

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 brim 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 Ajantha Mendis, 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 captain Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar 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 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

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 exporter.

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

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The child's parents lived separately in Old Dhaka's Suritola area. Johnny 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 Johnny'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 Johnny's arrest and punishment.

Johnny and Shanta got secretly married six years ago. When their marriage came to light, Johnny 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 Johnny wanted to divorce Shanta. Johnny had recently been addicted to drugs, added the grandfather.

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

Fake note

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laptop, two printers and a scanner, he said.

Quoting the detainees, Mashui said the ring members had been making fake bank bills at the house since September 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 bails 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 ADCMashiur.

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 date.

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

President

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The summit is scheduled to begin on Oct 15 and is expected to wrap up on Oct 17.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni would be attending the foreign ministers' meeting on October 14, official sources said.

Bangladesh will advance its agenda on poverty alleviation, increased economic cooperation, cooperation in disaster management, energy and mineral resources and environment at the meeting, ministry sources said.

The summit is expected to enhance cooperation among the Asian countries and the Gulf States in future, ministry sources said.

ACD was founded in Thailand in 2002 to promote interdependence among Asian countries by identifying Asia's common strengths and opportunities, expanding the trade and financial market and transform Asia into a community.

It also intended to integrate regional cooperation organisations such as ASEAN, SAARC and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Perpetrators

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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 the following day.

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.

Reiterating resolve to

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.

Pointing to the issue of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, she said it might also be behind the incident. "Efforts were taken internationally so that we allow Rohingyas to live in our country. But how can we do so when we have our own problems?" she mentioned.

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

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 said the government would provide all necessary assistance to rebuild the destroyed temples and houses before the "Prabarana Purnima" festival at the end of this month.

Austrian going to jump

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The sponsor Red Bull Stratos announced on Friday that the jump by extreme athlete Baumgartner, 43, have been moved from Monday to Tuesday. The jump can only be made if winds on the ground are under 2mph for the initial launch a balloon carrying Baumgartner.

No more than 20 minutes later, the world will know whether this audacious Austrian has become the first skydiver to break the sound barrier in the highest, fastest freefall descent in history.

If anything goes wrong - and despite five years of planning and training, there is plenty that could - it might get very, very messy.

The nightmare scenario that Felix's project director likens to a 'horror film' would involve his blood boiling, brain bursting and eyeballs popping out - all of it watched live via the internet around the globe.

Felix has clocked up 2,500 skydiving jumps, including one in which he became the first person to 'fly' across the English Channel, with carbon-fibre wings strapped to his back.

Baumgartner says his supersonic plunge will be the end of his 'journey' as a daredevil.

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.

A specially designed £125,000 spacesuit has an insulating exterior that can withstand extreme temperatures, and an airtight inner layer filled with pressurised oxygen.

The suit's 12lb chest pack contains monitoring and tracking equipment together with a voice transmitter so he can talk to mission control on the way down. The pack is connected to a device on his wrist that allows him to monitor his speed and altitude.

The capsule in which he'll make his ascent is 11ft high and 8ft in diameter, made from fibreglass strengthened by an internal metal frame, and weighs as much as a Volkswagen Beetle.

The air pressure inside the capsule will still be significantly lower than at sea level, and any kind of gas inside his body could prove extremely uncomfortable.

Weather permitting (the balloon material is so flimsy the ground level wind cannot be stronger than 2mph), the launch is scheduled for dawn on Tuesday, on a runway in the New Mexico desert.

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.

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 around 100,000ft.

His spacesuit fitted with

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.

Lutfur stays

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100 most influential figures from the Left 2012".

Lutfur is 68th in the ranking, reports The Telegraph.

A very active community leader, he became the first directly elected mayor of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, having been leader of the council for the previous two years, the newspaper wrote.

Despite being expelled by the Labour Party following his selection as mayoral candidate, he won as an independent with 51 percent of the vote.

Viewed as successful Mayor who is making great changes in the area, many in the Labour Party have called for him to be readmitted back into the party. But he regarded with huge suspicion by the leadership.

Rain leads

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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.

"I am sure had Sheikh Hasina offered the leader something 'profitable' or huge amount of money, the leader would have accepted it blissfully and stayed put," he added.

MBA student

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there declared him dead.

On information, Ramna police visited the hospital and questioned Poly, said Inspector Masiur Rahman.

Poly told the police that Shamim had stabbed himself during a heated argument with her husband Hafeez Al-Ahad at their Eastern Tower apartment in Eskaton. She claimed the argument was over Shamim's "relationship" with Hafeez's niece.

Later, police recovered a knife from the apartment and found traces of blood on the floor.

They suspect Shamim was murdered as it seemed to them someone had tried to wash the bloodstains to cover up the incident. That the knife was tucked away also raised their suspicions.

Razibur Rahman Hiron, another cousin of Shamim, said Hafeez never approved of Shamim's relationship with his niece. Recently, when his niece broke off her engagement to another man, Hafeez put the blame on Shamim.

Fayaz Ahmed, Shamim's brother, said Hafeez had phoned Shamim and asked him to go to his Eskaton house. He alleged that Hafeez had threatened to kill his brother in the past, but he did not know why.

Fayaz filed a murder case with Ramna Police Station last night, accusing seven persons including Hafeez and Poly.

In a late-night development, police arrested Poly and her niece.

Hafeez's whereabouts could not be known. Police suspect he might have taken his four-year-old son and gone into hiding.

Bangladesh

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followed by Vietnam and Colombia.

Bangladesh was higher up on the scale with two factors -- life expectancy and experienced well-being -- termed "mediocre" and ecological footprint -- another factor -- termed "good".

India showed mediocre life expectancy and well-being but a "good" ecological footprint. India's total HPI was 50.9.

The total HPI of Pakistan was calculated at 54.1.

The US scored low because of its ecological footprint, which was worse than the "poor" category. The life expectancy and well-being were, however, ranked "good". Afghanistan was ranked 109.

The countries which landed at the bottom of the Happiness Index were mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa.