

# SPORT



## 5th in 12,000-club

Mahela Jayawardene became the fifth batsman to have scored **12,000**-plus ODI runs. He got to this mark in **426** matches, making him the slowest to this milestone. All the others -- Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Sanath Jayasuriya and Kumar Sangakkara -- took less

## Slovenian coach drops CV at BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

A Slovenian football coach yesterday met up with Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin and dropped his curriculum vitae for the position of the head coach of the Bangladesh national team.

Ermin Siljak, the Slovenian coach, was a striker of the Slovenian national team and scored 14 goals in 48 matches during 1994 and 2003. Siljak holds a UEFA pro-license and coached Slovenia's Premier League side, Olimpija Ljubljana, in 2012.

The 41-year-old coach was accompanied by an official of the Slovenian Consulate in Dhaka and two of other friends.

"They have learnt that Bangladesh is a growing football nation and shown their interest to work with Bangladesh football. So they came here to see if there are any job opportunities here," said Salahuddin. "The CV is fine, now let's see what happens."

## NATIONAL HOCKEY Rajshahi, Satkhira in final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi and Satkhira moved into the final round of the ATN Bangla National Hockey Championship after beating their respective rivals at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi outplayed Joypurhat 7-1 to emerge group A champions while Satkhira beat Dinajpur 2-1 to become group B champions and qualify for the 10-team final round, which will start from December 9 in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, Narayanganj overwhelmed Barisal by 7-0 goals while Bangladesh Police got walkover against Kushtia.



Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha (R) and captain Mushfiqur Rahim closely observe the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium pitch yesterday, ahead of the third and final Test starting here on Wednesday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## 'Best chance to establish myself'

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong



When Imrul Kayes drove his way to a cautious century on his return to Test cricket in February this year, he had seemingly laid down the foundation for a fairy tale story. Coming to the game after a gap of nearly three years and scoring a century against the mighty Sri Lankans despite having hamstring issues, many reckoned this could be a new start to Kayes's career.

The selectors breathed a sigh of relief for they must have thought that they could finally reach their best possible opening combination. Together, Kayes and Tamim Iqbal have scored 1,229 runs at the top at an average of 38.40. It may not seem much, but they are in fact Bangladesh's only opening pair to have crossed the 1,000-run mark.

Kayes was even given an ODI game following his return, where he scored a fluent 59 against Pakistan in the Asia Cup and was involved in a 150-run stand with Anamul Haque at the top.

He was then sent to the West Indies with Bangladesh A soon after and performed well there as well. When all the other batsmen failed to negotiate with the bounce, Kayes led the way with a century.

However that was as good as it got for the left-hander. After being drafted into the national side for the tour of the West Indies, Imrul struggled. He scored 11 runs in the three ODIs and had scores of 9 and 25 in the only Test that he played at St. Vincent.

It seemed as though the pressure to perform had got to him. He was guilty of chasing wide deliveries and attempting too many drives in the West Indies. It was enough for the selectors to drop the left-hander for the first two Tests against Zimbabwe. However, such has been the instability of Bangladesh's opening combination that the selectors were forced to recall Kayes for the third Test, in place of Shamsur Rahman, who had a torrid time in this series.

While Imrul was no doubt happy with the call-up, he was frustrated to have lost his spot in the first place.

"Being an opener is a challenging job. Hence there is always a change here, I think every team goes through that phase. It obviously is [frustrating]. Once you get out of the team it's difficult to make a comeback and adjust all over again.

"I think for me this is the best chance to establish my position in the team. I have to put in my best effort and score runs. That's all I can do," said Kayes during Bangladesh's training session at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

That Bangladesh's opening stand is a huge concern is quite obvious from the records. The last three years have seen the Tigers use seven pairs of openers that have produced just three half-century stands in total in Test cricket.

Apart from Tamim and Kayes, the team also includes Anamul Haque. However, with Kayes having scored a century in his last Test at this venue and also being among the runs of late -- he scored a century for a BCB XI on their Kolkata tour last month -- he holds the edge.

The only question that remains now is whether the left-hander can utilise the opportunity, make the most of it and help solve an age-old opening problem for the Tigers.

