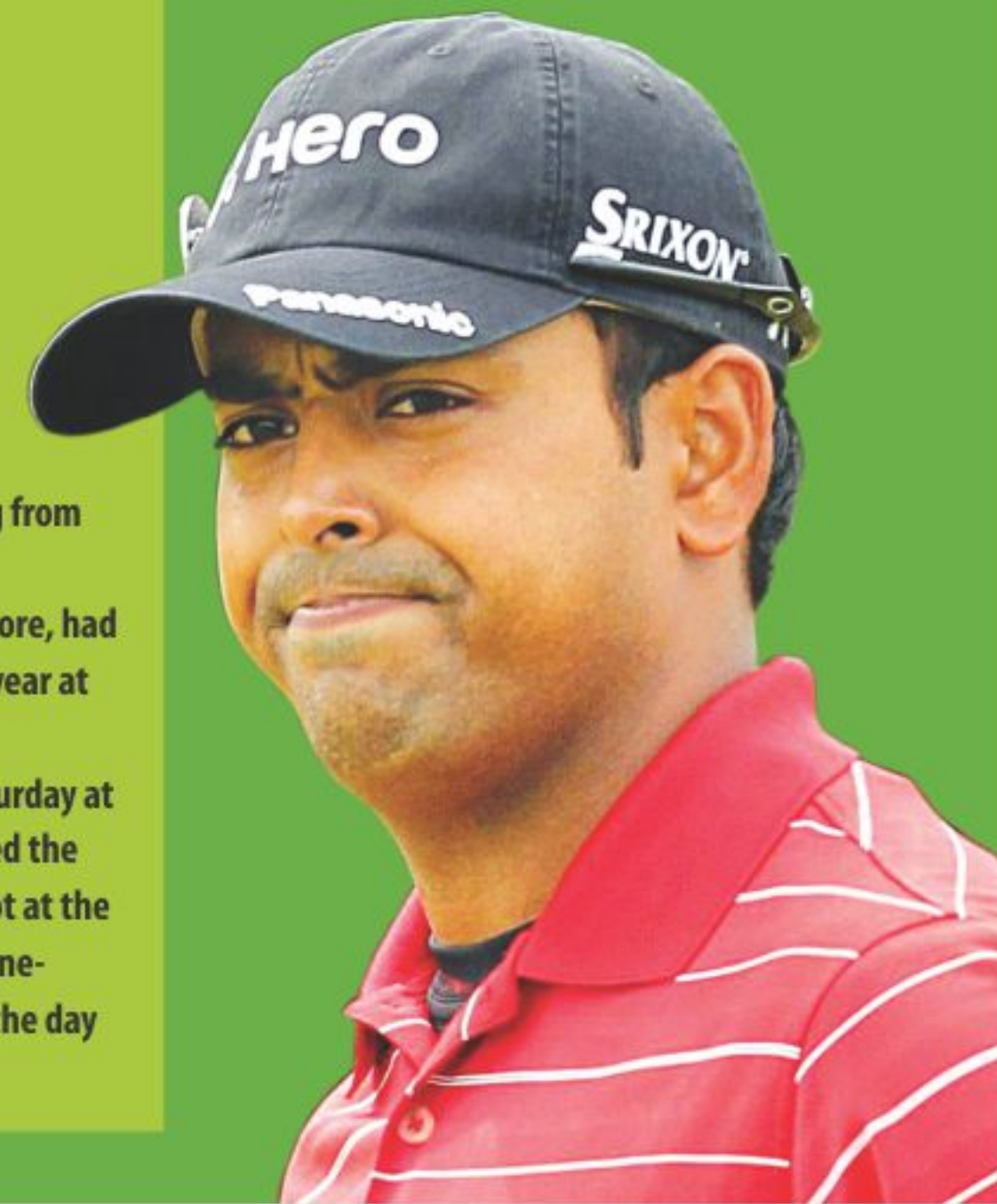


# Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 23, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Hole-in-one for Lahiri

India's Anirban Lahiri aced the par-3 ninth hole at Royal Lytham on Saturday in the third round of the British Open, the first hole-in-one of the tournament coming from an Open debutante. Lahiri, a 25-year-old from Bangalore, had won his first Asian Tour title last year at Delhi. After back-to-back bogeys on Saturday at the third and fourth, Lahiri birdied the eighth and then holed his tee shot at the par-3 ninth, making the turn at one-under 33 to stand one-under for the day



LONDONdiary  
22 July, 2012

## First World Pains

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

A chaotic opening day in London for yours truly was more reminiscent of a day trolleying Dhaka's creaking road systems, minus the smog and honking traffic.

So much for the First World. First up though, travelling with an accreditation card to London was a task in and of itself. It was not too tough clearing immigration in Bangladesh where the local officer breezed me through with a smile and best wishes. The trouble started when the airline officials refused to permit me to board the flight without first speaking to the British embassy. In his defence, he was nice. But things started getting a bit tiring when the same song and dance was repeated in Delhi on my transit, where the airline official insisted that he speak to the British embassy official there as well. The flight in was decent, with some pleasant company in the form of Fergus, the Irish engineer who lived in San Francisco but was going to Dublin for a friend's wedding.

