

# SPORT

## Shakib wants more runs

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite providing a scintillating performance with the ball (6 for 6) against Trinidad and Tobago in his last match of the Caribbean Premier League, ace allrounder Shakib Al Hasan was not satisfied.

In an interview released by the CPL Shakib has said that he is 'desperate' to score some runs and prove his worth with the bat.

"If you tell me that taking five wickets and scoring a hundred runs is the same... well if you ask me I'll take 100 everyday. I know I am an allrounder but I always prefer batting and scoring runs more than my bowling. I am more desperate than any one else I guess," said Shakib.

Asked about his performance with the ball, Shakib was modest. "I bowled in the right areas. I guess I am a bit lucky because you can't get six wickets everyday in T20 game. You may get it once in a blue moon. But yeah I'll take it," he said.

## Bangladesh A fall 8 runs short

SPORTS REPORTER



A late flurry of fours and sixes in the tenth wicket partnership between Elias Sunny and Robiul Islam got Bangladesh A closer to their target against Hampshire,

but they finally fell eight runs short during their first match of the England tour at the Rose Bowl in Southampton last night.

Last batsman Robiul Islam slammed five sixes but his late surge was not good enough to make up for the shaky start as the visitors finished their 50-over quota for 215 for nine in reply to Hampshire's 223.

The day belonged to Liam Dawson as the right-hander first struck 97 runs and then initiated the early collapse in the visitor's innings by taking the wickets of Imrul Kayes and captain Jahurul Islam. Dawson later claimed another wicket to finish with figures of three for eleven in seven overs.

Earlier Liam Dawson shrugged off Bangladesh A's decent bowling as Hampshire recovered from a disadvantageous position to post a respectable total.

Reaching 200 seemed like a distant reality for Hampshire when they were reduced to 169 for nine but Dawson, along with

Brad Taylor, who faced only four balls during his half-hour stay, added 54 runs for the last wicket to help their team reach 223.

Dawson missed his well-deserved hundred by only three runs when he became the last batsman to be dismissed, giving a catch to Marshall Ayub off occasional bowler Mominul Haque.

Dawson smote three sixes and eleven boundaries during his 87-ball 97.

Off-spinner Shohag Gazi was the most economical bowler for Bangladesh A as he conceded 31 runs to pick up two wickets in his ten-over spell while Rubel Hossain and Forhad Reza also claimed two wickets each.

Bangladesh A will play their second limited-overs game against Yorkshire at the Headingley on August 9.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**HAMPSHIRE:** 223 all out in 49.1 overs (Roberts 35, Mascarenhas 35, Dawson 97, extras 11; Robiul 1-45, Rubel 2-40, Forhad 2-52, Sunny 1-42, Gazi 2-31, Mominul 1-6). **BANGLADESH A:** 215 for nine in 50 overs (Anamul 18, Imrul 6, Jahurul 1, Mominul 28, Naeem 13, Marshall 39, Sunny 45 not out, Robiul Islam 34 not out, extras 18; Dawson 3-11)

**Result:** Hampshire won by 8 runs.

# YEARNING for home



Bangladesh national footballers jog in the greens of Ramna Park yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SPORTS REPORTER

Before leaving the country for his domestic T20 assignments in England and the West Indies, ace allrounder Shakib Al Hasan said that the one thing that he would miss the most would be the opportunity to spend Eid-ul-Fitr with his family and friends in his hometown of Magura. While spending time outside Bangladesh definitely has its perks, spending Eid away from his roots would just not be the same. Fortunately for Shakib, his record-breaking performance in the Caribbean Premier League might just help him ease the woes.

This yearning for home comforts applies to most other athletes of the country, as a majority of them are set to take a break from their respective sports and spend time with their families this Eid.

The national cricketers in the country, who were involved in an intense fitness camp for the last one and a half months, have been given a 12-day gap for Eid this year. The long vacation is due to the fact that the players will be busy with the New Zealand series during Eid-ul-Adha in October.

"I live in a joint family so we have a lot of fun. During Eid we all go to our hometown in Rangpur and spend good times. It's nothing out of the ordinary but it's just special because we get to spend Eid together," said Nasir Hossain.

While Eid is a time when there's no limit to being joyous, the cricketers will have to keep an eye on their diets lest they undo whatever good work they

accomplished in their fitness camp in the last few weeks.

While the cricketers are set for a long vacation, athletes in the other sports are not as lucky. With the SAFF championship set to begin on September 1, the national footballers have been given no break at all form their camp. They'll just be receiving a 'rest day' on Eid.

"This is the fourth Eid that I won't be able to spend with my family. It obviously feels bad. Athletes don't get the opportunity to spend time with their families as it is and it's worse when you can't spend Eid with them. But I am doing this for my country and that's what matters at the end of the day," said national skipper Mamunul Islam. Of the 24 footballers in the camp, only ten are from cities near Dhaka.

The national hockey players are better off. They'll be getting a three-day gap for Eid before resuming their camp for the Asia Cup scheduled to begin on August 24.

Forward Rasel Mahmud Jimmy explains how he plans to spend those three days. "Usually for Eid we go to our community's mosque with friends for prayers, and then distribute dry food among everyone. I will get to meet my sisters this time. They will be coming to Dhaka. I have not met them for a while" said Rasel

Rasel further stated that a majority of the members of the camp, who are based in districts away from Dhaka, were to follow suit.

## ASIAN YOUTH GAMES

# Big contingent, little hope

SPORTS REPORTER

The number of athletes and officials of Bangladesh contingent for the 2nd Asian Youth Games has been doubled (29) compared to the first edition (15), but the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is not confident whether the young athletes can bring any laurel to the nation from the Games which will be held in Nanjing, China from August 16-24.

Nineteen athletes from nine disciplines -- athletics, swimming, shooting, weightlifting, golf, badminton, basketball and taekwondo -- have been training for the Games since June 15, which means they will be leaving for China on August 14, with two months of training behind them.

"We are expecting the shooters, golfers and weight-lifters to perform well and they may get close to the medals," said member secretary of BOA training and development committee, wing

commander Rafiqul Islam at the official press conference yesterday.

Shooting coach Syed Asbab Ali is hoping that Sharmin Akter of BKSP and Sharmin Akter of Army would move into the eight-shooter final. However, the average shooting scores of these two ranged between 383 and 389 points during practice, while it is very difficult to move into the final round with any score below 395 out of a total of 400.

Asbab, a BKSP coach, also believes that the male shooters too have the ability to qualify for the final round, who have averaged scores between 482 and 488 out of 500.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation, kept his hope on two weightlifters -- Mabia Aktar and Jahura Aktar Reshma -- citing that both of them have improved during training and will be able to lift more weight than their previous best.

"Both the weightlifters have improved a lot in training," said Mohiuddin. "Besides, Reshma, who won a bronze medal in the Doha Asian Weightlifting Championship, is lifting six to seven kilograms weight more than she earlier used to. So we can expect a medal from her."

Golfer Afnan Rahman however did not make any promises but said his target is to finish among top five in the 18-hole-competition where his compatriot Liza Akter will also be participating.

Though there is very any slim chance of grabbing medals from shooting, weightlifting and golf, the BOA is sending a mega contingent to the Games, at a considerable expense.

"We may not win a medal in the Games but we can't stop sending our team. We have to develop our sports through participating in such games regularly," opined BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza at the press conference.

## Sharapova tops Forbes rich list

AFP, Paris

Tennis stars dominated the list of the world's 10 best-paid female athletes, Forbes magazine said on Tuesday, but highlighted the yawning earnings gap with their male counterparts in most sports.

Russia's Maria Sharapova headed the list, published on forbes.com, earning a total of 29 million dollars (£18.9 million, 21.9 million euros) between June 2012 and June this year.

Tennis took the top four positions, with world number one Serena Williams of the United States second (20.5 million dollars), China's Li Na third (18.2 million dollars) and Victoria Azarenka of Belarus fourth (15.7 million dollars).

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark was in seventh (13.6 million dollars), followed by Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland (7.4 million dollars) and Serbia's Ana Ivanovic (7 million dollars).

US Nascar driver Danica Patrick (fifth with 15 million dollars), South Korean figure skater Kim Yuna (sixth with 14 million dollars) and American golfer Paula Creamer (10th with 5.5 million dollars), were the only non-tennis stars in the top 10.

But the business magazine said disparities remained between men and women in terms of earnings in sport.



