

Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY APRIL 19, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

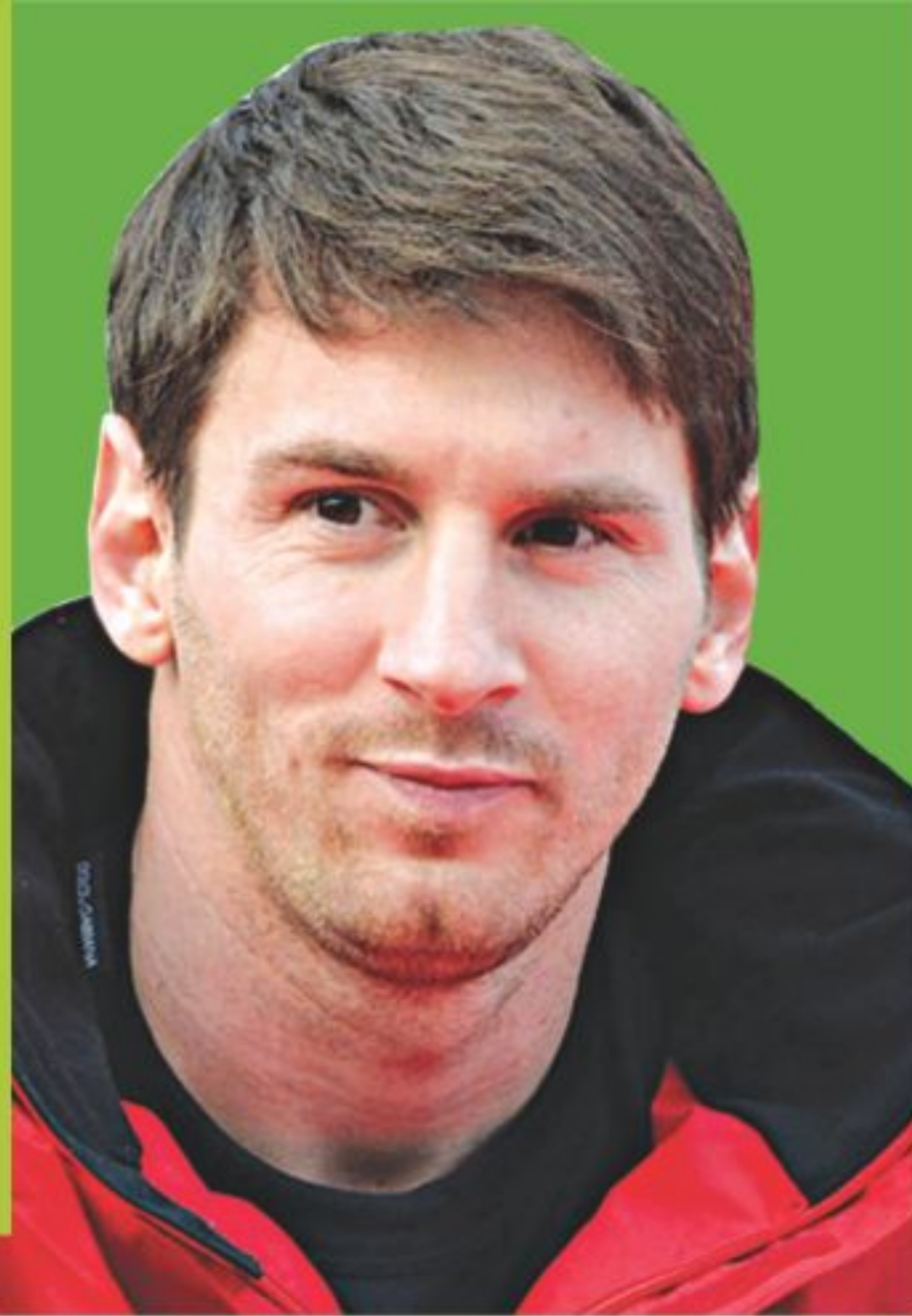
Messi's gift to Pope

Many a football fan would like to get their hands on signed Lionel Messi kit but it was the pope who got lucky Wednesday when he received a personally autographed shirt from the Barcelona striker.

Four-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi, who like Pope Francis is Argentinian, sent his compatriot a shirt with the words "with much affection", the Vatican said.

It is already the third souvenir shirt given to the new pontiff, a known football fan and long-term follower of Buenos Aires club San Lorenzo, one of Argentina's top five clubs.

- AFP



A cosy venue



SAKEB SUBHAN from Harare

Scenes of the Indian Premier League are rife in cricket establishments in Harare. The Harare Sports Club restaurant always has IPL on their screens, and the popular T20 league's highlights are shown in the media box during the lunch and tea breaks of the first Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

But the world of the Harare Sports Club could not be farther away from the capacity crowds of the IPL in big Indian metropolises. The arena does not need to be filled to the brim to look attractive or appealing. Only three two-storey high makeshift stands and four smaller stands, a grandstand square of the wicket, four-storey high structures behind each sight screen obstruct the sight of the surrounding greenery. The tree-lined surroundings lend a peaceful, organic feel to watching cricket at the ground.

Yesterday, Zimbabwe's Independence Day, attracted more than the smattering of spectators seen on the first day. The noise they created as Zimbabwe exceeded expectations to score 385 may not have been the deafening roar of the subcontinent, but was a more intimate communication with their team that must have spurred the hosts on. When Bangladesh batted, the early dropped chance off Jahurul Islam's bat and every near miss was immediately met by a spontaneous chorus of 'Ohh' -- a much more interactive atmosphere than any 30,000-seater could provide.

Also the entire process of watching the cricket is worlds apart to what it is in Bangladesh. There are no policemen with guns near the entry gates. Just two Harare Sports Club security personnel at each gate suffice in keeping order.

But most appealing are the grass banks, a concept alien to cricket stadiums in Bangladesh. Families with children

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (L) congratulates his Zimbabwe counterpart Brendan Taylor as the latter leaves field after scoring a superb 171 on the second day of the first Test at Harare yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Tigers fighting back



SAKEB SUBHAN from Harare

Bangladesh regained substantial ground, scoring 95 in just 25 overs for the loss of Shahriar Nafees after a Brendan Taylor-inspired Zimbabwe posted a sizeable 389 on the second day of the first Test at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Zimbabwe had compiled their score in five sessions of batting, with skipper Taylor hitting a brilliantly-structured, career-best 171. In Bangladesh's reply, Graeme Cremer returned the favour Nafees had bestowed on the previous day by dropping a nervy Jahurul Islam at third slip off the sixth ball of the first over bowled by Kyle Jarvis.

Jahurul was a bundle of nervous energy in the early stages of the chase, flashing at wide balls and also surviving a top-edged hook that fell between fine-leg and the outstretched gloves of debutant keeper Richmond Mutumbani. In between were some confident shots such as two straight drives off Jarvis for fours. But it was Nafees at the other end who played the more assured hand in the 53-run opening stand, pulling dangerman Jarvis every time the bowler dropped short and picking off singles off decent deliveries. His dismissal was against the run of play, as a late in-swing from Jarvis to the left-hander got the leading edge and was gobbled up gleefully by Timycen Maruma at point.

Mohammad Ashraful then came in and apart from surviving a close leg-before

shout, again from Jarvis, batted comfortably till stumps. Jahurul also settled down to remain not out on 38, while Ashraful was batting on a 33-ball 23.

Earlier, it seemed as if Bangladesh were going to fulfil their coach's stated aim of getting the hosts out under 300 when pacers Rubel Hossain and Robiul Islam claimed two early wickets.

But for much of the second day's play Bangladesh were confronted with a harsh reality as Zimbabwe went from an overnight score of 217 for four to 389, keeping the Tigers out on the field for more than two sessions.

The bowlers on the field cannot be faulted in their effort or discipline -- even though the hosts scored faster on the second day compared to their first-day crawl, the overall run rate was only 2.55. Nonetheless, Zimbabwe's sizeable score will be a cause for worry.

Rubel had Elton Chigumbura caught and bowled off the ninth ball of the day, while soon afterwards Robiul removed Mutumbani with a beautiful out-swing that took the edge through to wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim. But as number eight batsman Cremer, who has a batting average of 6.88, built a 115-run stand with his captain to help Zimbabwe recover it seemed that Bangladesh were a pace bowler short.

Taylor, after his life on the first day when just on 35, batted flawlessly. His innings was an exercise in patience and an exhibition on how to rotate the strike. When he reached 150, he had only hit seven fours

SEE PAGE 17 COL 7

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First innings (over-

night 217-4)

Maruma lbw b Robiul 10

Sibanda b Robiul 5

Masakadza c Mahmudullah

b Enamul 25

Taylor c Mushfiqur b Enamul 171

Waller b Rubel 55

Chigumbura c & b Rubel 12

Mutumbani c Mushfiqur

b Robiul 11

Cremer c Mahmudullah

b Shohag 42

Meth C Nasir b Enamul 21

Masakadza C Juhurul b Shohag 21

Jarvis not out 3

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-2, nb-5) 13

Total: (All out in 152.3 overs) 389

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-22, 3-65,

4-192, 5-223, 6-238, 7-344, 8-

344, 9-381.

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**

Robiul 38 11 84 3

Rubel 30 6 87 2

Nasir 5 2 3 0

Enamul 47 5 133 3

Shohag 22.3 1 55 2

Mahmudullah 3 0 7 0

Shakib 7 3 14 0

BANGLADESH: First innings

Jahurul not out 38

Nafees C Maruma b Jarvis 29

Ashraful not out 23

Extras (b-4, w-1) 5

Total: (For one wkt in 25 overs) 95

Fall of wicket: 1-53.

To bat: Mushfiqur, Mahmudullah,

Shakib, Nasir, Shohag, Enamul,

Rubel, Robiul.

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**

Jarvis 8 1 39 1

Meth 8 2 22 0

Masakadza 6 1 16 0

Chigumbura 2 0 14 0

Cremer 1 1 0 0

Blame it on camera

SPORTS REPORTER from Harare

Cricket is a game of tiny margins -- a matter of centimetres can often make or break a side's chances in a match. The modern era has seen the use of television cameras to aid in the decision-making processes of such minute margins, but on some occasions they are more hindrance than help.

Late on the first day of the first Test between

SEE PAGE 17 COL 7

Opening to dazzle

SPORTS REPORTER



Fireworks, a thematic cultural show, the lighting of the torch and athlete march past are just some of the ways in which the opening ceremony of the 8th Bangladesh Games is set to pan out at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

The estimated Tk 8 crore gala opening ceremony will have two eye-catching sections of lighting the torch and a thematic cultural show that will include numerous aspects like rural life in Bangladesh, the liberation war, sporting effect on the society, the conquering of Mount Everest by Musha Ibrahim and the quest for the Seven Summits by Wasfia Nazreen.



PHOTO: STAR

Amol Roy plays a backhand slice on his way to the men's singles final of the Bangladesh Games tennis competition at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

TENNIS

Top seed Amal Roy and second seed Alamgir Hossain moved into the singles final at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Amal of Engineer Recreation Centre came from behind to beat third seed Anwar Hossain of British High Commission Club 4-6, 6-2 and 6-2 to set up the final against Alamgir of Nordic Club, who defeated his teammate Dipu Lal 6-3 and 6-3.

In the men's doubles event, Ranjan Ram and Mizanur Rahman pair defeated Anwar Hossain and Dipu Lal pair 6-4, 1-6, 10-6 to move into the final while Amal Roy and Prithul Mandal pair thrashed Rustom Ali and Jamil Bhuiyan 6-0 and 6-3 to ensure their final berths.

Both finals take place today.

HOCKEY

Faridpur, BKSP, Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy got off to winning start as the hockey event began yesterday at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

Faridpur outplayed Patuakhali 16-0 riding on five and four goals from Aminul Islam and Pushkor Khisha Mimo respectively while BKSP thrashed Bangladesh Police 6-0.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Shankar Shahjalal will lead the thematic cultural show with the participation of 600 artists, music and laser lights.

The other dazzling section is set to be the lighting of the torch by noted former national hockey player Jummon Lusai. Lusai will light the torch by standing in the middle of the Bangabandhu National Stadium and aiming through a laser. Once the torch is lit, it will turn into a fountain of light with the help of the laser for a few minutes.

After the arrival of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, noted singer Rezwana Chowdhury Banna along with singers of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and 100 singers from Surer Dhara will perform the national anthem before 100 participating

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Shakib given ball as part of a plan

SPORTS REPORTER from Harare

It raised a few eyebrows when in the 120th over of Zimbabwe's first innings Shakib Al Hasan ran in to bowl for the first time. Before the tour it was said by the team management that the all-rounder, recovering from a shin bone injury, would only bowl in the second Test. On the eve of the match however, coach Shane Jurgensen said that Shakib would bowl in the match if needed.

The general impression was that Zimbabwe, then in the middle of a 115-run seventh wicket partnership between centurion Brendan Taylor and Graeme Cremer, had forced the Tigers' hand. But the team's physiotherapist Vibhav Singh later revealed that Shakib bowling the seven overs was pre-planned and discussed during the pre-play warm-up as part of the left-arm spinner's

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Grab A PEPSI RIGHT NOW

BUY PEPSI 1 LITRE @ Tk. 45 AND BOOK YOUR TICKET ***** TO WATCH THE ***** PEPSI-IPL FINAL

SAVE Tk. 10

to watch the PEPSI IPL final

Also get the chance to meet Shakib-Tamim!

STEP 1 CHECK UNDER THE CAP FOR YOUR UNIQUE CODE

STEP 2 SMS THE CODE TO 6969

STEP 3 WIN YOUR PRIZE

FOR MORE INFO VISIT facebook.com/pepsibangladesh

Terms & Conditions
* Pepsi will also be available in the market without the offer. * The promotional bottles for this campaign have white caps. * This offer is only applicable for Pepsi 1 litre PET bottles. * Each code can only be sent once through SMS. * Consumers will have to submit the cap as proof in order to participate in the selection round. * SMS charges applicable. * All decisions taken by Pepsi will be regarded as final at any stage of the program. * Winners will have to arrange passport and visa on their own. * People associated with Transcom Beverages Ltd, Asiatic MCL and Asiatic Events are not eligible to take part in this promotion. * Participation in this promotion is completely voluntary. * Participants have to be above 18 years of age. * Conditions apply.