



It's very tough: Mash

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has said that it will be a 'very tough' task for the Tigers to go through to the second round of the World Cup.

"To be honest, everyone expects us to play in the second round. But it's going to be very tough. You have to beat at least two bigger sides, besides Afghanistan and Scotland. It is tough because of the conditions... we are not quite used to it.

"I think our young players are very good. They haven't played a lot of international cricket, but they have some experience, and hopefully they will turn out very well," Mashrafe told reporters in Sydney yesterday during the pre-World Cup press conference.

The two unofficial practice matches in Brisbane saw the Tigers experiment with their side. They changed the batting order, used eight bowlers and even called back a batsman in order to give others a chance.

The official practice matches against Pakistan and Ireland, due to take place today and on Thursday, would be played in a different vein.

"The World Cup starts now, and we will take it very seriously... we will play those matches as a normal match," said Mashrafe.

"We have some experienced players like Mushfiqur [Rahim], Tamim [Iqbal] and Shakib [Al Hasan]. I think if the big guns step up and the young players can help them, I think we have a great chance," he added.

Mashrafe further said that the Tigers weren't targeting any particular side to upset in the competition. He however said that they had a number of plans for their second match against Australia.

"You can't plan for just Michael Clarke. There are a few great batsmen in the Australia side. [Aaron] Finch is in great form, [Shane] Watson is there, and so is [David] Warner. You have to plan against all of them," reckoned Mashrafe.

The Tigers will face off with Pakistan today at the Blacktown Olympic Park Oval in Sydney in their first official practice match. Opener Tamim Iqbal, who missed the Brisbane practice matches, trained at the Sydney Cricket Ground along with the team yesterday and is expected to take part in today's game.



Bangladesh opening batsman Tamim Iqbal signs a bat during the ICC CWC 2015 pre-event activities in Sydney yesterday. The batsman is expected to play against Pakistan today.

PHOTO: BCB

Nasir replaces injured Hafeez

INTERNET

The ICC yesterday approved Nasir Jamshed as a replacement for injured Mohammad Hafeez in Pakistan's squad for the World Cup, starting February 14. The Event and Technical Committee of the World Cup approved the replacement. Hafeez is suffering from a calf injury, which he picked up while batting in the second ODI against New Zealand in Napier on February 3.

Jamshed, the 25-year-old left-handed opener, has played 45 ODIs for Pakistan in which he has scored 1,413 runs with three centuries and eight half-centuries. His last ODI was against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi in December 2014.

India roasted Aussie style

AFP, Sydney

Glenn Maxwell and David Warner notched aggressive centuries to lead Australia's 106-run win over a hapless India in a World Cup warm-up match, raising their status as favourites in the mega event starting this week.

Maxwell reached his whirlwind 100 off just 53 balls, hitting 11 boundaries and eight sixes before retiring for a 57-ball 122 to bolster Australia to 371 all out in 48.2 overs.

Skipper George Bailey won the toss and chose to bat at the Adelaide Oval ground.

The Australian hit pace-man Umesh Yadav for two fours and three sixes in the 45th over to build on the fiery 83-ball 104 by Warner, whose knock was studded with 14 boundaries and two sixes.

Aaron Finch had helped Warner hit 62 in just 8.2 overs in Australia's rollicking start, which Maxwell ended with some brutal hitting, taking 88 off the last 29 balls he faced.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 371 all out in 48.2 overs (Warner 104, Finch 20, Watson 22, Bailey 44, Maxwell 122, Marsh 21, Johnson 19; Shami 3-83, Yadav 2-52, Sharma 2-62)
INDIA: 265 all out in 45.1 overs (Dhawan 59, Rahane 66, Rayudu 53, Jadeja 20; Starc 2-16, Johnson 2-26, Hazlewood 2-25, Cummins 3-30)
Result: Australia won by 106 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Glenn Maxwell.

