

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Adriano goes AWOL

New AS Roma coach Vincenzo Montella said he did not feel like a caretaker on his first full day in charge on Tuesday but striker Adriano immediately tested his mettle by not turning up for training. Adriano's failure to report back to Italy as scheduled after spending the last few weeks in Brazil recovering from a broken arm was no laughing matter. The striker quit Inter Milan to return to Brazil two years ago because of personal problems and Roma knew they were taking a risk bringing him back to Serie A.

- REUTERS



Confined Irish finding the bright side

ANISUR RAHMAN

The Irish cricketers have mainly been confined to the team hotel and the practice sessions for the last seven days and they have hardly had the chance to see Dhaka, one of the host cities for the ICC World Cup 2011.

And with so little to do, the most entertainment the Irish have derived in this trip have been from their escorted tours to and from the stadium and their trip from the airport to the hotel, all of which have come amidst heavy security.

Gary Wilson is one of four cricketers in this team who had earlier visited Bangladesh to play the U-19 Cricket World Cup seven years ago. He is now part of the senior Ireland side and termed Dhaka a 'cleaner city' compared to his last visit in 2004.

"Since I was here seven years ago for the Under-19 World Cup and now Dhaka seems much cleaner. It goes to show how important the World Cup is to this city," said Wilson during yesterday's practice session at the Mirpur Indoor facility.

The 25-year backup wicketkeeper was also impressed watching the opening ceremony and was ecstatic at being able to catch the impromptu aerial cricket match being played on the side of a building.

"It was very impressive with the opening ceremony as every aspect of the ceremony was pretty good, especially the cricket match played on the side of the building," said Wilson who has played 25 one-day internationals.

But everyone else was united in their belief that the presidential treatment doled out to them was what had impressed them the most.

Like others Ireland's media manager Barry Chambers confessed that he felt like a political leader given the way they are being escorted by police on the traffic-free roads. Assistant coach Pete Johnston was also surprised at how quickly they got to their hotel from the airport after breezing through custom enquiries on the day of the opening ceremony.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Niggling injuries mar practice

SPORTS REPORTER



Injuries to paceman Shafiqul Islam and opener Imrul Kayes hogged the spotlight in the Tigers' practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Lanky paceman Shafiqul fell awkwardly on his right shoulder while trying to clutch a high catch while Imrul was hit by a short ball from Nazmul Hossain in the nets on his forearm.

Thankfully, physio Michael Henry confirmed that there was nothing serious with the injuries.

"Shafiqul is alright. He had an awkward fall on his right shoulder. We have put ice on it and we are not really concerned. We ran a few tests on him and we had a look. It was as we suspected, a fall. He is not ruled out for

the Friday's game (against Ireland)," said Henry on Shafiqul's injury.

The bowler himself was also not worried with the injury and instead was looking forward to getting back the rhythm against Ireland in their second Group B match after a poor show against India in the opening match.

"It's a very minor injury. We hope everything will be okay tomorrow. There is nothing serious. I am now looking forward to making a comeback in Friday's game against Ireland. It can happen that a cricketer experiences a bad day and for me it was a bad day against India," said a confident Shafiqul, who struggled with his line and length against the Indian batting line-up conceding 69 runs in seven

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



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INJURIES STRIKE TIGERS: (L) Bangladesh opening batsman Imrul Kayes puts an ice-bag around his forearm while (R) pacer Shafiqul Islam grimaces in pain after hurting his shoulder during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

South Africans, how many of them?

REAZUR RAHMAN ROHAN



The South Africans have done a fine job in this World Cup, without even playing a match. They take on West Indies in New Delhi today but the eternal chokers have a phantom team running side-by-side just to make sure that someone ends up winning the trophy. Does this plan seem implausible?

Calling it a 'team' is obviously a joke but it's true that there are 26 South African cricketers in this tournament and you have guessed correctly: not all are playing for South Africa.

While the birthplace of Kevin Pietersen and Jonathan Trott are much-documented, two other England players were also born in South Africa. Skipper Andrew Strauss and Matt Prior were both

born in Johannesburg while Pietersen was born in Pietermaritzburg and had famously played against England in 1999 for Natal.

There are more South Africans doing their business in the sub-continent this month, the Netherlands side having six South Africa-born players in their star performer Ryan ten Doeschate, wicketkeeper Wesley Barresi and Alexei Kervezee, Brad Kruger, Bernard Loots, Eric Szwarzynski. You can even find a few more South Africans in the Ireland side that is operating in Dhaka at the moment -- Andre Botha and Albert van der Merwe -- while Alex Cusack and Trent Johnston (Australia) and Nigel Jones (New Zealand) are hardly authentic Irish. The Dutch also have one player each from Australia (Tom Cooper) and New Zealand (captain Peter Borren).

One might have thought that South Africa is the greatest exporters of cricketing talent but who can keep the sub-continent away from cricket (and migration)? One team has more than half the players from this region.

Canada has six Indian-born (captain Ashish Bagai, Harvir Baidwan, Balaji Rao, Parth Desai, Jimmy Hansra and Hiral Patel), three Pakistani-born (Rizwan Cheema, Khurram Chohan, Hamza Tariq) and one born in Sri Lanka (Ravindu Gunasekara). To give it a perfect cosmopolitan feel, Canada has three local born and a player each from Australia, Jamaica and of all places, Uganda. No wonder they are called the United Nations cricket team!

Tanmay Mishra, the Kenya batsman, is Indian

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Sri Lanka bans violent song

AFP, Colombo

A World Cup song which carries threats against defending champions Australia as well as earthquake-hit New Zealand has been banned on orders of the Sri Lankan president.

The song warns that Ricky Ponting's Australians will end up as bird food while New Zealanders, still reeling from the Christchurch quake, could have their jaws broken.

President Mahinda

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

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TODAY'S MATCH

Match	Time	Venue
South Africa v West Indies	3:00pm	New Delhi

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ovi analysis

Reader's analysis of the day!

South Africa - West Indies
Washim Ahmed

The Caribbean calypso Windies takes on the "chokers" of world cricket, South Africa. Though West Indies are still in their road to recovery, but a master class innings from Gayle or Chandrapaul or a speed burst from Kemar Roach may change the game in moments. The perennial favorites South Africa have an immensely talented team but have a tendency to falter, when it matters. In form Hashim Amla will lead their batting along with Smith and Kallis. Three world class bowlers Steyn, Morkel and Tostoesbe can fire out any opposition. A win for South Africa is on the cards unless they face a Gayle Hurricane.

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

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