

# SPORT

## Tigers' party today

SPORTS REPORTER

Blazing fireworks and a host of Bangladesh's top music bands will dominate the celebratory reception for the Tigers set to take place at Manik Mia Avenue from 2:30 pm today. The programme will be shown live on Channel 9.

The reception, which is taking place in a bid to congratulate Bangladesh's World Cup squad for their brilliant performance in Australia and New Zealand, will witness the Tigers arrive in a bus and take the stage from where they will be able to greet their fans.

Thousands of fans are expected to turn up to the programme and as a result seating arrangements have been made for 3000 people at the Sangsad Bhaban's South Plaza arena.

Legendary pop-rock band Miles and age-old heavy metal band Warface will be performing in the evening, while rock bands Aurtohin, Nemesis and Cryptic Fate are expected to perform in the afternoon. Apart from the musical setup, the reception will also have a fireworks show which is expected to last for close to ten minutes.

Almost all the players of the World Cup contingent are expected to be present at the programme. Coach Chandika Hathurusingha, who returned to the country yesterday, will also be present. Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who is in India to play in the Indian Premier League, however, won't be there.

## BD U-19s go 2-0 up

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Under-19 cruised to a 140-run win over their South African counterparts in the second youth ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday and took a 2-0 lead in the seven-match series.

It was a combined effort that took the hosts over the line.

After electing to bat first the hosts made a jittery start as they crumbled to 72 for 3 by the end of 22 overs. However, a 107-run stand for the fourth wicket between captain Nazmul Hossain and wicketkeeper Zakir Hasan brought the hosts back into the game. While Nazmul scored a cautious 107-ball 73, Zakir hammered 81 off 83 balls. With seven overs remaining, Nazmul was sent back to the pavilion. He was bowled by slow left-armer Sean Whitehead while attempting to up the tempo. Whitehead, who was the player of the match of the first game, finished with decent figures yesterday as well, taking two wickets for just 23 runs in his ten overs.

Following Nazmul's departure,

Mohammad Saifuddin arrived at the crease and began a late onslaught together with Nazmul. Saifuddin hammered three sixes and a four on his way to a 27-ball 41. The pair shared an 80-run stand in the last 7.5 overs and took the hosts to 259 at the end of the innings.

Gutted by the late turnaround, the visitors were low on confidence after the exchange and with an array of spinners coming against them, life wasn't going to become any easier.

Spinners Nihaduzzaman, Mosabbek Hossain and Saleh Ahmed took seven wickets as the visitors crumbled for 119 in 43.2 overs. Kyle Verreynne, South Africa's opener, was the top-scorer with 47 runs.

The teams will travel to Cox's Bazar to play the third and fourth youth ODIs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH U-19s:** 259 for 4 (Zakir 81, Nazmul 73; Whitehead 2-23)  
**SOUTH AFRICA U-19s:** 119 all out (Verreynne 47; Nihaduzzaman 3-21, Mosabbek 2-23)  
**Result:** Bangladesh U-19s won by 140 runs.

