

SPORT

Tigers go on 12-day break

SPORTS REPORTER

The national cricketers, who attended their last training session before Eid yesterday, will go on a 12-day vacation before the camp restarts on August 18.

With a majority of the players from the camp and the national team's staff having gone to England for the A tour, the last week saw players attend 'optional' individual training with national coach Shane Jurgensen.

"We decided to give them a longer break this Eid because they won't be able to enjoy a break during the next Eid, when New Zealand will be here. On our return we will concentrate more on skill development," said Jurgensen.

Jurgensen, who left the country last night for his Eid vacations will return two days before the camp restarts.

Salahuddin and Shakib in textbooks

SPORTS REPORTER

Legendary footballer Kazi Salahuddin and world's number one all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan have been included in the national curriculum as part of a unique initiative by the Ministry of Education.

The English for Today textbook also includes personalities such as Mount Everest conqueror Musa Ibrahim and SA Games gold medallist shooters Sharmin Akter Ratna, Sadia Sultana and Tripti Datta alongside legendary Brazilian footballer Pele, Argentina's Diego Maradona and India's cricketer superstar Sachin Tendulkar.

All the Bangladeshi athletes have been kept in lesson 5 under the title: Our Golden Boys and Girls.

Detailing his football and coaching career and his role in the Swadhin Bangla Football Team during the War of Independence, Salahuddin was described as an icon to the country's football lovers of all ages.

In his reaction, the Bangladesh Football Federation president said: "This is an honour for me and I am grateful to the Ministry of Education."

Providing some information about Shakib, the book asks students to write a letter to their friends about the cricketer. The information about the shooters was based on their performance in the 2010 SA Games where they won gold medals in the team event of 10m Air Rifle.

ICC's venue inspection after Eid

SPORTS REPORTER

The International Cricket Council's (ICC's) team's visit to Bangladesh to check on the progress of the T20 world cup venues, which was scheduled for August 7, has been delayed till after Eid.

Speaking to The Daily Star Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said: "The ICC team will arrive soon after Eid. Our progress with regards to the stadiums in question is going as planned. We had visited the venues recently and we remain confident."

Installation of floodlights and preparation of the grandstand are the major challenges in Sylhet. Since last month the army has joined in the construction of the temporary stadium in Cox's Bazar, which will host the women's edition of the global event.



RAIN RULES: Weather played the part of 12th man for England as rain washed out most of the fifth day of the third Ashes Test at Old Trafford yesterday. Australia, needing to win the Test to have any chance of regaining the urn, had England on the ropes at 35 for three at lunch in chase of 332 before rain allowed the home team to escape with a draw.

Flood of cricket after the drought

Board unveils calendar for 2013-14

SPORTS REPORTER

The cricket operations committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has revealed the domestic calendar yesterday with the hope that the clubs keep their promise of playing the Super League of the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket without the national players.

The much awaited Dhaka Premier League (DPL) for the 2012-2013 season is set to begin on September 3, the date arrived at after a fifth rescheduling of the country's most coveted 50-over competition. The Super League is likely to be held between October and November this year, a period that coincides with New Zealand's tour of Bangladesh.

"New Zealand will arrive in Dhaka on October 2 but still we allotted this month for the Super League as the clubs promised to play the matches without the national players," said Enayet Hossain Siraj, chairman of the BCB's cricket operations committee. The entire calendar will however be upset if the clubs change their mind. It can be mentioned that the board failed

to arrange the league as per original schedule in March this year as the clubs declined to play the league without the national players.

The third version of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which has already been termed 'a pain' by BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon due to non-payment issues, is slotted for

MAJOR DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS 2013-14	
DPL (2012-2013):	September 2013
NCL:	November-December 2013
BPL:	December 2013-January 2014
DPL (2013-2014):	April-May 2014
BCL:	May-June 2014

December 2013 to January 2014. It was learnt that most of the board members are not in favour of holding the third version of the tournament as the board is still struggling to realise the dues from the franchises and event management firm Game On. Many are of the opinion that the BPL needs a major overhaul as most of the franchises

are unfit to continue their participation in the tournament, which is considered by many as the second best after the cash-rich Indian Premier League.

"Hosting the third edition is a matter of prestige. How the board settles all the financial disputes before the next edition remains to be seen," said a BCB ad-hoc committee member on condition of anonymity.

