Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho expressed sympathy for Roberto Di Matteo after he was sacked as manager of Mourinho's former club, Chelsea, on Wednesday.

Mourinho feels

for Di Matteo

"I'm never happy when a manager is sacked," said Mourinho, who was speaking after seeing Madrid book their place in the Champions League last 16 with a 1-1 draw at Manchester City. "I never enjoy when a manager is

sacked. I always feel sorry for him and his family, because our lives are very,



Patient WI make Tigers work

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

SAHARA Compared to the first day's drama courtesy of Bangladesh's early

collapse and then debutant Abul Hasan's record hundred, the second day was a dull affair. Marlon Samuels hit his fifth Test century, and with Darren Bravo batted cautiously and purposefully during their unbeaten third-wicket stand to put West Indies in a comfortable position at the end of the second day's play at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Earlier, the focus was on the two overnight batsmen Mahmudullah Riyad and Abul Hasan in the morning. After the glories of the first day many were hoping for something special on the second day too, namely a hundred by Riyad who was on 72 overnight. It would have been a prefect boost for the hosts after the way the stylish right-hander composed his innings and gave Hasan brilliant support to enter the history books, but the Bangladesh innings survived for only for 5.1 overs in the morning before being bundled out for 387 after resuming the day on 365-8.

The fantastic ninth wicket partnership ended on 184, the third highest ever for the ninth wicket and fifth highest for Bangladesh, as the classy Riyad was able to add only four to his overnight score before a checked drive was caught by the bowler, Darren Sammy.

Hasan followed his partner quickly but before that the 20-year old boy went past Reggie Duff for the highest individual innings by a debutant No. 10 batsman as he added 13 more to his overnight 100. Pacer Fidel Edwards had him fending a catch off his gloves to the slip cordon to finish with figures of 6 for 90, the third time he has done so in 55 Tests.

It was however a day for the visitors as they responded strongly to Bangladesh's respectable score, ending at 241 for two in 82 overs despite pacer Rubel Hossain and off-spinner Shohag Gazi removing openers Chris Gayle and Kieran Powell early to force West Indies to take lunch at 62 for 2.

It was a day of toil for the Bangladesh bowlers and even debutant pacer Abul Hasan had to bowl 14 overs without any success on a pitch that offered no assistance. They did not falter in their line and length but could not break the partnership between Samuels and Bravo, who added 198 in an unbeaten third wicket stand which gave the visitors a perfect platform to seize control of the match.

There was a lack of pace in the West Indies batting after the fall of the first two wickets as batting was not easy because of the slow nature of the pitch. Neither Samuels or Bravo played aggressively or went for their shots, although they are known as stroke-makers. Samuels remained not out on 109, his third century this year and fifth overall, while Bravo was not out on 85.

But the Bangladeshi bowlers deserve some praise because of the way they bowled in tough conditions and checked the two stroke-makers. However, skipper Mushfiqur Rahim may have been a little too defensive, which probably helped the two West Indian batsmen settle in the middle.

Rubel bowled brilliantly and produced some well-directed short balls, one of which hit Kieran Powell in the back of the head. Rubel and Hasan got some movement with the old ball but Samuels and Bravo never took any risks, although they were beaten on a few occasions. Shakib Al Hasan's bowling was much better than in the first Test and he bore the maximum SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels plays a hook during his unbeaten 109 on the second day of the second Test against Bangladesh at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Jurgensen in high spirits

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna



coach Shane Jurgensen praised his bowlers highly despite there being little to smile about on the second day of the second and final Test against West Indies at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium yesterday.

The patient batting from Marlon Samuels and Darren Bravo denied the Bangladesh bowlers, who were excellent in their line and length on a very unfavourable track. The pair added 198 runs for the unbeaten third-wicket stand. The question however was whether Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim could have been more attacking to unsettle the two batsmen who played uncharacteristically cautious knocks.

Jurgensen though defended his skipper and gave full credit to him for keeping the West Indies batsmen in

"I think he had a nice balance, people at short cover, people in close. They were getting a good partnership, but it was important we didn't give away too many runs. I thought his captaincy was excellent today. They batted well, but I was proud of the way the bowlers stuck to their plan. I thought our fielding was also fantastic," observed Jurgensen, who is mainly a specialist bowling coach.

