

Star SPORT

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Javed happy that Sachin's done it

Former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad is relieved that his record of six World Cup appearances -- the most by any cricketer -- has been equalled by a legend like Sachin Tendulkar. The ongoing World Cup is Tendulkar's sixth, whose first appearance in the quadrennial extravaganza came way back in 1992 in Australia and New Zealand. "It is always good when a great player manages to equal or surpass a record set by you. I am happy Tendulkar has equalled my record of World Cup appearances. Given his dedication and commitment he deserves this honour,"



Tamim looks on positives

MOHAMMAD ISAM

The day after the opening match of the World Cup has been one full of sighs and yawns, the lack of interest and people around the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, the premise so much in vogue over the last week or so, could be interpreted in many ways but it would be too hasty to suggest that all is lost for the Tigers.

Nor is the tournament over but after Saturday's fervour, it is safe to say that the thousands at the stadium and the millions who celebrated the arrival of the World Cup in Bangladesh, are simply catching up on some shut-eye. The last week has seen an unparalleled level of excitement among the people, who were counting down the clock.

India overpowered a good Bangladesh unit by 87 runs that had one of its elements break down completely and it is the general perception that the lop-sided affair was just a one-off, given the decision at the toss was also questionable.

There were some positives from the game, Bangladesh's score of 283 being the major one and so was the approach adopted to chase the massive 371-run target. Imrul Kayes set the ball rolling, his bold approach surprising many including his opening partner. "On his day, he [Imrul Kayes] can bat beautifully. I think he is taking his game to the next level where he wants to play more shots," said Tamim Iqbal yesterday.

The partnership was of 56 runs in just 6.5 overs, but the pair's approach took everyone by surprise. While Imrul tore into the Indian bowlers, Tamim was circumspect. The left-handed pair added 56 off only 6.5 overs with Imrul surprisingly taking more of the bowling and hitting out.

"This is how a team plan works. I wasn't having a good day. I wasn't timing the ball and was hitting the fielders. So there were two options for me.

"Either I could have hit out in that situation and got out, or I could stick around, making sure I ride out the tough moments. I caught up with the strike-rate in the end. Sachin Tendulkar came to our dressing room last year and told us this exact same thing.

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TODAY'S MATCH

| Match | Time | Venue |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|
| Australia v Zimbabwe | 3:00pm | Ahmedabad |



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
The Irish cricketers were in a joyous mood in their practice session at the Academy Ground beside the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. They are set to meet the Tigers in their first match of the World Cup on Friday.



Ireland quietly confident

SPORTS REPORTER



Whilst Bangladesh woke up to the grim reality of losing against India in the much-hyped opener of the World Cup, their next opponents, Ireland were in a relaxed mood the next morning.

And why would they not be. The Irish are running high on the back of two very good practice matches, one of which was a 4 wicket win over Zimbabwe. In the other they ran New Zealand very close before conceding a 32-run defeat. And of course there is the history between the sides; Bangladesh fell to Ireland in their last World Cup meeting 2007.

Naturally then, the feeling of being quietly confident was evident when William Porterfield, the Irish skipper met the press at the end of a two-

hour practice session at the Academy Ground beside the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

"The way we are playing right now, we'll be confident going into the match on Friday," said Porterfield.

"The conditions here might be different from what we are used to, but not necessarily a difficult one. We've had some good preparation. We played pretty well in the last couple of warm up games, picked up the momentum, and we will be feeling pretty confident."

From a broader perspective, the confidence stems from the constant rise in the graph of Irish cricket in the last four years since they made their World Cup debut and managed to beat Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"We have made massive strides in recent years. In the last World Cup we were pretty much

unknown. People were struggling to relate Ireland with a cricket nation, but we have put Ireland on the cricket map now. Most of the players have also become fulltime cricketers in the last 18 months which makes a massive difference to our cricket."

The Irish landed in Dhaka on the 17th of February after playing the two warm-up matches in India. They had a fun time playing golf on Thursday when the Tigers were perspiring against the Indians. The players took a few glimpses of the match on television, but declined to read much into the result of Thursday's match. Rather they looked at concentrating on their own game.

"We know if we can perform we can beat full member nations. We have done that in the last couple of seasons. So we are pretty confident that whoever the opposition are, we are capable enough to beat them on our day. We will go out there and back ourselves on our abilities."

U-23 booters off to Kuwait

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U23 football team left here yesterday for Kuwait to play their away match of the pre-Olympic qualifying round with a hope of putting up a good show despite the fact that Robert Rubcic got little time to prepare his charges due to the domestic league.

Bangladesh, who are ranked 157th in latest FIFA rankings, take on 101st ranked Kuwait on Wednesday and

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Over the boundary.

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by: Divum

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Australia - Zimbabwe

The Aussies have lost their dominance in the cricket world. Nevertheless, they are never a spent force. Ricky Ponting is his last battle will once again try to prove the critics wrong. And he will be backed by the fire powers of Hussey, Watson, Clarke, Johnson and Shaun Tait. The Zimbabwe cricket is on the road to revival with Heath Streak and Grant Flower in the coaching staff backed by ex-international stars Allan Donald and Jonty Rhodes. There maybe flashes of brilliance but an upset is highly unlikely. Aussies can expect to start their mission with a win!

Send your analysis (in 100 words) on Pakistan - Kenya match to analysis11@ovi.com. The best analysis will be published tomorrow.