his BKSP-mate Masud Kaiser and 0.21 seconds better than Junaed Biswas of Bangladesh Army. The young athlete said that he was so much absorbed by the illness of his father that he did not even realise instantly that he had set a new record or it was a gold medal at all.

A total of sixteen events were decided on the opening day of the two-day meet. The other notable performers on the day were national women's hurdles champion Sumita Rani, national women's 200m champion Nazmun Nahar Beauty, new men's 200m champion Khalilur Rahman. Rawshon Ara Putul of Ansar and VDP won two individual gold medals, one in 800m and the other in 3000m.

Sumita Rani of Bangladesh Jail grabbed her eighth gold in 100m hurdles at 14.1 seconds beating her nearest rival by a staggering 3.8 seconds. This timing was however 0.12 seconds adrift of her timing in the last SA Games where she finished second in photo finish. Sumita said she relaxed a bit since her main competitor Jesmin Akter was absent due to an injury and that was a reason for not clocking a faster time.

Beauty of BJMC proved her indomitable status with her sixth national gold in 200-metre

sprint in 24.9 seconds beating her rival Shamsun Nahar Chumki of Ansar & VDP to second place at 25.2 seconds.

Men's 200m got a new champion in Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh Army. He won with a timing of 21.9 seconds beating fellow sprinter Mizanur Rahman by 0.6 seconds. This was the first participation at the national level for Khalil after he had won gold in the summer meet last year. Khalil was confident he would win the 100m gold as well to be contested today.

Among the other winners, Fouzia Huda Jui of BKSP won gold in women's long jump as she covered 5.47 metres. Sergeant Azharul of Bangladesh Army won shot-put gold throwing 12.95 metres, Rowshan Ara Putul won gold in 800 metres clocking 2:26.20 seconds. Hazera Akter Dolly of BJMC won the women's shot-put throwing 10.18 metres, Afzal Hossain of Bangladesh Army won 400m hurdles at 53.1 seconds, Army's Mohammad Kamal won gold in javelin throw covering 58.73 metres. The women's 4x100-metre relay gold went to the Ansar & VDP quartet of Chumki, Khurshida, Shapla and Putul at a timing of 49 seconds.

Men's 800m gold was won by Selim Mia of Bangladesh Army at 2:00.7 seconds, men's 5000m gold won by Shahin Alam of Bangladesh Army at 16:22.3 seconds, women's javelin throw gold won by BJMC's Akherun Nesa at 38.18 metres, women's 3000m was won by Rowshan Ara Putul of Ansar & VDP at 11:43.6 seconds, while men's long-jump gold went to Mohammad Al Amin of Bangladesh Navy at 7.22 metres.

Bangladesh Army led the medals tally with 5 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze followed by BJMC in second with 3 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze, and Ansar & VDP in third with 3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze.

### No show Noakhali

SPORTS REPORTER

Noakhali has always made bold statements in the national athletics championship, but this time only three athletes are competing in the 35th edition of the meet.

And Noakhali might have fired blank this time had not Rafiqullah Milon took personal initiative to save the blushes of the struggling southern district.

"The DSA (District Sports Association) could not hold any competition in the last three years due to financial constraints," said Milon, a well-known coach.

He said that Noakhali never returned home without a medal in the last 20 years. Noakhali produced a lot of prominent athletes like SA Games gold medalist hurdler

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## ASIAN GAMES QUALIFIERS

### Robi lights up hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Robi, one of the leading cellular phone operators in the country, has earned the title sponsorship rights of the Asian Games Hockey Qualifiers that will be inaugurated today at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

Apart from the title sponsor, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation also lured five co-sponsors Exim Bank, Prime Bank, Destiny Group, Sunman Group and Dhaka Bank to an estimated budget of Taka 70 lakh for the seven-team meet.

Robi secured the sponsorship right at the cost of Tk 30 lakh, BHF general secretary Khondoker Jamil Uddin disclosed at a press conference at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

He also informed that other co-sponsors, except Dhaka Bank, are giving Tk 10 lakh each. Dhaka Bank is committed to give Tk 5 lakh.

Robi's head of corporate and PR Mohiuddin Babar said that they are proud to be associated with a hockey tournament of this magnitude, which he hoped would be treated as a leading sport during the course of the next eleven days.

