

# BCB should think twice

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If you take public interest as the yardstick to market the sport of cricket, then the just-concluded three-match T20 Challenge Series between the Bangladesh national team and the A team could be a very good example.

It was simply a preparation tournament involving the country's top players but still got the attention of the fans, who came in numbers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, and got maximum coverage on the media as well.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) tried their best to give it a competitive mood as they even handed over a trophy to the winning team -- the Nasir Hossain-led A team -- after the third and final game yesterday, but what might not have been in the minds of the organisers was its commercial value.

Many were of the opinion that the board could have tried to negotiate with a TV channel for provide live coverage. But one has to be proactive rather than only performing the routines at the board to see this kind of an opportunity from a boarder perspective.

Kazi Inam Ahmed, the new chairman of the marketing and commercial committee, however pointed out the time factor behind the failure.

"The tournament was arranged at a short notice and you know you have to have enough time for bringing any sponsor. Anyway, we are now discussing another T20 tournament with four teams and hopefully we can do something for this tournament," said Inam, a young organiser who has been handed the demanding job in his first go as a director.

"My main challenge however is to sign a long-term TV rights deal because it's one of our main sources of income. We have already decided to sell the TV rights for the coming Sri Lanka series separately, but after that we will make a long-term deal. I want to make sure that I do not make the same mistakes that we did in the past," he added.

Cricket is not only the leading sport in the country but also a lucrative commodity, but many have doubts whether the BCB can fully capitalise on it. Now everybody will be looking forward to seeing whether a newcomer like Inam can make a difference.



Bangladesh A team's Mominul Haque, who hammered 55 off 23 balls, pulls one on the onside during the third match of the T20 Challenge Series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

## V-DAY SPORTS

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### PARADISE RULE

Ripon and Rahima won the men's and women's singles titles respectively of the Blazer BD Victory Day Open TT Champions, which concluded at the Indoor Stadium in Paltan yesterday. Ripon of the Paradise defeated his teammate Shahed by 4-0 sets in the final. Rahima won all her four matches. Paradise Club won the team event title beating Sreepur Club.

### MUSHTAQI-JEWEL XI'S NAMED

The traditional Victory Day cricket match between Shaheed Jewel XI and Shaheed Mushtaqi XI will take place at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium tomorrow.

**SHAHEED JEWEL XI:** Naeem (captain), Shamsur, Anamul, Rokibul, Soumya, Junaid Siddiqui, Forhad, Elias, Muktar Ali, Robiul, Sajedul, Arafat Sunny and Mehrab.

**SHAHEED MUSHTAQI XI:** Shahriar Nafees (captain), Imrul, Mominul, Marshall, Saikat, Sabbir, Mithun, Shohag Reza, Enamul, Alauddin Babu, Shuvashis, Shahadat and Sanjamul.

### ARMY, PDB IN FINAL

Defending champions Bangladesh Army and Power Development Board moved into the final of the Walton LED TV Victory Day Volleyball tournament yesterday. Army defeated Titas Gas by 25-13, 25-13, 25-17 points in the first semifinal while PDB defeated Bangladesh Air Force by 25-22, 19-25, 25-16, 25-21 points, at the Paltan Volleyball Stadium, to book their berths for tomorrow's final.

### USHA, AZAD WIN

Usha Krira Chakra and Azad Sporting Club won their respective matches on the opening day of the Victory Day Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Usha defeated Bangladesh Police by 4-2 goals while Azad Sporting blanked Bangladesh Air Force 3-0.

## Int'l GM chess

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The FIFA World Cup trophy, which is making its journey around the world and is currently in United Arab Emirates, will be arriving in Dhaka on a special Coca Cola plane on December 17 before leaving for Bhutan on December 20.

To celebrate the arrival of the original coveted trophy, the Bangladesh Football Federation, which has formed three committees under the organizing committee to work closely with Coca Cola, yesterday announced the details of the trophy tour at a press conference at its Motijheel headquarters.

Coca Cola, the soft drink giant, is bringing the original World Cup for the first time in the country.

"The trophy will arrive approximately at 1:06pm on Tuesday by a special plane of Coca Cola and FIFA before being taken to Hotel Raddison for a session with the media and stakeholders. The trophy will be on show at the Bangabandhu National Stadium for the next two days. 15,000 ticket holders will be eligible to witness the event. Around 9000 of them will be selected from Coca Cola's campaign and another 6000

stakeholders will receive complementary tickets," said Debashish Deb, country head of Coca Cola Far East Limited.

Debashish also informed that a Bangla version of the World Cup theme song, 'The World is ours' by Brazilian singer David Correy, is being produced by musician Fauad Al Muqtadir and a competition is currently going on to find out a singer to sing the Bangla version. Debashish also said they are trying to insert a line of the Bangla song into the original song.

