

SPORT

1st batch of Kiwis arrives today

SPORTS REPORTER

A total of ten players and three officials of the New Zealand cricket team will arrive in Dhaka today for a series involving two Tests, three ODIs and one T20 International.



The remaining members of the team, including captain Brendon McCullum, are scheduled to arrive over the next three days. The players will travel to Chittagong tomorrow while McCullum, Neil Wagner and Hamish Rutherford will be joining the team after the end of their Champions League T20 commitments.

The captain may miss the three-day practice match against BCB XI to be held at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong from October 4. The first Test of the two-match series will start from October 9 at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

The Kiwis last played a Test series in Bangladesh in October 2008 when the first Test was also held in Chittagong. Then, the Tigers were deprived of a memorable victory despite Shakib Al Hasan's heroics with the ball as Daniel Vettori stood tall with the bat to rescue his side for a three-wicket win. The rain-interrupted second Test in Dhaka ended in draw. So far, the teams have played nine Tests with New Zealand winning eight and one ending in a draw.

Their last Test match was at Seddon Park in February 2010 where the Kiwis registered a 121-run victory despite Shakib's and Mahmudullah Riyad's hundreds.

With the Tigers' home series against New Zealand approaching, the country's cricket fans would love to go back down memory lane and revisit October 2010, when the Tigers achieved a rare feat in their cricket history by demolishing the Kiwis 4-0 in the ODI series, all of the matches of which were held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

So expectations will be high when the Tigers start the series against the Kiwis, not only because of their heroics in the last engagement, but because of their recently acquired reputation of playing impressive cricket at home.

The series also presents an opportunity for Bangladesh to restate their ambitions on the global stage after Zimbabwe overtook them in the ICC Test rankings. Bangladesh have shown signs of improvement in Tests, despite a shocking defeat in Harare on the Zimbabwe tour, but still there is a lot for the Tigers to prove to be counted as a competitive Test team.

The second Test will be played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from October 21. The first two ODIs of the three-match series will also be held at Mirpur while the third and final one-dayer will take place at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

The lone T20I is scheduled to take place at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium. **NEW ZEALAND TEST SQUAD** Brendon McCullum (captain), Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, Hamish Rutherford, Corey Anderson, Trent Boult, Doug Bracewell, Dean Brownlie, Peter Fulton, Mark Gillespie, Tom Latham, Bruce Martin, Ish Sodhi, BJ Watling and Kane Williamson.



Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan of Kalabagan Krira Chakra is in his delivery stride during the Dhaka Premier League match against Khelaghar SKS at BKSP yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rakib holds onto lead

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Abdulla Al-Rakib held on to the lead in the Berger Paints 39th National 'A' Chess Championship with 7.5 points after the ninth round which was held at the Media Centre of Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.

Rakib, playing white pieces in Queen's Gambit style, beat Hafizul Islam Chapal after 41 moves.

IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar was in second position with 7 points after he beat FM Aminul Islam in 42 moves. GM Ziaur Rahman and GM Enamul Hossain Razib were sharing the third position with 6.5 points each as the two GMs drew their board. Reigning champion GM Niaz Murshed, who drew against FM Mohammad Javed, was in joint fourth position with five points along with Parag and Nasir.

Shraboni wins bronze

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Shraboni Biswas won a bronze medal in the Women's Under-73 kg category of Taekwondo in the 3rd Islamic Solidarity Games at the Sriwijaya Multifunction Hall in Palembang, Indonesia yesterday.

Shraboni clinched the bronze despite losing against Jehabut Selviana of Indonesian by 4-16 points in the semifinal.

Earlier, Bangladesh's archer Imdadul Haque Milon had won a silver medal in the 70m recurve bow event.

Parash, Enam in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Parash and Enam reached the final of the men's singles event in the Roxy Paints Summer Open (Ranking) Badminton Tournament after beating their respective semifinal opponents at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium in Paltan yesterday.

Parash defeated young shuttler Ayman by 22-20, 21-12 sets while Enam edged out Enayet in 21-17, 8-21, 21-10 sets to set up the final clash.

In one of the women's semifinals, Nabila beat Elina in 21-19, 21-18 sets to reach the final.

Final voters' list published by EC

All objections declared null & void

SPORTS REPORTER

The election commission (EC) for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) polls yesterday published the final list of councillors for this month's election and declared the objections made against 16 nominated councillors null and void, stating that they did not find any irregularity in their nomination process.

The list, which remained unchanged from its initial draft, was published at approximately 6:15 pm yesterday, more than three hours after the scheduled 3pm time. Speaking to reporters at the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday, election commissioner Abdur Rahman said, "We were supposed to publish the final list today and we have successfully done that. We had a delay because there were objections against 16 councillors and we had to address that issue."

"Having done that, the election commission believes that none of these objections were justified and there were no changes in the list."

Rahman also stated that they had received the certified copy of the Appellate Division verdict on the BCB's constitution yesterday. One of the two presidential candidates, Saber Hossain Chowdhury had earlier asked for the voters' list to be scrapped due to the non availability of the certified copy, without which -- as per the constitution -- election activities cannot proceed.

Interestingly though, Rahman, who showed the copy to media during the press conference yesterday, had earlier stated that the commission didn't need to have a certified copy of the verdict as it had been working as per the directives of the NSC circulation.

The Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers' Council, which had made most of the objections, has said that they would file a case against the election process today.

Earlier in the day, a number of members from the Sonmilito Parishad Panel went to the NSC to submit their reply to the objections made against the 16 councillors.

172 councillors were nominated for the October 10 elections. 26 directors will be elected from within the councillors' panel and will form the executive board of the BCB. The directors in turn will elect the president.

