

Tigers get busy again from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national cricketers get back to business today as they start preparing for the upcoming ICC Twenty20 World Championship after a six-day first-ever commando training in Sylhet under the guidance of a Bangladesh Army unit.

This time it would be a different type of a camp for Mohammad Ashraful's men at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium as they will play a number of practice matches rather than only having net and other fitness training sessions.

After the first day's training the Tigers, who were given two days break after the boot camp, will play two Twenty20 games against the Australia-bound National Cricket Academy squad on August 21 and a limited-overs match against same opponents the following day. They will also play more Twenty20 matches till August 26 against other local selections.

Bangladesh team will leave Dhaka on August 29 for Kenya to participate in a four-nation Twenty20 tourney before the main event starts in South Africa on September 11.



Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder Geovanni (C) taunts the home crowd after scoring with a beauty of a right-footer in the Premiership derby against Manchester United at the City of Manchester stadium in Manchester on yesterday.

Reds bleed at City

AFP, Manchester



The victory sent City to the head of the Premiership table with a maximum nine points from their opening three games as Eriksson's dream start at Eastlands continued.

Defeat at the hands of the former England coach will have been frustrating enough for Ferguson who enjoyed a fractious relationship with him during Eriksson's time in charge of the national team.

But more importantly, the United manager was left to contemplate a title defence that has brought just

two points and one goal from three frustrating outings.

And with Wayne Rooney out for two months after breaking a foot in last week's opener, United's latest misfiring display will understandably give cause for concern.

United may have dominated possession but a combination of Geovanni's deadly finishing and Micah Richards outstanding defensive work meant this was a day for the blue half of Manchester.

With Rooney, Louis Saha and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer missing injured and Cristiano Ronaldo starting a three-match, Ferguson had little option but to ask Carlos Tevez to operate as a lone striker.

But with Nani, Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes all quick to offer support to the Argentine, there initially seemed little doubt United would have more than enough firepower to overcome a stuttering City.

Twice in the opening half Tevez

and Scholes exchanged quick passes to unpick the City defence and create an opening for Nani but on both occasions the winger was denied by City keeper Kasper Schmeichel.

The 20-year-old -- a 17 million pounds capture from Sporting Lisbon this summer -- was eventually withdrawn after 60 minutes after a display that confirmed it could be some time before he emulates the feats of compatriot Ronaldo.

With Owen Hargreaves bolstering the United midfield with an impressive Premiership debut performance, Ferguson's side completely dominated the opening period.

Were it not for a succession of outstanding blocks, tackles and clearances by Richards, United would have been well on their way

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Tk 87.4 crore budget for 3 Games

SPORTS REPORTER

The Youth and Sports Ministry has sent a budget of Tk 87.4 crore to the Finance Ministry for next year's three sporting events including the 11th South Asian (SA) Games to be held in Dhaka.

The proposed budget for the SA Games -- formerly known as the SAF Games -- is Tk 79.33 crore which includes Tk 23.73 crore for training, Tk 17 crore for venue renovation and installation of instrument and the rest Tk 38 crore for organising and participating teams.

For the 8th Bangladesh Games and the second Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games, the proposed budgets are Tk 4.74 crore and Tk 3.33 crore respectively.

The Finance Ministry has already disbursed Tk one crore for the Bangla Games and Tk 2.25 crore for the Bangladesh Games.

The information was revealed after an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday.

Myanmar invites Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Myanmar Football Association has invited Bangladesh to the 3rd Grand Royal Cup to be held in capital Yangon from November 1-7.

Bangladesh finished runners-up the last time they took part in the event just before the SAFF Championship in 2005.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), which will have to confirm their participation by August 29, will take the decision in its executive committee meeting.

Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia are the other invited nations in the under-23 meet.

Orissa eve booters due today

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian national champions Orissa women's football team will arrive Dhaka today to play five friendly matches against Bangladesh.

The visitors will play at Shafipur on the outskirts of Dhaka (August 22), at Narshingdi on the next day, in Chittagong (Aug 25) at Narayanganj (Aug 26) and in Dhaka (Aug 27) during their nine-day trip.

Big win for Shantinagar

UNB, Dhaka

Shantinagar Club earned an emphatic 4-1 win over Rainbow AC in the Metropolitan Third Division Football League match at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Rahmatganj SC blanked Mirpur Chalanatia SC 3-0, City United Club defeated Spandan KC 1-0 and Dhaka Juniors SC split points with Muslin Institute in a goalless draw.

Nayeem to go for win

Bangladesh meet India today in Nehru Cup

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh-India football rivalry gets into its 30th year when the regional foes will be pitted against each other for the 22nd time today.

The Nehru Cup match at the Ambedkar Stadium, both sides' second in the five-team event, would be crucial for Bangladesh in a bid to stay in contention for an unlikely place in the final after their 2-0 loss to favourites Syria on Saturday.

Zee Sports will telecast the match live from in New Delhi at 7.30pm Bangladesh time.

And for Bangladesh's new coach Syed Nayeemuddin, it would be a reverse role after he had guided his home nation India to lift the SAFF Championship in December 2005, beating his present team 2-0 in the Karachi final.

Nayeem did not seem disappointed with the result against Syria and said: "This is the first game... we didn't get any practice match before and I am satisfied with this result as Syria are a strong team."

"After a 6-0 win over Cambodia, India are no doubt a strong candidate. But we will be alert against them.

"We will not be defensive like we had been against Syria. We will play for win against India," the coach said after Bangladesh's yesterday's morning practice session at the Zanki Devi College ground.

Skipper Nazrul Islam told that India, who played a number of practice matches in Portugal, were well prepared.

"In addition to this preparation, they will have the home advantage.

But we will give our best in tomorrow's match," the centre-back said.

Nayeem's decision to ignore Bangladesh's top rightback Ibul Siraji for selection perhaps cost Bangladesh the match against Syria.

Bangladesh had been the more impressive side in the goalless first half Saturday night but Nayeem's

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Result	Date	Venue	Event
1. 0:3	12/12/1978	Bangkok	Asian Games
2. 0:2	20/11/1982	New Delhi,	Asian Games
3. 1:2	30/03/1985	Dhaka	WC Qualifier
4. 1:2	12/04/1985	Dhaka	SAF Games
5. 1:1(1:4 tiebreakers)	25/12/1985	Dhaka	WC Qualifier
6. 0:0	06/02/1988	Abu Dhabi	Asia Cup Qualifier
7. 1:1	23/10/1989	Islamabad	SAF Games
8. 2:1	26/12/1991	Colombo	SAF Games
9. 2:4	14/09/1994	Doha	Independence Cup
10. 0:0(2:4 tiebreakers)	31/03/1995	Colombo	SAARC Gold Cup
11. 0:1	27/12/1995	Madras	SAF Games
12. 0:3	07/09/1997	Kathmandu	SAFF Championship
13. 0:0	22/04/1999	Margao	SAFF Championship
14. 0:2	01/05/1999	Margao	SAFF Championship
15. 1:0	02/10/1999	Kathmandu	SAF Games
16. 2:2	29/11/1999	Abu Dhabi	Asia Cup Qualifier
17. 1:1	02/05/2000	Male	Jubilee Cup
18. 0:1	29/07/2000	Leicester	Friendly
19. 2:1 a.e.t.(1:1)	18/01/2003	Dhaka	SAFF Championship
20. 1:1	12/12/2005	Karachi	SAFF Championship
21. 0:2	17/12/2005	Karachi	SAFF Championship

Mehrab talks positive

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-handed Test batsman Mehrab Hossain, captain of the Grameenphone BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA), assured that the expensive tour to Australia would not be a useless one for the team.

In connection with the academy team's three-week down under tour a press conference was organised yesterday in Mirpur where questions were raised about the justification of the tour.

The board is all set to spend a big amount (more than 80 lakhs taka) on the trip when there are serious doubts over the standard of the opponents in the five limited-overs, one three-day and one four-day matches in Darwin. The team

leaves Dhaka on August 23.

Mehrab, who had visited the country last year and played few matches as part of training programme, however, came to the rescue saying that they would face quality opponents on the tour.

"I can assure everybody that we will face strong opponents and obviously we are going to play better cricket than our domestic competitions. Actually in this competition teams are comprised of the second-

string players of the state teams alongside three or four quality first-class players," he informed.

Team operations manager-cum-coach Khaled Mahmud also expressed his optimism over the trip.

"It's always important to play cricket in different environment and I believe that our players can learn many things both on and off the field. There is a lot of questions about our technical skill in the highest level and we can take this kind of opportunity to improve our technique," said the former Bangladesh skipper.

Lt Col M Abdul Latif Khan (retd), chairman of the games development committee, said that his committee would evaluate everything after the series.

"I must admit that it's a very

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ITINERARY

Aug 27: one-day against W Australia
 Aug 28: one-day against N South Wales
 Aug 30: one-day against Queensland Academy of Sport
 Aug 31: one-day against ACT
 Sept 1-4: 3-day against Tasmania
 Sept 7: one-day against NT Strike
 Sept 10-13: 4-day against NT Strike



Grameenphone-BCB National Cricket Academy team captain Mehrab Hossain (L) speaks during a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Durham's first crown

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

In their sixteenth year of first-class status, Durham claimed their first domestic trophy as they won the rain-interrupted Friends Provident final by 125 runs at Lord's.

The overnight wait didn't disrupt their momentum as Paul Collingwood and Liam Plunkett ran through Hampshire's lower order, the last five wickets falling for 13 runs after rain had delayed the resumption until 12.30 on Sunday.

Plunkett, who improved vastly from his bowling on Saturday, secured the trophy by bowling Shane Warne. The only disappointment was that there was only a smattering of spectators in the ground to witness Durham's historic moment. The slightly extended wait won't dampen the celebration, except perhaps for Paul Collingwood who has to join up with England's one-day squad in

Southampton. The hard work was done on Saturday after the batsmen piled up 312, a record for a domestic 50-over final, and Otis Gibson stunned Hampshire's top order.

Earlier this season Gibson claimed all 10 wickets in an innings against Hampshire in the Championship and with the first ball of the run chase he had Michael Lumb superbly caught by Michael Di Venuto at second slip. Sean Ervine, who starred with a century in Hampshire's 2005 C&G success, fell in nearly identical fashion next ball. However, Ervine stood his ground before the decision was confirmed by the third umpire. There was no doubt that the ball carried.

This match was the last in which the referral system was in operation. Phil Mustard, the Durham wicketkeeper, forgot it was available when he was given out lbw to James Bruce, only realising two thirds of the way to the pavilion that he had the option. The rules said the referral had to be made immediately and Mustard had missed his chance.

In the field, though, Durham used the system when Kevin Pietersen hit a drive back towards Gibson, who was convinced he'd got a finger on the ball as it crashed into the non-striker's stumps with John Crawley well out of his ground. Benkenstein asked for it to be referred but, as was often the case, pictures were inconclusive and Crawley survived.

Any hopes Hampshire had of that changing their fortune quickly vanished when Pietersen was trapped plumb in front by a ball from Gibson that didn't bounce, leaving the chase in tatters at 17 for 3. Crawley tried his best to hold the innings together with 68, but when he was removed by Collingwood, Durham had the trophy.

Hampshire were disappointing.

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Did U Know?

The youngest seed of the Wimbledon Championships was Jennifer Capriati at 14-year 89 days at the time of her first match on June 26, 1990. She won the match, making her the youngest ever winner at Wimbledon.



VVS Laxman

(Star India batsman) "It's always great to come up against a legend like (Shane) Warne, and I am obviously looking forward to facing him again."

Before making his debut in the English County Championship as a Lancashire player against Hampshire.

What to WATCH

ZEE Sports

Nehru Cup Football
 India v Bangladesh
 Live from 7:30 pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India
 Sports News
 Live from 8:30 pm

Bangabir edge Janata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bangabir Agragami Krira Chakra defeated Janata Sporting Club by a solitary goal in yesterday's keenly contested First Division Football League match at the Sylhet stadium.

Sharif netted the lone goal for the winners after 21 minutes. Janata pressed hard for an equaliser but failed to capitalise on a series of chances in the second half as Bangabir goalkeeper Moni stood tall.

The crowd enjoyed a good match with Janata fielding as many as ten players from the capital including one Nigerian while Bangabir had seven booters from Dhaka in their roster.



Mirka Vavrinec (R), the girlfriend of Roger Federer, applauds after the Swiss world number one defeated Lleyton Hewitt to advance to the final of the Cincinnati Masters on Saturday.