

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 3, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@the-star.net

## Mourinho slams journalists

Jose Mourinho has lashed out at what he called the "hypocrites" who did not agree with his complaints that the La Liga calendar was unfair on his Real Madrid team and favoured Barcelona. In a colourful performance at a news conference on Wednesday, the flamboyant Portuguese called one Spanish journalist a hypocrite to his face, though he later apologised and said he had only done it to make a point. "If you want to be hypocritical it's your problem", the former Inter Milan and Chelsea manager added. "I am not afraid of saying the truth."

- REUTERS



## Roach here to take wickets

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Kemar Roach is not your everyday West Indies fast bowler. The lack of an imposing built and a smile on his face would not put him in the same bracket as the legends of yesteryears but for the last decade or so, no fast bowler from the Caribbean has had so much impact on their bowling attack as has Roach in the past year.

Come Friday, if the 22-year-old's height and calm countenance doesn't say much, his pace would do most of the talking (given you disregard the thick gold chain around his neck) despite the slow nature of the wicket at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Roach, who took 6-27 against the Netherlands on Monday including the tournament's first hat-trick, was confident of bowling quick on any surface and was roundly endorsed by one of the island nation's great cricketers.

"A fast bowler can bowl fast anywhere. I am not worried about pace, I am here to claim wickets for West Indies and create history. So I am just going to go there and give my best shot," said Roach during West Indies' first training session at the Academy ground yesterday.

Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain here as the team manager, said that fast bowlers can be successful in the sub-continent, although he didn't count out

the surprise element.

"We all know that this part of the world has the reputation of favouring the spinners. The fast bowlers now have so many variations like the slower-ball bouncer.

"Batsmen take a little while to get used to these variations. In these wickets, you have to have variety. You need to just surprise the batsman," said Richardson.

Before his hat-trick against the Dutch, Roach was famous for the way he hustled Australia captain Ricky Ponting back in 2009 as well as his fine debut against Bangladesh earlier in the same year. In the rain-abandoned series against Sri Lanka late last year, Roach picked up a five-wicket haul.

"Obviously you know [Lasith] Malinga bowled lovely yesterday, and Mitchell Johnson also got wickets. I also want my name to be there as well so I have to go and take the step up," said Roach.

The West Indies-Bangladesh encounter has long been billed as the most important tie for both teams given their current status in world cricket. Though the Tigers are now ahead of their opponents in the ICC ODI Rankings, Roach said that winning the game was the only thing in their mind.

"Obviously we are not really bothered who is ahead and who is behind. It is cricket we play and on the day

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQUE

**HANDS FULL:** Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan has everything he needs in his hands during the Tigers' training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

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## Bowling good comes first for Razzaq

ATIQUE ANAM

The slow, low and turning pitches of the sub-continent hyped this World Cup as one to be dominated by the spinners. Especially the subcontinent sides' favouritism for spin and the seeming discomfort of non-Asian sides made it all the more plausible to bet on the spinners.

However, the reality has turned out to be very different. So far the bowling has been dominated by the fast bowlers, so much so that only one spinner (Shahid Afridi) features amongst the top ten wicket takers till date.

Abdur Razzak, himself a left-arm spinner and the highest wicket-taker for Bangladesh in one-day cricket, was surprised to see the outcome.

"Well, I thought the wickets would be conducive to spin. But they turned out to be sporting wickets favouring the batsmen instead. Maybe it has got something to do with the weather," sighed the 28-year-old spinner as he faced media before a practice session of Bangladesh.

"But that is a challenge and it means you can't take anything for granted. You have to adapt to different conditions to thrive."

One doesn't have to look any farther than the Tigers' own performance to see the level of struggle the spinners have had to do so far. The two frontline spinners have managed only four wickets in the first two matches. Razzak, who claimed 13 wickets in the last World Cup, went wicketless for 74 runs against India and claimed just a single wicket in the next match against Ireland.

But the veteran of 113 matches believes that he bowled reasonably well in the first two matches.

"I think I did not bowl all that bad in the first match as the figures would suggest, but did a good job in the second."

To be fair, Razzak has a point here. He was called upon to bowl in the fifth over against India, and amidst the Sehwa-

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**ACCESSORISED:** West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach uses a medicine ball during training at the GP-BCB Academy ground yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hopes pinned on conditions

BISHWAJIT ROY

It is almost certain that the West Indies will face a tough challenge on a slow and low wicket at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur when they take on Bangladesh in their third Group B match of the ICC World Cup tomorrow.

The Bangladesh think-tank has also pinned their hopes on the conditions and there is a whispering that the slow bowlers of the Tigers will play a vital role in a match that could prove to be the difference between a

quarterfinal spot and a first round exit.

According to sources, the pitch will be more or less the same as in the second match against Ireland and there is ample indication that the pitch will not be fruitful for any pace bowler if he wants to generate pace. West Indian speedster Kemar Roach who took a career best 6-27 against Netherlands, might then not be too effective for the Caribbean.

The Tigers however looked to be preparing themselves for the crucial game as they have bought in discarded pacemen Mahbubul Alam and Dollar Mahmud besides Shahadat Hossain in yesterday's net

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**TODAY'S MATCHES**

Match	Time	Venue
South Africa v Netherlands	10:00am	Mohali
Pakistan v Canada	3:00pm	Colombo

# Innings break.

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**Pakistan - Canada**

John Davison, the Canadian all-rounder is the key strength of Canada team who made century in 67 balls against the West Indies eight years ago. Rizwan Cheema can also be counted as strength of the Canadian team. He made 89 off 69 balls against the West Indies in 2008, with 10 fours and six sixes. For Pakistan, it's not a big match at all. Pakistan team has lot of experience in its ranks. Younis Khan, Abdul Razzak, Shoaib Akhtar and the captain himself, who have the ability to destroy any country in the world. The team that had a forgetful last year now looks like a much settled side, at least after Sri Lanka match.

S.M. Mustafizur Rahman

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Send your opinion in 100 words on Bangladesh - West Indies match to [analysis11@ovi.com](mailto:analysis11@ovi.com). The best analysis will be published.