T&T stay alive

INTERNET, Ahmedabad

Trinidad and Tobago beat Titans by six runs courtesy of Duckworth-Lewis method in Group B encounter at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Titans needed 36 off the final three overs, having scored 12 off Ravi Rampaul's 16th over. Just when one thought that the momentum was with the Titans, with AB de Villiers still at the wicket (23 not out from 12 balls), rain intervened and played spoilsport. With this win Trinidad are still in contention for the semifinal with a game against group-toppers, Chennai Super Kings in hand

SCORES IN BRIEF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: 188 for 6 in 20 overs (Lewis 70, Bravo 63, Stewart 23; De Lange 3-38)
TITANS: 153 for 6 in 17 overs (Davids 42, Rudolph 31, De Villiers 23 not out, Behardien 29; Narine 2-23, Simmons 2-18)
Result: Trinidad & Tobago won by 6 runs (D/L Method)

Shakib rusty on return

SCORES IN BRIEF	
KALABAGAN KC: 248-7 in 31 overs (Mithun 78, Mubarak 69, Kapugedera 58, Naeem 21, Shakib 6, extras 16; Masum 2-41, Imran 3-30)	21, Forkan 30 not out, extras 5; Lokuhettige 3-12, Mubarak 2-24) Result: Kalabagan Krira Chakra won by 116 runs.
KHELAGHAR SKS: 132-7 in 31 overs (Masum 78, Mubarak 69, Kapugedera 58, Naeem 21, Shakib 6, extras 16; Masum 2-41, Imran 3-30)	KALABAGAN CA: 148 all out in 32.1 overs (Mizanur 20, Sibanda 25, Masakadza 39, Sharifullah 30, Sabbir 20, extras 4; Mathews 2-27, Sean Williams 7-25)
	BROTHERS UNION: 154-1 in 22.3 overs (Tamim 95 not out, Nafis 36 not out, extras 9) Result: Brothers Union won by nine wickets.

SPORTS REPORTER



Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan showed signs of rustiness in his first appearance in this season's Dhaka Premier League but his side Kalabagan Krira Chakra still posted a massive 116-run victory in a curtailed-over match against winless Khelaghar SKS at BKSP yesterday.

Overnight and morning rains also effected a curtailed-over match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium

where Brothers Union rode on their captain Tamim Iqbal's blazing 95 not out after Zimbabwean Sean Williams's seven-wicket haul including a hat-trick to secure a comfortable nine-wicket victory against Kalabagan Cricket Academy.

But no ball was bowled in the match between Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Abahani at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and the match will now take place at the same venue today.

Recovering from his left thumb injury, Shakib returned to the field

yesterday but scored only six runs in five balls and then bowled six wicketless overs to give away 21 runs. But their Sri Lankan batsmen Jehan Mubarak (69) and Chamara Kapugedera (58) excelled in the 31-overs-a-side affair after Mithun Ali's 78 that took Kalabagan to a fighting total of 248 for seven wickets.

In reply, Khelaghar finished their quota reaching 132 for seven.

It was Kalabagan's second win in five matches.

At Fatullah, another Kalabagan outfit slipped to a nine-wicket defeat against Brothers Union. Slow

left-armed Williams annihilated Kalabagan's batting by taking seven wicketless overs for 25 runs. In the 34-overs-a-side match, Kalabagan were bundled out for 148 runs in 32.1 overs.

Tamim then took the charge to kill off his opponents as the dashing left-hander smashed six fours and seven sixes during his 65-ball 95 as Brothers overhauled the target making 154 for one in 22.3 overs to register their fourth win in five matches.

Tamim's elder brother Nafis Iqbal was the other not out batsman with 36.

BCCI to ask Sachin to go after 200th Test?

CNN-IBN, New Delhi



Since Sachin Tendulkar has given no indications of retiring after playing his 200th Test, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made up its mind to ask India's greatest cricketer to retire following his landmark Test, the Mumbai Mirror reported on Monday.

Tendulkar will make his 200th appearance in Test cricket in the coming series against West Indies at home, with either Mumbai or Kolkata to host his record Test, but the master batsman has maintained that he has no intentions of quitting yet.

The Mumbai Mirror report, however, said that not only has the BCCI decided to ask Tendulkar to hang up his boots but has also made up its mind on who it will be to convey the message to Tendulkar.

"Impeccable sources within the top echelons of the board confirmed to this newspaper that Sachin Tendulkar, who has given no indication of any plans to hang up his boots so far, will be asked by board offi-

cial to step down and make way for newer talent. It has also been decided exactly who it will be who will convey the message to Sachin," the newspaper said in its report.

"However, given the flux within the BCCI at present -- N Srinivasan who was this week elected as board president has been asked by the Supreme Court to not to act as president -- the name of the messenger has not been publicly divulged," the report further read. BCCI sources also confirmed to the newspaper that the two-Test series has been stuffed in ahead of the South Africa tour only to accommodate Tendulkar's milestone.

"His batting frailties have become too stark to ignore. He could not face a bowler like Monty Panesar in home conditions. He was further exposed in the series against Australia," a BCCI official told the news daily.

Tendulkar has not hit a hundred in his last 22 Tests and has scored just two half-centuries in the last 12 Tests. But as long as he is available for selection, it is difficult to drop a batsman of his stature despite continuous failures, which is possibly why BCCI has decided to ask him to retire after his 200th Test.



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



Prime Islami Life Insurance Limited has been honoured with 'BIZZ 2013' International Award by World Confederation of Business (WORLD COB), Texas, USA.

Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, has given kind consent to attend the ceremony as the Chief Guest.

AWARD GIVING CEREMONY

October 01, 2013 at 8:30 pm
 Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.



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