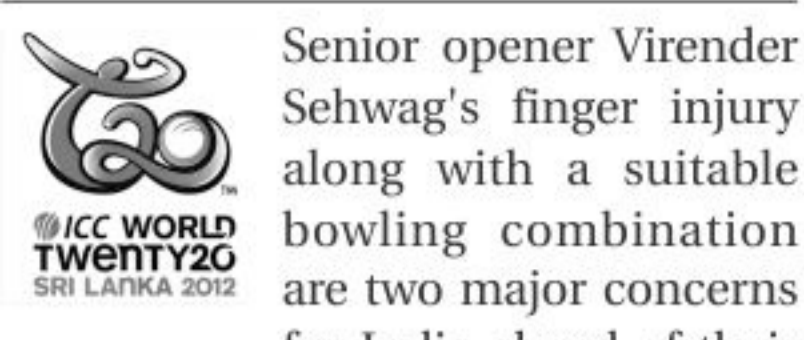


# Veeru gives a headache

PTI, Colombo



Senior opener Virender Sehwag's finger injury along with a suitable bowling combination are two major concerns for India ahead of their opening Super Eight Game against Australia in the ongoing World Twenty20.

The swashbuckling opener, who was hit on the knuckles while batting in the nets prior to England game, didn't bat during the three-hour net session on Tuesday.

Although the extent of the injury is not known but Irfan Pathan padding up before everyone does raise doubts about Sehwag's availability.

According to sources in the team, the senior batsman is fine and was only rested so that it doesn't aggravate his injury before the Australia game.

The other worrying factor is the bowling combination that will be

deployed against the mighty Aussies. The five-bowler theory worked wonders for India during their 90-run victory over England but Dhoni, with his fetish for playing seven batsmen, might as well revert back to his tried, tested and much-debated formula.

Harbhajan Singh's brilliant performance against England has helped him seal his spot in the playing XI for India's opening Super Eight fixture against Australia on September 28.

The Turbanator's presence has always intimidated Australians and it is unlikely that he will be left out against a batting line-up that has top quality left-handers like David Warner, Michael Hussey.

Harbhajan though didn't bowl at the nets on Tuesday, is likely to bowl during the next two days. While Ravichandran Ashwin is certain to make a comeback in the playing XI in place of Ashok Dinda, the main question remains about the fate of an out-of-form Zaheer Khan.

Having been rested for the England game, the veteran seamer is completely looking out of place in the T20 set-up. Although he bowled for an hour at the nets, Zaheer looked gingerly.

His batting has deteriorated considerably and he has been a liability in the field of late. If Zaheer plays, then for the cushion, Dhoni might decide to play five bowlers.

In case Zaheer finds a place in the four-bowler set-up, then Lakshminarayanan Balaji might find himself out of the playing XI as Irfan is a certainty in the side for his all-round abilities.

On the day, dope tests were conducted on Harbhajan, Ashwin and Sehwag during the practice session.

According to team manager R N Baba, this was a "routine procedure" and the players were picked randomly as is the case with each and every training session during an ICC tournament.

## Ladi Babalola is back

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Nigerian footballer Ladi Babalola has been appointed the head coach of Brothers Union for the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League. The Mohammedan striker of late 90s had his first session with the Boys in Orange on Monday at the Brothers Union ground.

The 40-year old Nigerian has a UEFA diploma course on coaching and has coached four different clubs in Finland before heading to Bangladesh to take charge of Brothers Union.

"We have been confirmed by the BFF technical director that Ladi's UEFA diploma will meet the criteria the professional football league committee has set for appointment," said Brothers Union football manager Amer Khan yesterday.

Ladi was well-known in Dhaka's football scene as the striker spent four seasons -- 1995, 96, 98 and 2000 with the Black and Whites outfit.

Recalling sweet memories of that time, Ladi said he kept himself abreast of the latest updates of Bangladesh football and came back for the popularity of the game here.

Brothers Union football manager Amer Khan said that they were going to form a better side compared to the one last season as they have retained the services of Malek, Anik, Javed, Jamal, Rogu, Tara while Ashraf and Yousuf have made a return to the old tent.

Brothers have also confirmed some fresh blood like Shahin, Gafur, Shaifit who were remarkable performers in the second-tier Bangladesh Championship League last season.

## LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Gopalganj set up a final clash against Netrokona in the Walton Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament, thanks to a 3-1 win over Narayanganj in the second semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Milon scored two goals for the winning side and the third was an own goal. Rubel scored the consolation goal for Narayanganj. Earlier, Netrokona booked their berth in the final beating Gazipur 3-2 in tiebreaker in the first semifinal on Monday.

The final match will be held at 3:15pm on Sunday at the same venue. Satellite channel ATN Bangla will telecast the match live.

### Javed B chess champion

FM Mohammad Javed became unbeaten champion in the 38th Access Group National Chess B Championship after drawing against Robin in the 11th and final round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Javed secured 8.5 points from 11 matches. FM Mehdi Hasan finished second despite having earned 8.5 points while 12 players shared the third position with eight points each as standings were decided by tiebreaking system.

Top nine finishers of the B Championship will now join five grandmasters Niaz Murshed, Ziaur Rahman, Reefat Bin Sattar, Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Razib in the final round of National Chess Championship.

### Div-I hockey

Dhaka Wanderers Club emerged Group B champions with all-win record to reach the 'Super Four' of the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League beating Uttara Hockey Club 3-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Mohammad Mohsin scored a brace while Nitin Kumar Sharma scored the other goal for the winners. Miraz reduced the margin for Uttara Club from a penalty corner. In the second match of the day at the same venue, Dhaka Railway edged past Shishu Kishor Sangha, courtesy of Mohammad Touhiduzzaman's goal in the 34th minute.

### Igloo school handball

Vikarunnissa Noon School and Banani Bidyaniketon School won in the girls' group of the Igloo U-12 Boys and Girls School Handball Tournament at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali Stadium yesterday. Vikarunnissa thrashed Green Herald 13-1 while Bidyaniketon breezed past South Point School by 22-0 points. Razaragh Police Lines School drew 3-3 with Summerfield School.

In the boys' section, DPS STS defeated Play Pen School 4-3, Manarat International School beat Summerfield 15-2, Willes Little Flower outplayed Banani Bidyaniketon 7-3, BIS beat Dhanmondi Tutorial 13-5, Scholastica thrashed Heed International 15-2 and Residential Model School

## Abahani likely to recruit Colman

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani is likely to sign up Argentinean trainer Ariel Colman for the upcoming season as the club managements thinks of appointing the South American along with either Iranian coach Ali Akbar or a local coach.

"We have discussed about the appointment of a coach as well as a trainer yesterday and the management has sought a couple of days to finalise the decision regarding coach and trainer," said Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu.

Rupu informed that Ali Akbar and Colman have been in touch with the club management as both of them are eager to join the champion club.

Ali Akbar guided Abahani to their fourth professional league title last season while Colman worked with the Bangladesh national football team under Argentinean coach Diego Andres Cruciani and Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido.

## Backfiring

FROM PAGE 16  
overs the Tigers lost that crucial segment of the game. Two or three more overs of tight line and length bowling could perhaps have put pressure on the Pakistan openers and resulted in some false shots. If it was just a lack of skill that let them down then it would have been acceptable, but it seemed that it was the mental side of their game that really fell short.

Abul Hossain, the third pacer in the team, tried to do the same thing and was equally punished.

If it was indeed a plan to bowl bouncers it was a foolish one, particularly because anyone involved with cricket had seen and should have learnt from Nazir's exploits against the short ball during the Bangladesh Premier League T20 earlier this year. But to carry on with a foolish plan is even more blameworthy, and that is what Mashrafe and Shafiq were guilty of -- persisting with their mode of attack even after being repeatedly dispatched for four and six.

T20 cricket is often denigrated as a lighter version of the real game, but it does promote and reward flexibility in thought and action. And cricket at large rewards those players who understand and accept their limitations -- bowling bouncers continually when one does not have quite enough pace is a sign of ignoring those very limitations. After three months of playing T20s exclusively the Tigers do not seem to have taken that basic lesson to heart. Instead it is the well-worn tale of Shakib's heroic exploits being wasted by his teammates not being mentally up to the mark as another tournament falls by the wayside.