## Rubel gets a top-ten spot

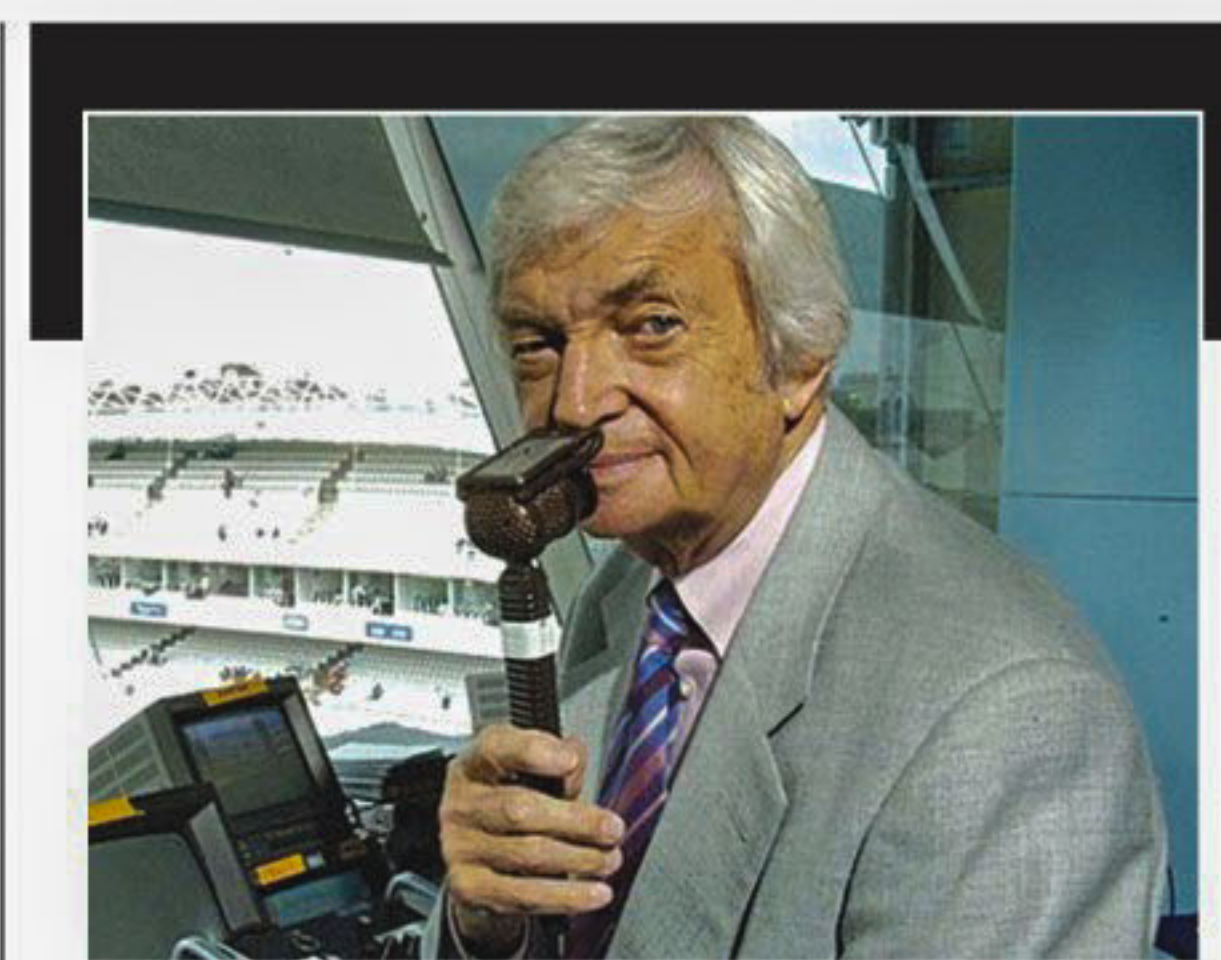
SPORTS REPORTER

To say that Rubel Hossain's emphatic four-wicket haul against England in the World Cup mesmerised a nation would be an understatement. His reverse-swinging yorkers in the second last over of that game took Bangladeshis all over the world over the moon and left the English sobbing over their unexpected exit.

The importance of that bowling effort -- 4 for 54 in 9.3 overs - was recognised by the International Cricket Council as well, as it included Rubel's effort as one of the top ten bowling performances of the World Cup.

It was a performance which, in a sense, changed Rubel's life. The bowler, who until the World Cup was mired in controversy, turned the tides by taking the Tigers into the quarterfinals for the first time.

The ICC had also released the top ten catches of the tournament yesterday and it included Shikhar Dhawan's controversial boundary-line catch off Mahmudullah Riyad.



Richie Benaud: 1930-2015

## Voice of cricket falls silent

AFP, Sydney

Richie Benaud holds a revered place in international cricket, lauded as a "national treasure" and the most influential Australian cricketer and broadcaster of his era.

The Test great and pioneering broadcaster died in his sleep Friday at the age of 84 after fighting skin cancer and the debilitating effects of a car accident near his Sydney seaside home in 2013.

"Our country has lost a national treasure," mourned Cricket Australia chairman Wally Edwards.

"After Don Bradman, there has been no Australian player more famous or more influential than Richie Benaud."

Benaud, who was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1961 for services to cricket, led Australia in 28 of his 63 Tests and did not lose a series as captain.

His adventurous leadership was encapsulated by the famous tied Test with the West Indies in Brisbane in 1960.

Australia were chasing 233 with 320 minutes of play left, and Benaud's instinct was to go for an improbable win. He came in to bat at a perilous 92 for six and hit a rollicking 52, as Australia counter-attacked until a run-out on the last ball left the scores tied.

The dashing leg-spinning all-rounder epitomised his cricket by playing with his shirt unbuttoned to his chest and his collar upturned.

The first man to complete the double of 2,000 runs and 200 wickets in Test cricket, Benaud combined sport with life as a journalist for The Sun and the News of the World from 1956 until his retirement as a player in 1964.

### 'REST IN PEACE'

He learned reporting on the police beat and began his broadcasting career on BBC Radio in 1960, moving to BBC Television three years later. He also had a stint on Britain's Channel 4.

Benaud said of his laconic commentating style: "The key thing was to learn the value of economy with words and to never insult the viewer by telling them what they can already see."

The much-mimicked Benaud was renowned for appearing before the TV cameras adorned in his beige jacket and he never took umbrage at his many impersonators.

BATTING RECORD						
Tests	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s	50s
63	97	2201	122	24.45	3	9

BOWLING RECORD						
Tests	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	Avg	5W
63	116	19108	6704	248	27.03	16

After retiring from playing Benaud divided his time between the summer cricket seasons of Britain and Australia, working in television and writing books and for newspapers.

Overall Benaud played in or commented on approximately 500 Test matches, as he noted in one of his final interviews in Britain.

Through his work in England and commentary for commercial television in Australia, he became the iconic voice of the Channel Nine team from the first summer of media baron Kerry Packer's trailblazing World Series Cricket in 1977-78.

He retired from international commentary after the 2005 Ashes series, partly as a protest against the game's disappearance from free-to-air TV in Britain.

Benaud remained a mainstay in Nine's cricket coverage until the 2013 car accident sidelined him, before he announced in November last year that he was fighting skin cancer.

It was Benaud's distinctive voice that provided a moving tribute to Test cricketer Phillip Hughes, who died when struck by a bouncer last November.

Benaud finished his narration with a poignant "forever, rest in peace, son".

## IN A NUTSHELL

### Invader demands Ferrari 'test drive'

AGENCIES, Shanghai

A track invader sparked a security panic during Friday's free practice at the Chinese Grand Prix after climbing over the pit wall and demanding to test drive a Ferrari.

The fan scaled a fence and risked disaster by running across the tarmac in between the Sauber of Marcus Ericsson and Nico Hulkenberg's Force India before vaulting the pit wall and walking calmly towards the Ferrari garage.

Waving his ticket, he shouted "I've got a ticket, I want a car!" before being tackled by stewards and handed over to the police, a race official told AFP, confirming that security would be beefed up after the incident in Shanghai.

According to the official, the man "appeared crazed rather than drunk", pointing out that climbing the main grandstand fence, negotiating cars travelling at 250kph and jumping over the pit wall would require both strength and coordination.

The fan was bundled into a police car after being apprehended, still in an agitated state, he added.

### Mauresmo's surprise announcement

AFP, Paris

Former world number one Amelie Mauresmo announced her pregnancy Thursday, with the baby due in August.



Mauresmo, captain of the French Fed Cup team and coach of Briton Andy Murray, took to Twitter to announce her news.

"Baby will be here in august! #pregnant So happy," said the 35-year-old who won two Grand Slam titles in 2006 and retired in 2009.

The message was accompanied by a photo of a baby's pair of blue trainers next to an identical pair of adult shoes.

There was no clue as to the identity of the baby's father. Mauresmo came out as gay at the 1999 Australian Open.

With the birth due in August, Mauresmo's Fed Cup schedule will be little changed, but it will be more problematic for her work with Murray, the world number four who is to marry girlfriend Kim Sears on Saturday.

### Kings XI Punjab players embarrassed of jersey

AGENCIES, New Delhi

Kings XI Punjab players have been left a little embarrassed after the franchise struck a deal with a leading condom brand.

The condom manufacturer Manforce is a product of the New Delhi-based Mankind pharma.

According to a report in newspaper Hindustan Times, Mohit Burman, who is the team co-owner said, "Manforce will figure on the back of the jerseys along with our other main sponsor Tata Prime."

The players are reportedly shy in wearing the jersey. "I don't know what to say; my family will be watching and it's an embarrassing situation. Also, friends are bound to tease us," a player from the Punjab franchise told HT on the condition of anonymity.

Kings XI Punjab stand on robust support from 20 sponsors and partners.

"We have seen such products (male contraceptives) being advertised on TV during matches, but we don't have guidelines that limit a franchise from getting one as a team sponsor," said Rajeev Shukla, the IPL governing council chairman.



Bangladesh under-19 cricketers are ecstatic after handing their South African counterparts a massive 140-run defeat in Mirpur yesterday to take a 2-0 lead in the seven-match series. The teams will play the remaining youth ODIs in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'None better than me'

AGENCIES, Bangalore



India's Test captain Virat Kohli lashed out at critics on Friday, who blamed his girlfriend Anushka Sharma for the team's exit from ICC Cricket World Cup, stating that they "should be ashamed of themselves" as "no one has won more matches" than him in the last five years.

Kohli, opened up for the first time since the World Cup exit, after which his filmstar girlfriend took a lot of unnecessary flak in various social networking sites.

"At a human level, I would say I was hurt and the people who said those things and the way they said should be ashamed of themselves," Kohli said at a promotional event of his IPL side Royal Challengers Bangalore, in reference to the abuse that the Bollywood star had to face after Kohli's poor show in the semifinal.

Kohli was unusually open during

his interaction with media on Friday as he didn't forget to mention his performance during the past five years.

"Personally, I was very disappointed. In last five years, the number of matches I've helped India win and the consistently I've played is more than anyone else in the team. I don't think there's anybody else in the team who has done better than me," Kohli answered with same swagger that one finds in his batting.

Kohli feels that now he knows "whom to trust" after the public outrage over his poor show against Australia in the semifinal of the World Cup.

"To see those reactions after just one match was very disappointing for me personally. It makes you lose faith in a lot of people. It's a good thing in a way. You get to know who's with you and who's not. It was not in my control. But the reactions were very disappointing," Kohli said at the function where RCB announced its tie-up with home appliances brand Midea.

### 2nd Nitol-Tata Rallycross today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Motorsports organised the first Rallycross Championship in 2014, which consists of vehicles racing against the clock on a closed-off dirt track.

Today, they are going to begin the second iteration of this event, with an updated roster and with different vehicle classes being added to the mix.

There will also be a new track at the Bashundhara International Convention City grounds located at Purbachal 300 feet road for the competitors.

## Fixing approach in IPL again

AFP, New Delhi

An unnamed player fended off an approach by a colleague to deliberately underperform in cricket's Indian Premier League in exchange for cash, authorities said Friday.

The Rajasthan Royals player informed the team's management about the approach which was made during another domestic tournament last month, the team principal and reports said.

"Maintaining high standards of integrity, the player informed the Rajasthan Royals management of this inappropriate approach," the team's CEO Raghu Iyer said in a statement.

"Rajasthan Royals commends the player for having reported this incident immediately and for his honesty and uprightness."

### Easy win for Rajasthan

AGENCIES, Pune

Rajasthan Royals got their Indian Premier League campaign off to a bright start beating Kings XI Punjab by 26 runs at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium here on Friday.

Chasing 163 runs to win, Punjab's reply never really got going and they only managed to reach 136/8 in their 20 overs.

Australia's World Cup hero James Faulkner was Royals' star man as well with his innings-paced knock of 46 runs and then taking 3/26 with the ball.

The Punjab run chase got off to the worst possible start when Virender Sehwag (0) was out first ball of their innings, edging a Tim Southee delivery to the wicketkeeper.

Earlier, Rajasthan Royals posted 162/7 in their 20 overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**RAJASTHAN:** 162 for 7 in 20 overs (Smith 23, Hooda 30, Faulkner 46; Anureet 3-23, Johnson 2-34)

**PUNJAB:** 136 for 8 in 20 overs (Vijay 37, Patel 24, Miller 23, Bailey 24; Southee 2-36, Faulkner 3-26)

**Result:** Rajasthan won by 26 runs. **Player-of-the-match:** James Faulkner.



Mohammedan skipper Salma Khatun (150 not out) and opener Eti Mondal (124 not out) shared a 283-run stand for the third wicket to take their side to 349 for 2 in 40 overs in the Dhaka Premier Division Women's Cricket League yesterday. MSC then bowled Orient SC out for 33 to win the game by 316 runs. While the margin of victory was huge, there have been even bigger winning-margins in women's ODIs, the biggest one taking in 1997 when New Zealand beat Pakistan by 408 runs.

PHOTO: STAR