

Dhar's allegation against BBF

Nikhil Chandra Dhar, Badminton World Federation's level-1 certified coach, brought allegation of non-cooperation against the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, which is dillydallying with the process of handing the BWF invitation of level-2 coaches course to him.

Having submitted a letter yesterday, Dhar sought the intervention of the State Minister for Youth and Sports to solve the matter as the coaches course is scheduled to be held from Nov 17-25 in Malaysia.

Dhar alleged that the invitation for him was sent to the federation but he did not receive it despite repeated requests to the federation officials - general secretary Jobaidur Rahman Rana and joint secretary Golam Aziz Jilani, who even ignored the instruction of federation president Rubaba Dowla Motin.

Rana was learnt to be outside the country while Jilani's phone was switched off.

It was bad

FROM PAGE 16 bad decision because it wasn't the right ball to play that shot to," he added.

The Chittagonian pointed out the 'disciplined approach' behind his success in the National Cricket League matches this season, which invited the question of whether he maintained the approach during his 71-ball 72.

"The last time I made around 80 here and there was a period when I batted for 15-20 overs to score 10 runs. It is probably how one should bat in a Test match but everyone has an individual plan due to different mentality. I wanted to bat long, so that it would help the team. I also wanted to keep my aggressive approach intact. I think I was thinking properly, but the shot was wrong," explained Tamim.

"There are two types of batsmen. Some score runs and get set, and some spend time in the crease to get set. I am from the first group, I am settled quickly when I see runs on the scoreboard. I don't want to let go of my strength, but it is true I have got out at strange times and playing strange shots. It is natural for such things to happen because I am a stroke player. Still, it is not an excuse for getting out in this manner," he added.

He also said that there was no instruction for him from the dressing room after West Indies piled up a huge total on the board. "I am usually told to bat in my way, and nothing much is told to me. If you see my shots, most of them were there to be hit. I came out to hit Sunil Narine twice but none of the boundaries was a bad shot or forced. Rampaul bowled a good ball, but I have said it often, I would hit the ball which is in my range," said Tamim adding that the wicket was fantastic for batting and the bowlers didn't have much help from it.

Tamim might have defended his style of batting but the reality was that Bangladesh were in trouble because of a wrong batting approach from the top order and the left-hander also admitted that the loss of just 'one wicket would have been beautiful for us'.



PHOTO: AFP

India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh (L) observes teammate Sachin Tendulkar demonstrate a forward defence during a training session at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

INDIA WITHOUT SHARMA, ENGLAND FINN First Test from today



AFP, Ahmedabad

India and England will be without the services of fast bowlers Ishant Sharma and Steven Finn when they open a four-Test series in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Finn has not recovered from a thigh strain suffered in England's three-day tour opener in Mumbai last month, while Sharma was ruled out of the first Test due to viral fever he picked up on Tuesday.

The duo's absence was confirmed by rival captains Alastair Cook and Mahendra Singh Dhoni at a pre-match press conference on Wednesday, even as speculation mounted over the likely nature of the newly-laid pitch.

Both Dhoni and Cook expected the dry surface at the Motera Stadium to assist spin, but added its unknown quality would generate considerable interest for the two teams.

"Wickets could change a lot in 24 hours, but it looks quite dry," said Cook. "The pitch has been re-laid and so there are not many statistics available that are relevant to the wicket."

Dhoni, who had openly called on groundsman across India to prepare turning pitches against spin-wary tourists, termed it a "good wicket".

"It definitely looks dry and I feel it will turn," he said, but indicated India were unlikely to field a third specialist spinner in Harbhajan Singh to bowl alongside Ravichandran Ashwin and Pragyan Ojha.

"The fast bowlers could also get a bit of reverse swing. It's always advisable to have a bowling attack that has people available for different scenarios."

England have proved vulnerable against the turning ball this year, losing 3-0 to Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates in January-February before forcing a 1-1 draw in Sri Lanka in March.

