

DHAKA T

## Blame it on Ferguson

Man United came away from Anfield with a 2-1 win and kept a 10-man Liverpool winless through their first five matches of the season. The referee tested the pre-match goodwill of the Hillsborough tribute and Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra finally shaking hands with several major calls that went against Liverpool starting with Jonjo Shelvey's straight red in the 39th minute for a lunging challenge on Jonny Evans, who went for the ball with two feet himself. As Shelvey walked off, he exchanged words with Sir Alex Ferguson, accusing him of influencing the officials' decision.



## BANGLADESH

Played: 23  
Won: 9  
In 2012  
Played: 7  
Won: 4  
**HEAD TO HEAD**  
**0: 5**  
Average score: 128  
**KEY PLAYER**



**Tamim Iqbal**  
Matches: 22  
Runs: 419  
Average: 20  
50s: 2  
4s: 49  
6s: 3  
Highest: 69 not out  
St rate: 99.52  
The Tigers will need to set a huge target against Pakistan to keep their hopes of qualifying in the Super Eights alive. They'll depend on their left-handed opener to give them a fiery start.  
**SURPRISE PACKAGE**  
**Ziaur Rahman**  
The lanky batsman may not have come to the party as yet, but his ability to hit boundaries might make Bangladesh send him up the order.



# 'Nothing to lose'

PHOTO: AFP  
Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim gloves a spectacular diving catch during training at Pallekele Stadium yesterday. But Mushfiqur and his men would have to do even better in every aspect in their crunch World T20 match against Pakistan today to have any chance of progressing to the Super Eights.

BISHWAJIT ROY from Kandy

Bangladesh have to play their best T20 match if they want to turn the tables against mighty Pakistan in their second and final group match and qualify for the Super Eights of the ICC World Twenty20. A win will not be good enough for the Tigers; they have to win the match by a margin that apparently seems beyond their reach but Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim looked as confident as he could be because he did not want to lose the match without any fight against top favourites Pakistan. The little man was going with the popular saying, while speaking to the media in the pre-match briefing yesterday, that 'nothing is impossible' in the game of cricket. "We know that only a win will not be enough for us. We have to win the match by 36 runs or greater if we bat first while we have to wait for the finish of the first innings for

Visit : [www.clemonsports.com](http://www.clemonsports.com)  
Win **Samsung Galaxy SIII** & many more lifestyle goodies

the calculations if we bowl first. Apparently we have to achieve the target within 15 to 17 overs if we bat second. We are planning according to the situation because our main motto is to qualify for the second round," said a confident Mushfiqur. "Nothing is impossible in cricket, especially in the T20 format and you know Pakistan is not an unbeatable team. You never know, we can achieve our target if we play our best cricket tomorrow. The equation is very simple; we can gain plenty from the match and there is nothing to lose for

us and it will be a great achievement if we can do something in tomorrow's match," added the wicketkeeper-batsman saying that England were even bowled out for 80 against India the other day. Mushfiqur however was very much aware of Pakistan's strength but the Tigers have had the experience of playing against them recently in the Asia Cup in March this year and also playing with their key players during the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). "We played a very good final against Pakistan in the Asia Cup at home (where Bangladesh lost by 2 runs) and we know their strength as a team. On the other hand we also have a Pakistani spin bowling coach in Saqlain Mushtaq but the bottom line is that our application in the middle must be right if we want to win the match," explained Mushfiqur. "Saeed Ajmal is the main threat and the leading wicket-taker

## PAKISTAN

Played: 59  
Won: 36  
In 2012  
Played: 9  
Won: 5  
**HEAD TO HEAD**  
**5: 0**  
Average score: 169  
**KEY PLAYER**



**Mohammad Hafeez**  
Matches: 45  
Runs: 763  
Bat ave: 23.12  
Bowling ave: 20.25  
50s: 2  
Wickets: 16  
Highest: 57  
St rate: 110.26  
Of the 16 wickets, 5 of Hafeez's scalps have come against Bangladesh. Of the three times that Hafeez played against Bangladesh, he dismissed Tamim twice.  
**SURPRISE PACKAGE**  
**Shoaib Malik**  
The Hafeezes and Afridis have dominated the all-rounders' position for a long time. Malik, however, on his day has the potential to tear apart any team.

# Fitness scare for Tigers Bowling key for Pak

SPORTS REPORTER from Kandy

Bangladesh got a little jolt yesterday ahead of today's do-or-die clash against Pakistan as pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza suffered an injury during practice and star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan skipped training as he was not feeling good. National team physio Vibhav Singh however said that the setbacks suffered by the two key players was not serious and he was hopeful that both will be available for selection as there was enough time for them to recover. The injury-prone Mashrafe suffered the injury during a fielding session at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium yesterday as a throw

from Jahurul Islam hit him on the right shinbone and cut his skin. Ice was applied to reduce the swelling and leg pain. "At the moment it does not look very serious. We rested him from training after the incident and the area where the ball hit him has been covered by the ice bag," said Singh about Mashrafe's injury. "We have no plans of going for an MRI or any other investigation at this stage. We will see how he feels in the morning and only then decide. The main thing is we have to wait till morning to know whether he can play or not but I'm hopeful," Singh added. Regarding Shakib's absence, he said: "He was not feeling very well so we decided to leave him in the hotel. We only had a light training session today,

so Shakib was relieved. It is not that he has any stomach bug or other injury. He is quite fine and will play tomorrow." When contacted the player himself also said that there was no particular reason, but he was feeling under the weather. "I skipped training as I'm not feeling good, that's all," said Shakib, who failed in the first match against New Zealand which Bangladesh lost by 59 runs. The Bangladesh team management have been thinking of making one change to the team that played against New Zealand; young pacer Abul Hossain may come in place of left-arm spinner Elias Sunny. But if Mashrafe fails to recover in time they will certainly have to ring in more changes to team composition as well as strategy.

