



TIME TO GO HOME: Nepalese athletes leave their hotel on way to airport yesterday. They came here to participate in the 11th South Asian Games over January 29-February 9.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Only pride to play for BD-NZ third ODI today

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

The series is over for Bangladesh as the home side sealed victory by winning the first two one-dayers quite comfortably against the toothless Tigers but still today's third and final game is an opportunity for the visitors to save their faces.

Bangladesh's top order batting has been returned to the same old syndrome which caused the humiliating defeats in both one-day and T20 matches. It was pathetic to watch the way the top order batsmen gave away their wickets in the series to confound everybody as to whether they have improved in their batting under the guidance of Australian coach Jamie Siddons.

So, everybody will look forward to seeing whether the Tigers continue their senseless batting at the AMI Stadium in Christchurch today or perform something for which someone can believe that they are an improving side in international cricket.

The inclusion of former Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraful had surprised many after his dismal show against India and the right-hander proved it in the tour that he is totally out of form. Additionally the form of Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan was also cause for concern.

Shakib also admitted that they have to improve a lot in their batting if they want to prove themselves as at least a competitive side in limited-over cricket.

"We are bowling well with the new ball but we need a lot of improvement in our batting, and our fielding," said Shakib, who is beginning to feel the heat of the hot seat after a joyful journey in the last year.

On the other hand despite the series victory, New Zealand were looking for an improvement in some particular areas.

"You need to have multiple guys who can bowl at the death. You almost want all your seamers to [be able to] bowl then, and it's a real focus area to improve on,"

said coach Mark Greatbatch highlighting one area where New Zealand can get better.

Bangladesh has no chance to bring an changes in the last playing eleven.

CricInfo adds: As aficionados of crime fiction know, for a narrative to be gripping, you need a good twist, something this series has sorely lacked. Despite missing several important players, New Zealand have swept past Bangladesh with ease in each of the matches so far. Coach Mark Greatbatch could not have asked for a simpler initiation to his stint in the top job - his charges have already won the series with minimum fuss, and New Zealand have also managed to blood newcomers ahead of tougher contests against Australia. Completing a clean sweep in Christchurch on Thursday will be the cherry on top for the new regime.

The tracks in New Zealand have neutralised Bangladesh's primary weapon - spin - forcing the visitors to use a three-pronged pace attack, which has proved less effective, especially with Mashrafe Bin Mortaza absent. The wretched form of key middle-order batsmen, Mohammad Ashraful and Shakib Al Hasan, who have scraped 14 runs between them in two ODIs, is another huge setback to Bangladesh's chances of winning their first game in New Zealand. Bangladesh fans looking for crumbs will take heart from 20-year-old Shafiqul Islam's performances, topping the wickets chart after two matches.

For New Zealand, one area where their captain Daniel Vettori wants improvement is the death bowling - Bangladesh clubbed 92 runs in their final 10 overs on Monday, despite already having lost six wickets. Tim Southee will have to shoulder some of that responsibility on Thursday, but he won't have pleasant memories of Christchurch after being slammed for 105 runs by India in his previous ODI there.

Andy McKay got his first international game last week at the ripe old cricketing age of 29, and has impressed the team management with his pace, clocking 147kph in the first one-dayer. In the second ODI in Dunedin, he showed off his control, sending down a first spell that choked the Bangladesh top order: 7-3-4-2.

A team whose batting regularly resembles a house of cards, has had to thank Mushfiqur Rahim for saving them from utter embarrassment

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## Domo Arigato Kagawa

ANISUR RAHMAN

When he came to Bangladesh seven months ago he had a notion that people here are lazy. So, when he started to train the karakas at the BKSP in Savar, Masayoshi Kagawa was not sure whether his students possessed the mental toughness that is needed to excel in such a physically demanding sport.

However, the Japanese karate sensei was very happy to be proved wrong after his students' stunning success at the just concluded 11th South Asian Games, where the Bangladeshi karatekas won four gold and that too on a single day, an achievement the country had never done before in the regional sporting extravaganza.

The success from the unknown quantities also saw Bangladesh winning a record 18 gold in the meet that concluded on Wednesday. It may be mentioned here that Bangladesh have never won a gold in karate in the regional showpiece event.

"The boys and girls really astonished me for the way they toiled hard and now I have a firm believe if they are given good environment and facilities they will bring bigger glory for Bangladesh," said Kagawa through an interpreter at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Gulshan where the organization hosted a reception in honour of the Bangladesh karatekas and the coach

yesterday.

The 65-year-old Japanese architect behind the success said that he got an impression that people of Bangladesh are very lazy when he decided to take up the job as head coach for a term of two years thanks to an extended helping hand from JICA, who complied with a request from the Bangladesh Karate Federation for proving a good coach.

And the soft-spoken man from east Osaka of Osaka turned out to be the best. But Kagawa, who completed his seventh dan in 1989 and his eight in 2007, warned that his boys and girls have a long way to go.

"If they feel proud after winning the medals, they will face problem to get results in the next games in India and the authority concerned should continue the training in a bid to do better results than this Games," said Kagawa, who worked in Laos for two years from 2005 to 2007 as a senior karate coach.

A Grand Master of Karatedou Club of Osaka University, Kagawa observed that Bangladeshi karatekas are good in kata (demonstration) and have also potential in Kumite (fight).

He claimed that Bangladesh had good chance to win two more gold medals in Kumite but it did not happen because the players could not follow his instruction properly.

Despite the failure in Kumite, Kagawa was happy to see the overall performance of the karatekas. "I am very happy with the success and believe the boys and girls



GOD BLESS YOU MY CHILD: Bangladesh karate team's Japanese coach Masayoshi Kagawa (L) hugs Munni Khanom after the women's team won the kata event gold at the National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur on February 7.

PHOTO: STAR

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## Chappell's no to Pak offer

CRICINFO, undated

Greg Chappell has turned down an approach from the Pakistan board to coach the national team. Chappell's name had been floating around Pakistan cricket's corridors of power as a possible alternative to Intikhab Alam, the incumbent, whose position is currently in limbo following Pakistan's tour to Australia where they failed to win a single match.

Chappell, a former Australian captain, coached India for two tumultuous years between 2005 and 2007. He is now working with Cricket Australia, a role which he is reluctant to leave and he confirmed that an approach had been made. "Wasim Bari [chief operating officer, PCB] rang me yesterday," Chappell told Cricinfo. "I was honoured and flattered by the approach but I have declined the invitation."

"I have no ambition to coach at the international level again and I am committed to my role with CA as Head Coach at the Centre of Excellence and Chairman of our National Youth Selection Panel."

The approach does at least confirm that the PCB is actively looking for a replacement for Intikhab, an issue over which there is considerable confusion still. Ijaz Butt, chairman PCB, told a TV channel a few days ago that Pakistan would

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## Confusion over Zoran

**Football**

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is seemingly struggling to retain the services of SA Games gold winning coach Zoran Djordjevic, ahead of the crucial AFC Challenge Cup as the Serbian is said to be demanding a four-year contract.

Djordjevic and his two assistants Zoran Kraljedic and Berber Dabor had been assigned to guide the national football team in the South Asian Games as well as the AFC Challenge Cup finals and the 57-year Serbian helped Bangladesh regain the coveted football title of the SA Games after a long gap of eleven years.

The Serbians were brought under a two-month package worth about US\$ 16,000.

The experienced coach was to conduct the camp of the AFC Challenge Cup finals today as the finals of the AFC Challenge Cup will get underway from the 16th of February in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

After guiding Bangladesh to emerge as unbeaten champions in the SA Games on February 8, Zoran told reporters that he was now a free man as his contract with the BFF was over though the football governing body had earlier said that they had made a two-month contract with Zoran from January to February.

On Tuesday night, the BFF high-ups sat with Zoran and convinced him to stay until the completion of the AFC Challenge Cup finals and then they would consider his demands. But Zoran burst into anger yesterday afternoon when he saw his room locked at the Sheraton Hotel as he was supposed to check out the hotel at 12:00pm. Afterwards, he phoned the BFF officials to press them hard to return his passport and money as he would leave Bangladesh.

"I am not in a position to talk with you because I don't feel welcome here and I want to leave and I am just waiting for my passport and my money," said Zoran when he was contacted over phone.

Asked whether he has demanded a four-year contract, the Serbian coach said that he has some plans with Bangladesh's football that's why he has demanded a contract upto 2014.

Badal Roy, BFF vice president and chairman of the National Team management committee, said after making the team champions in SA Games, Zoran may have a demand and there is an opportunity of discussion but he should honour his first contract.

"We must recognise him as a hero and we are trying our best to keep him here," said Roy adding that Zoran should honour the contract he had signed first.

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## What to WATCH

**SuperSport2**  
New Zealand v Bangladesh  
Third ODI  
Live from 7:00am  
**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

## DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League  
(Four-Day Match, Day Four)  
Rajshahi v Barisal  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Khulna v Chittagong  
Venue: BKSP

## Dhaka edge Sylhet

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

Nadimuddin kept his cool during an unbeaten 67-run knock as Dhaka posted a three-wicket victory over Sylhet on the third day of the fifth round National Cricket League match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Resuming the day on 127 for five, Dhaka lost two more wickets to reach the target of 181 for seven to confirm their third outright success.

Nadimuddin, who started the day on 47, occupied the crease for five hours to make an unbeaten 67 off 185 balls that featured nine boundaries.

He was later adjudged man of the match. At the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium, Chittagong bounced back strongly against Khulna after conceding follow-on riding on three half centuries from Mahbulul Karim, Gazi Salahuddin and Faisal Hossain.

play with 318 for five with Faisal (62) and Elias Sunny (34) batting.

Trailing by 247, Chittagong made a poor start when Nafees Iqbal was dismissed for three runs but Salahuddin repaired the early damage by associating 167-run in the second wicket stand.

Karim made 85 off 170 balls that contained nine fours and a six while Salahuddin hit a 145-ball 88 with 14 boundaries.

Dollar Mahmud took two wickets. In the other match, a 162-run unbeaten opening partnership between Shahriar Nafees and Fazle Rabbi brought Barisal back in contention against Rajshahi at the Khulna Divisional Stadium after Zahurul Islam's hundred.

In reply to a winning target of 276, Barisal made 162 without loss before stumps were drawn for the day requiring another 114-run on the final day for victory.

Nafees was unbeaten with 80 off 98 balls that saw ten fours and a six while Rabbi remained not out on 78 in 117-ball and hit nine fours and two sixes.

Earlier Rajshahi were all out for 183 runs in their second innings after resuming the day on 36 for three to stretch their

overall lead to 275.

And it was opener Zahurul who kept his wicket in one end and on the other end wickets fell like ninepins.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**DHAKA v SYLHET**

**SYLHET:** First innings- 172 and Second innings 98.

**DHAKA:** First innings 91 and second innings (overnight 127-5) 181 for seven in 67.5 overs (Nadimuddin 67 not out, Mosharrar 18, Shuvagoto 25, Nadif 44; Nasir 2-41, Maishakur 2-27, Saju 2-17).

**Result: Dhaka won by three wickets.**

**KHULNA v CHITTAGONG**

**KHULNA:** First innings 446-9dec..

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings-199 and Second innings 318-5 in 90 overs (Karim 85, Salahuddin 88, Faisal 62 not out, Sunny 34 not out; Dollar 2-43).

**RAJSHAHI v BARISAL**

**RAJSHAHI:** First innings 336 all out and Second innings 183 all out in 58.5 overs (Zahurul 113, Forhad Hossain 17; Shafaq 3-55, Arafat 3-58, Monir 3-29)

**BARISAL:** First innings- 244 all out and Second innings 162-0 in 35.5 overs (Nafees 80 not out, Rabbi 78 not out).

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SEMINAR DETAILS	SEMINAR OUTLINE
Venue : Bronze Room (Level 4) The Westin Dhaka, Main Gulshan Avenue Plot # 01cwn (b) Road #45 Gulshan, Dhaka	Date - Sunday, 14 February 2010 Seminar Time - 4 to 6 pm Followed by Hi - Tea

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