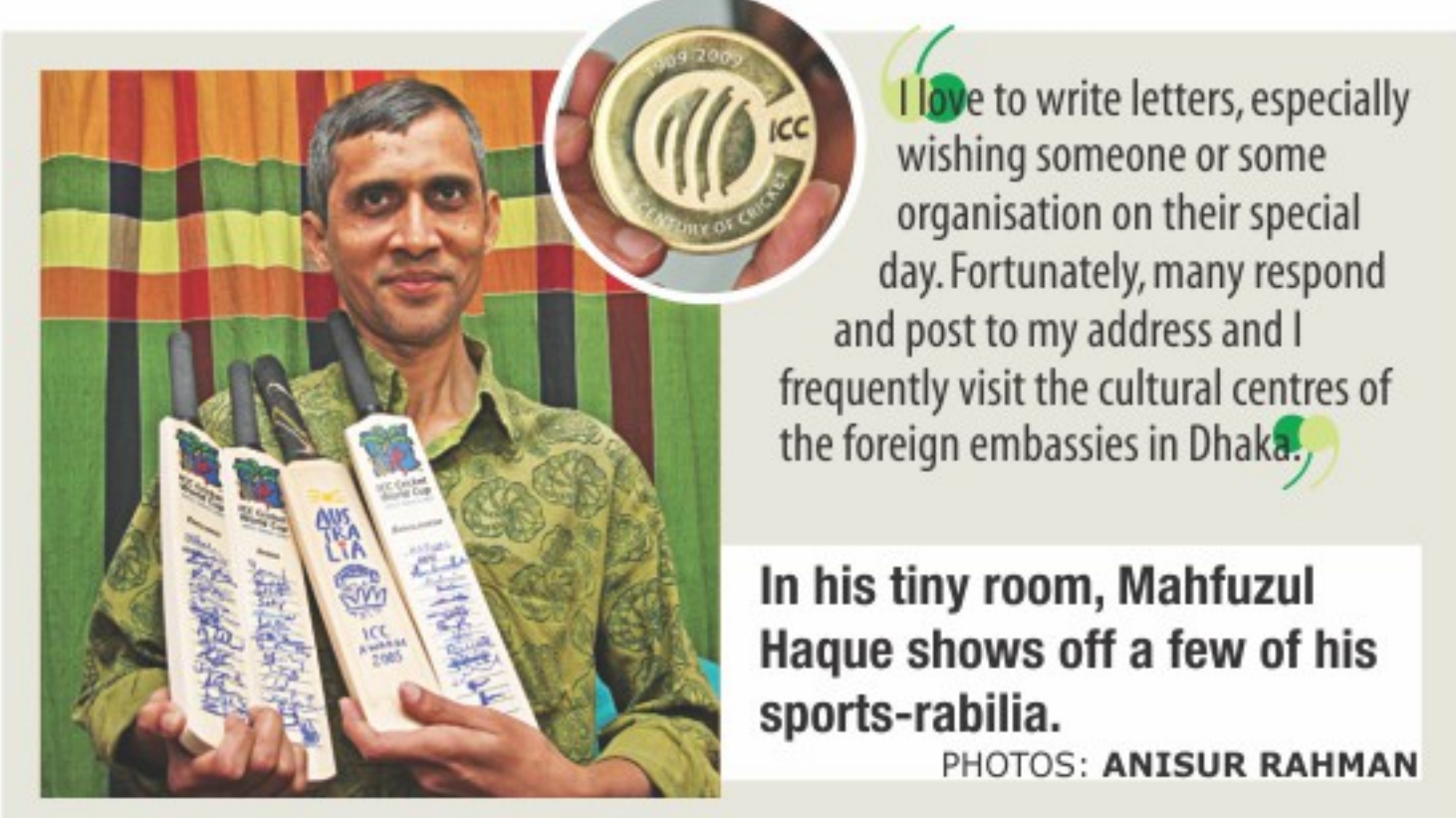
An ordinary extraordinaire

BISHWAJIT ROY

It looked like an ordinary room -- 14 ft by 11 ft -- for an ordinary man. You won't find any modern furniture there. An old fashioned bed, a dressing table and some other unremarkable furniture would make you perceive that the man living in this room has no affection for modern luxuries. He has a 21-inch colour television which, to him, is vital to fulfilling his passion rather than a luxury good. Even in this digital era, he is not ready to sacrifice his ambience by using a mobile phone.

If you enter this house and visit his room, you would still not get any inkling of anything extraordinary. But once the 'ordinary' man opens his small cabinet, you are bound to raise your eyebrows. The memorabilia he collected from FIFA, ICC and International Olympic Committee, as well as the bits and pieces of paper stuffed into his small cabinet can mesmerise anyone.

By the looks of it seemed as though Mahfuzul Haque's collection was the only aspect in his life that he has been living for. The 44-year-old man feels his heart beats only in sports. The slender man shows you each piece of his collection, which include four original



In his tiny room, Mahfuzul Haque shows off a few of his sports-rabilia.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

autographed bats from the 2007 World Cup, ICC's centenary celebrations coin and an Olympic coin, a football signed by FIFA president Sepp Blatter, with untiring zest and unfaltering love, akin to the way a father shows you his baby. "This is a memorable one," was a statement that accompanied almost every trinket of his.

Observing all his collections, including the latest ones from International Cricket Council (ICC), which sent some memorabilia of the upcoming World Cup, one can easily understand how consumed Mahfuzul is by sports.

And the story could end here, but more surprises await you when you learn how he communicates

with the game's governing bodies to collect these 'artefacts'. You may think that it's just a matter of a single click to send a message. But to Mahfuzul, the internet is like the eighth wonder of the world. "I love to write letters, especially wishing someone or some organisation on their special day. Fortunately, many respond and post to my address and I frequently visit the cultural centres of the foreign embassies in Dhaka."

The eldest son of retired government official, his excitement, love and passion revolves around watching football, cricket and tennis and collecting such memorabilia.

"One day I suddenly got a call on my land phone from the postman who said 'I have a parcel from Switzerland with a ball' and he asked me when he should deliver it. I told him to stay in his office and that I would go and pick it up personally. I didn't want to take any risk. It was a right decision as the ball was signed by FIFA president Sepp Blatter," an emphatic Mahfuzul recalled.

"I fell in love with sports when I was in school. From my youth, I leaned towards spending my time watching sports rather than playing. I don't know what actually encouraged me to love sports," said Mahfuzul.

His parents were initially worried about his future due to his all-out passion towards sports but his 70-year-old father Mahmudul Haque now takes it sportingly. "We now enjoy his madness and in our family circle he is called the 'living dictionary' for his knowledge," said a smiling Mahmudul.

As for his life's philosophy Mahmudul believes that "everyone is not capable of everything". And it is with this thought that he hopes to stick to his dream, of building a small museum one day, where he can proudly showcase his treasures for people to witness and marvel.



WORLD CUP COCKTAIL

England firebrand Stuart Broad has commenced hostilities with Australia by predicting the hosts will not even make the World Cup final.

The Australians are the bookies' pick to take out the tournament after dominating the recent tri-series against India and England. However, Broad remained unconvinced of their credentials when asked who England would face in the decider on March 29.

"New Zealand or South Africa," he predicted.

"I don't know how it all works towards the end [and] Australia are massive favourites, but New Zealand are looking dangerous and South Africa are looking very dangerous.

Lasith unfazed by pressure

Sri Lanka's pacer Lasith Malinga claimed Sunday he wasn't overawed by the task of leading his team's bowling unit in the World

Cup and is under no pressure whatsoever.

"I don't know what pressure means," he was quoted as saying.

"I'm always used to pressure situations, so I wouldn't even know what pressure is to talk about it. I want to have a free mindset and do what I can do," he said.

"Throughout my career I haven't been looking out where I'm playing or what are the conditions. We know it will be bouncy here, but I always trust my skill," he added.

ICC approves Mohit Sharma

The ICC has confirmed that the Event Technical Committee of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 has approved Mohit Sharma as a replacement player for Ishant Sharma in India's squad for the tournament, which starts on 14 February.

--COMPILED

TWO LEADERS
COME TOGETHER

DBH HOME LOANS FOR
SHELTECH APARTMENTS...

Only on Airtel, talk with no conditions and restrictions

ON INACTIVE CONNECTIONS
HALF P./SECOND TO AIRTEL
1 P./SECOND TO OTHER OPERATORS

To avail this offer dial +222*1#
Also enjoy free Facebook and Whatsapp

VAT applicable. For details, dial 1212 (free)
Join: facebook.com/airtelbuzz
Visit: bd.airtel.com

We Provide Complete Water Solutions-

ETP-WTP-STP

All Equipments & Chemicals supply of ETP, WTP & STP.

Saimin Water Solutions & Technologies
Tel: +88-02-8933717, Mobile: 01678-673876
E-mail: saiminbd@gmail.com

The Daily Star

VOICE NEWS SERVICE

Dial 2 2 2 2

for the latest news highlights in English

আমরা শোকাহত ও মর্মান্বিত

সাবেক এমপি মরহুম অধ্যাপক হামিদুর রহমানের সহধর্মিনী ও গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী জনাব নসরুল হামিদ বিপু এমপি'র শ্রদ্ধেয় মাতা মিসেস হাসনা হামিদের ইন্তেকালে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত ও মর্মান্বিত।

মিসেস হাসনা হামিদ গত ৩১শে জানুয়ারী ২০১৫ শনিবার ভোর ৫ টায় সিঙ্গাপুরের ন্যাশনাল ইউনিভার্সিটি হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্নািল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৭৬ বছর।

আমরা মহান রাব্বুল আলামিনের দরবারে তাঁর রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি আন্তরিক সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

জিপিএইচ গ্রুপের পরিচালনা পর্ষদ

GPH Group

Since 1987

325 Asadgonj, Chittagong