When asked why a former World Cup winner is not coming with the trophy as some of them are travelling elsewhere, Debasish said since this is the first time the trophy will arrive here, the trophy itself is the biggest icon here.

The organizing committee said they are working out whether President Abdul Hamid will receive the trophy at the airport or will the trophy be taken to the President's Banabhaban office.

"We will be giving VVIP protocol for the trophy and Police, RAB, NSI, DGFI will be associated to ensure its security," informed security committee chairman Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan.

Members of the organizing committee, representatives of Coca Cola and partners InterSpeed and Masthead PR were also present at the press conference.

## Cup tour details revealed

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## 'Sony pulled the crowd'

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A day after Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club won the Federation Cup its president Manzur Kader, who instantly announced Tk 10-lakh bonus after the final, said this success will encourage him to form better squads for future.

"I am happy as we built a team for success and my team delivered on the promise," said Kader whose side won the final 1-0 against Muktijoddha.

He also observed it's not absolutely necessary to have a Mohammedan or an Abahani to draw a good crowd.

"We have a star in Sony Norde who pulled the crowd to the stadium," said Kader.

Although both Mohammedan and Abahani departed before the semifinals of the competition, the star value of Sheikh Jamal did pull a decent crowd all through the tournament.



গভীর শুন্দায় স্মরণ করি

আজ ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৩ রাজ পরিবার বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটির প্রতিষ্ঠান ভাইস-চ্যাসেলর এবং মোহাম্মদপুর প্রিপারেটরি উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের প্রতিষ্ঠান চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম কাজী আজহার আলীর চতুর্থ মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। ২০০৯ সালে এই দিনে তিনি বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ইন্টেকাল করেন। তাঁর মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে আগামীকাল ১৬ ডিসেম্বর মেলা ২.০০ ঘটকায় বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি মিলনায়তনে (১৫/১ ইকাবাল রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা) মরহুমের কর্মময় জীবনের উপর আলোচনা ও দেয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উচ্চ আলোচনা ও দেয়া মাহফিলে মরহুমের বক্তৃ-বাক্তব, আত্মীয়-জৰুর ও শুভাক্ষণকাদের উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনোদভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।



বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি-পরিবারবর্গ

# A whitewash for nationals

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Blazing innings from Mithun Ali and Mominul Haque helped Bangladesh A complete a 3-0 whitewash of the Bangladesh national team in the T20 Challenge Series after the second-string side comfortably chased down the nationals' total of 188 with eight wickets and 3.3 overs remaining in the final T20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

On a batting paradise at Mirpur, the A team began their chase with two new openers at the crease -- Mominul Haque (55 off 23) and Marshall Ayub. The pair raced to 50 runs in just 26 balls and scored 74 runs in the first six overs.

Ayub (25 off 20) was caught at mid-off soon after off Al Amin Hossain.

Mominul though continued his onslaught and reached his 50 off just 19 balls with a thumping six over fine-leg. He hit nine fours and two sixes in his innings, which included an over where he elegantly dispatched Abdur Razzak for 20 runs. The left-hander got out in the ninth over.

Despite the fall of the openers, Mithun (67 off 30) and Sabbir Rahman (37 off 27) ensured that there were no further hiccups as the third wicket pair's 103-run stand off 51 balls completed the whitewash in style.

Mithun was in no mood to wait as he hammered six sixes and three fours in his

30-ball innings. Some of his sixes reached the stands and depicted the sheer power that the 23-year-old possesses. He finished the game in sublime fashion by lofting Al Amin for a six over long-on.

Earlier, the national team, after losing quick wickets were revived by some good hitting from Shamsur Rahman (37 off 12) and Mushfiqur Rahim (38 off 24) and ended up posting a healthy 77 for 3 at the end of the first power play. Shamsur hit three sixes and four fours in his short stint, whereas captain Mushfiqur smacked two sixes and four fours.

The pair scored 55 runs in 3.1 overs. However, both batsmen failed to carry on with their overtly aggressive technique and were sent back to the pavilion midway through the match.

In a similar trend to the previous matches the national team lost control of the game in the middle overs. In between overs 11 and 17, the main team lost six wickets -- almost all of which were gifted, courtesy of some ill-timed shots -- and were in a precarious 148 for 9.

However, a late blitz from Razzak, who hammered a 15-ball 36, saved the national team's blushes. He hit three sixes and three fours as the last wicket stand amounted to 40 runs off just 19 balls.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**BANGLADESH:** 188 for 9 in 20 overs (Mushfiqur 38, Shamsur 37, Razzak 36 not out; Muktar 3-21, Elias 2-33)

**BANGLADESH A:** 190 for 2 16.3 overs (Mithun 67, Mominul 55, Sabbir 37; Al Amin 2-28)

**Result:** Bangladesh A won by 8 wickets and won the 3-game series 3-0.