## Spinners give

FROM PAGE 16  
was caught at mid-on while trying to pull a bouncer bowled by Shahadat Hossain. Andre Fletcher, who scored a half-century in the first innings, was trapped in front in the 13th over, after he failed to read Sajib's arm-ball. Kyle Hope and Marlon Barclay steadied the ship with a 55-run partnership. However, the visitors lost the next four wickets for just 12 runs.

Earlier, the hosts added another 98 runs to their overnight score of 81 before getting bowled out. Naem Islam played an extremely cautious 60 of 213 balls before getting caught behind at the end of the innings. A quick 25 by Enamul, an innings that included five boundaries, took the lead to 239 at the stroke of tea.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 199 all out in 87.1 overs (Mominul 50, Rokibul 32; Cotterrell 4-15, Warrican 2-32). Second innings 186 all out in 87.5 overs (Naem 60, Rokibul 35, Mominul 27; Permaul 4-44, Sheldon 2-15).

**WEST INDIES HP:** First innings 147 all out in 43.5 overs (Fletcher 51, M Barclay 22; Enamul 7-45, Saqlain 2-43). Second innings 120 for 6 in 39 overs (Hope 52, Barclay 33; Saqlain 4-27, Shahadat 1-9)

## We failed to back up

FROM PAGE 16  
branded Pakistan and West Indies as the favourites in this tournament.

"Actually we played badly in the first match against New Zealand as we were nervous but I think we showed some character in the second match, especially in our batting, so we can take some positives from here," said Mushfiq.

The little man however said that things could have been different had Abul Hasan taken the catch off Imran Nazir on the first ball of the second over.

"If we got the breakthrough as early as that then it could have been a different scenario," he observed.

He also felt sorry as Shakib's great knock of 84 that guided Bangladesh to 175 after batting first ultimately went in vain.

"It's a privilege to play with a player like Shakib. I think he played a tremendous knock and almost single-handedly took us in a position from where we could do something against Pakistan but we failed to support him to make him a hero in the match which is really frustrating," said a

dejected Mushfiq.

"Shakib is the best player Bangladesh has ever produced. It would be great for Bangladesh cricket if he remains fit enough to play for the next five-six years without any break," he added.

The Tigers return home tonight.

## WI warn England

BBC ONLINE, London

West Indies captain Darren Sammy has warned England that his team can play "unbeatable" World Twenty20 cricket.

Reigning T20 world champions England face Sammy's side in their first Super Eight game in Pallekele on Thursday.

West Indies knocked out Ireland to reach this stage and all-rounder Sammy told BBC Sport: "I'm quite confident that we can go all the way in this tournament."

"When we left the Caribbean, we left with one goal -- to win the World T20."



Russian glamourgirl Maria Sharapova celebrates her victory against Heather Watson of Britain in their second round match of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Tuesday. Sharapova won 6-7, 6-3, 6-4.

PHOTO: AFP

## Sharapova in Round 3 Disappointed

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

French Open champion Maria Sharapova needed more than three hours to beat Heather Watson of Britain on Tuesday for a place in the third round at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament.

The Russian lost a service break while up twice in each set before finally taking the tie 6-7 (7/9), 6-3, 6-4.

Sharapova, 25, struggled with her serve, hitting three double faults in the 10th game of the first set, having to save two set points against her.

She again hit three double faults, one while at advantage on set point at 6-5, and then missed two more points to take the set before losing it, hitting a service return into the net.

But the world number two rallied, attacking Watson's second serve to hit a total of nine service return winners and finish off the match.

"I was not consistent enough. I had opportunities to win the first set and I didn't said Sharapova. "It wasn't the best quality match."

The Russian hit nine aces but also had 14 double faults.

## Only a fit Rafa will return

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal said in an interview published on Tuesday that he has not picked up a racket since limping out of Wimbledon nearly three months ago and will only return to competition once he is fully fit.

"I'm not in any state to go on court at the moment. I haven't touched a racket but I am working hard every day," he was quoted as saying in an interview with four European newspapers, including French sports daily L'Equipe.

