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Tamim back from Pakistan to join camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal will not play the three remaining one-day matches for Bangladesh Under-19s in Pakistan as he returned home yesterday to join the national camp for the New Zealand tour.

With a plan to make the junior side stronger, the selectors included the national opener -- a policy that raised many eyebrows -- but the dashing left-hander had a very poor run in the tour.

Tamim scored 0 and 6 in the four-day match and made 23 and 27 in the first two one-dayers.

Under the guidance of new national coach Jamie Siddons the training camp will start tomorrow at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium where only selected one-day players except pacer Nazmul Hossain and left-arm Abdur Razzak will join. Nazmul and Razzak play today's National League one-day match for their respective sides.

The Tigers are expected to fly for New Zealand on December 12 to play a three-match one-day series and two Tests.

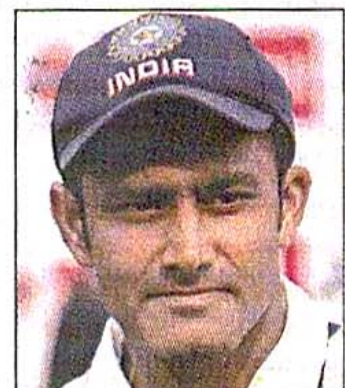
Bangladesh were set to play one limited-overs and a three-day build-up game in their tour but New Zealand Cricket has revised

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Did U Know?

Maria Sharapova started playing tennis when she was four, using a racket given to her by the father of tennis star Yevgeny Kafelnikov.



Anil Kumble

(India's Test captain)
"His skills as a player, as a player in a team which was successful, can help the team."
On newly appointed coach Gary Kirsten.



What to WATCH
DD National
India v Pakistan
Second Test, Day Two
Live from 10:00am
TEN Sports
Sri Lanka v England
First Test, Day One
Live from 11:00am
ESPN
English Premier League
Chelsea v West Ham
Live from 6:10pm
Blackburn Rovers v Newcastle
Live from 8:25pm
STAR Sports
English Premier League
Portsmouth v Everton
Live from 8:25pm
Aston Villa v Arsenal
Live from 11:10pm

DAY'S EVENT
Nat'l Cricket League
(Round Six, One-Day)
Chittagong v Barisal
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium
Khulna v Dhaka
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium
Sylhet v Rajshahi
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

