

## Tamim injury to be assessed today

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Tamim Iqbal, who hurt his right ankle while attempting to play a Taskin Ahmed yorker during practice on Monday, will report to national physio Vibhav Singh at Mirpur today in order to learn more about his condition.

According to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) media manager Rabeed Inam, the left-hander felt a lot better yesterday.

"The national physio told me that he was feeling much better and that he did not complain of any great pain. He will report to the physio on Wednesday for a further assessment. Whether Tamim will train on Wednesday will depend upon the assessment," said Rabeed.

The left-hander has had a hard time with injuries this year. He had earlier missed the ODI series against Sri Lanka due to a stiff neck. That was followed by the opener injuring his wrist during the National Cricket League this year.

## Emily pulls out

SPORTS REPORTER

Striker Zahid Hasan Emily yesterday pulled out of the training camp for the upcoming Asian Games on fitness grounds.

Emily, one of five senior players called up to the 29-member U-23 preliminary squad, sustained knee injury during a Bangladesh Premier League match a month ago, forcing him to sit out last six league matches for Mohammedan, following doctor's advice.

"I was out of play for the last one month following my knee injury and I am not fit enough to continue with the camp," said Emily on his way home from Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan.

"In today's (Tuesday) training, I realised I could not get enough strength to muster a shot and it would be tough to recover in time for the Asian Games. So I decided to withdraw myself after consulting the head coach," said Emily, who struck a total of 22 goals this season.

## Former BCB boss Akmal passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president M Akmal Hussain passed away yesterday. A former secretary of the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources of Bangladesh, Hussain headed the BCB's ad hoc body in 2001 shortly after the country had made its entry into Test cricket.

The president and directors of the BCB, through a press release, expressed deep bereavement and also extended their heartfelt sympathies and condolences to his family.

## Lakmal to miss Pakistan Tests

REUTERS, Galle

Sri Lanka paceman Suranga Lakmal will miss the Pakistan Test series due to an ankle injury, dashing the home team's hopes of fielding their most potent new-ball partnership in the opening match on Wednesday.

"Lakmal has sustained severe swelling above his left ankle following the second Test against South Africa and unfortunately he is out of the series," Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews told.

# Decision on Shakib appeal in mid Aug

SPORTS REPORTER



A decision on all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's appeal to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to reconsider the six-month ban slapped on him by the BCB will be taken on August 15, informed BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday.

While Papon has the authority to take a unilateral decision on the issue, he told reporters yesterday that he wants to speak to all the members of the board and take a collective decision.

"After he (Shakib) appealed to the board, we noticed that his response and behaviour was positive. But this is a big issue and I want

to involve all the board directors in this matter. The decision might be taken either on August 15 or 16," said Papon.

"If he is permitted to take part in the series against Zimbabwe (in October) he can take part in the Dhaka Premier League as well," Papon replied when asked if the all-rounder could play in the 50-over domestic league that is scheduled to begin in October.

The president, despite sounding positive on Shakib's appeal, did not clearly state what the board's decision would be. A number of BCB directors however told The Daily Star that a majority of the board are against shortening Shakib's punishment.

Some of them reckon that the president is likely to allow Shakib to

play in the series against Zimbabwe in October. It was also learnt that national coach Chandika Hathurusingha also wants Shakib to return for the Zimbabwe series. A board director also added that they were unlikely to change their stance on the 18-month ban on No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to play in foreign leagues to Shakib.

After a board meeting on July 3, the board slapped the ace all-rounder with a six-month ban from all cricket and decided against issuing him NOCs for foreign tournaments for 18 months because of disciplinary indiscretions.

The left-hander had gotten himself involved in a series of disciplinary issues in the last two months and according to BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon, the suspension was a

result of all the events combined.

The breaking point, however, was when the board learned through a letter from coach Chandika Hathurusingha that the 27-year-old, after an argument with the coach before leaving for the West Indies, had threatened to quit ODI and Test cricket.

On a different note the president stated that the Dhaka Premier League this year will witness wickets which have pace and bounce in order to help prepare the players for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next year.

"At least two wickets will be bouncy like the ones we prepared for the India series. The scheduling will be made in such a way that each club gets to play at least two matches on these wickets," said Papon.



PHOTO: STAR

Indian hockey team coach Tushar Khandker (C) shares a light moment with team manager Harendra Singh (L) and captain Vikramkanth after a press conference at the hockey federation office in the city yesterday.

## Chandika joins HP revival chorus

*Bashar chosen as team manager for Caribbean tour*

SPORTS REPORTER



The importance of reviving the High Performance Unit (HP) is once again being discussed in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as head coach Chandika Hathurusingha is placing emphasis on discarded national players who do not have any programme through which they can remain fit and in contention for national selection.

The once-successful programme had collapsed following Richard McInnes's departure in 2005 and in the last few years the board often said that they were going to revive it, but that is yet to come to pass.

"We had a meeting in the cricket operations committee today where all BCB coaches, including our head coach, were present. The coach emphasised on this kind of programme as he wants to keep the discarded players available for selection and felt that we must ensure that we will not only go for new talent but also take care of the older guys," informed BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

Players like Junaed Siddiqui, Shahriar Nafees and Rokibul Hasan have fallen off the radar, which the new coach believes is a loss for the national side. "A programme will run through the year where 10 top batsmen, 10 top bowlers who are not part of the national side will take part so that there will be no shortage of back-up players for the national side. True, this matter was discussed earlier several times but this time it will be implemented," said Akram Khan, chairman of the cricket operations committee.

Under McInnes, the High Performance Unit had worked tremendously during the period of 2003 to 2005. Although initially the cricketers were not too pleased with the tough training regimes, ultimately it was the programme which nurtured players like Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim.

Many players, including Shakib, have often spoken of restarting the programme but the BCB has so far failed to make it happen. "We will give our proposal in the next board meeting and I can assure you it will happen this time," promised Yunus.

Meanwhile, the cricket operations committee has decided to propose the name of selector Habibul Bashar as team manager for the coming tour of West Indies.

"Bashar has already been assigned to tour with the team as a selector and we felt that it would be better to give him the additional job as we are looking for a manager who has a cricketing background," said Akram.

The team will leave for West Indies on August 13 to play three ODIs, one T20I and two Tests.

## 41ST CHESS OLYMPIAD Men held, women win

SPORTS REPORTER

After two successive wins, Bangladesh men's chess team were held to a 2-2 draw against Belgium in the third round of the 41st World Chess Olympiad in Tromso, Norway on Monday.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib and Niaz Murshed beat GM Michiels Bart and IM Docx Stefan respectively while GM Ziaur Rahman and IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar lost against GM Winants Luc and IM Ringoir Tanguy to split the points.

Bangladesh are in joint second position along with 19 others countries with five match points and eight game points after the third round, said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh women's team returned to winning ways by imposing a 3-1 point defeat on Sri Lanka. WIM Shamima Akter Liza beat WFM Chanrasiri, WFM Nazrana Khan beat Yashora Tiumi and WFM Sharmin Sultana Shirin beat WFM Thilakawardana Supeshala. WFM Zakia Sultana suffered defeat against WCM Methmali. Bangladesh women's team have four match points and seven game points.

Bangladesh men's team were scheduled to play against ninth-seeded Ukraine while women's team were set to take on Switzerland last night.

# Galle Test from today

AFP, Galle



Rusty Pakistan and overworked Sri Lanka are set for an enthralling contest when they open a two-Test series in Galle on Wednesday, the last for the retiring Mahela Jayawardene.

The former Sri Lankan captain, whose elegant batting has seen him rise to sixth place in the all-time scorers' list with 11,671 runs in 147 Tests, is due to quit the longer format after the series.

But rival captains Misbahul Haq of Pakistan and Angelo Mathews of Sri Lanka will look to put aside the emotions of a farewell series as they find themselves battling contrasting worries.

While Pakistan may be under-prepared for their first Test series since January, Mathews said his team were "drained mentally and physically" due to a surfeit of international cricket.

Sri Lanka have been on the road since the start of the year, touring the United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh and England for Test and limited-overs cricket before last month's home series against South Africa.

Mathews rued the absence of a cooling-off period as he announced on Tuesday that seamer Suranga Lakmal would miss the series due to an ankle injury sustained against South Africa.

"Pakistan have had a good rest whereas we have been playing continuous cricket," the Sri Lankan captain said. "It's always good to get some rest to refresh your minds and bodies.

"That is the challenge we are

facing as players. When you are playing constantly, you get drained mentally and physically. But the challenge for us is to try and be consistent.

"It works both ways. They [Pakistan] can be a bit rusty, but you never know. They are very unpredictable. They come out all

ready for this," the Pakistan captain said. "We had a good training camp before we came here. We worked hard on our fitness. Everybody is excited about the series.

"We know what to expect in Sri Lanka, who are a very strong side at home," he said. "So you need to play hard, disciplined cricket to



Sri Lanka batting maestro Mahela Jayawardene looks on during a practice session in Galle yesterday, ahead of his team's first Test against Pakistan. Jayawardene will retire from Test cricket at the end of this two-match series.

PHOTO: REUTERS

guns blazing. They are a very formidable team when it comes to Tests."

Pakistan fought back to play out a 1-1 draw in their last Test series against Sri Lanka in the UAE in January, but have not won a series since beating England in 2012.

Misbah said his team were determined to win their first series in Sri Lanka since 2006.

"We have tried our best to get

come good against them."

Misbah said his team would target the retiring Jayawardene in the two matches since he could be the danger man for Sri Lanka.

"He is one of the best batsmen in the world. We don't want him to score runs, because if he gets runs it will be difficult for us to raise our game," he said.

"We will be really focusing on that and try our best to get him out early."

# 'Hockey series will benefit Bangladesh'

*Indian team in Dhaka*

SPORTS REPORTER

Though the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) are hosting second string Indian hockey team as part of the national team's preparation for September's World Hockey League as well as the Asian Games, the visiting side's players are eager to grasp this opportunity in a bid to make their way into India's first-choice squad.

In request of the BHF, the Hockey India (HI) sent an 18-memebr squad, a mix of experienced and young players, for a three-match series against Bangladesh as their number one side has just participated in the Commonwealth Games where they became runners-up.

"There are a lot of young players in this side who are eager to secure their places in the senior side ahead of the Asian Games. So it is an opportunity for all the players to prove their worth in a bid to make it to the national side for the Asian Games," said the visiting side's captain Vickramkanth at a press conference at the BHF conference room, having arrived in Dhaka earlier in the morning.

Apart from the captain, coach Tushar Khandeker and manager Harendra Singh attended the press conference while the rest of the squad travelled to Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) straight from the Hazrat Shahjal International Airport. The first match of three match series will be held at the BKSP today while the two remaining matches will take place on August 8 and 9 at the same venue.

Bangladesh generally get opportunities to play against Indian's national side in the Asian Cup, Asian Games and the recently introduced World Hockey League where Bangladesh's experience has so far been bitter. Bangladesh suffered a massive 1-9 defeat in their last meeting against India in 2013 Asia Cup finals while earlier that year they conceded a 2-5 defeat in the World Hockey League.

But Bangladesh have offered some good fight against India's second-string side during the 2010 South Asian Games where they played out a 3-3 draw in the group-stage match and it is expected that Bangladesh will get a good opportunity to emulate that performance.

"Bangladesh are a good side. Whenever we played against them, the matches have been good," said Tushar. "The ranking of the Indian team (9) is a bit higher than Bangladesh (30), so obviously Bangladesh will be benefitted from the series."

Manager Harendra Singh however believes that this type of bilateral series will help both the neighbouring countries in improving their hockey and this series is just the beginning.

"This series is going to help Bangladesh select their squad for the Asian Games and I'm sure Bangladesh will show their true colours in the Games in Korea," said Harendra.

## INDIAN SQUAD

Harjot Singh (GK), Sushant Tirkey (GK), Talwinder Singh, Gurjinder Singh, Gurmail Singh, Yuvraj Walmiki, Lalit Kumar, Uthappa Sannuvanda, Satbir Singh, Nithin Thimmaiah, Harjet Singh, Vikas Vishnu Pillay, Harbir Singh, Gurinder Singh, Devindar Sunil, Jasjit Singh, Vickramkanth and Yousuf Affan