

Anamul, Taskin shout Eureka!

SPORTS REPORTER from Melbourne

Anamul Haque and Taskin Ahmed have no height phobia. It's something that they proved yesterday by going all the way to the top of the Eureka Tower in Melbourne, a 297.3-metre skyscraper, and looking down to the city.

Bangladesh's cricketers went to the 88th floor of the tower to take part in a programme organised by Cricket Australia and the ICC World Cup's organising committee. It was organised to invite the supporters to watch tomorrow's match between Sri Lankan and Bangladesh at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

"It's an awesome experience. There was also a glass cube called 'the Edge', which extends itself from the building. It felt like we were suspended in the air," said an ecstatic Anamul.



The Tigers limber up at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday, ahead of their crucial World Cup battle against Sri Lanka at this iconic venue in Australia tomorrow.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Tigers believe they can win

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

The sudden departure of Al-Amin Hossain and all the controversies surrounding the issue had, for a brief period, deteriorated the mood in the Tigers camp. However yesterday it seemed as though the players had found their mojo yet again during training at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

It was a changed environment at the MCG with players talking and joking with each other. That the confidence was high, ahead of their vital clash against Sri Lanka tomorrow, was obvious from opener Tamim Iqbal's statement.

"I don't know why, but I am sensing a victory against Sri Lanka," the left-hander chuckled.

"InshaAllah we will win this match. Our team is now in good shape and we are hopeful that we can play our best cricket to beat Sri Lanka," added a smiling Mahmudullah Riyad without mentioning any weakness of their opponents.

Sri Lanka have not had the best of starts to the mega event. They went down to Zimbabwe in a practice match and went through painstaking moments against Afghanistan in their second World Cup game.

Against hosts New Zealand, they suffered one of their worst World Cup defeats ever. Their top order has been struggling to find the middle of the bat while their bowlers haven't been able to create anything special. Lasith Malinga, for instance, was taken away for 84 runs against New Zealand. While he did scalp three wickets in the second

Mushy's blow 'not serious'

SPORTS REPORTER from Melbourne

After the Al-Amin Hossain episode, the Tigers went through another rough period yesterday as the in-form Mushfiqur Rahim hurt his thumb while training at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Fortunately for the Tigers, the injury was deemed not serious. "The X-ray suggested no fracture; as a result, we don't think it's serious. He is having a bit of pain, but we hope everything will be okay tomorrow [Wednesday]," informed team manager Khaled Mahmud.

The wicketkeeper-batsman hurt his right thumb while attempting to fend off a Taskin Ahmed delivery in the nets. The bowler was immediately taken to a hospital.

Taskin, the fastest bowler in the side, is at times menacing to face in the nets. This isn't the first time that the 19-year-old overwhelmed a Bangladeshi batsman.

In August last year, a fierce yorker left Tamim Iqbal's ankle swollen in Mirpur and compelled him to leave the nets.

One would hope that Mushfiqur, who top-scored for the Tigers last year and also hammered fluent half-century against the Afghans in the last game, becomes hundred per cent fit ahead of their crucial encounter against Sri Lanka tomorrow.

Mosaddek misses triple ton

SPORTS REPORTER



Young Mosaddek Hossain fell agonisingly short of becoming only the second Bangladeshi batsman to score more than 300 runs in an innings. The player, who is featuring for Barisal in the ongoing National Cricket League, lost his wicket for 282 at the BKSP yesterday on the second day of the fourth round of the competition.

The player, who had an overnight score 150 continued on his aggressive manner and consistently punched the boundaries time and again. It took him 229 balls to reach his double-century. Unlike a majority of the other double-centurions in the league, Mosaddek batted with intent after reaching the landmark. 12 runs short

of the 300-mark though, he was bowled by Mehedi Hasan Rana.

While he couldn't achieve the personal goal, he did however, provide his team with a fantastic start. Barisal declared on 579. After the exchange, they also scalped two Chittagonian wickets.

Leaders Dhaka were given a boost by Shuvagata Hom's 135 yesterday. The player, who needed 26 runs to complete a century yesterday, did so with ease. He was well supported by Mosharraf Hossain who remained unbeaten on 59. Dhaka were bundled out for 366. They currently have the edge in the match as they reduced Khulna to 124 for 3 before stumps at Fatullah.

Marshall Ayub's Dhaka Metro went into a strong position at Mirpur yesterday after they bowled Alok Kapali's Sylhet for 171, 93 runs short of

Metro's first innings score.

Meanwhile, a fine 173 from the in-form Liton Kumar helped Rangpur reach 357 for 3 by stumps yesterday. The opener was on fire and hammered 17 fours and three sixes.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: 597 for 9 (Mosaddek 282, Shohag 94; Faisal 3-161)
CHITTAGONG: 124 for 2 (Nafees 32 not out, Abdullah 32; Shohag 1-41)
DHAKA: 366 all out in 147.5 overs (Shuvagata 135, Mosharraf 59 not out; Mustafizur 4-88, Ziaur 3-38)
KHULNA: 124 for 3 (Mehedi 66, Tushar 37; Shahadat 2-34)
RAJSHAH: 263
RANGPUR: 357 for 3 (Liton 173, Naeem 58; Sanjamul 2-121)
DHAKA METRO: 264
SYLHET: 171 all out in 61.2 overs (Nazmul 39; Elias 4-38, Sharifullah 3-49)

NZ ready for Oz banter

AFP, Auckland

New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson admits his teammates are braced for a verbal onslaught from Australia in their blockbuster World Cup clash in Auckland on Saturday.

The Eden Park duel is likely to decide who tops Pool A and plays a relatively weaker team from Pool B in the quarterfinals.

As a result, Anderson feels the Black Caps will face a charged-up Australia, but insists if the sledging starts, it will be one-way traffic.

"Their sledging tactics are well known now and something we haven't involved ourselves in," Anderson told reporters.

"We're fairly neutral on the field. We stick to what we do. We'll be expecting a bit of heat from them and I guess that's part of their game-plan and we'll just deal with it as it comes."

Anderson, 24, said that despite the two sides not having completed a match against each other since the 2011 World Cup when Australia won by seven wickets, there will be few surprises come game day.

Al-Amin back in Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

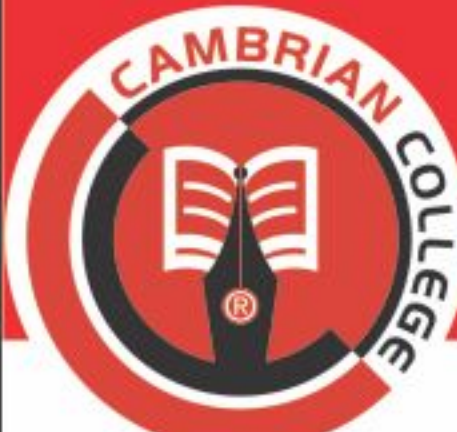
Pacer Al-Amin Hossain returned to the country yesterday. The bowler, who was sent back from the World Cup on disciplinary grounds, arrived here yesterday evening. He could not be contacted by the media upon his arrival.

On February 19, Al-Amin entered the team hotel after 10:00 pm and failed to provide a reasonable explanation regarding his delay. The ICC's Anti Corruption and Security Unit informed the team management about it.

It was learnt that BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon took the hardline and decided to send him back. Various media reports stated that the bowler had allegedly gone to meet a bookie. However, BCB officials stated that Al-Amin had no such intention.

BCB director Jalal Yunus yesterday reconfirmed that Al-Amin was sent back solely due to disciplinary issues and for no other reason.

It is still unsure as to what Al-Amin will do in the next few days. At the moment the National Cricket League is going on, however, whether Al-Amin will take part in the event or not is uncertain.



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Never Played Before		Never Played Before
Last meeting: Never Played Before.		
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Chris Gayle made all the West Indies supporters smile, while Zimbabweans stared wide-eyed. Google made a Chris Gayle doodle.



Katalina: Win or Lose, the boys fought damn hard. Im proud to be Zimbo. These lads deserve farms!!

Shona: Gayle, great batting today against Zim but please don't do that against us (Proteas) on Friday.