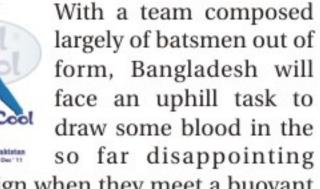


High time for batsmen

Bangladesh-Pakistan first Test from today

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



form, Bangladesh will face an uphill task to draw some blood in the so far disappointing campaign when they meet a buoyant Pakistan in the first Test of the two-

Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) today. question doing the rounds was: can the home batsmen discover the trick

of handling the formidable Pakistan

match series at the Zohur Ahmed

bowling attack?

Bangladesh's batting was simply pathetic in the one-off T20 and the subsequent three-match one-day series, rendered helpless against the versatile Pakistan spin attack. The Pakistani bowlers have used the condition so brilliantly that the 'home advantage' has been all but nullified for Mushfiqur Rahim's men. That may be the reason that there was hardly any interest about the character of the pitch Ahead of the Test series the chief batsmen at the ZACS before the first Test gets underway. Instead, the main concern is whether the local batsmen can apply themselves properly or not.

Self-confidence among the Tigers is low. There is not much to do for the top order but to back themselves and believe that they have the basics to survive the tourists' onslaught in a form of the game that will impose far greater demands than the limitedover variety.

"It's actually time for the batsmen to show something because our bowling and fielding was not bad in the series [the one-off T20 and three-match ODI series]," admitted Shahriar Nafees while talking to the reporters after the training session yesterday in a pre-match press

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



WILL THE SMILE LAST LONG? Members of the Bangladesh cricket team train happily at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday ahead of the first Test against Pakistan that starts here today.

Semifinals today

ANISUR RAHMAN from Delhi

Pak look to continue winning

SPORTS REPORTER from Ctg

Putting aside all the controversies that dog the nation, Pakistan has been playing scintillating cricket under the leadership of Misbah-ul Haq, having already flexed their muscles to dispose of Bangladesh in the limitedover series. Without doubt they are clear favourites in the two-match Test series against Bangladesh which will kick off today at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, although their batting was not as satisfactory as their bowling in the just-concluded limited overs leg of the tour.

Experienced batsman Younis Khan made it clear that they have only one target, which is to win the series against the Tigers to continue their impressive run.

"The challenge is very simple as the only thing we need to do is go out there and play some positive cricket and win the Test series. Away series is always difficult because the opponents have the home advantage and that's why it is going to be a tough competition for us," said Younis in a pre-match press conference yesterday.

The seasoned batsman SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Sehwag shatters scoring record

Cricket

AFP, Indore

Virender Sehwag set fire to the record books, recording the highest individual ODI score, as India took an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series with a 153-run win against West Indies at Indore yesterday.

Sehwag's record innings of 219 took

India to the fifth-highest ODI score of Player 418-5, and after that the West SRTendulkar (IND) 200* South Africa Feb24, 2010 Indies were CKCoventry (ZIM) 194* Bangladesh Aug 16, 2009 reduced to salvaging a measure of

respectability from the match.

The tourists were then bundled out for 265, with Denesh Ramdin -- who topscored with a run-a-ball 96 -- the last wicket to fall. For India, leg-spinner Rahul Sharma and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja took three wickets apiece.

Earlier, Sehwag smashed the highest individual score in one-day internationals, hitting 219 as India piled on 418-5.

The Delhi opener plundered 25 boundaries and seven sixes during his

Gillette[®]

last year -- in the 44th over when, on 197, he cut Andre Russell to the point fence. He was finally dismissed in the 47th

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES IN ODIS

How long can your blade last?

VSehwag (IND) 219 West Indies Dec 8, 2011

Saeed Anwar (PAK) 194 India

IVA Richards (WI) 189*

the 50-over format.

over when he was caught in the deep off Kieron Pollard and was clapped off the

149-ball blitz, joining compatriot

Sachin Tendulkar as the only batsmen

in history to score double-centuries in

not out -- against South Africa in Gwalior

Sehwag moved past Tendulkar's 200

field by the entire West Indies team and some 30,000 jubilant home fans.

Sehwag's

May 21, 1997 blistering May 31, 1984 Manchester knock helped India notch their highest one-day total, surpassing

the 414-7 they made against Sri Lanka in Rajkot in 2009. It was Sehwag's 15th three-figure

knock in one-day cricket and the first since making 175 against Bangladesh in the opening match of the World Cup in Dhaka in February this year. Sehwag, who is captaining India in

the series in the absence of the rested Mahendra Singh Dhoni, had managed just 46 runs in the previous three SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

PCB to present None lack confidence

CRICINFO, Karachi

to BCB

security plan

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has formed a security plan to present to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in an effort to convince it to send the national team to Pakistan. The PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf will meet his Bangladesh counterpart AHM Mustafa Kamal at the Asian Cricket Council meeting in Singapore next week

and in Bangladesh after that. "We have formed a foolproof security plan and I will explain it to them," Ashraf told the Daily Express. "After the ACC meeting, I will directly fly to Bangladesh to meet with the BCB officials as a part of my campaign to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

convince them to tour

Urbanyi though was of a different opinion and pointed to the game between Bangladesh and Nepal to illustrate the

The coaches of all four teams in the semifinal are upbeat of making it into the final of the SAFF Championship when they lock horns at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium today.

Defending champions and host India will face last edition's runners-up Maldives in the Defending champions and host India will INDIA 2011 first semifinal at 3:30pm (BST) while tournament's dark-horse Afghanistan will be pitted against a spir-

ited Nepal in the second match at 6:30pm (BST) at the same venue. Indian coach Savio Medeira and Maldives coach Istvan Bela Urbanyi had differing opinions on

how best to do it, but both were convinced that their respective teams could make the final with a win today in a clash between the last two winners of the tournament.

Medeira said his team would concentrate on making the

least amount of errors. "The team making lesser mistakes in tomorrow's (Friday) match will advance to the final."

need for something special.

It's our product

"I think a team needs something more rather than just making less mistakes. A lot of personal qualities will have to come to the fore to win a tournament.

"If we make a lot of good decisions, we can win. Nepal won against Bangladesh with a last minute free-kick. They won because they deserved and pushed the other team to the limit," said the Hungarian.

Medeira was quick to point out that Maldives had enjoyed an extra day off, but he stated that his team was a hundred percent ready for the challenge.

India have won nine out of 15 encounters against the island national although their last match was a 1-1 draw in July.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan who stunned Bhutan 8-1 to finish ahead of India in Group A are also looking forward to playing the final for the final time by beating the speedy Nepal, who themselves are also confident.

"We are confident of playing the final as we have been improving. Nepal are a good side as they play fast but we have a good plan to reach the final and we are looking

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



 MRP inclusive of all taxes for 1 Razor + 1 Cartridge Based on AC Nielsen India 2008 data: the average number of weeks which a Mach3 blade lasts is 7.9 weeks