

Former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev feels Sachin Tendulkar is the best person to decide when he would like to retire from international cricket.

"A great player like Sachin knows when he should retire and it is not for me to comment about. The memory of great players lives for a long long time. For instance Sunil Gavaskar is still remembered for his



West Indies' mystery spinner Sunil Narine (R) and all-rounder Marlon Samuels on their stride during a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Siddikur's Singapore challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman will hope to get his struggling season back in shape as he begins the quest for the Singapore Open from today. The 27-year old golfer, who finished 45th and 76th in the two prestigious competitions in the last two weeks, will look for a better performance in the \$6million Singapore Open which will be held at the Sentosa Golf Club in Singapore.

The field contains some of the world's best golfers, including current world number one Rory McIlroy from Northern Ireland, Adam Scott of Australia, a three-time winner, American Phil Mickelson and 2010 Open Championship winner Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa.

This year marks the 49th staging of the Singapore Open which will be co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

England not afraid of spinners

PTI, Ahmedabad

Despite their recent struggle against slow bowlers in subcontinent conditions, England spinner Graeme Swann has dismissed talks that Indian spinners would be a threat to the visiting batsmen during the upcoming four-Test series, starting in Ahmedabad on November 15.

England have managed to register just two wins in 22 Tests in the subcontinent, excluding matches against Bangladesh, and the reason could be largely attributed to the fact that their batsmen have struggled against high-quality spin bowling.

England were white-washed 0-3 by Pakistan in the Test series held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

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'Team more balanced' Practice match in jeopardy

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

West Indies captain Darren Sammy has said that the current West Indian team is a 'more balanced' side as compared to the side that toured Bangladesh last year. In a press conference at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters in Mirpur yesterday, Sammy stated that his team could excel under any condition.

"If the pitch offers turn, then we have got good spinners. If we get a good pacey pitch, which I highly doubt, we have got a good pace attack as well. We also have an experienced batting line-up. On the whole we are quite confident," said Sammy.

The captain claimed that the team has become 'more consistent' over the last year. "We have definitely improved as a team. In the last Test series we played against New Zealand, we won the matches because of different players -- we have been improving steadily," said Sammy.

The visitors played their last Test series three months ago when they beat New Zealand by two games to nothing at home. After that the

Caribbean side got busy with their Twenty20 campaign. Coach Ottis Gibson, however, was confident that the players would be able to successfully shift gears to the longer version of the game. While he admit-



PHOTO: STAR

West Indies skipper Darren Sammy speaks at a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium conference hall in Mirpur yesterday.

ted that playing Tests after a break will have an effect, he believed that his players had the experience to handle it.

Bangladesh on the other hand, will be entering the Test arena after almost a year. The last time they played a Test match was against Pakistan in December last year. The hosts also haven't had the best of preparations before the series. Two rounds of domestic cricket was the only exposure to the longer version of the game that the Tigers received before this series.

Despite the odds being in favour of the visitors, Sammy was cautious in his optimism. "We never take Bangladesh lightly. They have a bunch of experienced players in their side. Players like Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim are expected to come out and play for their country," said the captain.

Furthermore the captain claimed that the conditions at the Sher-e-Bangla are different as compared to their last tour. "The outfield here is new I think. I haven't checked the pitch as yet. But most of our guys are used to playing in the hot sun, so it shouldn't be a problem."

The first Test is scheduled to begin on November 13 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, following which, the teams will travel to Khulna to play the second Test match from November 21.

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The sun came out yesterday after three days of persistent rainfall but still it will not be possible to start the three-day warm-up match between the visiting West Indies and BCB XI today at the BKSP cricket ground because of a wet outfield.

The fate of the match remained uncertain as it may take one more day to make the ground match-fit. Whether the match will take place at all will be decided today after the visit by officials of the West Indies team and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

"According to the curator there is no chance of starting the match tomorrow (Thursday) due to a wet outfield and that's why the first day's play was called-off. West Indies coach Ottis Gibson along with another team official returned from BKSP after traveling halfway to the facility today because of a huge traffic jam but they will go to the venue tomorrow to take a decision. The teams can play a two-day match if the ground is okay by that time," informed BCB's cricket operations committee manager Sabbir Khan yesterday.

It was bad news for the touring side but West Indies coach Gibson was not too

bothered with the uncertainty surrounding the three-day practice match.

"The ground that we were supposed to play on is a little wet so I don't know how much of a practice we will get. Yes, playing longer-version cricket after a long time might have an effect. But we have a number of experienced players who can handle the situation. We had a camp before coming here, and the players got a chance to play there, let's see how much practice we get before the match begins," responded Gibson when asked about the fate of the three-day game.

Curator Badiul Alam Khokon however was not convinced about the possibility of even a two-day match.

"The wicket is ready but the outfield is still water-soaked despite today's sunshine. Right at this moment our target is to prepare the ground for a two-day match but we are not sure whether it would be possible," said Khokon.

The BCB XI players were supposed to report yesterday but they were asked to come today at 9 am along with the other selected players for the preliminary squad for the first Test which will start from November 13 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Generally, any warm-up match before

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PFLC places its demands

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The high-ups of six top-tier professional football league clubs except for Abahani, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Arambagh KS yesterday met with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin to place their demands ahead of the Bangladesh Premier League which begins on November 13.

The demands include the rearrangement of the Professional Football League Committee (PFLC) and Referees Committee, publishing a yearly plan, increment in the number of league matches in a week, ensuring non-stop league matches, raising the BFF financial assistance to the clubs, holding discussions with club representatives before finalising program involving the national team and sticking to the league schedule once it is revealed.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin assured them that he would place their demands to the next meeting of the executive committee and discuss the matter with the PFLC but he also said that the BFF would only adhere to the rules and system adopted the world over.

It was the first meeting between the club officials and the BFF president after a nine-member committee for Professional Football Clubs Association (PFCA) was

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh's dashing left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal makes a point to teammate and all-rounder Mashrafe Bin Mortaza during a chat at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium lobby in Mirpur yesterday.

Ajgor special chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Ajgor Ali became unbeaten champion in the Grameenphone 11th National Special Chess Tournament, organised by Bangladesh Braille Chess Society and sponsored by Grameenphone, at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday.

Ajgor Ali secured maximum nine points from as many games.

Khokon Barmon and Sharif Ahmed became first and second runner-up with 7.5 and 7 points respectively while Mozibul Haque, Manik Chowdhury, Sheikh Nayan became fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

Shahnaz Parveen emerged champion in women's section with five points while Jamila Aktar became runners-up with 4.5 points.