The tourists now confront an Indian

side that usually makes up for its poor record abroad by dominating all comers on home soil, where it has lost just one series out of 16 in the past 10 years.

India are desperate to make amends for two successive 4-0 routs in England and Australia over the past year, but Dhoni refused to term the upcoming matches as a grudge series.

"When we go on to the field there will be a red ball and there will be two teams playing," he said. "You can name it whatever you want but it does not change the fact that this is another Test match."

"In your own country you are supposed to be good. But when you play abroad it's a fresh challenge. Every country feels the same. It's no different for England."

Cook said he was "nervous and excited" leading England as a full-time Test captain since taking over from Andrew Strauss, who retired after the 2-0 loss to South Africa at home in August.

"Whatever happens over the next Test match, I hope do a good job in the long run," said the left-handed opener, who turns 28 on Christmas Day. "I hope to get good results."

Cook was confident of taking on India in their own backyard, saying his team gained valuable practice in the three warm-up games prior to the Test.

"History shows that India has coped well with pressure which comes with playing at home," he said. "They have an excellent home record, but our job is to put them under pressure now."

Cook said the return of Kevin Pietersen to the England squad after he was banned in August for a text message row will lift the tourists.

"For a captain it is great to have a world-class batsman like him in the team," Cook said. "We have moved on and the whole side has adapted to the situation."

"What I don't want to change is his confidence, or his swagger when he bats, because that's what has made him such a great player."

Sk Jamal, MSC win

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respectively and the substitutions made significant impact on the game with Shariful and Sohel Rana penetrating from both wings.

Mohammedan took 12 minutes into the second half to take the lead through Ghanaian Osei Morison, who advanced to the box with a Maruf through-pass before placing it past the advancing goalkeeper Piaruzzaman, and he doubled the lead in the 71st minute with another placing shot after availing a cut-back from winger Shariful.

Morison, who came here for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club but was signed up by the Black & Whites, completed his hat-trick in the stoppage time from the spot after substitute striker Mohammed Robin was brought down by the Brothers goalkeeper inside the box.

The emphatic win meant Mohammed extended their winning tally against Brothers to six in 11 league matches.

In the first match of the day, former champions Sheikh Jamal struggled to replicate their Federation Cup form, even though they got the better of Team BJMC, thanks to brilliant strikes from Nigerian duo Otojareri and Sunday, who together scored 10 goals in the Federation Cup.

Despite taking a 3-0 lead, Sheikh Jamal conceded two goals due to defensive lapses and coach Joseph Afusi was forced to strengthen his backline by deploying an extra defender to keep the scoreline at 3-2.

Sheikh Jamal went ahead in the 16th minute against the run of play as Sunday, availing a short corner from Alamgir Kabir Rana, found the near post from outside the box with a fine drive, giving goalkeeper Aminul Haque no chance to react.

Having survived a scare in the 27th minute, Sheikh Jamal doubled the lead a minute later through Otojareri, who smashed a Sunday chip home after three BJMC defenders failed to clear it.

Sunday made it 3-0 from a free-kick from outside the box two minutes into the second half. When it seemed the game was over, BJMC fought back to pull one goal back in the 50th minute through a penalty kick which was taken by Ismael Bangoura, top-scorer of last league.

Then Kingsley made it 3-2 with a well-judged header off a Kesto Kumar cross but Team BJMC could not find the equaliser and eventually suffered the first defeat in three league matches against Sheikh Jamal.

Tigers' flair

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only carried as far as Sunil Narine at mid-on for a simple catch. Tamim struck ten fours and two sixes during his 71-ball 72.

Earlier, it was a laborious day for the Bangladesh bowlers, especially for debutant off-spinner Shohag Gazi who took the most of the workload along with Shakib. Shohag bowled 47 overs while Shakib supported him with 34 overs. Credit, however, must go to Chanderpaul and Ramdin, who showed great reserves of patience and persistence to carry the team to an impregnable position.

Veteran left-hander Chanderpaul was troubled a few times in the morning but he was in control, leaving almost all the deliveries outside off-stump on way to achieve a Test best of an unbeaten 203 that came after a seven-and-a-half-hour vigil which saw 22 boundaries, while Ramdin was at the crease for five and a half hours and smote 11 fours and a six during his unbeaten 126-run innings.

If the match is to be competitive at all, Bangladesh's remaining batsmen have to follow the approach of the two Caribbean batsmen, otherwise another big defeat is only just a matter of a time for the home team.

Debaraj takes solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Debaraj Chatterjee took solo lead in the Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Limited 38th National 'A' Chess Championship with 6 points after beating FM Mehdi Hasan Parag in the seventh round at the media centre of Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.

GM Ziaur Rahman was in second position with 5.5 points while GM Niaz Murshed, GM Reefat Bin Sattar, IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan were in third position with 5 points each. In some of the other matches yesterday, Niaz beat Reefat, Zia beat FM Mohammad Javed, Mostaf beat FM Nasir Ahmed and Sagar drew with IM Abu Sufian Shakil.

Booters leave

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Malaysia on November 20 in Kuala Lumpur.

On the verge of the departure, a 20-member squad has been declared with defender Kesto Kumar finding a place to the national fold for the first time after the Team BJMC defender performed well for the BFF Junior Eleven in the Safal Pokhara Cup in Nepal. Kesto came in place of Sheikh Jamal defender Raihan Hasan.

Apart from that, Mezbabul Haque Manik, goalkeepers Mamun Khan, Shahidul Alam Sohel returned to the senior fold replacing Shahedul Alam, Titumir Chowdhury and Ziaur Rahman respectively. Of the Nepal's friendly squad, midfielder Alamgir Kabir Rana, striker Anwar Hossain and winger Sohel Rana have been excluded.

"Our goal is to ascertain the football standard we belong to," said head coach Saiful Bari Titu. "Draw against any of these teams will be good results as both Thailand and Malaysia are superior sides than us in both performance and FIFA rankings."

SQUAD

Sujan (captain), Mustaq, Rony, Linkon, Sohel, Manik, Kesto, Emily, Mithun, Zahid, Wali, Mamunul, Pranotosh, Nasir Chowdhury, Reza, Mamun Mia, Shakil, Komol, Meshu and Mamun Khan.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Apiece 4 Hot tubs 8 Vail gear 12 Expert 13 Ancient Briton 14 Flirtatious look 15 Review 17 Roddick or Rooney 18 Popular logic puzzle 19 Nonstick spray 21 Teensy 22 Unrivaled 26 Tattar 29 Mole, e.g. 30 Cft- 31 Revolutionary period? 32 They're between mis and sals 33 Architect - van der Rohe 34 A Bobbsey twin

Solution time: 25 mins.

G O B I A R E V I O L I V A N A H I A E L I Y E R D I G R I S R I M E N S U R E E S T O P C A V A L U E P A V E B E G E B B S O N E A R E R I U E L I R A E N D C A G E B I L A Z E C O S H A L L A G A T H A E A T V E R M I L I O N A L L I K E A L E T O N M O M N E O N H O P E

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohakhali Ekadash played out a 1-1 draw against T&T Club in the Popular Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. After the barren first half, Helal put Mohakhali ahead in the 56th minute before Shawan levelled the margin in the 73rd minute.

Army athletics conclude

Savar zone became champions and Chittagone zone became runners-up in the Army Athletics Competition that concluded at the Army Stadium in Banani, Dhaka yesterday. Savar grabbed 35 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze medals to clinch the first position. Lance corporal Rafikul Islam of Savar was adjudged the best athlete while Shariful Islam of the same team was adjudged the best young athlete of the competition.

A total of 700 athletes from seven artillery divisions and three independent brigades took part in 29 events in the competition.

DRU cricket from today

A six-a-side cricket tournament, organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) and sponsored by Walton, gets underway today at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium with The Daily Star taking on Sangram in one of 10 matches of the opening day.

A total of 32 media houses, split into eight groups, will take part in the round-robin matches and group champions will qualify for the quarterfinals, scheduled for November 21.

Both semifinals and the final are scheduled to be held on November 22, informed speakers at the press conference. DRU president Shawkat Hossain Badsha, DRU general secretary Sajjadul Alam Khan Tapu, DRU sports secretary Morshalin Ahmed were among others present on the occasion.

Cricket extravaganza

Dhaka Club will host Chittagong Club for a traditional friendly cricket match at the on November 16. The match, which will start at the Gulshan Youth Club ground at 10am, is part of a three-day cricket extravaganza which will also

Classic Chanderpaul

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didn't seem to be bothered about that landmark.

"To me the team comes first. It doesn't matter what your individual score is. I was happy to have reached the double-hundred mark, but it's always important to stick to the team plan," said Chanderpaul.

The declaration before tea seemed to have paid the dividends for the visitors as they picked three crucial wickets, including that of Tamim Iqbal, before the end of the day. "When you are fielding for two days, the guys are tired, and that's what we saw today. I am guessing there is a bit of tiredness in the batting. The wicket though is a very good one to bat on," said Chanderpaul.

The Bangladeshi top order's approach seemed bang opposite as compared to that of the West Indian. Tamim, for instance scored 12 boundaries, for his 72. It was exactly that sort of aggression, however, that made him lose his wicket right before stumps.

As expected, Tamim's fall immediately began a series of comparisons between the approach followed by the two batsmen, with the majority in the press box criticising the Bangladeshi opener's approach. The West Indian veteran, who had a chance to provide his opinion on

Blackout in India?

AFP, New Delhi

International news agencies, including AFP, warned Tuesday they may be forced to suspend coverage of the Test cricket series between India and England to protest restrictions imposed by authorities.

The News Media Coalition, which represents a group of media organisations, "deplored" a decision by the Board of Cricket Control for India (BCCI) to bar photo agencies such as Getty Images and Action Images and urged it to rethink.

Any suspension would deprive millions of cricket fans of coverage of one of the most-eagerly anticipated series of the year, which starts on Thursday.

"In our view, the BCCI's move will hit fans and cricket sponsors alike," said Andrew Moger.

The Moments

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the field and the trend continued during the visitors short bowling session yesterday. At first, it was his frustrating hop and kick after he was dispatched for four boundaries in one over by Tamim. His 'passion' for his bowling was reiterated after an accidental dash with Shakib Al Hasan. The accident was followed by a wayward bouncer and a fierce attempt to throw the ball at Shakib's stump after collecting the ball on his follow-through.

this matter, stated that Tamim's way of batting was just 'different'. "It's not just him. Even (Chris) Gayle bats in his own way, we can't tell him how to bat. If Tamim wants to play like this, it's best to just let him," said Chanderpaul.

With seven centuries in Test cricket in the last two years and a series of fifties both at home and away, it seems as though 38-year-old Chanderpaul is only getting better with time. The left-hander attributed his hunger for runs to his love for the game.

"Well, it's something that I tried hard over the years to do. I always try to improve and get better. That's how Test cricket goes, it's where you have to work hard," said Chanderpaul.

Chanderpaul's 26th century has brought him level with the number of hundreds scored by West Indian legend Sir Garfield Sobers. The batsman stated that it was an 'honour' for him to 'be up there'. "Sir Gary is Sir Gary. I know I have played a lot more innings than him, but it's still an honour."

The batsman further stated that the visitors' plan of action would depend on how the third day turns out to be. "The wicket's got something in the morning, so we'll try to do something then," said Chanderpaul.

Cryptogram grid with numbers 1-55 in a crossword pattern.

CRYPTOQUIP

E K O A H T R E M X A U T D M K J T E T Y A H T R L T L L C V Q M F U G B M G E U S V M L S U G O V A J Q V U T X A L Y O F M M R O : " E T G C D M D D A L O . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I AM AT MY WORKPLACE COLLECTING OLD ACCRUED CHECKS, I GUESS I'M PICKING UP THE PAYS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals N