


# Shakib, Ashraful propel Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

A strong all-round performance by Shakib Al Hasan and a hard-hitting cameo by Mohammad Ashraful, which included three sixes and two fours, led Bangladesh to a 5-wicket win over Zimbabwe in their World T20 warm-up at the Colts Cricket Ground in Colombo yesterday.

Chasing a target of 135, Bangladesh were in trouble in the second over as Brian Vitori got the crucial wicket of Tamim Iqbal. Tamim, who had earlier smacked the Zimbabwean pacer through the covers for a four, was caught by Malcolm Waller three balls later as he looked for another boundary.

The early loss of the dashing lefthander, however, didn't affect the run-rate as Shakib, who has been promoted up the order in this format of the game, and Ashraful scored 50 in the next five overs. The pair hit seven boundaries and a six before the experienced Raymond Price got Shakib in the eighth over. The wicket, however, brought no solace for Price, as he got hit for two sixes in the very same over by Ashraful.

Ashraful's entertaining innings came to an end in the next over when he was bowled by Graeme Cremer. The wicket triggered a mini-collapse for Bangladesh as Captain

Mushfiqur Rahim and all-rounder Nasir Hossain lost their wickets in consecutive overs. At the midway mark, Bangladesh were struggling at 85 for 5 and required 50 runs from 54 balls. However, the ice-cool Mahmudallah Riyadh and new entrant Ziaur Rahman ensured that there were no further

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## 'Enjoying the opener's role'

SPORTS REPORTER

They say that a cat has nine lives. "For three he plays, for three he strays, and for the last three he stays." Like it or not, Mohammad Ashraful's cricketing stint has followed a similar path. The number of times that the right-handed batsman has come back to the Bangladesh squad can perhaps be an achievement in itself.

Only time can tell if the decision to select Ashraful for the World Twenty20 will pay dividends. His recent performances, though, have shed a positive light. A fluent 38 of 25 balls in the warm-up game against Zimbabwe yesterday saw the batsman continue his decent form as an opener ever

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



Bangladesh opener Mohammad Ashraful strikes the ball through the covers during the World T20 warm-up encounter against Zimbabwe at Colts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Storm keeps Siddikur afloat

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman was still staring down the barrel of a second failure to make the cut this season as further rain and storm forced the second round of the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship to be called off.

The officials have decided to reduce the 500,000 dollar event into a 54-stroke play tournament, which would make Siddikur's task to make the cut even harder as he was three strokes off the projected cut, having played 24 strokes.

All the players will return to the Linkou International Golf and Country Club on Sunday morning to complete the second round, provided the weather improves.

Philippines' Angelo Que holds the clubhouse lead with his first round seven-under-par 65 while Siddikur languishes in joint 90th position on three-over-par.

## Booters lost in Biman Triangle

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team's tour of Nepal was postponed by a day in most unusual fashion after the national flag carrier Biman could not fly the scheduled aircraft. The 23-member squad along with officials were through with the check-in at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday morning before they were informed that the scheduled aircraft BG-701, scheduled for a 9:50 a.m. flight, was not available. However, the Biman authorities did not inform the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) or any of the passengers of the development, which disappointed the team's head coach and the players alike.

"We are a bit disappointed since we will get one less day of practice now to get accustomed to the conditions in Nepal. They (Biman authorities) should have informed us of their inability, which is the usual practice in such cases," said the team's coach Saiful Bari Titu in his reaction.

"We had planned for an extra day's practice as we were going three days before the first match on September 18 because we thought it would help our players get used to the conditions. However, I tried to keep the players motivated through a briefing session in the evening before having a light warm-up on the astro-turf at the BFF premises."

The flight for the national team has been rescheduled for

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Khulna 4-dayer today

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting West Indies High Performance Squad takes on the SAHARA-BCB National Cricket Academy team in the first four-day match at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna today.

But the weather may play foul as according to the forecast there is a chance of rain or thunder showers during the match.

Mahamudul Hasan will lead the local side.

The visitors will play the second four-day against Bangladesh A from September 22 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur where they also play three one-day matches on September 28, September 30 and October 2 and two T20 matches on October 4 and October 5 against the same opponents.

## BOA buying more time

SPORTS REPORTER

More than five months after the expiry of its current executive committee, the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is still pondering about electing a new body, even after being instructed to do so by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The BOA executive committee's four-year tenure ended on April 6 this year and on March 20 the authorities had requested for an extension of its validity with the IOC and that too after some aggrieved federation officials had written a letter to the game's apex body complaining about the dilly-dallying of the BOA regarding the elections.

The excuse of the BOA at the time was to avoid a conflict of interest between the elected federations and the ad-hoc ones.

The IOC's reply instructed BOA to hold an 'Elective General Assembly within two months after the London 2012 Olympic Games'.

However, BOA's director general M Wali Ullah claimed they have not been given any deadline by the IOC.

"We have been instructed by the IOC to hold a general assembly and election at an

opportune time. We held an emergency meeting recently where we decided to hold the elections sometime in late November or early December," said Wali Ullah.

"We will only go for the BOA elections once we get elected representatives from all our affiliated federations. Besides, we have sent the IOC a draft of a new statute of BOA with some changes in the existing statute for IOC's approval. And if they vet that statute we can go about holding the elections according to the new statute. Otherwise we will hold the elections as per the old statute," said Wali Ullah, adding that he deem it important to let the IOC know that some of the federations in the country are being run by ad-hoc committees.

However, the IOC in a letter dated March 30 2012, instructed the BOA to follow the standard procedure instead of bringing the issue directly to them. In the letter it clearly stated that the BOA should seek clearance from the respective International Federations (IFs) regarding their valid representation.

But the BOA, it seems, wants to buy more time for some inexplicable reason with time running out.

## Pathan blows SL away

AFP, Colombo

Irfan Pathan grabbed five wickets as India prepared for the World Twenty20 with a 26-run victory over hosts Sri Lanka in a warm-up match in Colombo on Saturday.

The paceman finished with 5-25 off four overs as India bowled Sri Lanka out for 120 after posting 146-5. He was superbly backed by fast bowler Lakshmipathy Balaji, who took three wickets for 28 runs.

Kumar Sangakkara top-scored for Sri Lanka with 32.

India were struggling at 51-4 before skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (55 not out) and Rohit Sharma (37) propped up the innings with a 78-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Dhoni cracked three sixes and four boundaries in his

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim (3rd from R) poses for a photograph with the eleven other captains in front of the World T20 trophy, which all of them will be fighting for come September 18, in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP