

World T20

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after a long gap, West Indies last won a multi-nation ICC event in 2004 when they won the Champions' Trophy in England, while Sri Lanka last tasted global success when Arjuna Ranatunga led the country in 1996 to the 50-over World Cup of which they were a co-host.

Sri Lanka may have a slight edge as they have the support of their fans and are also the form team, having lost only one of their six matches, to South Africa in the first round. They also have the added psychological edge of having beaten their opponents in their Super Eights match by the sizeable margin of nine wickets.

But while they enter the final on a four-match unbeaten streak, they will be wary of a West Indies team packed to the brink with explosive hitters and a bowling attack that seems to have hit form at the right time, as their dismantling of a formidable Australian line-up in their semifinal on Friday proved. Also, during that semifinal the West Indies proved that they are unfazed by past results in the way they put their first-round loss to Australia out of their minds.

With West Indies in the final, the Chris Gayle factor is always a huge consideration. The powerful Jamaican hit an unbeaten 75 against Australia, an ominous sign for the home team as it shows that his appetite for runs is as big as ever. Then there are the likes of Marlon Samuels, Kieron Pollard -- who hit three sixes in the final over of the semifinal -- and Dwayne Bravo to contend with.

But if any team has the bowling to counter the aforementioned threats, it is Sri Lanka. They not only have two of the world's best T20 bowlers in pacer Lasith Malinga and mystery spinner Ajith Mendi, but also a slew of disciplined bowlers in Rangana Herath, Nuwan Kulasekara, Thisara Perera and all-rounder Angelo Mathews.

Their batting too is formidable, with the big three of a p a c i n M a h e l a J a y a w a r d e n e , K u m a r Sangakkara and Tillakaratne Dilshan invariably pulling off special performances.

West Indies, who are more characterised by flair than discipline, have a mystery spinner of their own in Sunil Narine. Pacer Ravi Rampaul has also been hitting form, spinner Samuel Badree has proved incisive and economical, while Samuels has proved to be one of the better 'death overs' spinners with his speared-in full deliveries.

It is a final that pits flair against discipline, inspiration versus perspiration. In Twenty20 cricket, much depends on who performs better on the day. Sri Lanka have the consistency, but West Indies carry the threat of the unexpected. Either way, the ICC World Twenty20 will have a new winner.

Written tests

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schedule, PSC sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, AYM Nesar Uddin, controller of examinations (cadre) of PSC, said the exams were postponed under "unavoidable" circumstances.

"We don't want to put the candidates into confusion," he said in response to a question if the written test was postponed due to question leak.

Fresh exam schedule will be announced at a convenient time, he informed.

The postponement decision came at a meeting of the commission held in the afternoon, insiders say.

The PSC on June 28 published the preliminary test results of the 33rd BCS examination with 28,917 candidates qualifying for written tests.

Around 1.93 lakh applicants attended the first-round at 142 centres across the country on June 1.

The PSC on February 29 this year published the circular for 33rd BCS examination to fill up 4,206 vacant posts, said the PSC officials.

Of the total vacant posts, 2,905 are in professional and technical cadres, 582 in general cadre, 607 in education cadre (general), and 112 in education cadre (technical).



Dressed like hooligans, these people are actually working with brass. The sparks and the fume generated while they polish the metal give them burns on the skin and breathing difficulties. With no proper safety gears provided to them, these men have to improvise. It is unknown how effective their self-made gear is but it is safe to say they are more in danger themselves than being dangerous to others. They often fall sick and with only Tk 4,000 a month wage, they cannot afford proper treatment either.

This photo and the one on page 1 were taken from a small workshop in Jatrabari in the capital where there are many such workshops.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hall-Mark seeks

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though Hall-Mark claims of owning 34 factories.

They said a factory of 40 lines or two factories of 20 lines each can produce and export \$50 million worth of garments a year.

A businessman need not own 35 factories to achieve such a target in over five years, mentioned Anwar, also a former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Statistics of Hall-Mark says its total exports were \$55 million between early 2007 and May this year.

An investigation by the Bangladesh Bank in May this year detected irregularities in the way the company took out loans of Tk 2,686 crore from the Ruposhi Bangla branch of the Sonali Bank. Since then all commercial banks stopped funding the group.

Banks do not even want to open any Letter of Credit (L/C) in favour of the company, which is imperative to export products.

Tushar Ahmed, general manager (commercial) of Hall-Mark Group, said they started export in 2007 with Hall-Mark Fashion and added six factories in 2008.

During a visit to the Hall-Mark factories at Hemayetpur in Savar in August, Tushar told this correspondent that they have export orders in hand worth only \$7 million (Tk 56 crore), a much lower figure than the group cited to Sonali Bank about its export potentials.

Last week he admitted applying for the fresh loans.

Besides his chairman and managing director, Tushar is one of the principal accused in several cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission for the loan scam.

Garments exporters, who are in business for more than two decades, are surprised to see how the little-known group with a small export figure was granted the loan in just two years.

Exporters said Tanvir Mahmud, owner of Hall-Mark Group, in the loan documents showed his factories' capacity many times higher than the reality to deceive the bank and swindle depositors' money.

According to BGMEA members' directory, Hall-Mark Denim Composite's annual capacity has been shown at 3.5 lakh dozen or 42 lakh pieces a year. If a piece is exported at a minimum price of \$3, this factory alone can fetch \$12.6 million a year.

Yearly production capacities of Hall-Mark Design, Hall-Mark Denim Fashion and Hall-Mark Fashion have

Fake note

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been shown 48 lakh, 42 lakh and 54 lakh pieces respectively.

"If these four factories are run on 60 percent capacity, they together can earn \$50 million a year from exports," said Iqbal Hossain, another worker.

He also suspected many of the Hall-Mark factories are paper-based, but the bank failed to detect that.

"How could Sonali Bank lend such a big amount of depositors' money to Hall-Mark without checking its production capacity and exports?" questioned Parvez.

Exporters also said to run so many factories, Hall-Mark requires efficient people in its management. But the businessmen do not know any such skilful person in the Hall-Mark's upper ranks.

Drug addict

FROM PAGE 1

The child's parents lived separately in Old Dhaka's Suritola area. Johny took the child, Ahad, from his mother on Thursday evening, saying he would show Ahad around the area, said Ahad's maternal grandfather Abul Hossain.

Both of them had gone missing since then, he added. Shanta's relatives went to Johny's house in search of the child but found neither Ahad nor anybody else there.

On Friday evening, Shanta and her relatives went to Bangshal Police Station to file a general diary in this connection. It was then that the police told Shanta about the child's body found at Osmany Udayan.

Shanta and her relatives contacted Shahbagh police that night. She came to the DMC morgue yesterday noon and identified the body.

Morgue sources said the boy was strangled to death.

After the post mortem, the body was taken to Suritola. The child was buried at Azimpur graveyard yesterday evening.

Before the burial, a procession was brought out in Suritola and it paraded the area for about half an hour, demanding Johny's arrest and punishment.

Johny and Shanta got secretly married six years ago. When their marriage came to light, Johny wanted to take Shanta to his house but his family opposed it, Ahad's grandfather said.

The couple often had arguments over the matter and Johny wanted to divorce Shanta. Johny had recently been addicted to drugs, added the grandfather.

Police raided Johny's Suritola house but could not find any of the accused.

Perpetrators

FROM PAGE 1

The prime minister, however, did not elaborate whether the administration had got entire video footage of the mayhem in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong on September 29 and had already circulated fake currencies worth Tk 25 crore in the capital and elsewhere of the country.

Of the detainees, Shaheen was earlier held for four times and Babu thrice over the same charge. "But they resumed business after acquiring bail from the courts," he added.

The criminals involved in the business of fake currencies intensified their activities targeting the upcoming Durga Puja and Eid, said ADC Mashir.