Mohammad Ashraful (L), who has been banned from all cricket activities because of his confessed involvement in match-fixing in the BPL, is having a word with BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon during a CCDM Iftar at the Handball Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Aussies look to future

AFP, Sydney



Australia might have lost the Ashes to England but the nation's media saw enough at Old Trafford to believe the tables can be turned when the rivalry heads down under later this year.

England retained the famous urn after rain meant the third Test ended in a draw on Monday, denying Australia the opportunity to claw back in the series to 2-1 with two Tests to play.

After losing the first two Tests by 14 runs and 347 runs at Trent Bridge and Lord's respectively, Australia had England at 37 for three on the final

day in Manchester, having set them 332 to win, before the weather shattered their chances.

"The consolation? Australia has proven itself here a seemingly more determined and united team than the one that meandered into the series on the back of four straight defeats in India," said the Sydney Daily Telegraph's Richard Hinds.

"And the knowledge that they will have to wait only a few months to get another chance to regain the Ashes, rather than the usual two years. This time on home turf.

"A week ago, you might have said Australia could play the Ashes in Michael Clarke's backyard and not have a prayer," he added.

"But having forced England to rely on stalling tactics and bad weather just to get a draw here, perhaps they can make their own luck."

Fairfax Media's Malcolm Knox bemoaned the weather spoiling what was shaping up to be an exciting last day, saying Australia looked the better side throughout the game.

"England's bowlers looked jaded and their senior top-order batsmen out of form. Their wicketkeeping and fielding was sloppy, their captaincy dull-witted," he said.

"Australia looked to be the young, vibrant, rising side, the new order. That was why the Blue Monday wash-out was a pity: we could not find out if Australia had the steel to finish off a live Ashes Test match."

## Reasat leaves, Jamal on leave

SPORTS REPORTER



Germany-based midfielder Reasat Khaton is set to return to his adopted country today, trimming Bangladesh's SAFF Squad to 24.

The departure of Reasat means four expatriate booters out of five have failed to secure their place in the Bangladesh national team ahead of SAFF Championship which will get underway from September 1 in Nepal.

Reasat came in Dhaka on July 18 to join the training camp and was given two weeks to adjust with the team. Even after touring Thailand with the national side, the midfielder has seemingly failed to impress much.

"Reasat is going back to Germany as the coach (Lodewijk de Kruif) has given him some assignments," said manager Iqbal Hossain.

# Consolation win for SL

AFP, Hambantota



Tillakaratne Dilshan smashed an unbeaten 74 off 51 balls as Sri Lanka defeated South Africa by six wickets in the final Twenty20 game Tuesday to retain their number one ranking in the short format.

The hosts, already down 0-2 in the series, launched a spirited chase of South Africa's challenging 163-3 to win the day-night game in Hambantota with 11 balls to spare.

South Africa won the series 2-1, making amends for the 1-4 defeat in the preceding one-dayers on the tour.

But Tuesday's victory was crucial for Sri

Of the five expatriates, only Denmark-based Jamal Bhuiyan has seemingly won over the confidence of the Dutch coach and has featured in both practice matches in Thailand apart from taking part in a few practice matches at home against Team BJMC and BFF Eleven. Jamal, however, returned to Denmark after the Thai practice matches to talk to his club and is supposed to return to Bangladesh after Eid-ul-Fitr.

"Jamal has been associated with a Danish club and he went there to discuss about his vacation and is supposed to return to Bangladesh on August 12 or 13," said Iqbal.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Football Federation's plan to host Pakistan national team for two matches have been jeopardised after Jamat-e-Islami Bangladesh called nationwide strike on August 13 and 14. Pakistan are scheduled to play their first practice match on August 13 against BFF Eleven before taking on the Bangladesh national team on August 16.

Bangladesh had confirmed Pakistan's tour before the finalisation of the SAFF fixture where both sides were pitted in the same group.

Lanka, who would have slipped to number three in the T20 rankings behind Pakistan and South Africa had they been white-washed 3-0.

Dilshan brought up the thrilling win off the first ball of the 19th over, lofting Morne Morkel for his second six. He also hit nine boundaries.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 163 for 3 in 20 overs (De Kock 16, Du Plessis 85, Duminy 51 not out; Lakmal 1-29)

**SRI LANKA:** 164 for 4 in 18.1 overs (Dilshan 74 not out, Jayawardene 33, Perera 25 not out; Tahir 1-20)

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by 6 wickets.

**Player-of-the-match:** Tillakaratne Dilshan.