Nadal has been on the sidelines since his shock second-round exit at Wimbledon to unheralded Czech player Lukas Rosol in late June and has been receiving treatment for a torn tendon in his left knee.

The 26-year-old, whose injury has seen him miss the London Olympics, the Masters series events at Toronto and Cincinnati as well as the US Open, said he has been swimming every day to keep in shape and is also

"That certainly gave her a lot of confidence. I think that's the reason why the match was so long. My percentage [of first serves] was very low as well," said the second seed.

"So I put pressure on myself, I hit so many second serves. Certainly I have to improve for tomorrow," she added.

World number one Victoria Azarenka of Belarus maintained her good form to beat Tamira Paszek of Austria 6-1, 6-1.

Fourth seed Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic became the biggest casualty of the day when the 2011 Wimbledon champion crashed to a 6-4, 6-4 defeat to Petra Martic of Croatia.

A badly off-form Kvitova double-faulted three times to lose the opening game, again lost the first game of the second set to love and was never able to overcome an uphill battle throughout the 88-minute upset.

"She has a big serve and it is tough to push her. She kept me on the defensive and running a lot, and that's not my game. She played so well today, very aggressive," said Kvitova, 22.

Last year's French Open champion Li Na of China, seeded seventh, beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, while ninth seed Marion Bartoli of France defeated Germany's Julia Goerges 6-2, 7-5.

The expectations were so high that many came to Kandy to watch the Tigers from the stands. It was not only that the BCB officials came in their numbers to Sri Lanka but some cricket-crazy fans also didn't want to miss the Tigers' performance. But Bangladesh's performance in the first match against New Zealand disappointed them all, especially as the result left the Tigers an uphill task against top favourites Pakistan in their second and final group D match yesterday.

Ahmed Ishtiaq Himel, a young architect, was among them who came here with high hopes. "I hardly missed Bangladesh's matches at home because I love cricket. This is the first time that I came abroad to watch the Bangladesh cricket team's match because I had a belief that they will do something special in Sri Lanka, but their performance in the first game disappointed me," said Himel.

"I'm not alone but many others also came here to watch Bangladesh's match," added Himel. The direct flight from Dhaka to Colombo also made things easy for them.

The Tigers' performance so far might have frustrated them but they got their moneys' worth by exploring the beautiful hill city Kandy, an attractive place for tourists.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Oil cartel  
5 "Clue" weapon  
9 Long crosser  
12 Within reach  
13 Acknowledge  
14 Wall climber  
15 Major  
16 Yarbrough of NASCAR  
17 "A mouse!"  
18 Canal zone  
19 Sort  
20 Remedy  
21 Thither  
23 Spring mo.  
25 Sailing ship  
28 Titanic's resting place  
32 Attu dweller  
33 Blue hue  
34 Flight from danger

**DOWN**

36 "Annus Mirabilis" poet  
37 Started  
38 Blond shade  
39 Arrest  
42 Facial feature  
44 Look lasciviously  
48 Illustrations  
49 Director Apatow  
50 Authentic  
51 Id counterpart  
52 Exam format  
53 Run-down part of town

**10** Maintain  
**11** Youngster  
**20** Little Big Horn commander  
**22** Bizarre  
**24** Bartlett's, e.g.  
**25** "Humbug!"  
**26** Hearty brew  
**27** Rule, for short  
**29** Future bloom  
**30** Before  
**31** Lair  
**35** Urge, formally  
**36** Lag  
**39** Boxer Max  
**40** Incite  
**41** Halt  
**43** Hebrew month  
**45** Neuter  
**46** Praise highly  
**47** Red Muppet  
**49** Trot

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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C L O U D O B E S E  
W A H O O K A N E  
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### CRYPTOQUIP

ADLKEBD RX ASBB LSUBYKUYFX  
E U F D K B G D B I H S F D U Y  
K U Z D T S U R D H Z E D B B H R  
Z H I D U K U G S E T F X T K Z D .

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** I KNOW PEOPLE WHO FIND IT FUN TO DRILL HOLES THROUGH SOLID ROCK, BUT I CONSIDER IT BORING.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals M