

## Zaccheroni shaken

Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni described his terror during the earthquake that hit Japan at 8.9 on the Richter scale on Friday. "I heard strange noises, then saw that everything was swaying," manager of the Japan football team Zaccheroni told Ansa. "It was like being on a bouncy castle. I didn't know what earthquakes felt like before, but unfortunately I do now. "Furniture came down, including a wardrobe with all the drawers flying across the room. "Then we all went down to the street, but even then the concrete was moving beneath our feet."



**STAY IN, FIGHT:** Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (R) gets some advice from his uncle Akram Khan, the former national captain and also a national selector, during practice at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The Tigers meet Netherlands in a World Cup Group B match here today.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## LESSER PRESSURE, HIGHER IMPORTANCE

# Nafees, Shuvo expected in

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



The pressure was over for only two days, and now it is back on again. Just when a win against England seemed like it would buy the Bangladesh side some chances to relax, another must-win tie against the Netherlands beckons today in their first day match of the ICC Cricket World Cup at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong. The hype and expectation surrounding this match may not be as much as it was in previous encounters, but today's match is no less important to the cause.

The Bangladesh team though, was in a happy and relaxed mood when they practised at the venue yesterday after Shakib Al Hasan's men managed to blow away all the dark clouds by winning the nerve-wracking battle against England in the same venue on Friday. And as coach Jamie Siddons said: the victory has given the team great confidence.

Considering the strength, especially of the spin attack, and home conditions, Bangladesh definitely goes into the match with the tag of favourites. But in no way can Shakib Al Hasan's men be complacent ahead of their clash against the Netherlands, who lost badly to West Indies and South Africa but showed plenty of character against England and India. The record however speaks in favour of the minnows as they

played only one one-day international so far against Bangladesh in 2010 after the ICC Trophy era and won the curtailed game by six wickets at Titwood in Glasgow. Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons has also branded them as a 'dangerous' side.

There is nothing to lose for the Netherlands in the match, but a defeat will not only dash Bangladesh's quarterfinal hopes but also lead to unbearable pain for the team as well as the millions of cricket lovers in the country. To the Netherlands, it's not a soccer match but just a cricket game, which is a minor sport in their country, so a win just puts another feather on their cap but for Bangladeshis anything other than a victory will cause mass heartbreak.

The pressure, therefore, is on Bangladesh to play their best game so that they can keep their quarterfinal chances alive, as well as maintain their success rate against the lower-ranked sides, especially in their own den. The Tigers began their World Cup campaign with the target of beating one high-ranked side besides two ICC associate member countries -- Ireland and the Netherlands -- and the job is more than half done following wins over Ireland and England. But as it stands, the initial target might not be enough to qualify for the last eight and hence today's game has taken on even greater importance. "Each time we play a game, we

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## In the spirit of 1997

MOHAMMAD ISAM from Chittagong



The mention of 'Netherlands' and the memories of 1997 come pacing back to everyone from that generation. That victory in the second round of the ICC Trophy, skipper Akram Khan's unbeaten 68 and the consequent qualification to the semifinals are considered a seminal moment in this country's cricket.

Only a few have been privileged to have seen that game and for those that have, it still gives them sleepless nights. After the Dutch had made 171 in 49.5 overs, Bangladesh faced a revised target of 141 runs in 33 overs after they had slipped to 15 for four.

Akram then conjured up all the inspiration he could find and struck 68 off 92 balls under dull light at the Rubber Research Institute ground in Kuala Lumpur, an innings that made him an instant hero and turned that crucial game into one of the most memorable ones.

The heroics of Mahmudullah Riyad and Shafiqul Islam on Friday night brought back some memories of that nail-biter but only a few have actually seen it.

Only one member of those two teams are currently playing cricket and

though you wouldn't expect anyone from the Bangladesh side to do so, it is in fact Dutch batsman Bas Zuiderent, then a 20-year-old upcoming opener.

Fourteen years after that game, Zuiderent still remembers the implications and how charged up both sets of players were, exactly remembering that it was indeed a must-win game for both Bangladesh and Netherlands.

