

SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY DECEMBER 17, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Casillas scared of Germany

Germany are on course to replace Spain at the top of world football and are the only real threat to their dominance, Spain captain Iker Casillas said on Wednesday. "The only team I am scared of and I've got respect for is Germany," Real Madrid goalkeeper Casillas told Reuters Television during an awards ceremony in Germany. Casillas said the young German squad, which won over many fans with exciting World Cup demolitions of England and Argentina, was on its way to the top. "I like Germany a lot. At the last World Cup, Germany were my favourites," he said.



Australia captain Ricky Ponting looks back in disbelief as Paul Collingwood of England clings on to a magnificent catch at third slip on the opening day of the third Ashes Test at the WACA in Perth on Thursday. PHOTO: INTERNET

Bowlers put Eng atop

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Australia face an uphill battle to regain the Ashes after another top order collapse on the first day of the crucial third Test at the WACA in Perth on Thursday. England, who will retain the Ashes with victory in the match, won an important toss and reduced the hosts to 69-5 after sending them in to bat on a greenish pitch, before Australia's tail wagged to take them to a modestly competitive total of 268. In reply, England edged safely to 29-0 at stumps, with Alastair Cook on 17 and Andrew Strauss on 12, leaving the tourists well-placed to build a commanding first innings lead on the back of their earlier good bowling and brilliant fielding. English fast bowler Chris Tremlett, who replaced the injured Stuart Broad in the team and excelled with 3-63, said the English were perfectly placed in the match, especially after the openers lasted until stumps. "It was a great last half an hour, the guys fought hard there to see off the new ball, which is key," he said. "We'll look to bat time and get a healthy lead." Recalled opener Phil Hughes (2), embattled skipper Ricky Ponting (12), struggling deputy Michael Clarke (4) and new No. 6 Steven Smith (7) were among the casualties as Australia's top order produced its second first innings collapse in as many Tests. Veteran Mike Hussey again led the fightback with 61, before Brad Haddin (53), Mitchell

Johnson (62) and Peter Siddle (35 not out) added some much-needed respectability to the score with some enterprising stroke play. England lead the five-Test series 1-0 after their second Test win by an innings in Adelaide and victory in Perth will guarantee they retain the Ashes, after wresting the urn off Australia in England last year. Hughes lasted just six balls on his return to the Test arena, clean bowled by recalled paceman Chris Tremlett, who bowled well to claim 3-63. A stunning one-handed catch from Paul Collingwood off the bowling of James Anderson (3-61) had Ponting's woes deepening as he headed back to the pavilion. With the hosts limping at 28-2, vice-captain Clarke was next to go, caught behind by wicketkeeper Matt Prior off Tremlett, before Shane Watson was trapped lbw by Steve Finn for 13 as Australia slumped to 36-4, having also been 2-3 in Adelaide. Hussey made 61 and put on 68 with Haddin before he was given out caught behind on a referral in spinner Graeme Swann's second over, after umpire Billy Doctrove had initially turned down the appeal. At that stage the hosts were 137-6, but the English quicks fell into the trap of bowling too short late in the innings and let the Australian lower order batsmen off the hook. **SCORES IN BRIEF** AUSTRALIA: First innings 268 all out in 76 overs (Hussey 61, Haddin 53, Johnson 62, Siddle 35 not out; Tremlett 3-63, Anderson 3-61, Swann 2-52, Finn 2-86) ENGLAND: First innings 29 for no loss in 12 overs (Strauss 12 not out, Cook 17 not out)

Hosts, India face off today

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Cox's Bazar

The Bangladesh women's football team spent Victory Day with a visit to the miniature National Mausoleum at the Kalatoli point in Cox's Bazar. The team also spent time beside the attractive sand sculptures made by students from the Art Institute of Dhaka University, depicting the seven Brishresthas of the country. Trishna Chakma, Suinu Pru Marma, Farhana Khatun and others observed a minute's silence in front of the mausoleum before they travelled to the BDR Ground for an afternoon practice session ahead of today's last group match against favourites India. The match will be held at

the Cox's Bazar Stadium at 2:30pm today. In the other group match earlier in the day, Sri Lanka will play against minnows Bhutan before they head back home. Both Bangladesh and India, having already confirmed their semifinal berth, will be fighting for the pride of becoming group champions. But Bangladesh are keen to push the tag of favourites firmly on India, a task not made too difficult since they have never even managed a draw against their neighbours and lost 6-0 the last time they met. Trishna Chakma, the captain of Bangladesh, admitted to feeling the nerves: "We are a bit tensed, because it's India." Aungmya Ching Marma, the hat-trick scorer in the last game, also conceded that India were the favourites in this

