

# Turning a blind eye

SUBIR DAS AND MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

At the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna the Tigers roared to their second win against the West Indies on Sunday. And an elated sports minister of the country Ahad Ali Sarker immediately congratulated the Tigers and announced Taka 2 lakh cash award for young Anamul Haq for his brilliant century.

The cash incentive will certainly inspire other athletes of the country to perform better. But this might not be a case for some visually impaired athletes of the country who also played a game of cricket in Bangalore in a tournament called the first-ever T20 Blind Cricket World Cup. They lost the game badly against Nepal yesterday.

But despite the defeat they were the true victors on the day for at least holding the Red and Green flag high in an assembly of nine nations despite getting no support from the sports minister and an affluent Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Long before their trip to Bangalore where teams from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Australia, England, South Africa, West Indies and hosts India are taking part, the cash-strapped Bangladesh Blind Cricket Council (BBCC) submitted one application to the sports minister at his secretariat office and the another one to the BCB seeking financial support for their trip to India.

The Daily Star contacted the secretary of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday and the man in charge Shafiq Anwar confirmed that they had not received any such letter.

It may have been still lying with some bureaucrats in the secretariat or being buried under pile of files on

the sports ministers' desk as an 'unimportant' file.

The application to the BCB tells an even funnier story. After frantic inquiry from The Daily Star, it was finally learnt that the BCB did not want to contribute in cash but agreed to provide 'playing kits' to the blind athletes.

But the disheartened visually impaired athletes had to leave Dhaka with their worn-out clothes because the promised kits never reached before their rough ride by bus to Kolkata as part of austerity measure.

They had to readjust their budget as they had only Tk 8.52 lakh, a generous contribution from their lone sponsor HSBC, to cover all their expenses.

It is a pity that the sports minister, who enjoys having a fund for destitute athletes and sports organisation, could not support perhaps the most desperate of athletes. The BCB also put their image into question for failing to support a cause for cricket.

Even in this age of equal human rights, physically challenged people are unfortunately considered as a burden to their families and the state. The above incident is a glaring example of how much challenge and neglect the physically challenged people have to endure in their strive for dignity.

These visually impaired athletes will return home after the event is over on December 13. And by that time many among us will tend to forget them. Then again, they may not and perhaps will not. The reason is simple and without ambiguity. These physically challenged individuals have shown that they have self esteem. For those who have sought to ignore them, the lesson should be obvious: it is impolite to undermine those less fortunate than many of us are.

## Booters face Pakistan today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-23 side will be hoping to get a winning star in the HE Mahinda Rajapakse International Football Tournament in Sri Lanka when they take on Pakistan in one of the two opening day matches at the newly-built Jayathailaka Stadium in Kandy at 4:00pm (local time) today.

The four-nation tournament also comprise hosts Sri Lanka and Maldives. The top two teams, after a series of matches played in the round-robin format, will play the final on December 9.

"Obviously, the opening match is very important for us. Pakistan, always give their best against us. Besides, Maldives are a stronger side after the inclusion of some of their senior players. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will be trying to use their home advantage.

"But our target is to begin the tournament with a win. That will give us the advantage to move into the final," said Bangladesh coach Saiful Bari Titu yesterday.

Pakistan has a mix of youth and experience as senior players like skipper Kaleemullah, Faisal Iqbal, Md. Adil, Hasnain Abbas and Saeed Ahmad have been included in the squad for the match against Bangladesh.

## More friendlies lined up for booters

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will host four international friendly football matches in the first quarter of 2013, said Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday.

The opponents are India, Malaysia, Thailand and UAE (United Arab Emirates) U-23 squad. "India will come in February next, while Thailand will play end of January—a period when Bangladesh Premier League will remain suspended for the mid-term players' transfer. The schedule for the matches against Malaysia and UAE U-23 are yet to be decided," said the BFF boss at his office.



South Africa vice-captain AB de Villiers drives during his 169 on the third day of the third Test against Australia at the WACA ground in Perth yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Aussies chasing record

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Australia will have to produce the greatest run chase in Test history to beat South Africa in the third Test at the WACA Ground and claim the top spot in the Test rankings.

