

Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Drogba's gift to old teammates

The Chinese Super League season is over, so Didier Drogba has been back in London, training with his old teammates at Chelsea in an effort to stay fit for the Africa Cup of Nations next month. And on Thursday night, he hosted a special dinner where he presented last season's Champions League winning players and backroom staff with commemorative rings. According to the Independent, the Super Bowl style rings cost Drogba a total of about £800,000 (a mere four



Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad (R) follows through on a delivery during the fourth ODI against West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Mahmudullah made significant contributions with both ball and bat, yet could not help the Tigers avoid a 75-run defeat. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Batters lacked guts'

NAIMUL KARIM

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim blamed Bangladesh's batting failure in the top-order behind the hosts' 75-run defeat against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday. In the post-match press conference Mushfiqur stated that the top-order failed to 'take the challenge' and 'lacked guts' in the opening period of the second innings.

"I don't think the wicket was too bad. It was bound to swing under lights with all the dew...we wanted our batsmen to survive the opening spell and if we could score around 20-25 runs with 2 wickets we could have definitely chased 212. But after five wickets it becomes difficult to chase such a total down," said Mushfiqur after the fourth ODI.

Earlier the Tigers, while on the field, dropped five catches in the first innings. Darren Sammy, who scored an unbeaten half-century and propelled his side to a defendable total, was dropped by Shohag

Gazi on 30. Mushfiqur claimed that the scenario would have been 'extremely different' had the fielders taken those catches.

"I personally think no matter how good the West Indies would have played they would not have scored more than 150 or 160 had we taken those catches," he said. "Sammy's drop cost us a lot. The other batsmen who were dropped lost their wickets sooner or later, but his drop had a bad effect on us," he added.

After losing five wickets within the first six overs, Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah Riyad shared a partnership worth 74 runs for the sixth wicket and gave the hosts some hope of recovering. The skipper, though was stumped in the 22nd over after he failed to read a Sunil Narine 'doosra'. Shohag came in next, but fell soon after playing a few good-looking shots.

"I think, even when Shohag was at the wicket, he was playing well and our scoring-rate was steady. Even when Mahmudullah and Shohag were there, I

CLEAR MEN

Today's Score Card

WEST INDIES				
Gayle c Shohag b Mashrafe			16	
Powell lbw b Sunny			26	
Samuels c Anamul b Sunny			27	
Smith b Razzak			0	
Bravo c & b Shohag			34	
Pollard c Mushfiqur b Mahmudullah			2	
Thomas b Mahmudullah			10	
Sammy not out			60	
Permaul c Nasir b Mahmudullah			1	
Narine c Mominul b Razzak			13	
Roach not out			3	
Extras: (lb-5, w-14)			19	
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)			211	
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-71, 3-75, 4-75, 5-79, 6-102, 7-145, 8-155, 9-175.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shohag	10	1	38	1
Mashrafe	10	0	54	1
Razzak	10	1	47	2
Sunny	10	2	21	2
Mahmudullah	10	1	46	3
BANGLADESH				
Tamim b Roach			1	
Anamul c & b Sammy			1	
Naem c Bravo b Sammy			0	
Mushfiqur st Thomas b Narine			27	
Nasir c Thomas b Roach			2	
Mominul c Pollard b Sammy			1	
Mahmudullah not out			56	
Sohag c Thomas b Permaul			13	
Sunny b Permaul			0	
Mashrafe lbw b Smith			6	
Razzak c Sammy b Smith			3	
Extras: (lb-5, w-21)			26	
Total: (All out in 34.1 overs)			136	
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-3, 3-4, 4-7, 5-13, 6-87, 7-113, 8-113, 9-132.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	8	0	29	2
Sammy	8	1	28	3
Narine	8	1	32	1
Permaul	8	0	35	2
Smith	2.1	0	7	2

Result: West Indies won by 75 runs and level 5-match series 2-2.
Player-of-the-match: Darren Sammy.

Sammy was aiming at a total of 190

SPORTS REPORTER

It has been a series of two halves so far. First Bangladesh in Khulna produced fabulous cricket to go 2-0 up. Then in Dhaka the West Indies came back and won the third ODI by four wickets on Wednesday, before blowing the hosts out of the water with a 75-run in the fourth at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to level the series at 2-2.

The same principle that won the Tigers the first two games -- different players performing at crucial times to give their side the advantage -- worked for West Indies in the third and fourth games. On Wednesday it was Marlon Samuels's century that took the West Indies past a modest yet tricky total posted by Bangladesh. Yesterday, it was captain Darren Sammy's all-round show, as well as a concerted effort by the whole team, that brought the visitors roaring back into the series.

"You could say that," said Sammy after the match

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Chess team sans 3 GMs

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Chess Federation formed the national squad with two Grandmasters Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman, two International Masters Abu Sufian Shakil and Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and FIDE Master Debaraj Chatterjee -- keeping out Grandmasters Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Haque Rajib -- for the World's City Chess Championship which gets underway in United Arab Emirates from December 21.

