

# Star SPORT

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

### Cricket

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 sightscreen 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 Jahanul 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

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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



### BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 217-4)

	O	M	R	W
Maruma lbw b Robiul	10			
Sibanda b Robiul	5			
Masakadza c Mahmudullah b Enamul	25			
Taylor c & b Robiul	171			
Waller b Robiul	55			
Chigumbura c & b Robiul	12			
Mutumbani c & b Robiul				
Cremer c Mahmudullah b Shohag	11			
Meth c Nasir b Enamul	42			
Masakadza c Jahanul b Shohag	21			
Jahanul 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.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Robiul	38	11	84	3
Robiul	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

Jahanul not out 38

Nafees c Maruma b Jarvis 29

Ashrafal 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,

Robiul, Jahanul.

**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

## Opening to dazzle

### SPORTS REPORTER

**8TH BANGLADESH GAMES 2013**  
Sports in Our Lives

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 Wasifia Nazreen.

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

Amol 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 team-mate 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 Amol 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.

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## 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 Jurgens 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

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