The highpoint of the day was undoubtedly clearing immigration in London in five minutes flat and locating my luggage in less.

Fifteen minutes after leaving the flight I was out of Heathrow. I don't know the last time that ever happened. The volunteer who assisted me from my disembarkation was an elderly Tamil, who had about six years on my father. He was excellent though; extremely helpful and better still, very nice conversation. The immigration officer who stamped my passport was also very nice and made a quip about how he would have refused an entry seal had I worked for the London version of The Daily Star -- "You need to be pretty broad-minded to accept that stuff!"

The trouble started when I was boarding the tube to travel to my stop of Southgate. Usually it's a very simple 90-minute train ride from Heathrow, no changes and all, and is a good time to rest and recuperate from the long journey. But a signal failure in Holborn, a stop further east on the line, made sure that was not going to happen. After dallying around in the static tube for the best part of 35 minutes were informed that the delay would be indefinite and that we would best be advised to seek different means of communication into the city. The Heathrow Express was the 'cheapest'



Hashim Amla raises his bat in celebration of being the first South African to score a triple century during the fourth day of the first Test against England at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Bangladesh A off to India today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team are flying off to Bangalore to play in the Shafi Darashah Invitational Tournament which begins on July 27.

The four-day competition is hosted by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and will feature seven other teams, with the second-string side being the only international team in the tournament. Bangladesh A play their first match against Baroda Cricket Association XI from July 27 before taking on the KSCA XI from August 1. They play KSCA Colts from August 6 in the last group game.

The 15-member squad boasts several Test players

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## Amla creates SA history

Cricket

AFP, London

Hashim Amla hit South Africa's first Test triple century as England's bowlers continued to suffer on the fourth day of the first Test match at The Oval on Sunday.

Amla made 311 not out as South Africa declared at 637 for two at tea; a first innings lead of 252.

Amla and Jacques Kallis (182 not out) put on an unbeaten 377 for the third wicket, a record for South Africa against England.

South Africa's declaration left England with a potential 43 overs to see out before close of play on a dry, wearing pitch.

It was another day of toil for the England bowlers, who conceded two successive double century partnerships for the first time in their 924-Test history.

Amla and captain Graeme Smith added 259 for the second wicket on Saturday, also a

record against England.

It was a relentless performance by the South African batsmen on a pitch that has yet to deteriorate to the extent expected earlier in the match.

Amla, who gave his only chance when he was on 40 on Friday, went past numerous landmarks, lifting the tempo of his innings but seldom playing a false stroke.

He beat his own previous highest score -- 253 not out against India in Nagpur in 2009-10.

Next to fall was the highest score against England -- 277 by Smith at Edgbaston in 2003.

Then a clip through mid-wicket for four off Tim Bresnan took him past the South African record of 278 not out by AB de Villiers against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi in 2010-11.

England set ultra-defensive fields but could not halt the flow of runs.

With Amla on 299, England captain Andrew Strauss brought the field up

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

## WI HP due on Sep 12

SPORTS REPORTER

The West Indies High Performance team will arrive in the capital on September 12 for a three-week tour.

They will begin the tour with a four-day match against the BCB National Cricket Academy side in Khulna's Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium from September 16.

The second and final four-day is against Bangladesh A from September 22 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The three-match one-day series against the second-string side continues at the Mirpur venue where they play on September 28, 30 and October 2.

There are also two Twenty20s to be played on October 4 and 5, also in Mirpur, against Bangladesh A.



PHOTO: CRICKET EUROPE

The Bangladesh team celebrate their 3-0 whitewash of hosts Ireland after winning the third game of the series by two wickets at Stormont in Belfast on Saturday.

## Whitewash pleases Pybus

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Head coach Richard Pybus was happy with the workout the Bangladesh team had in Ireland after they completed a 3-0 whitewash in the Twenty20 series at Stormont in Belfast on Saturday night.

He was particularly pleased with the spinners, who helped his side control the home side's belligerent batsmen in all three games.

Elias Sunny got five wickets in the first game and continued to do well in the next two while Abdur Razzak and Shakib Al Hasan were steady forces. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza bowled a very good spell in the third game though newcomer Abul Hasan wasn't among the wickets.

"I'm very happy with the spin quartet," said Pybus, "and the tour was good for our seamers too, who got experience of bowling in northern hemisphere conditions, learning that they have to get their lengths right."

The series result was exactly what the Tigers wanted before they left for Ireland, although there were many within the Bangladesh Cricket Board who were slightly apprehensive about playing against a lesser-ranked team. But the players proved their stature in international cricket, making sure they rose in the ICC Twenty20 rankings, right up to No 4.

Pybus, meanwhile, acknowledged that they still have some work to do before the World Twenty20s which begins in Sri Lanka in mid-September, which is the reason why the Tigers are on this tour of Europe. He wasn't too harsh on the batsmen, who unravelled as a unit in the third game.

"Our batting was pretty solid too, but we have a little work to do before the World Twenty20," he said.

The Tigers arrived at The Hague in Holland last night for

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