The squad has been formed in line with standings of the National Chess Championship which Rakib and Rajib skipped citing their fatigue as the reason following their involvement in two tournaments in India.

FM Debaraj has been included in the five-member squad after GM Reefat Bin Sattar, a third-place finisher in the national chess, pulled out of the squad citing personal reasons, which turned the national squad turned into a decimated one compared to the one comprising five GMs which finished 33rd in the Olympiad in September.

However, Rakib sees this as an opportunity for

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Blast from the past

SAKEB SUBHAN

A phenomenon happily forgotten for the last few months was Bangladesh's propensity to collapse in a heap at the top of the order. It was as distant as possible from the memory when openers Tamim Iqbal and Anamul Haque took strike in chase of a modest target of 212 to seal a series win in the fourth ODI of the five-match series against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The momentum was however with the West Indies as the Tigers allowed them to escape from the doldrums of 155 for eight to post 211 for 9. The home team dropped five chances, including a sitter in the 46th

over off West Indies skipper Darren Sammy which Shohag Gazi dropped at deep midwicket. The touring captain was only on 30 at the time and went on to score an unbeaten 60.

But to be fair, unlike many previous collapses, this was not the result of batsmen trying to hit out in desperation. It was a product of pretty good bowling from openers Kemar Roach and Sammy, the former's raw pace and the latter's swing combining to deliver a killer blow from which the Tigers would not recover.

Anamul was first to go in the second over, trying to turn a ball to leg but the swing produced a leading edge that Sammy the bowler pounced with glee. But then the Tigers' batting ills, dormant for so long, resurfaced. It was not just the

fall of wickets, but the rate at which they did that caused them irreparable damage in the past. Naem Islam succumbed to his first ball as Sammy produced another well-pitched out-swinger and the number three's push defence caught the edge through to first slip.

The whole stadium must then have been looking to Tamim to get the Tigers out of the mire. But he was prey to his nemesis Roach in the next over, the left-hander's bat coming down a fraction too late as the ball clipped the off bail. New batsman Nasir Hossain lasted only two balls, and off the third he nicked a low catch to the keeper Devon Thomas. Bangladesh were four for seven at the end of the third over.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Khulna stumble on Day One

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna got off to a disappointing start in their pursuit of the 14th National Cricket League (NCL) title as they became the only team to be dismissed on the first day of the last round of matches yesterday. They were bowled out for 228 runs by defending champions Rajshahi at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Second-positioned Dhaka on the other hand, got off to a good start as they restricted Barisal to 253 for 9 yesterday at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. At the Cricket Garden in Rangpur, centuries from Marshall Ayub and Mehrab Hossain Jr propelled Dhaka Metro as they ended the day on 318 for 8 against Sylhet. It was a similar story for Chittagong as they rode on Aftab Ahmed's 97 to finish the day on 313 for 7 against Rangpur at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

KHULNA v RAJSHAHI

Khulna's batsmen were trapped in a rut against Rajshahi's slower bowlers as they struggled against the likes of Saqlain Sajib and medium pacer Forhad Reza. They were bowled out within 60 overs. In reply, Rajshahi finished on 90 for 1 courtesy of an unbeaten half-century by Myshukur Rahman.

BARISAL v DHAKA

Dhaka put pressure on league leaders Khulna by taking 9

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Sporting a Tigers shirt, a fan waves the national flag at the stands of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Consolation win for booters

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-23 national football team had a face-saving win in the HE Rajapakse International Football Tournament when they handed a 1-0 defeat to Maldives in their third and final match in Nawalapitiya, Sri Lanka yesterday.

Bangladesh had announced themselves as one of favourites prior to the start of the four-nation tournament, but made an early exit losing to Pakistan and Sri Lanka in consecutive matches. The last match against Maldives was an academic affair as Maldives had already ensured their final berth, but for Bangladesh it was some pride restored as they managed to defeat

the in form team of the competition.

In any case, Bangladesh put on a much superior display in this match and winger Towhid Alam made sure they bowed out with three points by scoring the only goal of the match on the half-hour mark.

According to a Bangladesh Football Federation report, Bangladesh pressed hard from the beginning and earned four corners kicks within the first 10 minutes but had to wait for the lead till 30 minutes.

Strikers Shakawat Hossain Rony squandered a couple of good scoring chances while winger Towhid missed the target once before he put Bangladesh ahead in the 30th minute with his second effort.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



www.aiub.edu

MASTERS

in Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Major Fields: Power Engineering, Electronics and Communications

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4-year B.Sc. Engg. in EE/ EEE/ ETE/ ECE or allied field with good academic records
- Completed application form

Admission open for Spring 2012-2013

Exam date: 23 December, 2012

Admission Information
83/B, Road 4, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213
Phone: 8811749, 9894229, 9897387 (Extension: 100 or 200)

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH
WHERE LEADERS ARE CREATED