



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Bangladesh football team members celebrate winning the gold by defeating Spain 11-1 at the 13th Special Olympics World Summer Games for intellectually challenged athletes in Athens yesterday.

Tigers hit nets today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers will be given match conditions to get accustomed to the longer version when they begin the skills camp today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"The plan mainly is to put into effect a gameplay so that the batsmen can have a match situation when they are in the nets. They need to get acquainted with the environment," said Sarwar Imran.

"We need the centre wicket but if it rains, we will shift to the Academy ground and we are trying to bring the Fatullah [four-day] game to Mirpur," added Imran.

Most members of the 23-man camp are expected to show up despite today's general strike though some, who don't live in Mirpur, have the option of not showing up.

too could be a setback. But Imran said that the batsmen and bowlers called up to the preliminary squad for Zimbabwe would be given enough time in the nets to prepare themselves.

"They will get enough time in the nets since our daily sessions would be 4 to 4 1/2 hours long, apart from the extra work that some of the batsman would want to do.

Ultimately, it would take a strong mental make-up to shift from the one-day mindset as the Tigers haven't played a Test match in more than a year and as has also been the case, many of them haven't played a decent first-class game.

Imran however pointed out that the mentality should remain attacking for all concerned. Most members of the 23-man camp are expected to show up despite today's general strike though some, who don't live in Mirpur, have the option of not showing up.

Hornets post first win

SPORTS REPORTER

Hornets registered their first win in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League with an 84-35 victory over Flame Boys Club at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 48-16.

On Friday, Rangers posted their fourth win in the league when they beat Eagles 71-46 after dominating the first half 39-23 while Dhumketu maintained their winning run with an 88-52 points victory over Hornets.

Sabina leads Satkhira

SPORTS REPORTER

Satkhira blanked Thakurgaon 2-0 in the National Women's Football Championship at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Sabina netted both the goals as she converted a penalty to put her team ahead in the 34th minute and doubled the margin in the 73rd minute.

Earlier, Narayananj shared points with Khulna as the match ended in a 1-1 draw. Narayananj took an early lead when Nila found the net in the fourth minute while Jannat leveled the margin for Khulna in the 31st minute.

BD's chance

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match commissioner about the conditions. After playing in elements that they were not used to, Pakistan captain Jaffar Khan yesterday said that his team would enjoy their home conditions.

Bangladesh have a good record in Pakistan, winning three out of five matches that they have played there since 1982 including their last two matches there in the SA Games and Asia Cup qualifiers.

If Bangladesh qualify for the next round, they will play the home match against Lebanon on July 23 and the away match on July 28.

Kvitova comes

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only had one fault in five attempts, she lost four of the points to make it 1-1.

Sharapova wasted her second chance at a break in the third game. A few games later, with the score 30-30, Sharapova produced her second double-fault of the match. The third came two swings later.

Trailing 5-2, Sharapova double-faulted again to open the eighth game. But she did manage to hold and force Kvitova to serve out the set.

Kvitova broke Sharapova again in the opening game of the second set, with the Russian double-faulting for the fifth time to give the Czech a break point.

The pair twice traded breaks later in the set, but Kvitova held to win the championship dish.

"Unfortunately in tennis there's only one winner at the end of the day and that's what makes this tournament so special," Sharapova said before turning her attention to Kvitova.

"So big congratulations on a wonderful victory, you played a wonderful tournament."

The victory kept Nottinghamshire in top spot of the North Group with 18 points while Worcestershire is in third place with 13 points.

Less cricket in 2011-12

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next board meeting for approval," he added.

The tournament committee had a number of tournaments but now only two competitions -- the four-dayers of the National League and Inter-District tournament -- have survived in the new calendar.

The National League, which is scheduled to start from October 18, will be an eight-team tournament as the new division Rangpur are all set to make their debut in the country's lone first-class competition besides Dhaka Metro.

The most coveted domestic competition the Premier Division Cricket League is scheduled to kick off with the Twenty20 meet from January 15 next year and the one-day competition is

Both Tamim, Shakib fail

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal made a winning debut in the Friends Life t20 competition when Nottinghamshire beat five wickets Derbyshire in a high-scoring match yesterday.

The left-hander however made little impact after a leading edge to short third man (Steffan Jones) in the third over off paceman Wes Durston ended his innings for just eight off 12 balls as his side chased a 171-run target.

But thanks to Samit Patel's unbeaten 43-ball 70 and Tamim's opening partner Alex Hales, who made 76 off 40 balls with five fours and as many sixes, the Outlaws won with three balls to spare.

Away at New Road, Shakib Al Hasan continued to struggle with the bat as he made just 10 runs from 17 balls in Worcestershire's six-wicket loss to Leicestershire. He however took 1-19 from four overs.

