

Tamim calls for spirit

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Almost all the excitement of the inter-club cricketers transfer was virtually buried much before the start of the official bourse after all the big clubs ensured their targeted players. However there was no shortage of enthusiasm among the supporters on the second day

of the transfer when title contenders Mohammedan SC turned up yesterday to complete their formalities at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan, who have remained crownless since their last Premier League triumph in 2001, put on a huge show yesterday in the stadium arena as hundreds of supporters followed the horsecabs that

carried star cricketers like Tamim Iqbal, Mohammad Ashraful, Mahmudullah Riyad, Aftab Ahmed, Khaled Mashud and others.

"Once I would expect such scenario especially the way Mohammedan have brought us in the stadium for the players' registration and the dream has come true," said left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal, for whom Mohammedan had

earlier staged a drama to snatch the specialist batsman from the grip of their archrivals Abahani.

Mohammedan, in a bid to put an end to their seven-year crown drought, have formed a fine side on paper after having signed up 10 new players as well as retaining the services of five old guards.

But Tamim stressed the need for a hundred percent effort from the players and stressed the need for spirit that was in the Abahani camp during his last year there.

"It is impossible to achieve success until all players perform together, even you form a strongest side on paper and the key of the success is team spirit what I saw in Abahani during my stay there," said Tamim adding that it was possible to emerge champions this season.

Tamim believed that Abahani, Gazi Tank Cricketers, Surjo Torun and Biman also formed good sides and Mohammedan would have to play better cricket against every side on way to their target.

Captain Khaled Mashud Pilot, who had the experience to lead Abahani and Victoria to the title triumph, believed that Mohammedan had earlier had some lacking, but this time they formed a balanced team and now need the efforts from

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PHOTO: STAR

(L-R) Star cricketers Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Khaled Mashud and Mohammad Ashraful were treated to a horse-carriage ride from Mohammedan club to BCB office at Bangabandhu National Stadium after they officially joined Mohammedan yesterday.

Miandad calls pitches 'dangerous'

CRICINFO, undated

Javed Miandad, the former captain and current director of the Pakistan board, has termed the pitches used in the ICC Champions Trophy as "dangerous" and said they will adversely affect interest in one-day cricket.

"(With) the sort of scary pitches they have prepared for such a big event it is not going to help the ICC or its members keep interest in one-day internationals alive," Miandad said. "Some of the pitches they have played on can be ranked as dangerous. The bounce is inconsistent. Balls are kicking up from a good length. All this is not good for the survival of ODIs."

"People want to see fast-paced cricket and lots of runs and excitement and that is lacking generally in this tournament because of the inconsistent nature of pitches."

Miandad called for ICC's intervention when it came to pitches and ground conditions for big events. "The ICC is quick to monitor the pitches in member countries, but they also need to talk to their curators"

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TEN Sports
Europa League
Bate Borisov v Everton
Live from 12:00am (Friday)
Fulham v Basel
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm



Zdenek Zeman
(Former Lazio & AS Roma coach)
"Jose Mourinho is a great communicator who hides well his own mediocrity as a coach."

Beanibazar shock Russel

SPORTS REPORTER



Newcomers Beanibazar SC continued their impressive performance in the Citycell Federation Cup and almost confirmed their quarterfinal berth with an upset 3-0 win over Sheikh Russel KC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Substitute Sohel Rana, Rashed Ahmed Pappu and Toufiq Hasan Gofur struck a goal apiece to put Beanibazar on top of the Group C point table with six points, three ahead of Sheikh Russel and Bangladesh Army.

A draw against Farashganj SC on Sunday would be enough for Beanibazar to enter the knockout phase.

After being humiliated 8-1 by Sheikh Russel, Bangladesh Army yesterday bounced back to keep their hopes of playing the last eight alive with an emphatic 3-0 win over Farashganj SC, who faces an early exit after two defeats in a row.

Azmal Hossain, Shahin Mia and Tutul scored one goal each for Bangladesh Army.

In the day's first match, Sheikh Russel enjoyed a first-half with superior ball posses-

sion compared to their unknown rivals, Beanibazar, but there was no sign of what they put on show against Bangladesh Army in their group opener.

Striker Mohammad Rony, who struck fours against the Solders, came close to opening the account with a solo effort, but the Sheikh Russel striker, with only the goalkeeper to beat, took much time to allow defender Ashraful to clear.

Beanibazar coach Jasimuddin Ahmed Joshi sent Sohel Rana on the right in place of injured Layek Ahmed and he got the immediate reward as Rana after being set up by captain Faisal Mahmud tapped home two minutes into the second half.

After going down, Sheikh Russel went all out keeping their backline unprotected and conceded two more goals, mainly because of the faulty defence.

Pappu played a cute one-two with Guinean striker Lamine Soumah to advance into the danger zone before latching a powerful shot to find the back of Sheikh Russel net in the 68th minute while Gofur sealed the match with an easy push after being set up by Lamime, who,

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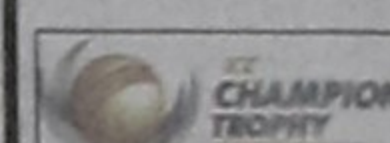


PHOTO: STAR

Md. Rony (2nd from R) of Sheikh Russel is being closely marked by Beanibazar defender Ashraful Karim (2nd from L) during their Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Strauss lauds Vettori

AFP, Johannesburg



New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori said he opted to give England batsman Paul Collingwood a life "in the spirit of the game" as the Black Caps won by four wickets with 22.5 overs to spare in a Champions Trophy clash at the Wanderers on Tuesday.

Underdogs in Group B, the Black Caps won two round robin matches to top the standings on net run rate and join England, who also won twice, in the semifinals.

And while New Zealand did well to reach the play-offs ahead of South Africa and Sri Lanka, much talk after the match revolved around Vettori's decision to call

Collingwood back after he was run out in the 13th over.

Having left a Kyle Mills delivery, Collingwood strolled out of his crease and New Zealand wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum threw down his stumps, with the third umpire giving him out.

But after pleading with Vettori, who later admitted "it was probably out under the laws of the game," Collingwood, who was on 14 and went on to make 40, was allowed to remain.

"I think it's one of those situations that we had a little bit of time to think about it with it going up to the third umpire," Vettori said.

"I deliberated with teammates and the umpires out there. In the end there was no intention of making a run from Paul, he just wandered out of his crease, and it was

just a lot easier to call him back and get on with the game."

England captain Andrew Strauss, who last week called back Angelo Mathews in another sporting gesture at the Wanderers after the Sri Lankan had been adjudged run out, commended Vettori for the decision.

"I've got to applaud Daniel Vettori," said Strauss. "I think it was the right decision, but it was obviously a tough decision to make as a captain when your future in the tournament is on the line."

England disappointed against an impressive New Zealand attack and were bowled out for 146 after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Man-of-the-match Grant Elliott returning a career-best 4-31 to lead the Black Caps

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U-16 booters leave for Philippines

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-16 team are scheduled to leave for Philippines at the early hours of Thursday to take part in the AFC U-16 Qualifiers, which will be staged from October 3 to 13.

Bangladesh, who were drawn in Group E along with Japan, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei and hosts Philippines, will play their first match against Indonesia on Saturday at Panned Stadium.

Bangladesh have no specific targets as coach Bayazid Alam Zubair Nipu believes the side have lost most of their strength after seven players were found over-aged in medical test.

The coach now only wants his team to perform well against their mighty opponents.

Bangladesh will face Japan on October 5 in their second match while the third and fourth matches against Philippines and Chinese Taipei will be played on October 9 and 11 respectively.

SQUAD

AS Yousuf Sifat, Yasin Khan, Anik Barman, Sajjadul Aman Somrat, Nadim Mahmud, Topu Barman, Sohel Rana, Omar Faruk Babu, Farhadur Zaman, Sk. Ali Hasan Diner, Awlad Rob Rumi, Rabbi, Mohammad Al-Amin, Kazi Ashkur Rahman, Azizur Rahman, Mohammad Jento, Rafi Rahman, Mohammad Nasiruddin, and Nurnabi Masum.

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Waugh, Akram in Hall of Fame

PTI, Dubai

Legendary Pakistan pacer Wasim Akram and former Australian skipper Steve Waugh were inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame on Wednesday along with three others.

Herbert Sutcliffe, Clarrie Grimmett and Victor Trumper, are the other three cricketers who were added, bringing the total number of players in that club to 60. The trio is no more.

"It is a great honour to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame and to see my name feature alongside such greats of the game including the likes of Don Bradman," Steve Waugh said.

Akram said the induction is an acknowledgment of "decident" career.

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O'Brien replaces Tuffey

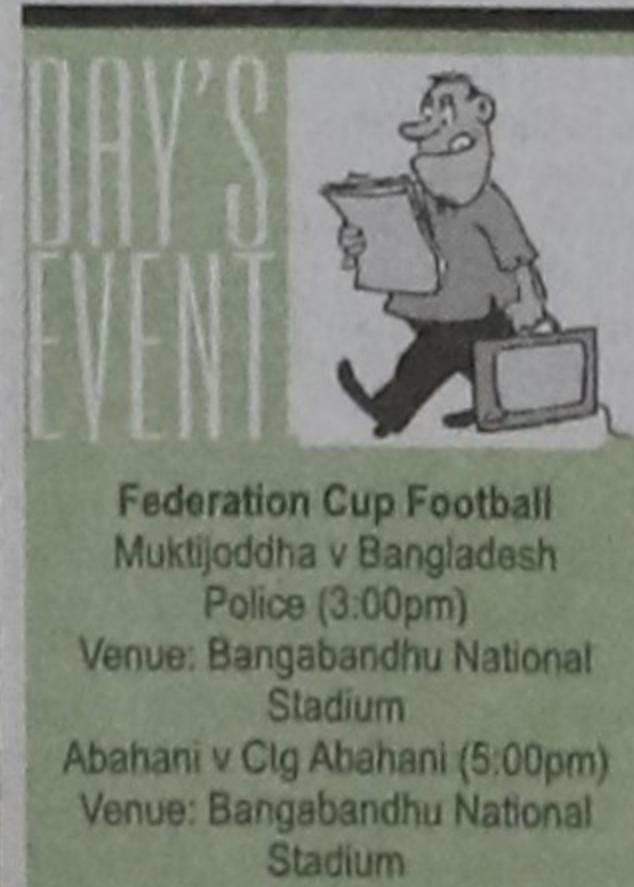
AFP, Johannesburg

Iain O'Brien has replaced injured Daryl Tuffey in the New Zealand Champions Trophy squad, the International Cricket Council said Wednesday.

The Black Caps, who defied the odds to reach the semifinals of the two-week tournament in South Africa, have been ravaged by injuries, losing Tuffey, fellow bowler Jacob Oram and opening batsman Jesse Ryder.

James Franklin quit an English county championship match to replace Oram and Aaron Redmond filled the gap created by Ryder, whose 74 against Sri Lanka triggered a Kiwi revival in the mini-World Cup.

O'Brien, a 33-year-old right-arm medium-fast bowler and right-hand batsman, plays for the Wellington Firebirds. He has made 147 one-day appearances for his country.



Federation Cup Football
Muktijoddha v Bangladesh Police (3:00pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Abahani v Cig Abahani (5:00pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



PHOTO: AFP

Australia batsman Michael Hussey (R) slog-sweeps one over square-leg as Pakistan wicket-keeper Kamran Akmal (L) follows during their Champions Trophy clash at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday.

Aus sneak into semis India eliminated

AFP, Centurion



Australia overhauled a smallish victory target of 206 with two wickets to spare off the last ball of the innings against Pakistan at the SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday.

The nail-biting win confirmed a semifinal spot for the men from Down Under and confirmed the exit of sub-continent giants India whose match against the West Indies turned into a dead-rubber down the road at the Wanderers. India were slowly but surely heading for victory after restricting a

depleted West Indies to 129. But the game lost its appeal when Australia won at SuperSport Park thanks to a last-ball bye.

The defending champions, having won the toss and restricted Pakistan to 205-6 off 50 overs, appeared to be coasting home with 140 runs on the board, eight wickets in hand and 112 balls to face.

But as the Pakistani bowlers led by Saeed Ajmal came alive, wickets tumbled and Australia entered the final over needing four runs to win a match transformed into a thriller after being tedious to watch for so long.

Tail-enders Brett Lee and

Nathan Hauritz picked off singles against superb bowling from Umar Gul and tight fielding to reach 206-8 in the best match so far of the tournament.

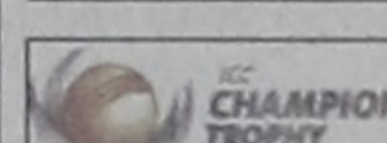
Man-of-the-match Michael Hussey top scored with 64 and Shane Watson and Mitchell Johnson took two wickets each for the Australians, who face England Friday in the semifinals with Pakistan meeting New Zealand one day later.

"I was chewing my fingers off at the end," joked Australia skipper Ricky Ponting. "Now we have to discover what went wrong in the second half of our innings and fix it."

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Kiwis make it

AFP, Johannesburg



Brave New Zealand shrugged off an injury crisis to defeat England by four wickets at the Wanderers on Tuesday and join them in the Champions Trophy semifinals.

The victory completed a stirring Group B comeback by the Black Caps, who also overcame Sri Lanka after tamely surrendering to hosts South Africa in their opening match.

New Zealand came first ahead of England on net run rate after finishing with four points each with Sri Lanka and hosts South Africa eliminated having gained two points apiece.

Bowlers Grant Elliott and Shane Bond inflicted most

damage after the Kiwis won the toss and an England team that amassed 323 against South Africa just 48 hours earlier were bundled out for 146 in 43.1 overs.

New Zealand openers Brendon McCullum and Martin Gupitill made a whirlwind start in pursuit of the total, harvesting 66 from 60 balls, and the 147-run target was reached for the loss of six wickets after 27.1 overs.

"It was a great all-round performance from our second must-win match in a row. Brendon (McCullum) and Martin (Gupitill) started the innings superbly and that helped us survive a few hiccups," said winning captain Daniel Vettori.

Opposite number Andrew Strauss replied: "It was not a

great wicket for one-day cricket but we beat Sri Lanka here so that is the way it goes. We needed some luck but full credit to New Zealand for winning."

Paul Collingwood, Ravi Bopara and tail-enders Graeme Swann and Ryan Sidebottom were the only England batsmen to reach double figures on an overcast afternoon.

If New Zealand were cursing their luck at losing bowlers Jacob Oram and Daryl Tuffey and batsman Jesse Ryder through injury since the two-week tournament began, they were not showing it.

Inspirational skipper Strauss was first to depart, getting on an outside edge off Kyle Mills to wicketkeeper McCullum having faced just

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PHOTO: AFP

India's Praveen Kumar (L) celebrates the dismissal of West Indies's Andre Fletcher (C) during their Champions Trophy match at Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.