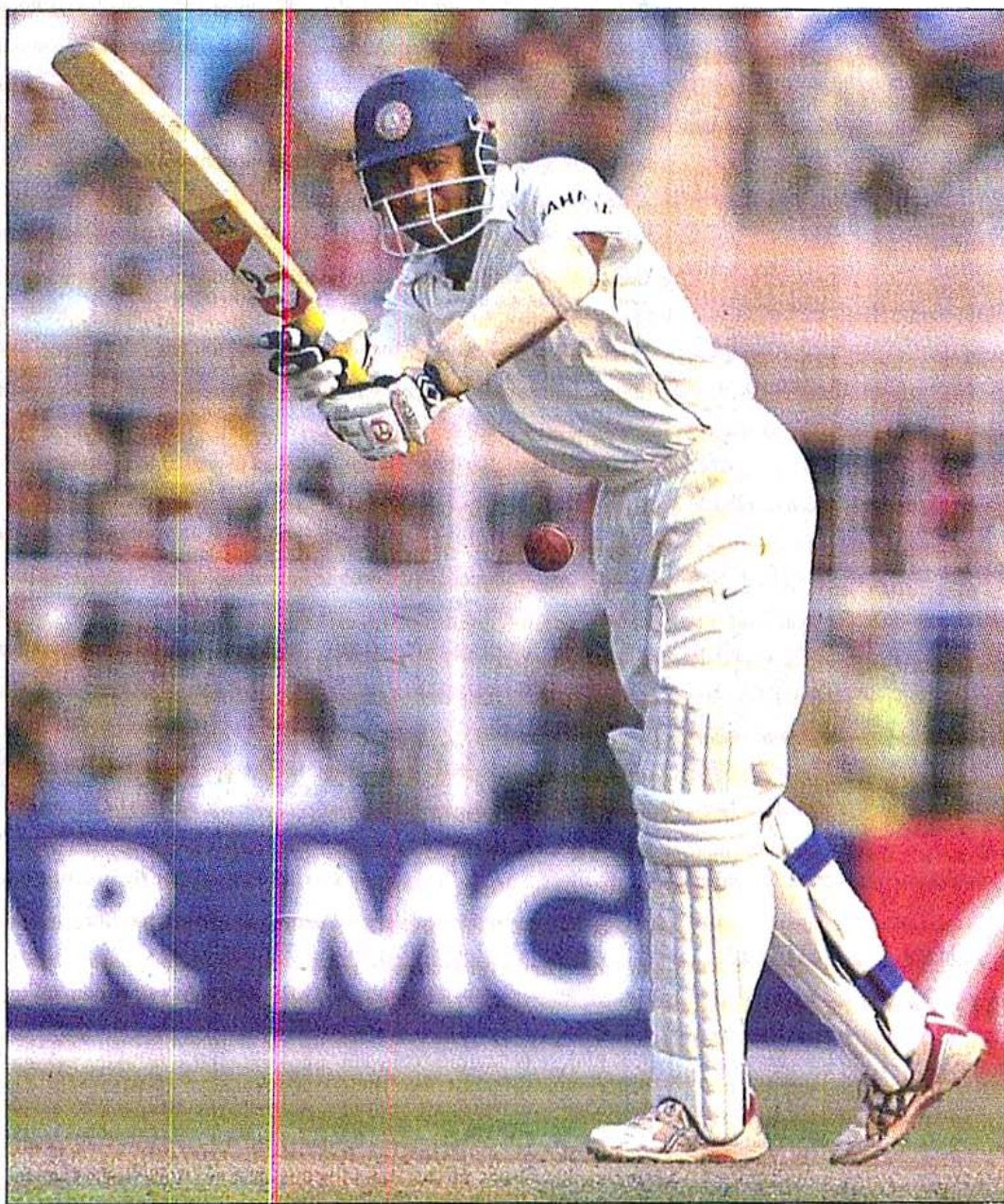


PHOTO: AFP

India opener Wasim Jaffer flicks the ball towards square-leg on way to scoring an unbeaten 192 during the first day of the second Test against Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Friday.

Jaffer sizzles Eden

Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

Wasim Jaffer closed in on his second double-century as India exposed Pakistan's bowling limitations to reach a healthy 352-3 on the opening day of the second Test here on Friday.

The opener gave a superb exhibition of strokeplay to make an unbeaten 192 for his fifth hundred after India elected to bat on a flat track at the Eden Gardens.

The 29-year-old Jaffer added 136 for the second wicket with Rahul Dravid (50) and 175 for the next with Sachin Tendulkar (82) to put his team on course for a big total after the second-over dismissal of Dinesh Karthik (one).

Sourav Ganguly was batting on 17 when bad light stopped play. Jaffer reached his hundred with

an aggressive shot, punching leg-spinner Danish Kaneria through the covers for his 18th boundary. He has so far struck 32 fours in his 255-ball knock.

"All hundreds are special. I have got only a few, so I'll count all of them as special. Scoring 192 in a day is something I haven't done before. I'll try to score a double-hundred tomorrow and then as many as I can," said Jaffer.

"I don't think I have batted so fluently so far in my Test career. It was my most fluent innings. I have got a few starts in England (this year) and did not convert them into hundreds. So, I tried to be focused once I was past 60-70."

Pakistan, grappling with injuries and illness to key players on Thursday, went into the match with four specialist bowlers but their gamble with semi-fit fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar backfired.

Akhtar, hospitalised on Tuesday

for a chest infection, hardly looked at his best in short spells. He bowled four overs in the morning, two in the afternoon and three in the evening without taking a wicket.

"The Pakistani bowling was hampered a bit by the fact that Akhtar was not fully fit, but it was just one of the good days for the Indian team. It feels good that we are in a strong position," said Jaffer.

Pacemen Mohammad Sami and Sohail Tanvir, and Kaneria were unable to maintain pressure on Jaffer, Tendulkar and Dravid on a first-day pitch having neither pace nor turn.

Jaffer, who scored a half-century in the last match, looked in good form from the beginning as he drove, cut and flicked with authority. He severely punished Tanvir during his attractive knock, hammering the bowler for 18 fours.

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Lankans focussed First Test from today

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Sri Lanka will not be sidetracked by the record feats of Chaminda Vaas and Muttiah Muralidaran when the first Test against England starts on Saturday, captain Mahela Jayawardene said.

While off-spinner Muralidaran needs five wickets to become Test cricket's most successful bowler, seamer Vaas will become only the third Sri Lankan to play 100 Test matches.

The two impending feats have excited local fans, but Jayawardene was confident his team will not be distracted by what he says are "magnificent achievements that cricketers only dream of."

"All of us are experienced enough to realise it is a Test series and we really need to play some very good cricket," Jayawardene told reporters after his team's practice session on Friday.

"The records will come but we will also be concerned with what the result will be after three Test matches. The focus will be to start very well, get at it from the beginning itself and play really positive cricket."

Muralidaran, 35, with 704 wickets in the bag, returns to his home town to cross retired Australian Shane Warne's world mark of 708, a feat Jayawardene said he and the entire team were looking forward to.

"I know he needs only five wickets but as a captain I hope he gets more than five wickets in this match," the skipper said.

"It's his home town and a lot of

people will be here cheering him. It will be a great moment for us as well."

Muralidaran has proved almost unplayable in his own country where his last 25 Tests have fetched an incredible 205 wickets -- more than eight a match -- at an average of 16.03.

In those 25 Tests, he has taken five wickets in an innings 20 times and 10 wickets in a match on eight occasions.

Jayawardene warned England's batsmen to beware of Muralidaran's guiles because the off-spinner loved bowling to them.

"By playing county cricket (for Lancashire), I think Murali is getting better and better against English batsmen."

"It should be the other way round. But he understands how he needs to go about the England batsmen. The Australians have

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PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka vice-captain Kumar Sangakkara is about to take a catch during a training session at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy on Friday.

BFF lures Teletalk

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has roped in government cellular phone operator Teletalk as the title sponsor of the three-match charity series for the cyclone victims.

Teletalk is expected to provide Tk 3 lakh in addition of giving support to publicity and ticket selling of the three matches between Abahani and Mohammedan, confirmed BFF acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu yesterday.

The matches of the two city rivals will be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on December 3, 5 and 7 to raise fund for the victims of Cyclone Sitr.

As part of publicity, the BFF will hold a rally from the Bangabandhu Stadium to the Jatiya Press Club tomorrow at 11am involving players, organisers, officials and fans.

Zim clinch famous win

CRICINFO, undated

Exactly four years and four days after they had last beaten a major Test-playing team, Zimbabwe turned the clock back at the same venue, and against the same opposition. What must have seemed like a gentle start to their African tour turned into a nightmare for West Indies, as Zimbabwe pulled the rug from under their feet during a stunning 31-run win in the first ODI of the five-match series in Harare. The match was set up by a spirited batting performance, which gave them a challenging total of 274, before the bowlers stifled the runs so effectively that West Indies fell short despite Shivnarine Chanderpaul's unbeaten 127.

The game was astonishing not just for the result, but also for the manner in which it came about. This wasn't a victory brought about by one batsman playing a blinder or a bowler bowling a dream spell: five batsmen scored more than 25 to propel Zimbabwe's innings, while most of the bowlers showed outstanding control, with Prosper Uteya and Ray Price -- back in the team after more than three years in the wilderness -- being exceptional in the middle overs. It was only their second ODI win in their last 23 games, and the celebrations after the game indicated just how much the win meant to them.

West Indies, on the other hand, were utterly listless and lacking in intensity. They got the opportunity to bowl in helpful conditions after Chris Gayle won the toss, but made a meal

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Pollock leads recovery

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Shaun Pollock made a battling half-century as South Africa recovered from a poor start in the second one-day international against New Zealand at St George's Park Friday.

South Africa's total of 209 for nine did not seem achievable after they collapsed to 66 for five but Pollock (52) and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher (48) put on 89 for the sixth wicket to put the home side back in the game.

Tailender Andre Nel, who scored nine runs off the last three balls as South Africa squeezed a two-wicket win in the first match in Durban, gave the innings late impetus when he hit a six and two fours off the 49th over, bowled by Kyle Mills.

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Second win for Ctg

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong completed a seven-wicket victory over Barisal in the sixth round while the other two matches petered out to draws on the final day of the 9th National Cricket League four-dayers across the country yesterday.

Having bowled out the visitors for 192 in the second innings at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, the hosts took only 28 overs to chase down 133 runs, moving one place to fourth with 53 points.

Dhaka, set an improbable 377 for victory at the Shaheed Birshrestha Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium, reached a creditable 275-4 before both captains decided that a result was unlikely and decided to end play 30 minutes before scheduled close of play.

Earlier, Khulna declared their second innings on 327-5, right after Shakib Al Hasan reached 103, his second century in the first-class competition this season.

Khulna remained on top with their draw as they have 72 points, five ahead of Rajshahi, who could

have done better in their match against Sylhet.

In prime position throughout the match, Rajshahi were made to play out a dull final day by a resurgent Sylhet side. The visitors at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium played it safe, scoring 228 in 93 overs.

This was the last match for the national players bound for New Zealand, as they will join the camp for the one-day series beginning on November 27.

CHITTAGONG-BARISAL

Overnight batsman Arafat Salahuddin and Sajidul Islam delayed the inevitable with rearguard action against the Chittagong attack.

Till lunch, Arafat and Sajid battled with a lot of authority, sharing a 69-run eighth wicket partnership but once Arafat was removed, the last two wickets fell in the space of two overs.

Barisal eventually bundled out for 192 in 83.5 overs with Chittagong paceman Tareq Aziz taking three for 58.

Opener Gazi Salahuddin launched himself on the Barisal bowlers, smashing 60 off just 71 deliveries. He caressed eleven boundaries in his hour-long

innings. Wicketkeeper-batsman Dhiman Ghosh scored an unbeaten 33 off 28 balls to take Chittagong to relative comfort of their second win in this year's competition.

KHULNA-DHAKA

Shakib completed his century within 4.1 overs in the morning, guiding paceman Mahbubul Alam to the fine-leg boundary to reach 103, before captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza called him back, setting Dhaka a victory target of 377 runs.

Veteran batsman Mehrah Hossain Opece cracked eleven boundaries in his 129-ball 75 and shared 97 for the opening wicket with Anwar Hossain. After both fell, skipper Mohammad Ashraful took charge, scoring 67 off 93 balls while Shamsur Rahman contributed an unbeaten 51.

Khulna had to work without Mashrafe, out with fever as they tried in vain to bowl out the visitors.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

Overnight on 24-2, Rajshahi battled all day to stave off Sylhet. Right-hander Nayem Islam, who resumed on two, stroked to 50 with the help of five boundaries while Anisur Rahman came in late to chip in with 47.

For Sylhet, Alok Kapali picked up five wickets with his leg-spin while left-arm spinner Enamul Haque took three.

Sylhet, who made fun sending their tail-enders out to bat on top, lost two wickets to the part-time off-spin of Farhad Hossain as they

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POINTS TABLE (FOUR-DAY)							
TEAM	M	W	L	D	BAT	BALL	TOTAL
Khulna	6	2	0	4	16	24	72
Rajshahi	6	3	1	2	13	22	67
Dhaka	6	2	1	3	10	22	54
Chittagong	6	2	2	2	9	24	53
Barisal	6	2	3	1	10	21	51
Sylhet	6	0	4	2	6	23	33

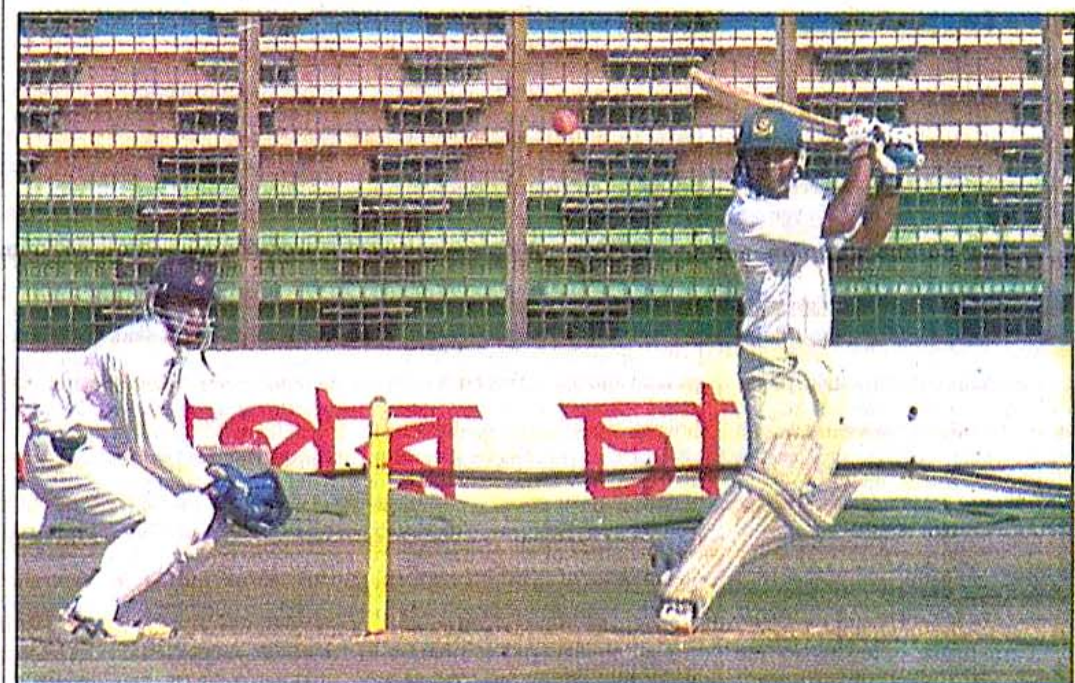


PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong batsman Gazi Salahuddin cuts through point while scoring 60 against Barisal during the fourth day of their National Cricket League match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

MSC held in Sylhet

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club's first of two charity matches ended in a draw when the Dhaka giants shared a goalless 60 minutes with Sylhet XI at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

The match was reduced to a one-hour affair instead of regulation 90 minutes as Mohammedan's arrival to Sylhet was delayed.

A minute's silence was observed before the kick-off to pay tribute to the people killed by Cyclone Sitr.

Mohammedan were invited by

the Sylhet DSA, which organised the event for raising funds for cyclone victims of country's southern part.

The visit of country's one of the most popular clubs earned about Tk 3 lakh after the organisers sold 25,000 tickets, informed Sylhet DSA general secretary Fazlur Rahman.

Former national midfielder Rumman Wali Bin Sabbir, named manager for the trip to Sylhet, played for his old club Mohammedan while two ex-national captains Jewel Rana and Alfaz Ahmed appeared in Sylhet shirts.

The black and whites from Dhaka also had guest players from Muktiyoddha in goalkeeper Aminul,

defender Hassan Al Mamun and midfielder Arman Aziz.

Mohammedan, who looked a bit tired after their journey throughout the first part of the day, created more clear-cut chances than their opposition but without any avail.

Nigerian forward Charles Figo fired an early shot over the bar while Cameroonian player Manjabin's effort inside from the box was spectacularly saved by local goalkeeper Sohel in the second half.

The best chance fell to the visitors in the last minute but substitute striker Walid failed to keep his shot under the bar.

Although Sylhet hardly pressed

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France-Germany-Italy-Holland?

INTERNET, undated



The seedings for Sunday's Euro 2008 draw have thrown up the possibility of Holland, Italy, Germany and France all being

in the same group. The emergence of a 'group of death' in Lucerne is a distinct possibility, as is an 'easy' group with Greece, Sweden, Romania and Poland all able to be drawn together.

UEFA have calculated the seedings on the basis of results in the qualification tournaments for the 2006 World Cup and Euro 2008 and not taken into account performances in the finals in Germany last year.

As a result, world champions Italy find themselves among the pot of third seeds and beaten finalists France among the four bottom seeds.

France coach Raymond Domenech has lambasted the seeding system though his Italian counterpart Roberto Donadoni has insisted he is not worried by his country's position.

Domenech said: 'It's laughable if the world champions don't get the final top seeding.'

'Who does deserve to be top if not Italy? We were finalists in the World Cup. We qualified for this with points to spare, and there are practically 12 teams ahead of us. 'I do not understand how.'

Donadoni said he was simply happy to have qualified.

He added: 'There is no point making a fuss about it, we will wait

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Sports Carnival begins

SPORTS REPORTER

MAsafudulowah won two swimming events in the veteran group swimming competition on the opening day of the Dhaka Sports Carnival at the Uttara Club Swimming pool.

The three-day competition got underway yesterday with six events taking place at five venues.

A former president of Bangladesh Swimming Federation, 72-year-old Asafudulowah finished first in 50m freestyle and backstroke.

Cadet College Club became champions and Uttara Club runners-up in the swimming competition.

Kurmitola Golf Club comprising Faruq Ahmed, KJ Youn, Sharek Rahim and Asif Ibrahim emerged champions in golf while Dhaka Club featuring Masud Ahmed, Iqbal Mahmood, M Habibus Samad and Arshi Haider were runners-up.

Calcutta Cricket and Football Club beat Dhaka Club in a friendly cricket match by 56 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.