According to officials of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), many other gangs involving several hundred people are active in the making of fake currencies, including Bangladeshi taka, Indian rupee and US dollar.

Police sources said in last five years, they arrested over 500 people for their involvement in making fake notes while Rab arrested 1,213 people from January 2007 till

However, many of those, who had been arrested several times, resumed their businesses soon after they came out of the jail on bail from the courts.

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His spacesuit fitted with

bring the instigators and attackers to book, the prime minister said the heinous incidents were aimed at creating chaos throughout the country to destroy Bangladesh's image as a nation of religious harmony and to hinder the ongoing war crimes trial.

A mob of religious zealots went on the rampage in Ramu of Cox's Bazar on the night of September 29, leaving 12 temples and monasteries and over 50 houses destroyed. The violence was apparently triggered by a Facebook posting of a photo derogatory to the holy Qur'an.

The next day, two monasteries and a Hindu temple were vandalised in Patiya upazila of Chittagong, two monasteries torched in Ukhia and five houses set ablaze in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar.

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Bangladesh Buddha Kristi Prachar Sangha, the Buddhist delegation urged her to take steps so that such incidents did not recur.

They also expressed satisfaction over the government's action following the incidents.

The Buddhist leaders submitted to the prime minister the report of their own investigation.

They said they had found three motives behind the mayhem -- making the Rohingya issue more complicated, foiling the war crimes trial and destabilising the country before the next polls.

Hasina called upon the Buddhist leaders to have patience and to keep vigil so that none could misuse Facebook and also not to overreact to anything in the social networking site.

Led by Shuddhananda Mahathero, president of

cameras recording his stomach-churning descent, will freefall for some five-and-a-half minutes before pulling his main parachute at 5,000ft. Some ten to 15 minutes later, with luck he will touch down battered but unbowed near Roswell.

If all goes well, the journey will take just under three hours. The biggest danger he faces on the way up is the risk of the balloon rupturing soon after take-off. If that happens, Fearless Felix won't have time to open the hatch and get out, and will come crashing down inside the capsule.

When it reaches the jumping height of 120,000ft - three times the altitude at which airliners fly - he will look out on a black rather than blue daytime sky while he waits for the final 'clear to jump' message from mission control.

The helium balloon is as high as a 55-storey building with a volume of 30million cubic feet. Made from strengthened plastic, it is a tenth of the thickness of a sandwich bag.

Baumgartner has limited space to move around in the capsule and the balloon will be largely steered remotely from mission control down on the ground.

Ahead of his grand finale, he has completed a couple of high-altitude dress rehearsals. In July, he leapt from 96,640ft - just 6,000ft shy of a world record set in 1960 by Joe Kittinger, a US air force test pilot.

As a safety precaution of sorts, his clever spacesuit will release a drogue parachute - a miniaturised version of the type used to slow fast-landing jets - to reduce his speed if its monitoring system senses he has lost consciousness.

It will take him just 40 seconds to go from zero to 700mph and break the sound barrier at an altitude of 100,000ft.

His spacesuit fitted with

Rain leads

FROM PAGE 1

always get along well with each other on the streets. The cops present there were actually on duty in front of the party office.

Those people stuck there due to rain eventually started talking about politics and the future of our country, without any fear and also censorship.

"Do you think anyone outside the BNP or the Awami League will be able to run the country?" a political activist triggered the talks throwing the question openly.

"Huh! Just give others the charge [of the government] for a while. They will realise the truth," quipped an intelligence personnel.

A newsman added, "It's true that most of the leaders of these two major parties are corrupt...Any group apart from these two parties will fail absolutely in running the country."

A police constable putting down his tea cup joined in, "Brother, all are busy looking for 'benefits'. I don't understand why the workers of the BNP and the Awami League fight each other."

A newsman replied, "Whatever! As of now, the BNP and the Awami League men always try to stand beside the people."

A member of an intelligence agency then mentioned the name of a former Awami League leader, who, according to him, was now trying to launch another party and was trying to become a civil society member.