

Giggs rules out Wales job

Ryan Giggs ended speculation he might become the next Wales manager on Thursday by insisting he intends to concentrate solely on his career as a footballer with Manchester United. The Welsh winger did not rule out the possibility of one day taking charge of the national side but said now was not the time. Giggs's name has been in the frame ever since John Toshack quit as Wales boss at the start of this month. Former Manchester United star Mark Hughes took on the Wales job while still playing for Southampton but, with United in the Champions League, Giggs has no intention of following that example.



Bangladesh contingent happy with conditions

ANISUR RAHMAN from New Delhi

Bangladesh athletes and officials found no cause for concern at the athletes' villages for the Delhi Commonwealth Games as they checked at the Yamuna Sports Complex on Wednesday night having started from home in the afternoon.

Living conditions at the athletes' village for the Games has been much criticised by Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Scotland amid other nations, who have termed the conditions as filthy and uninhabitable while also voicing their concern over dengue fever and snake scare. Many of the star players of the participating nations have pulled out of the Games citing health and security concerns taking off much of the gloss of it.

However, as the Games draws nearer to inauguration, things have seen visible improvement and the participating teams have been changing their minds about the hosts. Bangladesh are also extending their support to the host nation saying that the athletes' village is in 'fine condition.'

"I have found no problem since arriving here a day before our athletes. All the necessary works at our apartment have been completed to make sure the athletes remain tension free during the Games" said general manager of Bangladesh contingent Jobair Rahman Rana.

Rana though informed that he faced a bit of trouble which however was nothing compared to that of Indian shooters who had to wait for six hours before checking in.

"Our athletes are in fine condition and they have practised well today (Thursday) as there are good separate practice facilities for boxers, weightlifters, athletes, swimmers inside the Games village," said Rana adding that the condition of the games villages is far better compared to the conditions of the athletes' camp back in Bangladesh.

The seventh and eighth floors of a nine-storeyed building have been allotted for the Bangladesh athletes and officials while other South Asian participants Pakistan and Sri Lanka are also staying in the same building.

Earlier on Wednesday night, the Bangladesh contingent comprising shooters, archers, swimmers, weight-

lifters, boxers and athletes were welcomed by the officials of Delhi's Bangladesh High Commission at the Indira Gandhi International Airport after being greeted by the organisers at their arrival.

Before leaving for India, swimmer Shahjahan Ali Rony exclaimed he was not concerned about either dengue or snakes while weightlifter Fahima Akhter Moina said that they were used to such environment in Bangladesh and hoped would not face any problem in the village.

"I have heard about the issues raised by different nations, but it's not bothering me. I am fully concerned with my game," said archer Emdadul Haque Milon.

The official flag of Bangladesh at the Games village was officially hoisted yesterday in a festive mood as the national anthem was played. As souvenir of the journey of the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi, replicas of the baton were presented to the contingent.

Students from various city schools were earlier given an opportunity to visit the Games Village along with their teachers where they performed in front of the delegates from different nations.



Tamim Iqbal, out from the series after a wrist surgery, poses as a batsman to help out wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim as the Tigers' bowlers do some spot-bowling at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Taylor surrenders to weather

Kiwis desperate for practice game

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh bowlers certainly know how good Ross Taylor is. He averages a staggering 96.59 against them, including a century that came in Chittagong during New Zealand's last visit to Bangladesh two years ago.

In fact, that was his last ODI hundred, though he's averaged more than 42 this year with four fifties. The Black Caps vice-captain said it himself yesterday after practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"I scored a hundred in Chittagong last time and that was my last hundred in one-day cricket," he said while talking to the reporters. "I still feel in good nick. I'm energised obviously, and I can churn out

some runs," added Taylor, who recently played in the Champions League Twenty20 for the Bangalore Royal Challengers.

But while the tournament in South Africa had very little downtime, Taylor and his Kiwi teammates have already sat out the first practice match here and can expect the same fate for their second practice game at the BKSP.

"It is not likely that we will play a practice game before the one-day series," he admitted. According to sources, if there is another spell of rain, the October 3 game against the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI will be called off. The New Zealand team have requested for a practice game and centre wicket practice in Mirpur after they were told that the Fatullah venue has no dressing room facilities due to the ongoing construction for the World Cup next year. A warm-up

game in Mirpur, too, seems to be out of the question.

New Zealand are desperate for a game, though Taylor said that they had no control over certain elements. "I guess you can't control the weather. The ground where we were supposed to play (BKSP) is supposedly under water.

"Though the wicket is good, I heard that the outfield is wet. We have no control over such matters, but today (Friday) we had a good training session," said Taylor.

He also had no qualms of playing all five matches in one venue. "We recently played the tri-series in Dambulla so I think its fine. Our gears are all in the dressing room so there's no problem with that," he said.

Taylor reiterated that Bangladesh can be a tough opponent on slow turning

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THAT'S NOT A CRICKET BALL! New Zealand vice-captain Ross Taylor dives to stop a baseball during fielding practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Delhi still not awake

SPORTS REPORTER from New Delhi

With the inauguration of the Commonwealth Games knocking right on the door there is lack of enthusiasm amongst the inhabitants of the capital.

On way to the main media center at the Pragati Maidan from the Indira Gandhi International Stadium, there are little signs that the capital is going to host the Commonwealth Games. Just the one line of the road, which has been kept reserved for the vehicles carrying the athletes and officials, reminds one that Delhi is going to stage a showcase event a long time after hosting the first-ever Asian Games in 1951 and second time in 1982.

"It is always the case that some people of the city are unhappy when a city is going to host a mega event like Commonwealth Games," said Saibal Bose, a journalist who works for Times of India.

The Indian journalist thinks that everything regarding the games were going right and there was hardly any cause for concern.

A Malaysian journalist, who covered the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998, said that Malaysia also faced such difficulties while hosting the Games for the first time in Asia, but they recovered from their shoddy conditions within a couple of days of the start.

He however thinks the success of the Delhi Commonwealth Games would depend on how fast they can provide

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Zunaed eyes another 85

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh batsman Zunaed Siddiqui said that his match-

winning knock against New Zealand two years ago always motivates him.

The left-hander hit 85 in only his second one-dayer at home, paving the way for the Tigers to a seven-wicket win exactly two years ago. Mohammad Ashraf, who is out of the team this time for poor form, smashed an unbeaten 60 after Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's four-wicket haul in Bangladesh's maiden one-day victory against the Kiwis.

"I often watch the video of that match because it inspires me to play good cricket. I watched it last night also. I am looking forward to continue my good form in the coming

series," said a confident Zunaed while talking to the reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"It would be fantastic if I can play another innings like that in the five-match one-day series," he added.

The young batsman, originally groomed as an opener, has been going through a purple patch batting at number three. In the last ten ODI innings, he made his maiden hundred against Ireland and scored two half-centuries (97 against Pakistan and 51 against England) and also hit a hundred and two fifties in his last ten Test innings to maintain some sort of consistency.

It would not be a surprise to see him as an opener again in the series after southpaw Tamim Iqbal was ruled out from the series due to a surgery on his left wrist, but Zunaed is hardly concerned with his batting position.

"I'm enjoying my batting as a one-down batsman. But I'm ready to bat at any position according to my team's demand. My main concern is to contribute something and I am very confident ahead of the series," he said.

Zunaed believes that the Tigers have a very good chance in the five-match one-day series. The first match will take place at Mirpur on October 5.

"We are going to play all the matches at Mirpur and I think the first match would be very important for us. We are familiar with the wicket and we have trained hard this time, so we have a good chance," hoped Zunaed.

Responding to a question, the left-hander also said that they are not worried with the pace attack of the New Zealand side.

"Recently we played a very good bowling attack like England and it was in their condition, so we are not scared of any attack.

"We are ready to take any challenge. I think our team is now well tuned to play good cricket," Zunaed opined.

Star light, Star bright

The Daily Star win media football

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

For a split second, the entire stadium held its collective breath. There was almost pin-drop silence as Jasim Uddin stepped up to attempt to convert from the spot. At stake was the destination of the DRU-Rapid Securities Media Football trophy.

It had all come down to this. The difference between champions and mortals had manifested itself in a sudden death penalty shoot-out in the final yesterday. In football terms, it simply did not get more nerve-wrecking than this.

The weight of the watching hundreds bore down on Jasim's wiry shoulders, but as soon as he started his relatively long run-up, you knew that there was only one place the ball would end up: at the back of the net. His shot was precise, almost surgical and even as the net bulged and the referee blew three sharp blasts to signal the end of the final, the players and members of

SPORTS POLL
Who is favourite to win the India-Australia Test series?
India 54%
Australia 46%
TOTAL VOTES: 520
TODAY'S QUESTION
What do you think is Bangladesh's advantage against New Zealand?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
Follow The Daily Star Sport on **twitter**
www.twitter.com/dssport

Dhaka thrash Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER

Chameli Khatun hit an unbeaten 42 as Dhaka posted an emphatic eight-wicket victory against hosts Sylhet in the Women's National Cricket League at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Sylhet scored 91 for nine in the stipulated 20 overs after deciding to bat first. Jahanara top scored with 24 off 27 balls with two boundaries. Chameli and Soheli claimed three wickets each.

Chameli then shined with the bat as she clobbered five boundaries during her 41 ball 42 while Soheli added a 24 ball 19 as Dhaka reached the target of 92 for two wickets in 14 overs.

In the day's other match, Rajshahi secured a 15-run victory against Barisal at the same venue.

Rajshahi restricted Barisal to 73 for 8 in 20 overs after making 88 in 19.1 overs.

Tame start to transfers

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The players' transfer for the 2010-11 football season made a muted and drab opening at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) House yesterday, as the new powerhouse of local football Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and old horse Arambagh Krira Sangha only completed the registration of couple of their players.

This season's transfer programme was expected to be such an affair after all the big clubs had completed roping in most of their targeted players, a long time before the official transfers began. But it turned into an even more boring as no clubs took the trouble of bringing in the players to showcase their new recruits at least for the sake of public interest.

The BFF spokesman said they left it to the respective teams with the decision of bringing their players for the registration process.

Khalilur Rahman, the football manager of Sheikh Jamal said they did not want to interrupt the players' ongoing training camp at BKSP

which is why the players did not appear for the registration process.

Most of the attention was centred around the new Dhanmondi powerhouse, and their recruits, most of whom are stars of the national squad.

Sheikh Jamal confirmed registration of 17 of their 24 players for the season, sixteen of whom are with the national fold. Among the star recruits of the are goalkeeper Aminul Haque, defender Wali Faisal, midfielder Mamunul Islam and strikers Enamul Haq and Zahid Hasan Emily.

The seven players yet to be registered are four young players who has been with the club and three Serbian recruits -- Penicis Dragon, Stefanovic Jovan and Sucjovic Alecsandro.

The other club participating on the first day's transfer were Arambagh, who registered seven players out of their squad of 21 including four foreign recruits, three of whom are already with the squad.

The official transfer will last a week for the local footballers and while it will be fifteen days for the foreign brigade.

The league authorities have confirmed that

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Victorious The Daily Star players pose with the DRU-Rapid Securities Media Football trophy after their win over Daily Jugantor at the Handball Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

What to WATCH

NEO Cricket
India v Australia
First Test, Day 2
Live from 10:00am

ESPN
English Premiership
Wigan v Wolves
Live at 5:40pm
Sunderland v Man United
Live from 7:55pm

STAR Sports
English Premiership
Birmingham City v Everton
Live from 7:55pm

TEN Sports
Serie A
Parma v AC Milan
Live from 12:40am (Sunday)

TEN Action+
Primera Liga
Zaragoza v Sporting
Live from 9:55pm