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Less cricket in 2011-12

scheduled to start from February 2. The inter-club transfers are likely to be completed in December this year.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) will determine the number of pool players in a team who will be eligible, after cricket operations committee confirmed the list of the pool players.

The competitions under the development committee will be same as the last season except for more matches for the Under-18 national round tournament and also there will no change of the women's tournament.

BCB has also incorporated a community festival to encourage guardians where the under-12 players will take part in the eight-a-side competition.

VVS, Rahul lift India

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

Half-centuries from VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid put India in a formidable position in the rain-hit second Test against West Indies on Friday.

Laxman was unbeaten on 72 -- his second half-century in the match -- and Dravid was dismissed for 55, as the Indians reached 229 for three in their second innings for an overall lead of 240 on the rain-affected fourth day.

Laxman and Dravid, the visitors' most decorated batsmen, featured in three half-century stands that fortified the World No.1 Test team's position.

Dravid added 63 for the second wicket with opener Abhinav Mukund, and put on 65 for the third wicket with Laxman, who then

Latest

India declared their second innings closed at 269 for 6 in the morning session, leaving West Indies 281 to win. West Indies were 51 for 2 at lunch, setting up an intriguing battle with India needing 8 wickets in two sessions to win and West Indies having to bat out time to draw or score 230 for a win.

shared an unbroken stand of 75 with Virat Kohli before the close.

Dravid, a century-maker in the first Test, reached his 50 from 157 balls, driving Fidel Edwards through mid-off for a deuce in the first over after tea.

But he fell in the fifth over after the break, when he top-edged a cut at a short, rising ball outside the off-stump from Edwards, and was caught behind. He struck just three boundaries from 171 deliveries in close to four hours.

When he departed, Laxman took control, reaching his 50 from 120 balls, sweeping leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo behind square leg for two.

He was fortunate on 69 however, when West Indies captain Darren Sammy dropped a return catch in the last hour.

Laxman however, persevered, and his near four-hour long innings contained six

four from 171 balls.

He and Kohli, not out on 26, batted through the final two hours of the day to ensure that India enhanced their chances of wrapping up their second straight Test series victory in the Caribbean.

Dravid and Laxman had started to beef up the Indians' lead, carrying them to 143 for two at tea.

The two batsmen drew upon their vast experience to consolidate their side's position, after Mukund, playing in his second Test, fell in the first hour after lunch for 48, gloving a snorter from Edwards.

India had reached 62 for one at lunch, after play started 50 minutes later than regularly scheduled.

The Indians resumed on their overnight total of 23 without loss, but opener Murali Vijay departed in the second full over of the day, when he was caught behind for three off Ravi Rampaul.

Mukund and Dravid started to blossom, following a circumspect start against a West Indies attack that continued to exploit the lively Kensington Oval pitch.

Mukund drove West Indies captain Darren Sammy through mid-off for his second boundary to get into stride, and Dravid steered a delivery from Edwards between third slip and the gully for his first four.

Dravid however, had an anxious wait on nine, when he turned a delivery from Sammy to mid-wicket, and fielder Adrian Barath claimed a low catch, diving forward.

But a consultation between on-field umpire Asad Rauf and TV umpire Gregory Brathwaite gave Dravid a reprieve.

India are also looking to create a piece of history by becoming the first Indian side to win a Test and One-day International series in the Caribbean -- but they will also have to overcome their poor history here.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 201 (Laxman 85; Rampaul 3-38)

WEST INDIES: First innings 190 (Samuels 78; Sharma 6-55)

INDIA: Second innings 229 for 3 (Laxman 72 not out, Dravid 55, Mukund 48; Edwards 2-58, Rampaul 1-51)

'A sham & a mockery'

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

West Indies batsman Chris Gayle described West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) efforts to reconcile with him as "a sham and a mockery" on Friday, saying he realised he was unwanted by the board.

Gayle, overlooked for selection to the West Indies side now hosting Test matches against India, said he has decided not to wait on the WICB any longer but will explore opportunities available to him elsewhere.

"I see it as a scam to fool the people of the West Indies and the world into believing that they were serious about my returning to West Indies cricket," Gayle said.

"My eyes are open, my heart is clean, my conscience is clear and the voice of reason is loud in my ears telling me that I should close this chapter in my life.

The dashing left-handed opener signed a deal on Thursday worth more than 265,000 dollars to play in Australia's expanded Twenty20 Big Bash for the Sydney Thunder.

The controversial former captain's rift with the WICB came after comments he made during an interview on a radio station in his native Jamaica in April.

"I am not going to be the WICB's whipping boy... We as West Indies players are admired throughout the World for our honesty and sportsmanship.

"Yet the custodians of West Indies cricket, the people who are responsible for the development of our heritage sport, have not dealt

with us honestly."

Gayle said it was his understanding that the WICB and Jamaican cricket boards met to discuss his situation but that he was told nothing.

"I have now reached the stage where I have to say that enough is enough," he said. "I can only assume without any positive feedback there has been no resolution.

"There is a disciplinary process in West Indies cricket. Yet the (board) is allowed to be the complainant, as well as policeman, judge, jury and executioner in my case. When I tried to respond to the accusations made against me, I am deemed to be out of place and trying to destroy West Indies cricket.

"I am now coming close to the end of my shelf-life as a cricketer... and must concentrate on providing for my family now and in the future."

Gayle said he still held out hope that he could still play again for his native Jamaica and West Indies.

"I wish to make it abundantly clear that I have not yet retired from any form of the game and remain available for selection for both Jamaica and West Indies," he said. "However, this is entirely out of my hands."

Gayle appealed to his West Indies teammates to stand up to WICB officials about his situation.

"West Indies cricket is different from the West Indies Cricket Board," he said. "West Indies cricket and West Indies cricketers need help. Since you are the people who represent the fans and all the other stakeholders, it is time for you to act."

Rafa can think

FROM PAGE 16

well as on clay at Madrid and Rome.

However, Nadal has won all five of their matches in Grand Slam events.

The Spaniard was also impressive in dismantling Andy Murray's semifinal challenge on Friday where he lost the first set before claiming a 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 win.

Nadal hit 37 winners and committed just seven unforced errors with four of those in the first set.

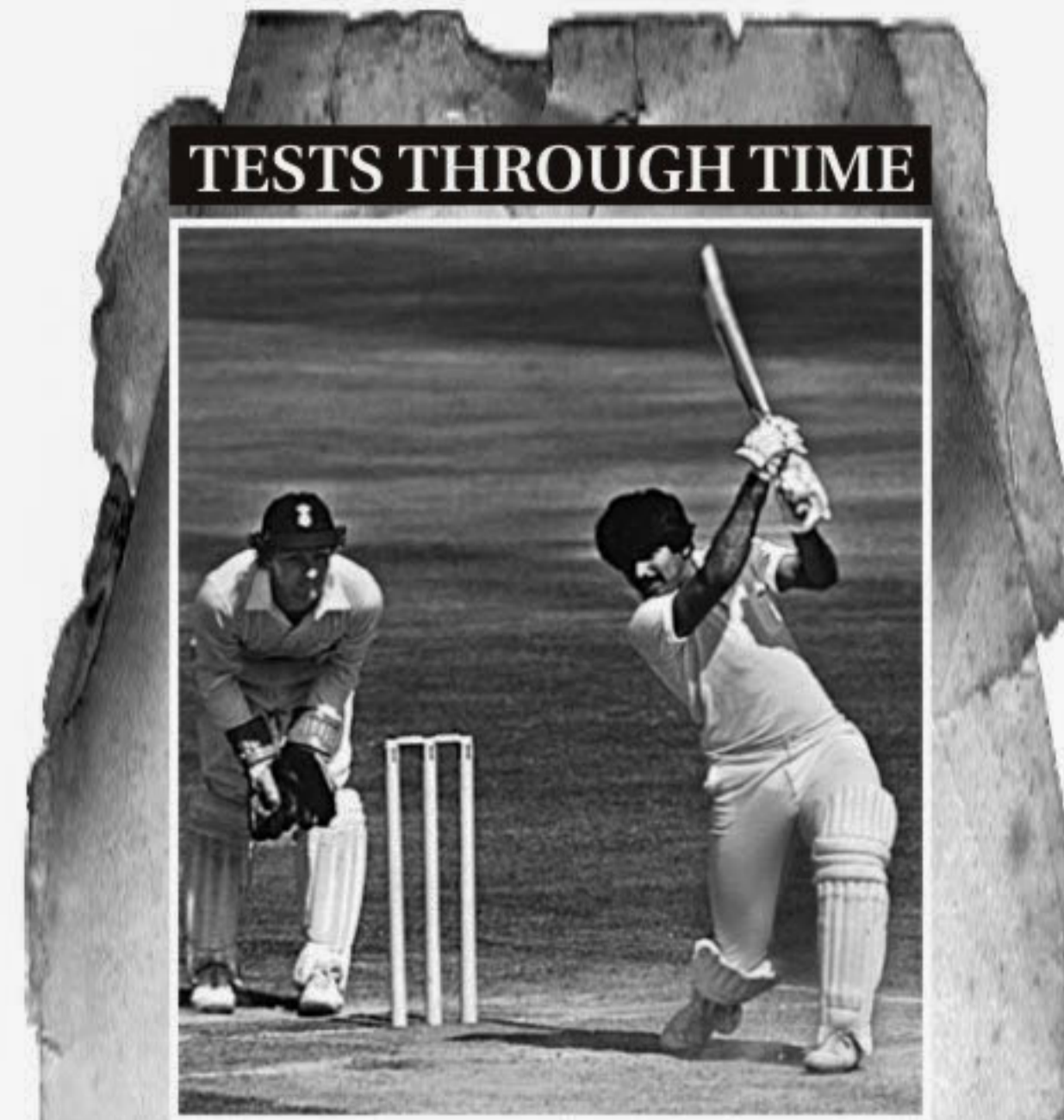
Djokovic believes his outstanding record in 2011 against Nadal can only work in his favour.

"This year we have played so many finals. Obviously even though it's a different surface, I believe I can win against him," said the Serb, who made the final by beating France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-7 (9/11), 6-3.

"He's playing great on grass. He has still a lot of confidence and he knows how it feels to win a trophy at Wimbledon. I have nothing to lose. I'll try to take it to him because I don't want him to control the match."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 21 mins and a word bank at the bottom.



TESTS THROUGH TIME

The cheeky master

Javed Miandad will forever be remembered for that six in Sharjah.

But the 1986 heroics against India, the 1981 histrionics with Dennis Lillee and the crucial fifties in the 1992 World Cup triumph sometimes overshadow his real class that was amply displayed in 124 Test matches spanning 17 years.

After Imran Khan had made his second 'debut' in the mid-1970s, young Miandad came into the international scene. By this time, Pakistan had a proper mix of young firebrands and stalwarts; a fine recipe to give even the best in the world a run for their money.

His 163 against New Zealand in 1976, three years after his Test debut, was an early sign of his tremendous talent. Three years later his 160 not out against the same opponents in Christchurch was ample evidence that Miandad would be one of the significant batting names in the approaching 1980s.

He hardly disappointed, and while New Zealand remained one of the teams he bullied, it was the arch-rivals India that brought the best out of him, like many other Pakistan players.

He began 1983, his most fruitful year in international cricket, with a superb 280 not out against India at the Niaz Stadium in Hyderabad. Some said that Imran Khan's declaration with the batsman just twenty short of a triple century was a poor decision but Pakistan had already batted out two days. India's collapse contributed to a huge victory for the hosts but it did leave a bitter taste in Miandad's mouth.

But under Imran's leadership Miandad often made match-winning contributions. Apart from the innings in Hyderabad, he struck 138 (vs Australia), 126 (vs India) and 114 (vs West Indies), all matches in which Pakistan won.

Out of his 23 Test hundreds, ten have come in victories and Miandad batted at a better average during those games. He not only set up wins by scoring big in the first innings, Miandad managed to do one during the fourth innings too.

This happened in the 1984 Test against New Zealand in Hyderabad. After the Martin Crowe-inspired visitors made 267, Miandad fought a lone hand as Pakistan trailed by 37 in the first innings.

Left-arm spinner Iqbal Qasim then took five second innings wickets, leaving Pakistan 227 to win. The improbable medium-pace of Crowe removed two early wickets but that only roused Miandad into action. His unbeaten 103 in four hours made sure Pakistan won the series and he made room for a special milestone: hundreds in each innings of a Test match.

A master operator from No 4 in the batting line-up, his deft touches against the spinners and his solidity against the fast bowlers gave him sure footing. On top of that, Miandad's street-smart attitude always got under the opponent's skin.

During his 211 against Australia in 1988, he wore a plastic cap and tormented the visitors to the point of disgust. In Steve Waugh's massive autobiography Out Of My Comfort Zone, the legendary Australian was disdainful of the Pakistani but there was always a grudging respect.

His 114 in Georgetown in 1988 came against an attack that comprised of Patrick Patterson, Curtly Ambrose, Winston Benjamin and Courtney Walsh. Pakistan won the Test easily, one of the rare victories by visiting in the Caribbean islands in those days.

He finally retired in 1993 and though he played one last World Cup in 1996, Miandad would forever be remembered for his gigantic contributions as well as that one big hit that felt like a dagger through India's heart.

-- Mohammad Isam

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP

V D L J Y O F Y E N V Q R M T V N R T N L J E N E V S S R M T X J W R E J Z U F S X B U F Q V B B U F N V W V Q J S D - U Z M J X E J S S O N U M J ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PHILOSOPHER LOVES PONDERING ENDLESS THINGS, DOES HE HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR INFINITY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals Y