

Real Madrid's German star Mesut Oezil has split from his girlfriend Anna-Maria Lagerblom, it was revealed on Saturday. "Yes, we have separated," Lagerblom told German daily Bild on Saturday. Oezil, 22, had been with Lagerblom, 28, since May 2009. After a series of outstanding displays for Germany at the World Cup in South Africa, Oezil joined Real from Bundesliga side Werder Bremen in August. Lagerblom has split from Oezil after suffering from homesickness and loneliness in the Spanish capital having moved to Madrid in September with her son from her first marriage.



SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Ashraful eyes gold medal

SPORTS REPORTER



Captain Mohammad Ashraful believes that it is very much possible for his team to clinch the cricket gold of the 16th Asian Games if they can play up to their potential in the T20 competition.

"It's really a good feeling that I have got the opportunity to lead a team in the mega event which is making its Asiatic debut. I'm very much hopeful about the competition. It is really possible for us to clinch the gold medal if we can play our best cricket," said Ashraful while speaking at an official press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The team will leave Dhaka for Guangzhou on November 18. "We played some 50-over matches but didn't get the opportunity to train together or playing some T20 matches. But I believe it will not be a big issue because everybody is in a good shape and it's a very good team," said former national skipper Ashraful, who is fighting to regain his place on the national side ahead of the five-match one-day series against Zimbabwe.

Bangladesh team will get five days to practise in China as their first match is scheduled for November 3 either against Malaysia or hosts China.

"We are going to start the campaign from the quarterfinals

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Bangladesh men's cricket team captain Mohammad Ashraful (L) looks in a serious mood with his Asiatic-bound teammates at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Sunny torture at Lord's
Controversy reared its head in the first match of the 1975 World Cup, with the hosts England taking on India. It was bound to be a mismatch, because India were possibly the least prepared team mentally for the challenges of the new format.

In contrast, England were the team best versed in the new format, with limited overs cricket a part of their domestic scene for quite some time. They piled on 334 for 4, courtesy a dazzling 137 from opener Dennis Amiss and a brutal unbeaten 31-ball 51 from Chris Old.

India's reply was a shock even to those who knew of their rawness in the limited overs game. They played out sixty overs to reach 132 for 3, never interested in actually chasing down the total. The chief culprit, surprisingly, was Sunil Gavaskar who subjected the capacity Lord's crowd to an afternoon of excruciating boredom with an undefeated 174-ball 36. Perhaps people had overestimated their knowledge of the new format; perhaps they were playing for a draw!

Theories as to why Gavaskar played in such a manner abounded. There was talk that he had been unhappy with the team selection and captain Venkatraghavan. The innings was widely condemned by the media, with Ted Dexter, commenting for the BBC, saying that the captain should have pulled him from the field. During the innings, many Indian supporters rushed the field to plead with Gavaskar to make a fight of the chase.

Team manager G.S Ramchand, in a press statement following the match, said Gavaskar knew chasing the total was impossible and so took the opportunity for batting practice. Although quiet at the time, Gavaskar later claimed that it was just one of those

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

COUNTDOWN FIASCO BCB yet to take any action

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has yet to take any step regarding the fiasco in the 100-day countdown ceremony for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011.

True it was the duty of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) to stage the programme, but the game's governing body of the country just cannot shy away from their responsibility for the mismanagement and lack of coordination in the function.

"Without any doubt it's a cause for concern for everybody and we must take lessons from the mistakes so that we can organise the next events smoothly. The board will definitely discuss the issue once the president [AHM Mustafa Kamal] returns from abroad," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

"I think the event management firms were at fault. There was a lack of coordination between the run-sheet and the way the programme was conducted. The board however should look into the issue seriously because the LOC is also working under them, so the ultimate blame comes

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

NCL FINAL TODAY

Dhaka wary of Barisal

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka are firm favourites but a Barisal win would not be a surprise as they face off in the National Cricket League one-day final today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Tamim Iqbal, who has been out for almost three months after undergoing a wrist surgery, could be playing for Dhaka. He would be a welcome addition to an already powerful Dhaka line-up that is looking to re-establish itself in the domestic scene. Dhaka's team coordinator Ali Hossain said Tamim's inclusion is not confirmed as the Chittagonian is suffering from a facial allergy.

The last time Dhaka won the one-day tournament was in the 2006-07 season when they also won the first-class trophy, but the defending champions have strength in numbers and the right amount of motivation to counter a team that has several Bangladesh internationals.

"It will be a massive boost to cricket in Barisal, for the players, coaches officials and the division itself," said Shahriar Nafees, adding that their 'star-less' team have so far banked on skill and the proper attitude to win games.

"We have some good young players who have listened and learned. The team culture is such that the right amount of importance is given to seniors or juniors.

"Apart from the players, our performance has definitely encouraged youngsters from Barisal and motivated the offi-

cialists to take cricket more seriously," he said.

Tamim's possible inclusion, according to Nafees, would not be a hindrance to Barisal but rather "break Dhaka's winning combination".

Personally, the compact left-hander hasn't had the best of times in the NCL though, scoring only a solitary half-century from six games where he has averaged a shade below 34. "I have not scored in two of the three matches in the second phase. I hope to do well tomorrow [Sunday]," said Nafees, who also hinted that he might open the Barisal innings, probably due to the absence of the suspended Nasiruddin Faruque.

He however is well aware of the capriciousness of international cricket where runs matter. "I know quite well that I must

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Tayef, chess only 'winners'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh made a poor start to the 16th Asian Games with most of the athletes having ordinary times in Guangzhou yesterday.

The unlikely figure of Tayef Quader was the only success on the day through his win in the men's 8-ball pool singles of billiard at the Asian Games Town Gymnasium. The 21-year-old beat Mongolia's Amarjargal Tursaikhan 7-4 in the preliminary round match and will take on Khaled Almutairi of Kuwait in the last sixteen today.

But that was all as far as good news from China was concerned as Indonesia's Irsal Afrinneza Nasution eliminated Aga Navil Ibn Ekram in the same sport.

Shooting, the genuine medal hope, went flat through uninspiring efforts from the likes of Asif Hossain Khan and co. The former Commonwealth Games gold winner finished

22nd in the 10m air rifle with an aggregate of 585 points while teammate Abdullah Hel Baki was a place below him. As a team, Bangladesh finished eighth while it was even worse for the women who finished tenth at the Aoti Shooting Ranges.

As individuals in the 10m air rifle, Sharmin Akhter ended at a very lowly 22nd place with 392 points. Sharmin Akhter Ratna finished 35th while it was worse for Tripti Dutta, who was at 39th position.

At the top, Zhu Qinan hit back with a vengeance where he won both the team and individual titles in the men's 10m Air Rifle competition as China picked up five of the six shooting gold medals on offer on the opening day.

Yi Siling also clinched a double in the women's 10m Air Rifle, while Pu Quifeng won the men's 50m Pistol event where Bangladesh's Nadimul Islam finished in 41st place with 523 points.

In Wushu's Changquan event, Mohammad Abu Bakar scraped the bottom of the 14-man competition with no points. Yuan Xiaochao of China won the gold, Daisuke Ichikizaki of Japan

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (C) celebrates the wicket of New Zealand tail-ender Tim Southee with teammates during the second day of the second Test at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Sehwag's close miss

Cricket

AFP, Hyderabad

Virender Sehwag smashed an entertaining 96 and Gautam Gambhir hit 54 before New Zealand removed both the openers on day two of the second Test against India on Saturday.

Sehwag unleashed 15 fours and a six in his 120-ball knock and added 160 runs for the opening wicket with Gambhir to steer India to 178-2 at close in reply to New Zealand's first-innings 350.

At stumps, Sachin Tendulkar was batting on 11 while Rahul Dravid was on seven.

The day's last session belonged to Sehwag who underlined his dominance over the Kiwi bowlers with a dazzling array of shots on either side of the wicket after a cautious start to his innings.

The Delhi batsman, who top-scored

with 173 in the drawn first Test in Ahmedabad, hit a six and two fours in an over by part-timer Kane Williamson to enthrall a nearly 15,000 crowd at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium.

Sehwag was trapped leg before wicket by Daniel Vettori as he tried to slog-sweep the left-arm spinner, shortly before curtains were drawn on a thrilling day of cricket.

Gambhir managed to score his first Test half-century in 10 months but edged paceman Tim Southee to wicketkeeper Gareth Hopkins after facing 129 balls, seven of which were dispatched to the fence for fours.

Earlier, Zaheer Khan (4-69) and Harbhajan Singh (4-76) claimed four wickets each to bowl out the tourists early into the second session.

Zaheer struck early in his opening spell, removing Hopkins and first Test centurion Williamson, who was caught plumb in front as he tried to drive the ball

to the leg-side.

Harbhajan took his first wicket of the match when he claimed Vettori lbw for 11, New Zealand slipping to 312-7 from the overnight 258-4.

Jesse Ryder (70) continued his fine form, reaching his fifth Test half-century with a pulled four over backward point off fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

The left-handed batsman, who made 103 in Ahmedabad, has scored all of his three Test centuries against India, including a career-best 201.

But his dream of scoring a big one again was shattered by Harbhajan who had him caught at first slip by Venkatsai Laxman, playing his first Test on his home ground. Ryder struck 10 fours in his 120-ball innings.

Harbhajan then removed tailenders Tim Southee and Chris Martin to wrap up the New Zealand first innings.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

50-over Premier League first

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) has decided yesterday to postpone the Premier League Twenty20 tournament.

CCDM chairman GS Hasan Tamim confirmed yesterday that the event will probably be held later, making way for the 50-over competition which is slated to begin on December 8 or 10.

Tamim gave three reasons for the postponement, saying, "If the Twenty20 tournament doesn't take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, it will lose its appeal. The clubs obviously want the exposure and if we play in smaller venues, it won't happen."

He also added that the absence of the national players, who will be busy with the Zimbabwe series, and the fact that the Super Six stage of the 50-over competition will be pushed back further are factors that influenced the decision.

SPORTS POLL

Who do you think should be Bangladesh's captain in the World Cup?

Shakib Al Hasan 73.5%

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza 26.5%

TOTAL VOTES: 358

WEEKLY QUESTION

Did you enjoy the countdown unveiling ceremony of the 2011 World Cup?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on

twitter

www.twitter.com/dssport

Even going in Dubai

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan opener Mohammad Hafeez scored a patient half-century to build on some good work by bowlers on the second day of the first Test against South Africa here on Saturday.

Hafeez scored 60 during an opening stand of 105 with Taufiq Umer (42) to guide Pakistan to 144-2 after paceman Umar Gul off 20 balls to chipped in with three wickets

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Pakistan opener Mohammad Hafeez pulls the ball during his brilliant knock on the second day of the first Test against South Africa at Dubai yesterday. PHOTO: AFP



TEN Sports

Asian Games Day Two Live from 8:00am

NEO Cricket

India v New Zealand Second Test, Day 3 Live from 10:00am

TEN Cricket

Pakistan v South Africa First Test, Day 3 Live from 12:00pm

ESPN

English Premiership Everton v Arsenal Live from 7:55pm Chelsea v Sunderland Live from 10:00pm

STAR Sports

F1 World Championship Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Live from 6:45pm



National Cricket League

Dhaka v Barisal Time: 9:00am Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium