

# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 10, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Wright quits new club

The summer transfer window has been open a short time now and a number of players have already made moves to new clubs, countries and even new continents, but former England goalkeeper Richard Wright might be the only to have already joined and left his new club.

The 34-year-old Wright, who signed a one-year deal with League One side Preston North End one week ago after being released from his third spell with Ipswich Town, quickly realized that he couldn't stay in Preston while his family



## Tamim wants a winning habit

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Tamim Iqbal said on Monday that they want to go to the ICC World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka on the back of a winning habit.

The dashing opener was excited about the numerous opportunities that they would have to tune up themselves into the newest version of the game before the World Cup to be held in September this year.

Bangladesh started their preparation for the World Cup taking in the unofficial T20 tri-series in Zimbabwe where they won one match each against hosts Zimbabwe and South Africa. The Tigers will now leave for Ireland on July 11 to play three T20 Internationals and after that will play one match each against Scotland and the Netherlands. Mushfiqur Rahim's men are also scheduled to play a T20 tournament in Trinidad & Tobago before playing the practice matches in Sri Lanka before the World Cup.

"The more we play the better we learn about the craft of the new format. We are very lucky that we can only concentrate on the T20 cricket before the World Cup whereas other countries are playing Test and one-day internationals. Before the World Cup we are scheduled to play lot of matches and I believe it will help us to go to the World Cup with a winning habit," said Tamim while talking with the reporters during practice session at the BCB National Cricket Academy yesterday.

"We are going to play a good number of matches before the World Cup and the important thing is that we have to take the opportunity to make sure we can make a winning habit before the tournament. It would be fantastic if we can go into the World Cup after winning the matches we have in our hands," he added.

But there is always the question about a lack of longer-version matches, when Bangladesh do get back to playing Test cricket again after a long break, but Tamim said that they should focus on the immediate task at hand.

"There is always a question mark. I hope we don't have to say any such thing in the future. What I feel is that we should focus on what we are planning now and we will think about the other things only after the completion of the World Cup," said the Chittagonian.

Tamim issued a warning that his side must play their best cricket if they want to win the series against Ireland.

"Ireland is a very tough opponent especially in their own conditions and we have to play our best cricket to win against them,"

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



HEROES LIVE FOREVER: The playing members, pictured here, of the Bangladesh team to the ICC Trophy in 1997, who won the tournament to pave the way for the country to qualify for the World Cup in 1999, were accorded a reception by the Bangladesh Cricket Board at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city last night.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Ajax win at last

SPORTS REPORTER

Ajax Sporting Club tasted their first success in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with a 5-2 win over Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Ajax, who had earlier bagged a single point playing out a 2-2 against Azad SC, led the first half 3-0 with one goal each from Ibrar Ahmed, Faisal Hossain and Rahat Sarwar. Rahat later completed his hat-trick while Mostafizur Rahman and Ashraful Islam pulled back one goal each for the losing side. It was the first win in four matches for Ajax while a third defeat in five matches for Mariner.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh SC posted their third win in six matches when they handed a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## SAARC CAROM C'SHIP FROM TOMORROW Bangladesh hope of finishing second

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh is hoping to improve their standing in the sub-continent carom when the 16th edition of the SAARC Carom Championship starts at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan from tomorrow.

Five teams -- hosts Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan -- will compete in the four-day competition featuring seven events -- men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, mixed doubles and team events of men and women.

Bangladesh are hosting the meet for the second time after they hosted the seventh edition of the championship in 2003 where Bangladesh won the maiden lone international gold medal in the mixed doubles event which remains their only gold medal in the discipline in an international meet.

"The championship is decided by the team event. Last year we finished third and were runners-up in 2010 but this time our target is to improve our standing," said Bangladesh Carom Federation president Junaid Ahmed Palak PM at a press conference at the NSC Tower auditorium yesterday.

"Compared to previous times, the players this time have been given longest time to practice as we started at the beginning of June through a trial and the practice is still continuing

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Twin blow to Australia

Final ODI against England today

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Australia's Brett Lee and Shane Watson both had their tour of England cut short by calf problems on Monday as they were ruled out of Tuesday's fifth one-day international at Old Trafford.

The duo, who suffered their injuries while bowling during a crushing eight-wicket defeat at Chester-le-Street on Saturday that gave England a series-clinching 3-0 lead in the five-match contest, are now due to fly home to Australia later Monday.

Australia team doctor John Orchard said in a statement: "Shane Watson and Brett Lee have calf strains -- Shane to the left and Brett to the right calf -- sustained during the fourth ODI against England at Durham.

"This is the opposite calf to the injury Shane had last [Australian] summer. Because both players will miss the final game, they are flying back to Sydney for

MRI scans and further treatment.

"At this stage, they are anticipated to be available for consideration for selection for the ICC World Twenty20 [in Sri Lanka starting in September], with scan results and response to treatment to determine whether they will be available for consideration for selection for the coming series against Pakistan in the UAE [United Arab Emirates]."

Lee, who went off two balls into his second spell on Saturday, and Watson, who managed just the one over, joined teenage paceman Pat Cummins (side strain) in returning home early from the tour, while left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson did not play at Chester-le-Street because of soreness in his right foot.

Fast bowler Lee retired from Test cricket in 2010 in a bid to prolong his career in shorter formats.

However, at the age of 35, this setback is bound to lead to questions about how long he can keep going for Australia.

Meanwhile Watson, an opening batsman and medium-pacer, has seen his career blighted by a succession of injuries, leading many to question whether the 31-year-old's body can cope with the demands of his preferred all-rounder role.

Nevertheless Australia coach Mickey Arthur -- speaking after Saturday's loss -- insisted he wanted Watson to continue featuring with both bat and ball in the hope both facets of his game would eventually come off at the same time.

"We want Watto as an all-rounder. He gives us immense value and great balance. We need to have Watto as an all-rounder in that team for the balance of the side," Arthur explained.

"It seems that he bats well for a period of time then he doesn't bowl well. And if he bowls well [he doesn't bat well]. We have got to get it right as Watto is a great cricketer," the South African added.

Lee and Watson's latest injuries saw Australia call up left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc, who had been playing for English county Yorkshire, into their squad as cover on Sunday.

## Second day rained off

AFP, Pallekele

Bad weather washed out the entire second day's play in the third and final Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Pallekele on Monday.

The entire field at the Pallekele International Stadium was covered as incessant rain since early morning, the heaviest in the region in the last two months, kept the players indoors.

Umpires Steve Davis and Simon Taufel waited till 3:00 pm before they abandoned play for the day when the weather showed no signs of clearing.

Light rain has been forecast for the remaining three days.

The match is evenly poised after an enthralling opening day's cricket on Sunday when Pakistan reduced Sri Lanka to 44-3 after being shot out for 226 in their first innings.

The interruption gave Pakistani wicket-keeper Adnan Akmal time to recover from a hairline fracture in his left hand after he was hit by a rising ball from fast bowler Dilhara Fernando on the first day.

Akmal, who retired hurt on 10 but later returned to make 24, did not take the field in Sri Lanka's first innings where Taufeeq Umar kept wickets.

Sri Lanka lead the series 1-0, having won the first Test in Galle by 209 runs. The second Test in Colombo was drawn.

## Div-I h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh KS registered a 45-11 point win over Mansur SC in the Orient Bread First Division Handball League at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Arambagh dominated the first half with a 21-5 point lead.

In the day's other match, Purbachal Parishad defeated Jatrabari SC 21-15 after leading the first half 13-10.



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (C) has a chat with teammates Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) and Shakib Al Hasan at a breather during their practice session at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## KP could be back

Cricket

AFP, London

Kevin Pietersen has said there is still a chance he could play 'white ball' cricket for England again despite retiring from limited-overs internationals.

However, the South Africa-born batsman -- who remains a Test cricketer -- said it would need a drastic change to England's packed schedule for him to consider a return to one-day and Twenty20 matches for his adopted country.

"I've had my wife, mother, dad, mother-in-law, brothers and my best mates all saying to me 'don't you wish you were out there batting against Australia [in the on-going one-day series]?" Pietersen told Monday's Daily Mail.

"And I've said to them I haven't missed it at all. But maybe all I needed was a break. Who knows? I've played a lot of cricket in the last seven years."

Asked if he would reconsider his retirement from international cricket's two shortest formats, the 32-year-old said: "Never say never. I'm a lot older and more mature than a few years ago, so you never know."

"Anything can happen. I'll never say no, but the schedule would have to be a hell of a lot different for me to come back. Wait and see."

Pietersen, one of the undoubted 'box-office' stars of world cricket, called time on his international limited overs career when the England management denied him his wish to carry on playing Twenty20s while quitting 50 overs per side one-dayers.

They said he had to make himself available for both formats amidst concerns that, otherwise, the 50-over side would be weakened by several players following Pietersen's lead.

Pietersen, man of the tournament when England won the World Twenty20 in the Caribbean two years ago, still harbours hopes of helping the side defend their title in Sri Lanka

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2