Adaptation the key: Tendulkar

CRICINFO, Centurion

Sachin Tendulkar has singled out early acclimatisation to the South African weather as key to India's performance on the tour, ahead of the first Test in Centurion on Thursday. "For me, one thing is very important and that is to get acclimatised to local weather conditions," Tendulkar told P.T.I. "Preparations have been spot on and the lengthy practice session has given us that opportunity [to get acclimatised]. We have had good net sessions under the guidance of coach Gary [Kirsten]."

Top trio targets title

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Orient Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in one of three opening day matches of the Premier Cricket League tomorrow. Their arch-rivals Abahani take on Surjo Tarun at the Shaheed Chaudu Stadium in Bogra while Bangladesh Biman face the other promoted side Doleshwar Sporting Club. Mohammedan, Abahani and Biman are the primary title aspirants with Kalabagan Krira Chakra, Cricket Coaching School (CCS) and Victoria Sporting Club targeting a place in the Super League as their primary goal. Former national captain Khaled Mashud, who

oversees the Motijheel giants' training at the Dhanmondi Cricket Academy (DCA) ground, said that a team like Mohammedan would never be happy with anything less than the title. "Big teams are never happy with number two. I think we would not be happy with just a Super League place since we have a very good team. But we have to do well in the field to take the title," said Mohammedan's senior player Mashud. "We have a good mix of local and national players like Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, as well as some very good foreign recruits like Moeen Ali and Farveez Maharoof," he added. Shakib's transfer from Abahani made a lot of news but the Dhanmondi giants, who conceded the title to Mohammedan in a final-ball finish last season, are again in the title-race. "We are going to fight for the championship," said Abahani cricket committee's vice-president Jalal Yunus. **SEE PAGE 17 COL 6**



PAY HOMAGE WHICHEVER WAY YOU CAN: Players and officials of the Bangladesh women's football team on Thursday observe a minute's silence in front of a makeshift national mausoleum on the sandy beach of Cox's Bazar to mark the 40th Victory Day of the country. PHOTO: STAR

SPORTS POLL
WEEKLY QUESTION
Do you think the Tigers should play another series before the World Cup?
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ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Tigers' first roar

The 1999 World Cup in the United Kingdom was a happy one for Bangladesh. Not only did they qualify and play their first World Cup, they were also the only non-Test playing Cup debutants to win two matches. Bangladesh's first victory was against Scotland in the Group B match at Edinburgh on May 24, but it was their second win that paved the way to their elevation to Test status the following year. When Bangladesh squared off against favourites Pakistan for their last match at Northampton on May 31, few would have given them a chance to do anything but give a good account of themselves. Pakistan won the toss and sent the minnows in, expecting their spectacular attack of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar and Saqlain Mushtaq to make short shrift of the Tigers. They were in for a surprise. Openers Shahriar Hossain and Mehrab Hossain got them off to a solid start, keeping the Pakistanis out and scoring briskly to reach 69 in the 16th over. Shahriar Hossain, who assumed the dominant role in the opening partnership, was trapped in front to Saqlain for 39. That brought the nation's two beloved sons together: Akram Khan and Aminul Islam. The two built a pivotal partnership to take the total to 120 for two. Akram played a fine hand for his 42 before falling victim to Waqar Younis with the score on 148. Naimur Rahman (13), Minhazul Abedin (14) and Khaled Mahmud (27) all made worthwhile contributions to take the score past 200, the first time Bangladesh had achieved the feat in the World Cup. Pakistan's reply was as shambolic as Bangladesh's fielding was inspired. The diminutive Khaled Mahmud opened the bowling with his floating medium pacers, and got the wicket of Shahid Afridi in the first over. Shafiquddin Ahmed bowled Ijaz Ahmed for

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What to WATCH
STAR Cricket
Australia v England
Third Test, Day 2
Live from 8:30am
TEN Cricket
South Africa v India
First Test, Day 2
Live from 2:30pm

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