Set 632 to win after the Proteas were finally dismissed for 569 in their second innings on the back of Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers centuries, Australia were 40 without loss at stumps on the third day on Sunday.

The Australians still need a further 592 runs to win with two days to play.

David Warner will resume on Monday's fourth day on 29 with Ed Cowan not out nine.

It was only the second time in Test history

Australia had been set over 600 runs to win. The previous occasion was Don Bradman's first Test against England in 1928, when they folded for 66 all out chasing 742 runs.

The current record for a successful fourth innings run chase remains 418 by the West Indies against Australia at St John's in 2003. Tall fast bowler Morne Morkel threw a major scare in the South African camp when he appeared to roll his left ankle in his delivery stride late in the day.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 225 (Du Plessis 78 not out; Lyon 3-41)

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 163 (Wade 68; Steyn 4-40)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings (overnight 230 for 2)

Petersen c & b Johnson 23  
Smith c Lyon b Starc 84  
Amla c and b Johnson 196

Kallis c Johnson b Starc 37  
De Villiers c Wade b Starc 169  
Elgar lbw Johnson 0  
Du Plessis c Clarke b Johnson 27  
Peterson c Johnson b Starc 0  
Philander not out 14  
Steyn c Wade b Starc 8  
Morkel b Starc 0  
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-3) 11  
Total: (All out in 111.5 overs) 569  
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-206, 3-287, 4-436, 5-436, 6-538, 7-539, 8-557, 9-569

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Starc	28.5	3	154	6
Watson	9	3	24	0
Johnson	25	1	110	4
Hastings	19	1	102	0
Lyon	22	2	128	0
Hussey	4	0	26	0
Warner	3	0	14	0
Ponting	1	0	3	0

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings  
Cowan not out 9  
Warner not out 29

Extras: (lb-2) 2  
Total: (No loss in 13 overs) 40

To bat: Watson, Ponting, Clarke, Hussey, Wade, Hastings, Johnson, Starc, Lyon

Bowler	O	M	R	W
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## A great Bijoy

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can be traced back to the Asia Cup in March when Bangladesh narrowly finished runners-up. Anamul said being part of that team helped hone his positive mentality. "Saqlain Mushtaq [the spin-bowling coach] told us in the morning that everything is part of habit, so is winning. In this regard, I think the Asia Cup has worked in that way because I have been in a winning environment in that tournament and it has carried over here."

He took some time, understandable as it was his maiden century, to go from 80 to 100. When asked whether he was nervous in the nineties the answer was short and indicative of the confidence with which new faces enter the national side these days. "No, I am used to it [scoring hundreds]."

When pressed further on why he took 32 balls to get to his hundred he said, "There are overs when you can't score, so I think those overs fell between my score of 80 to 100. Mushfiq bhai [Mushfiqur Rahim] was batting with me, so I didn't have much to do. He told me to carry on till the 45th over, whether we are getting the runs in singles or doubles. We can go for the big hits from that point, we have batsman behind us. Bad balls were available so ones, twos and boundaries were coming. I didn't need to hit, it would have been criminal if I tried something extravagant at that stage."

He also said that batting with experienced seniors helped. "Tamim [Iqbal] kept telling me to stay positive, be confident. If he bats in that manner [in the first ODI on Friday], I don't have to do anything. It was the same today because I was batting with the captain."

When asked about how he felt after scoring a century in only his second match, the right-handed opener said, "I had thought about such a thing, but it was only in my fantasy that I would score a century in my second international match."

While satisfied with his achievement, he was hungry for more -- an increasingly common trait among the new breed of Bangladeshi cricketer.

# Enamul, Imrul day's stars

SPORTS REPORTER



National rejects Enamul Haque Jr and Imrul Kayes hit form for their respective teams in the sixth round of the National Cricket League yesterday.

Khulna's Kayes scored an unbeaten 85 against Dhaka at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, whereas Enamul finished with figures of 6 for 103 against Rajshahi at the BKSP.