He acclaimed the effort of pacer Rubel Hossain, whose one wicket was poor return for his fine performance. Jurgensen also praised Shakib Al Hasan for his improved bowling.

"Rubel was great today, really

attacking. The wicket has less bounce than Mirpur so it is hard work for fast bowlers. What I saw from him today, is what I need to see. He bowled at a good pace, he just kept the pressure on. Shakib has bowled better than the last Test," said the excited Bangladesh coach.

When asked about debutant paceman Abul Hasan's bowling, he said; "He was very nervous. It was his first bowl in a Test match, so he would have liked to be a little closer to the off-stump in the first over. As he bowled more and more, he was comfortable and got a good rhythm. It is a very tough wicket to be coming across in your first Test match."

But there was a cause for concern for Jurgensen after the way his top order batsmen gave away their wickets, especially after good starts. "I'd SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Windies looking to bat once

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna



West Indies captain Darren Sammy expressed his satisfac-

tion over the slow batting from the two not out batsmen Marlon Samuels and Darren Bravo. Batting almost the whole day West Indies scored 241 runs for the loss of two wickets in 82 overs before stumps were drawn. The score made the Caribbean skipper happy as he believed that they were in a good position after the second day's play at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium.

"It was a good day to see our guys take responsibility. We knocked two wickets out early this morning, and looked to bat ourselves to a good position. The way Marlon and Bravo put on a good partnership for us, it was good to see off the day's

play," said Sammy while talking at the post-day press conference yesterday.

"We as a team normally score quickly. The wicket looks easy to bat out there; the two guys have played really well. They would know the pace of the wicket, and the tempo in which they could score. They key is to bat once in this Test match. If the pair can give us a solid start, it would be good with the likes of Shiv (Shivnarine Chanderpaul) coming next," he added when asked whether they will bat at the same pace on the third day.

The ever-smiling visiting skipper said that how they bat today will determine how the Test goes. If they bat to their full potential, they will score over 500, 600 runs and take a 200-plus lead, after which they will try to take the ten Bangladesh SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Today's Score Card

365-8)

BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight Tamim b Sammy Nazimuddin c Powell b Edwards Shahriar c Ramdin b Sammy Naeem b Edwards Shakib c Ramdin b Edwards Mushfigur c Ramdin b Edwards Nasir c Edwards b Permaul Mahmudullah c & b Sammy Shohag Ibw b Edwards Hasan c Sammy b Edwards Rubel not out Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-1) Total: (All out out 91.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-64, 3-77, 4-93, 5-98,6-185,7-193,8-193,9-377.

Bowler Edwards Best Sammy Narine Permaul Samuels **WEST INDIES:** First innings Gayle c Mushfigur b Shohag Powell c Shakib b Rubel Bravo not out Samuels not out Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-1) 241 Total: (For 2 wkts in 82 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-43.

To bat: Chanderpaul, Ramdin, Sammy, Permaul, Narine, Best, Edwards Bowler

Rooftop galleries

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Cricket fans were watching the second day of the second Test between Bangladesh and West Indies on Thursday from the rooftop of every building adjacent to the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium. Most of the fans had gathered after hearing news of debutant Abul Hasan's historic century that had changed the whole complexion of the game.

Most of the buildings are adorned with the Bangladeshi flag and there is a steady stream of people coming in and out of the houses and eating food lending a festive atmosphere to the occa-

Tahmina Parvin, a housewife residing in Rokhsana Manzil, one of the buildings adjacent to the stadium said, "My house has turned into a festive mood centring around this cricket match.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

Bangladesh League resumes today

SPORTS REPORTER



The sixth Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League resumes today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with last season's runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad taking on

Brothers Union at 5:00pm. The league was suspended for six days following the engagements of the national football team who played two FIFA international friendlies against Thailand and

Malaysia on Nov 17 and 20 respectively. Though today's tie may sound like a high-voltage battle between two heavy weights but the fact is that both of the powerhouses have turned into mediocre sides and perhaps they will have to face intense battle this season

to save themselves from relegation. Despite that fact an entertaining encounter is expected as both sides are equal in term of strength and nevertheless Muktijoddha Sangsad will be hoping to SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

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