Robi's chief marketing officer Biddut Kumar Basu wished Bangladesh emerge as champions and asked the players to

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## NSC demands

### BOA audit report

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council has asked the Bangladesh Olympic Association to immediately submit the audit report of the 11th South Asian Games that concluded on February 9 in Bangladesh.

The instruction came at the NSC executive committee meeting on Tuesday with state minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarker as chair.

It was learnt that youth and sports secretary Mahub Ahmed instructed NSC director (finance) Golam Rahman Mia to form a committee to examine the audit report of the SA Games and submit it at the next executive committee meeting, the date of which is yet to be finalized.

Meanwhile, the 11th SA Games cost Tk 172 crore of which the BOA collected Tk 35 crore from the sponsors.

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## Miller, Ingram destroy hosts

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa A continued their supremacy over their Bangladesh counterparts as the home side suffered a humiliating 203-run defeat in the opening match of the tri-nation tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Colin Ingram and David Miller slammed hundreds to script the massive victory after the second string Bangladesh side took the surprising decision to put their opponents to bat first on a flat track. So far Bangladesh A team have had no answers against their South African counterparts as the visitors also swept the two-match unofficial Test series quite comfortably.

The visitors took the game away from the home side when they piled a mammoth 368-9 in 50 overs, thanks to Ingram and Miller who put the local bowlers to the sword during their 128-run fifth wicket partnership.

Left-handed Ingram hit boundaries to all corner of the ground during his 118-ball 127 that saw 13 fours and three sixes while Miller, also a south-paw, produced an explosive unbeaten 115 that came from 60 balls with 10 fours and as many as seven huge sixes. Miller completed his half-century in 39 balls and he took

only 16 balls to complete the three-digit mark.

Left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib was the most expensive bowler giving away 85 runs for one wicket, in his ten-over spell.

Bangladesh A were nowhere in their chase of the towering target as they lost

wickets at regular interval before being bundled out for 165 runs in 32.3 overs. Bangladesh had desperately needed a flying start but fine pace bowling from Lonwabo Tsotsobe and Quinton Friend dashed their hopes.

Left-arm paceman Tsotsobe gave the first breakthrough, sending back skipper Shamsur Rahman while Friend dismissed pinch-hitter Dollar Mahmud and Uttam Sarker in quick succession as the home side were reduced to 31 for three.

A little resistance came from Marshall Ayub and

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## Where does A team stand?

MOHAMMAD ISAM

The massive 203-run defeat in the first one-day yesterday could be termed a one-off but the gulf of difference between Bangladesh A and the South Africa A sides was blatant.

The second string national team have so far been outclassed in every department of the game, that too in their own conditions. For the past two weeks, the strong South Africa A side has remained unbeaten through two four-day matches and the first one-day match of the tri-series, also involving West Indies A.

The first one-day was also a stark reminder that this was actually the best A team that could have been coughed up by anyone. With the national team away in West Indies and the GP-BCB Academy team now busy at home, the A team actually has the second best cricketers of the country.

The likes of Uttam Sarker, Shamsur Rahman, Marshall Ayub, Rokibul Hasan and Faisal Hossain are proven performers in the domestic circuit but they could muster a grand total of 97 runs. And even worse were the bowlers yesterday, who gave away 368 runs, with leading left-armed Saqlain Sajib giving away a whopping 85 runs from his quota of 10 overs. These are the bowlers who would be replacing the Mashrafes and the Shakibs if the need arose.

Before the four-day series began it was termed a challenge for the selectors to pick a team with only a set number of players available for the second string line-up. Like Shamsur or Faisal, players like Shahriar Nafees, Junaed Siddiqui,

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

BKSP's Sajib Hossain clears the bar as he jumps 2.11 metres to set a new national record and win gold in the men's high jump of the Walton 35th National Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



### BTV, Star Cricket & SuperSport2

ICC World Twenty20 SUPER EIGHTS England v Australia Live from 7:30pm

New Zealand v TBC (C1) Live from 11:30pm

ATN Bangla Tri-Nation Tournament West Indies A v South Africa A One-Day Match Live from 9:15am

ESPN Sportscentre India Sports News Live at 8:30pm