Chittagong were on the verge of taking a lead against Barisal in the game at Sylhet Divisional Stadium while an exciting finish is in store at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra in the game between Dhaka Metro and Rangpur.

**RANGPUR v DHAKA METRO**

Some good pace bowling by Alauddin Babu ensured that Rangpur were still in the game following their disappointing batting performance in the first innings. He picked up four wickets and helped his team bowl Dhaka Metro out for 253.

In reply, Rangpur finished the day on 168 for 4.

**KHULNA v DHAKA**

Dhaka, who had an overnight score of 92 for 2, were bowled for 229 after lunch. A half-century from Rony Talukdar was the only highlight of the innings.

In reply, Khulna ended the day on 117 for 1 and took a lead of 59 runs.

**SYLHET v RAJSHAHI**

Reigning champions Rajshahi shrugged

off their disappointing overnight score of 10 for 2 as they finished the day in a commanding position thanks to a century by Sabbir Rumman. Rajshahi ended the day with a lead of 116 runs. Enamul continued his good run as he picked up six of the eight wickets that fell in the innings.

**BARISAL v CHITTAGONG**

Barisal's Salman Hossain, who was on 90 overnight, lost his wicket on 98 yesterday. Yasir Arafat's five for helped Chittagong bowl out Barisal for 204. Chittagong ended the day in a comfortable position as they rode on half-centuries by Nazimuddin and Faisal Hossain.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**RANGPUR:** First innings 129 all out in 43.5 overs and second innings 168 for 4 in 50 overs (Liton 62, Tarik 51; Hydar 1-24)

**DHAKA METRO:** First innings 253 all out in 76.4 overs (Marshall 62, Arafat 42; Alauddin 4-73)

**KHULNA:** First innings 171 all out in 59 overs and second innings 117 for 1 in 47 overs (Imrul 85 not out, Nazmus 19; Shuvagata 1-48)

**DHAKA:** First innings 229 all out in 71.5 overs (Rony 55; Murad 4-58)

**SYLHET:** First innings 218 all out in 80.1 overs

**RAJSHAHI:** First innings 334 for 8 in 97 overs (Sabbir 136, Myshukur 58; Enamul 6-103)

**BARISAL:** First innings 204 all out in 104.4 overs (Salman 98, M Shajib 49; Yasir 5-25)

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings 196 for 4 in 71 overs (Nazimuddin 72, Faisal 70 not out; Monir 2-31,

## 21 for 2? No problem

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But this series seems to be about breaking old perceptions, a trend started in earnest in March. Another wicket, that of Naeem Islam's, fell with the score on 21. From there Anamul Haque -- playing only his second match -- and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim put together Bangladesh's highest partnership for the third wicket, falling short of Habibul Bashar and Rajin Saleh's all-wicket record of 175 by just one run. More importantly, they scored those runs at a fair clip -- 174 off 29.5 overs -- which was crucial in compensating for the loss of Tamim and to set up an imposing total to put the likes of Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels under pressure.

The aggression did not drop for a moment. In the over following Naeem's dismissal, the eighth of the innings, Anamul hit a beautifully-timed flick off Russell to the square-leg boundary. Another boundary followed off the opener's bat in the next over, flayed through the covers off Ravi Rampaul.

The message was clear -- 'our best batsman may have gone and you may have had us 21 for two, but it's not time for backward steps yet'.

The feature of the match-changing partnership was that it was controlled aggression through which they got on top of their higher-ranked opponents. As well as the 19 boundaries hit, there were 64 singles and five twos. Mushfiqur and Anamul did what the West Indies failed to do in the first match and later yesterday -- milk the bowling when boundary balls were not on offer.

When they were on offer the duo took full

toll, as in the 18th over from off-spinner Sunil Narine, whose unhappy tour continued with a wicketless display. Narine dropped a touch short outside off stump and Mushfiqur used the pace of it to beat the point fielder and let it racing to the boundary. The next ball he swept over square-leg for a six. In the next over by Rampaul, who was the best bowler on display, the duo hammered three boundaries off the rare bad balls he bowled. By then West Indies were well and truly chasing the game.