"We had a bit of interference from the rain, which made it very interesting. A lot of stuff went on. We were very keen to win that game but it didn't go our way," said Zuiderent yesterday at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium after he completed preparation for his side's game against

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

**MAX Fairness for MAX Impression**

**MAX Skin Lightening**

**MAX Spot Reduction**

**MAX Sun Protection**

### TODAY'S MATCHES

Match	Time	Venue
Bangladesh v Netherlands	9:30am	Chittagong
Pakistan v Zimbabwe	3:00pm	Pallekele

## Records win matches?

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Pop quiz: Which is the only team to have a 100 per cent ODI record against Bangladesh? The answer is not Australia, England or India but good old Netherlands.

The Dutch are now in town to play the World Cup Group B game against the Tigers and while the record could be treated as a statistical anomaly (they have played against each other just the one time), the result is something to bank on for the European visitors.

Captain Peter Borren, who took three important wickets in that 6-wicket win in Glasgow on July 20 last year, will be looking back to take positives but he also happens to be a realistic man. Though in a mischievous way, Borren would still want to upset the applecart.

"I'm not sure if there has been so many upsets, but only a couple of upsets. But us coming here and beating Bangladesh tomorrow would be an upset. As you guys have said, Bangladesh can be an unpredictable side," said Borren during the official press conference yesterday.

"I don't know about Ireland but Bangladesh are right in the mix. Definitely it will be our intention to ruin the party for them. It is good that our games against Bangladesh and Ireland have a bearing on the tournament. It's just great that we can go out there and play a match that still counts," he added.

The Christchurch-born Borren admitted the little experience the side have in these conditions, but the Dutch have done enough homework on Bangladesh.

"We do take positives from that win. I remember we won quite comfortably in the end, but we know that here at home, they [Bangladesh] are a very different proposition altogether.

"Our experiences in these conditions are pretty limited. We played against Bangladesh once in Glasgow of all places last year and obviously we won. This is a different condition but we've seen them play here against England and we are aware what we are up against.

"We are sort of getting accustomed to playing in slow pitches. What we will face tomorrow is going to be the epitome of what we are training for, that is playing spinners on slow wickets. I think that is what Bangladesh will throw at us," he said, adding that he would agree with Jamie Siddons on the possible safe score at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

"It is not a particularly high scoring ground and we know it's going to be difficult against their slow bowlers," he added. Borren's team have had a good tournament by Associates standards, though Ireland have probably trumped them quite easily so far. After a fine performance against England where they ran them close, the Netherlands also gave a good

### BANGLADESH-NETHERLANDS ENCOUNTERS

Matches	Bangladesh won	Netherlands won
1	0	1

The only time the two sides played together was on July 20, 2010 in Glasgow

Eric Swarczynski top-scored in that game with 67 runs



PETER BORREN

account of themselves against India but they did have two very poor performances against South Africa and West Indies.

"Coming into this tournament we wanted to create chances to win games. So far we've had a pretty tough draw, we've come up against four top sides, but obviously tomorrow and Ireland are not going to be easy games.

"We played well against England and I think we competed against India, two disappointing performances against South Africa and West Indies in between. If we can win the last two games, we'd be happy with that," said the 27-year-old Borren.

During the good games, there have been a number of mini stars, the likes of Tom Cooper, Ryan ten Doeschate and Pieter Seelaar.

"I think we have learned a lot, especially playing against top teams. I think the bowling of Pieter Seelaar has been a positive, he has got a lot of good players out.

"We've had starts from Tom Cooper, hopefully

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

**Cricket Free Hit**  
by: Divum

"Free Hit" is a unique and addictive cricket game for all you cricket enthusiasts! Test your cricket skills with precise Power and perfectly Timed Hits!

Download Cricket Free Hit from <http://store.ovi.com>

**NOKIA**  
Connecting People

**Be The Nokia Match Analyzer**

Bangladesh v Netherlands

Bangladesh looks confident after beating England by 2 wickets in their last match. The dream for quarterfinal is still alive if they can win both the upcoming match against Netherlands and South Africa. This match between Bangladesh and Netherlands will offer a lot of delight to cricket lovers. The positive features of Bangladesh include a young side and playing in their home conditions. Bangladesh does have a slight edge over Netherlands since they have a better record than the Dutch. They have also defeated Ireland in the tournament by 27 runs. However, the Dutch also defeated them in the past and this would work as the X factor.

Md. Nuruddin

Send your opinion in 100 words on Ireland Vs South Africa match to [analysis11@ovi.com](mailto:analysis11@ovi.com). The best analysis will be published.

**ovi**