

Jose to face disgruntled fans

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho will confront the home fans who whistled him at their midweek King's Cup match by walking out alone onto the Bernabeu pitch 40 minutes before Saturday's La Liga match with Atletico Madrid.

"They applaud me, they whistle me, that's life in football," Mourinho said at a news conference on. "I'll go out onto the pitch tomorrow at 9.20 p.m. on my own," he added. "Those who want to whistle me they can do it."



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

CHARIOTS OF FIRE: The Tigers, having won the first ODI against West Indies by seven wickets, were all fired up in training yesterday at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. The second ODI of the series takes place today at the same venue.

Shakib out of series

SPORTS REPORTER
Shakib Al Hasan has been ruled out for rest of the series against the West Indies as the champion all-rounder has been advised to rest for six weeks after being diagnosed with shin injury. Shakib had earlier been ruled out for first two ODIs of the five-match series in Khulna following an MRI which revealed the injury. The decision was taken after his injury was reviewed at a city hospital yesterday. It has been decided that he will continue with the rehab programme for a stress reaction on his right tibia bone and will miss the

Unity Tigers' strength

Second ODI against West Indies today

SAKEB SUBHAN from Khulna
What a difference a day makes. On Thursday it was hard to imagine a way for Bangladesh to emerge triumphant in the first ODI of the five-match series against the West Indies. Friday's match at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna changed that perception as the Tigers put in a clinical performance to beat the

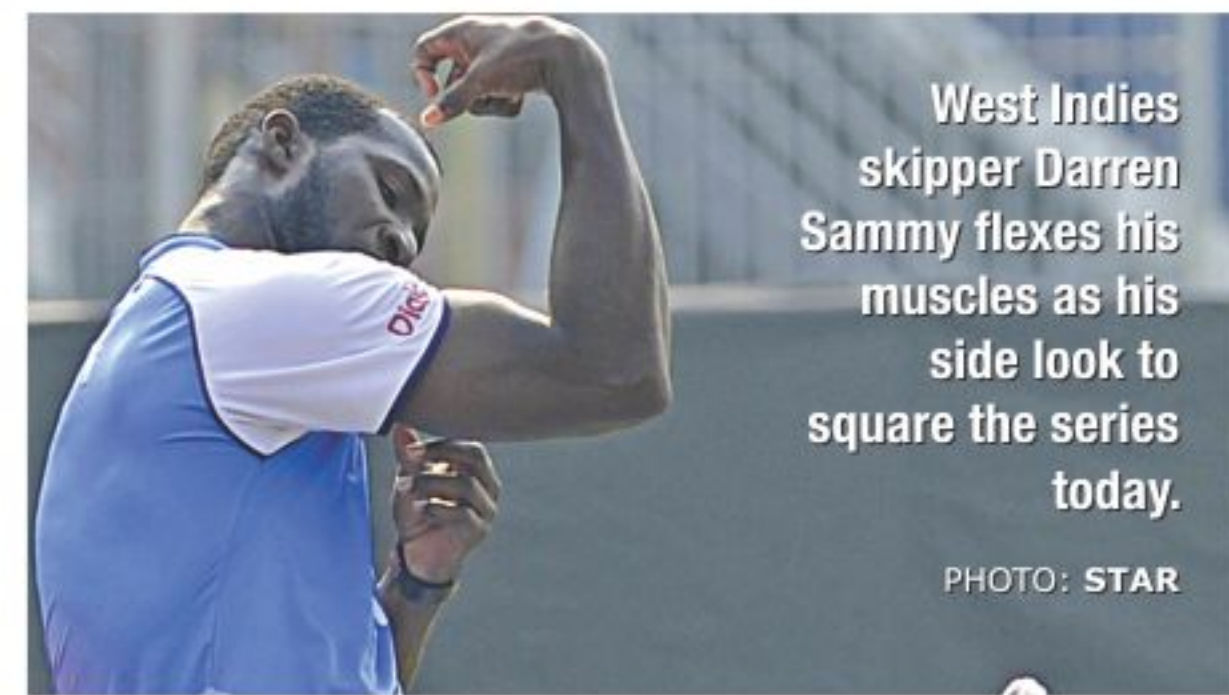
visitors by seven wickets. The consequence of that result is that now the buzz is all about how Bangladesh can repeat a feat thought well nigh impossible just two days ago when they take on West Indies in the second match here today. The whitewash in the Test series, which saw a dominant West Indies team brush aside a Bangladesh side that by no means disgraced themselves, entrenched the perception of West Indian superiority. So have the West Indians suddenly become a bad side, and Bangladesh an excellent one? The

answer, now that the hype surrounding West Indies has died down, lies in seeing the teams as what they are, especially in ODIs. The Asia Cup in March when Bangladesh almost won their first major tournament -- a tournament that had three cricketing giants in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka -- increasingly seemed like a watershed moment in Bangladesh cricket. That change was afoot was obvious even then when after beating India -- a result that would have sated appetites previously -- the then Bangladesh coach Stuart Law said that the result would count for nothing if they did not beat Sri Lanka and make the final. The Tigers' cele-

brated fast bowler Mashrafe Mortaza echoed that sentiment yesterday when asked whether the victory on Friday brought thoughts of a series victory, saying that thoughts of a series victory would have been there even if they lost. The Bangladesh that took the field picked up from their Asia Cup performance, and even without Shakib Al Hasan -- who was the man-of-the-tournament in the Asia Cup and has been ruled out of this series because of a shin injury -- put in a performance devoid of the hesitance that marked their formative years. It speaks of a good team culture

WOUNDED WI ready to hit back

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna
West Indies skipper Darren Sammy was very likely not expecting the result that he got from the first ODI at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on Friday. Judging by his press conference the previous day when he talked of a 5-0 result as the aim, a seven-wicket defeat to Bangladesh probably did not sit well with the team. Yesterday was supposed to be a rest day for West Indies ahead of the second match today, but perhaps the



West Indies skipper Darren Sammy flexes his muscles as his side look to square the series today. PHOTO: STAR

Talha, Mosharraf shine with ball

SPORTS REPORTER
Former national pacer Talha Jubair found form at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra as he finished with figures of 8 for 35, his best in first-class cricket, against Rangpur yesterday. The bowler, who was playing his third game of the league for Dhaka Metro, claimed that the morning dew in the wicket helped him swing the ball. "The wicket at Bogra, like majority of the others in the country is flat, but there was some movement in the early session and I utilised it by bowling in the right areas," said Talha in a telephonic conversation with The Daily Star. Meanwhile, Mosharraf Hossain's 7 for 55 demolished league leaders Khulna at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, with Khulna getting bowled out for 171. Twelve wickets fell at the BKSP on the first day as Sylhet were bowled out for 218 by Rajshahi, whereas Barisal finished the first day on 189 for 6 at the Sylhet Stadium.



Tamim Iqbal practises his short-arm jab as he looks to drive the Tigers to victory again today.

PHOTO: STAR

Good starts the key

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna
The key to Bangladesh's victory over the West Indies in the first ODI at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on Friday was that the team started excellently in both bowling and batting departments, and the heartening aspect was that they kept the momentum going throughout each innings. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Abul Hasan kept West Indies opener Chris Gayle and Lendl Simmons relatively quiet so that the rest of the team tried to attack the Tigers' strong suit -- their spinners. Speaking to the media on the day before the second ODI set to be played here today Mashrafe seemed neither surprised nor overjoyed at the Tigers' result as he knew that the challenge was not complete. A signifier of the changing Bangladesh cricketer was that even after such a comprehensive win the fast bowler, unprompted, talked about the areas Bangladesh can improve. "I would say that in the match we won yesterday, we can improve our bowling a bit. In the batting too I think we can improve a little -- we could have won the match more comfortably. I am not talking about the overs left, but it would have been better if the bats-

men scored bigger, those who got out after being set," said the Narail fast bowler who had tidy figures of 39 for one from nine overs. "But overall, it is very important to start a series with a win, against any team. So that is something to be happy about." Mashrafe was also of the opinion that it is very important to start well, especially against a team with as many explosive batsmen as West Indies, who apart from the feared Chris Gayle have other batsmen who can belt the cover off the ball. "Gayle plays a type of cricket in which he charges, then stays quiet for a while and then again charges. Most of their players play big shots. Personally I feel that when they play shots they play too many shots," thought Mashrafe. While stressing on the need for bowlers to start well, he pointed out a weakness that before the ODI series started not many had considered. "Yesterday when wickets were falling, they kept playing shots and getting out. So I think that the advantage with taking early wickets is that even under pressure they will hit out. So if wickets keep falling the pressure will build up, like yesterday. The alternative to taking wickets is keeping the runs in check early and create an advantage for the spinners. If we can get a wicket or two then the spinners' position will be even stronger. So if we bowl first

disappointment of the defeat drew half the team including Sammy to the stadium for a practice session in the afternoon. Among those who did not turn up were stalwarts Chris Gayle, Marlon Samuels and Kieron Pollard, but the message was clear -- the defeat hurt. "We didn't play the way we were supposed to play. Most of us, including myself, got out to aggressive shots which were not called for at the time," said Sammy about the match in which West Indies lost eight wickets for 92 runs between overs 10 and 35. "The shot selection wasn't good. We just had a bad day at the office. We are going to move on, come back strong and look to win the game." Sammy admitted that a bit of complacency may have crept in. "There's no panic. We admitted that probably we got a little complacent and Bangladesh seized on the opportunity. It was one day in a five-match series. We have been playing good cricket for the last 6-12 months. We know what we have to do, put runs on the board. Our batsmen have been responsible for the last few series and our bowlers have backed it up. We have to get it right tomorrow," he said. While maintaining that they respect all opposition, he

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RANGPUR v DHAKA METRO
Rangpur were bowled out for 129 runs after a fiery spell of pace bowling by Talha left them reeling. Marshal Ayub's unbeaten 59 lead Dhaka Metro's reply as they finished the day 14 runs ahead with four wickets in hand.

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