Even when the boundaries were not on offer, the two batsmen displayed the suppleness of their wrists to conjure them, guiding the spinners and at times the faster men to the third man fence with deft late cuts.

Skipper Mushfiqur was the aggressor, scoring 79 off 87 balls with eight fours and a six to allow newcomer Anamul to score at his own pace and complete what was to be a match-winning hundred. But it was the partnership that really won the match, and as importantly sent a message to the opponents that the team is not dependent on any one man. It is a piece of information that will take time to get used to.

## Amer's ban

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punishment. Khan was handed a one-month ban on November 12, following his 'misleading information' about last season's league match between Abahani and Brothers Union. The game's governing body revoked its decision ten days before the expiry of Amer's punishment.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>37</b> Held a meeting	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>25</b> Last letter
<b>1</b> The girl	<b>38</b> Abhor	<b>1</b> Bush	<b>26</b> Bobby of hockey
<b>4</b> Possesses	<b>39</b> Carte lead-in	<b>2</b> Israeli port	<b>28</b> Can. neighbor
<b>7</b> Man of morals?	<b>41</b> Dreyfus defender	<b>3</b> Incite	<b>30</b> Geological period
<b>12</b> Crone	<b>45</b> Go	<b>4</b> Williams of country	<b>31</b> Speedometer abbr.
<b>13</b> Oklahoma city	<b>47</b> Sharp turn	<b>5</b> Hand-some youth	<b>32</b> Playwright Levin
<b>14</b> Give birth to, on a farm	<b>48</b> She played	<b>6</b> Dieter's lunch	<b>33</b> Trawler need
<b>15</b> Fix the outcome	<b>53</b> Heals	<b>7</b> Dermatologist's case	<b>36</b> Boxer Max
<b>16</b> Record-setting fastballer	<b>54</b> Id counterpart	<b>8</b> Listener	<b>37</b> Ferocious occupant
<b>18</b> Craft from jar off	<b>55</b> Negative prefix	<b>9</b> Willy	<b>40</b> See 42-Down
<b>19</b> Jack in billiards	<b>56</b> Heron's cousin	<b>10</b> Eggs	<b>42</b> With 40-Down, depleted atmospheric region
<b>20</b> Ricochet, in billiards	<b>57</b> In medias	<b>11</b> Nerd-pack	<b>43</b> Toit
<b>22</b> Bachelor's last words	<b>58</b> Work unit	<b>17</b> Acknowledge	<b>44</b> Gerontologist's study
<b>23</b> TV clown		<b>21</b> Bowie's weapon	<b>45</b> For fear that 46 Grandson of Eve
<b>27</b> They're between		<b>23</b> Shut out	<b>48</b> Lemieux milieu
<b>29</b> Someone who carries a torch?		<b>24</b> Peculiar	<b>49</b> Carpet

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	F	F	C	A	M	S	C	R	A	B	
A	I	R	O	D	I	E	H	O	L	E	
F	R	E	E	F	O	R	M	E	A	S	
W	A	L	L	E	K	E	D	S	A	I	
O	N	O	E	V	E	K	A	B	O	R	
E	T	A	L	E	E	L	H	O	B	O	
S	T	I	E	D	K	A	Y	R	O	F	
D	E	T	R	A	N	C	O	R	N	E	R
A	L	A	I	H	O	M	E	F	R	E	
O	U	L	L	W	O	L	E	E	A	T	
A	L	V	Y	A	L	P	S	E	R	A	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15										
18										
20										
31	32	33								
35										
38										
48	49	50	51							
53										
56										

## CRYPTOQUIP

MB GQC ECMDO NRMIMGP GK  
MTZISCTVC EQMVQ ODMTFB  
ZKIFB VQKKBC GK RSP  
VNIIICO RCJCDNWC ICJCDNWC?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** THE GUY DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO GULP DOWN THAT BREWED BEVERAGE, BUT HE GAVE IN TO BEER PRESSURE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O