Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Diego's Spanish desire

Diego Maradona intends to continue his career as a coach and would like to work in Spain, the former Argentine great told Spanish sport daily Marca on Friday.

"My desire (to coach) remains intact and I reckon I could do it in Spain," said Maradona.

"After the 2010 World Cup, I received two or three interesting proposals. But they didn't suit me. I thanked (the clubs) and said the time wasn't right.

"But now that the summer has passed, I'm approaching things

LEADING THE TIGERS TO VICTORY: Bangladesh pacer Shafiul Islam is ecstatic after capturing one of his four wickets against Ireland as the Tigers recorded a nervy World Cup win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Shakib salutes the faithful

SPORTS REPORTER

In a match they needed to win following their loss in the opening match against India, Bangladesh came out on top in front of a capacity crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

In the 27-run victory, the bowlers, particularly Shafiul Islam was the hero. But to Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan, their real inspiration was the crowd that never lost its voice even when the Tigers were struggling during the first innings.

Shakib had won the toss for the second successive occasion, and unlike in the opening match, he chose to bat. But Bangladesh had been shot out for a lowly 205 in the first innings, and a repeat of Ireland's shock victory in the 2007 World Cup over the Tigers seemed to be on the cards. With the match in the bag, though, Shakib stressed that they were not dreading a loss at the halfway mark.

"During the innings break, the team came and told me not to worry, and that we would win by 20 30 runs. That gave me a lot of confidence, and the team was also very confident," Shakib said at the post-match press conference.

"We didn't apply ourselves with the bat, but the bowling and fielding was excellent, and the support from the crowd was unbelievable. We never saw such support and we may not see such support again. I don't think any crowd supports their team like the crowd has supported us in the World Cup," said the captain, gushing in his praise of the Tigers' fans.

Each run was cheered raucously when they were batting, and each run saved was cheered with even more gusto when they were bowling. The crowd never lost its voice, even when Bangladesh were losing wickets in their first innings. Though the win was cause for celebration, Bangladesh's failure with the bat was a dark cloud that had to be addressed.

"We are not too worried. In the first match we scored 283 against India, and they are the no. 1 or 2 ranked side in the world," Shakib said, and added, "We have been consistent with the bat, and here we started really well. We need to build some good partnerships. In the previous match we bowled badly, in this match we batted badly, perhaps in the next match we will do both well."

The next match, against the West Indies,

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Fortunes swing for inspired Shafiul

MOHAMMAD ISAM

When Shafiul Islam flung his arms in pure delight after Junaed Siddiqui gulped down Ireland No 11 Boyd Rankin's miscued chip, the mind flew back to Wednesday mid-morning when he fell badly on his right shoulder during training, now a thousand miles away from the euphoria of the Tigers' 27-run win.

He didn't move much then, lying on his stomach and contemplating a disaster-in-waiting. Nazmul Hossain and Rubel Hossain helped him up and when he walked off holding his shoulder with physio Mike Henry, clouds gathered around the Bangladesh camp. On Friday night, his teammates came up to him, not to rescue him but to lift the Bogra boy as the toast of the team.

The win has firmly put the Tigers back into contention for a quarterfinal place despite having a terrible day with the bat; Shafiul's inspired spell and Shakib Al Hasan's bowling changes papering over the cracks that developed through some silly shots.

That Shafiul didn't win the man-of-the-match award must have surprised him (Tamim Iqbal confiding later that he was surprised; probably it was his catch to remove Niall O'Brien that won him the prize), but Shafiul was washed over by pure relief at having vindicated himself with an astounding spell of swing bowling, so late in the piece at the slow and low Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium wicket.

His final spell, effectively the match-winning one for the Tigers, began in the 34th over when Ireland were 144 for five, the game hanging by the proverbial thread.

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ovi analysis

Reader's analysis of the day!

Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka

Ripon Chowdhury

Pakistan will look to blunt Lasith Malinga and wily off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan in their Group A encounter against Sri Lanka today.This match would be entertaining in a World Cup that needs a blockbuster clash between two of the big guns. Pakistan have never lost a World Cup match against Sri Lanka in six previous attempts but they were all before Sri Lanka became one of the top sides in the world game. Pakistan will look to improve on their starts -- both in batting and bowling try to restrict the in-form Mahela Jayawardene, who scored a match-winning hundred during the team's 210-run win over Canada. Besides Jayawardene, captain Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan and Upul Tharanga are in good form with the bat. Sri Lanka will likely bring Malinga into the side in place of Thisara Perera, who took three wickets in the Canada match. Pakistan will try to squeeze in off-spinner Saeed Ajmal

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