BISHWAJIT ROY from Kandy

Pakistan is in an advantageous position not only because they are well ahead in strength than opponents Bangladesh but also because of the difficult equation the Tigers have to overcome to qualify for the Super Eights of the ICC World Twenty20. But Pakistan skipper Mohammad Hafeez is not ready to take anything for granted when they take on Bangladesh in the last Group D match at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium today. "We are not thinking as if we have already qualified [for the Super Eights]. We have to play well against Bangladesh, who we know can come hard. On certain days in T20, anybody can win. We are not going to take anyone easy," said Hafeez, affectionately called "the professor", during a pre-match press

conference at Pallekele yesterday. "All the boys are focused. The most important thing as a unit is that every player wants to do well for Pakistan and is working hard and every man is ready to perform under pressure," he added. Pakistan's main strength is their bowling, especially the variety in their spin attack, but their batting also clicked against New Zealand in their first game which they won by 13 runs. "I am really pleased with our bowling options. The best thing for me as a captain is that whenever I ask someone, he is ready to take the pressure," said Hafeez. "We have different spinners in our side. [Shahid] Afridi is a totally different spinner from Bangladesh's spinners, they rely more on left-arm spin. [Saeed] Ajmal is always difficult for any batsman to pick with his doosra. We rely on them as match-winners. I am happy the way Afridi came up against

**GLOBATT**  
THE DRIVE WITHIN

**WI-WIRE SCOREBOARD**

IRELAND	R	B	4	6
Porterfield b Edwards	0	1	0	0
Stirling c Gayle b Sammy	19	16	3	0
Joyce b Narine	17	19	3	0
N O'Brien b Gayle	25	21	0	1
Wilson c Ramdin b Gayle	21	22	3	0
K O'Brien b Rampaul	13	15	0	1
Johnston not out	15	10	0	1
Jones not out	14	11	0	1
Extras: (lb-2, w-2, nb-1)	5			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 19 overs) 129				
Did not bat: Cusack, Sorensen, Dockrell.				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-33, 3-37, 4-70, 5-96, 6-107.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	3	0	23	1
Rampaul	4	0	20	1
Sammy	3	0	23	1
Narine	4	0	21	1
Russell	2	0	19	0
Gayle	3	0	21	2

WEST INDIES: Gayle, Charles, Bravo, Samuels,

## More friendlies for booters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is set to give the national booters more international exposure hosting Thailand and Nepal national teams at home and travelling to Thailand for an away fixture within the next few months. Bangladesh played their first international friendly match on September 20 against Nepal and the performance of booters in that match seemed to have encouraged the BFF to host two more international matches in November or December. "Thailand is eager to host Bangladesh for which we will have to confirm the date. I have asked the chairman of National Teams Committee to fix a date and inform me as I am leaving for Zurich tonight to attend FIFA's marketing committee meeting," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday. Salahuddin is supposed to meet with the Thailand Football Federation president in Zurich where he will confirm the date for the away fixture. Thailand is also eager to play a match in Bangladesh, Salahuddin told. The BFF boss also informed that they were trying to hold a friendly match against Nepal before the start of the professional football league which is scheduled to get underway in November. Apart from the national team commitments, the BFF will also send Bangladesh U-23 team to Sri Lanka in November for a tournament where all member nations of SAARC are being invited by the Sri Lanka Sports Ministry.



Bangladesh A team's left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr. displays the ball with which he demolished the West Indies High Performance team during their 4-day match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Enamul finished with figures of 7 for 45 in 19 overs.

PHOTO: STAR

## 7-star Enamul revives hosts

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A seven-wicket haul by Enamul Haque Jr. brought Bangladesh A back into the four-day game as the West Indies High Performance side were scuttled out in 44 overs for a mere 144 runs on the second day of the 4-day match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. In reply, the home-side took a lead of 140 runs and reached stumps on the second day with the score on 88 for 3. The slow left-arm bowler, who is battling to win a place in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

**CLEAR MEN**  
BREAKTHROUGH IN MEN'S SCALP CARE

ICC WORLD T20 TODAY'S MATCH

MATCH	TIME	VENUE
Bangladesh v Pakistan	8:00pm	Pallekele

## New water at World T20

AFP, Colombo

World Twenty20 organisers have changed the bottled water supplier and called in food inspectors to check the spread of suspected gastro virus at the tournament, officials said on Monday. Several players from New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa and Australia have reportedly been treated for stomach bugs since their arrival in Sri Lanka, with Kiwi Tim Southee even requiring hospital treatment for dehydration. An International Cricket Council (ICC) spokesman said the brand of bottled water used by players and

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4