The board must arrange the third edition of BPL by mid-December as Sri Lanka are scheduled to play a series in Bangladesh between January 14 and February 24, after which the Asia Cup is scheduled to take place from February 24 to March 7. Then The BCB will have arguably the biggest tournament to be held in the country -- the ICC Twenty20 World Cup from March 15 to April 7.

After the world cup the 2013-14 DPL is slated for April-May 2014 and the four franchises play the second edition of the longer-version Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) in May-June next year.

BCB turns on player payments

SPORTS REPORTER

Contrary to a recent statement made by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), players who participated in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) this year will not be getting their BPL dues before Eid.

Following BCB's board meeting last week, the ad-hoc committee's members said that they would ensure that 50 per cent of the players' payments were completed before Eid.

However, the board failed to host talks with the franchises and as a result decided to postpone the payments. "We wanted to talk to those franchises who owed money to the players in order to know exactly how much we needed to pay. But they did not respond.

So we thought it would be best to get a clear idea and complete the payments after Eid," said IH Mallick, BCB's ad-hoc committee member.

While some of the franchises have already cleared 50 per cent of the players' payments, Barisal Burners, Sylhet Royals and the Rangpur Riders are yet to complete the required amount.

Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh's (CWAB's) general secretary Debabrata Paul expressed his dissatisfaction over the board's failure to clear the amount. "Many players have called me and desperately enquired about the payments.

Why would the board give the players hope of receiving their payment before Eid if they weren't a hundred per cent sure?" said Debabrata.

The list of players who are yet to receive the payments includes the likes of Abdur Razzak, Nasir Hossain and Alok Kapali. "We came to know about the dates of the payment from the newspapers. We didn't get any dates from the board," said Nasir. Razzak stated the same.

Barisal's Jubair Ahmed, who is yet to receive a single taka from his BPL dues, lamented what he described as being given false hope.

"It would have meant a lot to me had I received my BPL dues before Eid, but the struggle I guess will only continue," said Jubair.

As per the bylaws of the competition, players were supposed to have received 50 per cent of their payments by the end of the tournament. The remaining 50 per cent, as per the rules, should be paid within six months after the end of the competition. The second edition of the BPL was completed in February 19, 2013.

BD U-19s game rained off

SPORTS REPORTER



Rail spoiled the opening match of the Under-19 tri-nation tournament yesterday. Batting first Bangladesh Under-19 were bundled out for 145 in 42.1 overs against their Pakistani counterparts at the Haslegrave Ground in Loughborough.

Bangladesh struggled against the Pakistani pacers as they crumbled to 54 for 5 after 16 overs.

At the halfway stage the young Tigers were at a precarious 78 for 7 and they were in danger of getting bowled out below 100 runs.

However, crucial partnerships from the lower order however helped them cross the 140 mark.

Nazmul Hossain Shanto top-scored for Bangladesh with 30. Mohammad Aftab (2-30) and Hussain Talat (2-13) chipped in with two wickets each for Pakistan.

In reply Pakistan were reeling at 38 for 4 in 17 overs.

Rifat Pradhan and Mehedy Hasan were the chief destroyers as they took two wickets a piece.

Rifat hit the timber twice in the first ten overs whereas Mehedy got the crucial wicket of captain Sami Aslam. He also got Shayan Jahangir trapped in front for an eleven-ball duck.

Tamim's Zouks notch first win

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Tamim Iqbal scored six runs and inflicted a run out in his second game of the Caribbean Premier League as his team St Lucia Zouks beat Guyana Amazon Warriors by five wickets. He was trapped in front by Verasammy Permaul in the fifth over. Batting first Guyana were restricted to 126 for 6. In reply, St Lucia reached their target with three balls to spare.

NSC asked to start election process

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sent a letter to the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday asking them to start the election process and form the election commission as soon as possible. BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury confirmed that the letter was sent yesterday.

The board will also send letters to the affiliated bodies on August 12, through which the latter will be asked to present the names of their councillors within ten days of that date.

The Supreme Court recently cleared the way for the elections on the basis of its 2012 amended constitution.

Ashes remains England's

AFP, Manchester



England retained the Ashes after rain meant the third Test against Australia at Old Trafford ended in a draw on Monday.

Only 20.3 overs were possible on the fifth and final day, but that was still long enough for England to collapse to 37 for three, having been set 332 to win after Australia declared on their overnight 172 for seven.

But England, 2-0 up in the five-match series after wins by 14 runs and 347 runs at Trent Bridge and Lord's respectively, only had to draw this match to be sure of retaining the Ashes. And they had the result they required when the match was abandoned as a draw at 4.39pm local time (1539GMT).

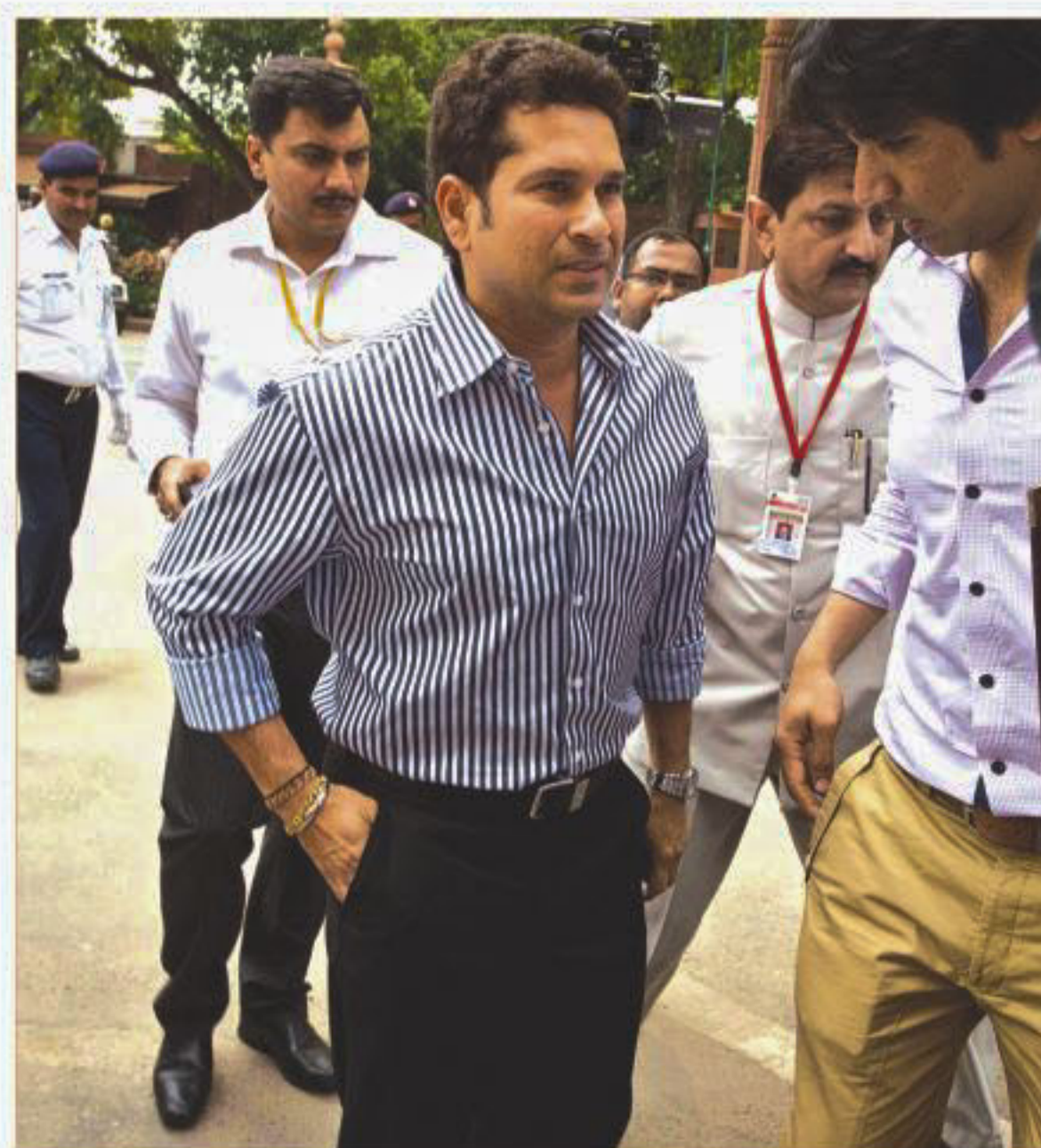
Earlier, Ryan Harris struck twice in quick succession to remove England captain Alastair Cook and Jonathan Trott before Peter Siddle claimed the prize wicket of Kevin Pietersen. However, the bad weather for which Manchester venue Old Trafford is infamous, but which had stayed away until Sunday evening, took charge.

At the close, England were 295 runs shy of the victory target, with Joe Root, dropped on four, 13 not out and Ian Bell four not out.

Now the best Australia can hope for is to share the series 2-2. In the event of a drawn campaign, the team that last won the Ashes retains them and in this series that means England following their 3-1 win in Australia in 2010/11.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings 527 for 7 declared (Clarke 187, Smith 89, Rogers 84, Starc 66 not out, Haddin 65 not out; Swann 5-159)				
ENGLAND: First innings 368 (Pietersen 113, Cook 62, Bell 60; Siddle 4-63, Starc 3-76)				
AUSTRALIA: Second innings 172 for 7 declared (Warner 41, Clarke 30 not out, Khawaja 24; Bresnan 2-25, Anderson 2-37)				
ENGLAND: Second innings				
Cook lbw b Harris				0
Root not out				13
Trott c Haddin b Harris				11
Pietersen c Haddin b Siddle				8
Bell not out				4
Extras: (w-11)				
Total: (For 3 wks in 20.3 overs) 37				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-15, 3-27				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harris	7	3	13	2
Starc	4	2	6	0
Watson	2	2	0	0
Lyon	3	0	8	0
Siddle	3.3	0	8	1
Clarke	1	0	2	0
Result: Match drawn.				
Player-of-the-match: Michael Clarke.				



Indian cricket legend and member of parliament Sachin Tendulkar arrives at Parliament in New Delhi yesterday before the first day of the monsoon session. The record-breaking batsman, nominated as a Rajya Sabha member in April last year, was the cynosure of all eyes on the day.

PHOTO: AFP

Cricket's gift to chess

SPORTS REPORTER

In a bid to support Grand Master Ziaur Rahman's FIDE World Chess Cup campaign in Norway, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) provided the chess player with a sum of 2500 dollars.

Ziaur had earlier received just over TK 1 lakh from the Bangladesh Chess Federation for his flight tickets. He however required more funds for his remaining expenses.

"We decided to provide the funding because it's the world cup and he's got the opportunity to represent Bangladesh at the grand stage," said BCB's media committee chairman Jal Yunus.

Ziaur, who will be leaving for Norway on August 9, stated that he was now more determined to perform in the competition.

"I am really glad to have received this support from the BCB president. It's a positive move and has made me a lot more positive," he added.

The competition, which will take place between August 10 and September 3, will feature 128 participants. Ziaur is the only participant from Bangladesh and is one of 20 players from the Asia-Oceania region. Zia had participated in the competition twice before and was knocked out in the first round on both occasions.

Keeping coach for clubs too

SPORTS REPORTER

A specialist goalkeeping coach is expected to join the national football team within a week for a two-month contract, but the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin is thinking on a broader scale as he wants to keep a specialist goalkeeping coach for a longer period, who will also work with the professional football league clubs.

"It is very important to have a specialist goalkeeping coach at club level and I am thinking of hiring a coach only for the clubs. We will be trying to retain the goalkeeping coach for the national team for long if we are pleased with his work," said Salahuddin yesterday.

Meanwhile, the BFF boss said that he was at the moment not dreaming of hosting Argentina, rather to stage the Bangabandhu Gold Cup successfully.

However, Salahuddin said he has a dream of bringing both Argentina and Brazil to Bangladesh before the end of his tenure, which is April 2016.

"I have a dream of hosting an international friendly match between Brazil and Argentina in Dhaka and I will be trying to make my dream come true at the latter part of my tenure," said Salahuddin.

HPWA members granted bail

SPORTS REPORTER

Five members of the Hockey Players' Welfare Association -- four of them national discards and one a Mohammedan SC hockey manager -- were granted eight-week bail by a High Court Bench yesterday, five days after a case was filed against them by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF).

BHF general secretary Khaja Rahmatullah on July 31 filed the case against those five HPWA members. The bench, comprising Justice Naima Haider and Mostafa Jaman Islam, granted the bail.