## Siddikur fifth, Jamal 25th

SPORTS REPORTER



Siddikur Rahman finished joint fifth in the Panasonic Open India, which was clinched by Indian star SSP Chowrasia after a three-way play-off. The 29-year-old Siddikur, who started the day one shot behind overnight leader Rahil Gangjee, traded four birdies for same number of bogeys on the final day at the Delhi Golf Club, to take his final tally to 10-under (278).

Siddikur, coming into this tournament after a five-month break due to a back-strain, started the day on the positive not as he fired a birdie on the second hole. But three consecutive bogeys on the back nine before another one on the 12th hole all but extinguished any chances of a third tour title for Siddikur, who had won his second tour title on this very golf course exactly a year ago.

But the premier golfer of Bangladesh deserves credit for the way he bounced back by carding birdies on the 13th, 14th and 15th holes, to take a share of the fifth position and pocketing a check of 10,280 dollars.

The title-fight went to the wire as Gangjee, Chowrasia and Mithun Perera of Sri Lanka were tied on 12-under (276) after the 18 holes. Chowrasia held his nerve to clinch his third Asian Tour title, while Perera's wait for a maiden tour title and Gangjee's 10-year-drought was extended.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain Mollah finished in joint 25th position after a torrid three-over (75) fourth round for an aggregate of even-par (288).

## A batsman's paradise again?

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Even while standing at a distance one could easily notice the green top; the wicket number six of the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) in Chittagong was filled with grass. But of course none of Bangladesh's coaches or the five players who turned up for optional practice yesterday was interested in that patch.

Heath Streak might have had a glance at it and it might have reminded him of the wickets back home in Zimbabwe, but then that thought quickly evaporated as he returned his attention to Shahadat Hossain grunting his way through the net sessions.

On the contrary, barely a metre away from the green top, captain Mushfiqur Rahim, coach Chandika Hathurusingha and the curator were almost in a huddle discussing the various sections of wicket number three, the one on which the third and final Test against Zimbabwe will begin on Wednesday.

As expected it had a completely different feature from its neighbouring wicket, with almost no grass.

The wicket in Chittagong is expected to behave similar to Khulna. With no grass, the uneven bounce, which has been a feature in this entire series, is likely to continue. Unlike the first Test in Mirpur, ZACS is expected to favour the batsmen with an ounce of help for the slower bowlers.

Traditionally, ZACS, in Test cricket, has been a batsman's paradise. Of the 12 Tests played here teams have put on 350-plus scores 13 times. The last two Tests played here, against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, saw the batsman pile on the runs and as a result both of them ended in draw. Kumar Sangakkara posted a triple century while Bangladesh scored 501, one of their highest Test totals, here.

Sri Lanka skipper Angelo Mathews had criticised the wicket after the last Test. "The wicket was as flat as a road. I actually think we could start another Test on the same wicket," he had said.

With the Zimbabwean batting line-up not as strong as that of the Lankans, instructions to the curator for this Test is likely to be different; having said that, the match is likely to go on till the final day.

## THIRD SAFF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP Bangladesh fly to Pakistan today

SPORTS REPORTER

A 29-member Bangladesh women's football team will leave for Pakistan today to take part in the 3rd SAFF Women's Championship to be held in Islamabad from November 11 to 20.

Bangladesh had reached the semifinals of the inaugural edition held in Cox's Bazar in 2010 and were eliminated from the group stages in the second edition two years later in Sri Lanka.

This time though, the Bangladesh women are targeting a final berth after having trained for one month under Japanese coach Tsukitate Norio.

"I don't want the team to lose and my target is to play in the final," said Norio in his welcome speech at the official press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

"I believe my players will do their best and I will also try my best," said Norio.

The groupings and fixtures of the eight-team tournament will be finalised today.

Captain Suinu Pru Marma believes that they are a balanced side compared to the one that played in Sri Lanka in 2012 as they have been boosted by some quality players included from the U-16 team.

There is no doctor or physiotherapist accompanying the squad, which comprises 20 players, four coaches, the head of delegation, the team manager, the head of media, one official and one referee.

## Aussies clinch T20 series

AFP, Sydney

Australia won a thrilling final Twenty20 International against South Africa by two wickets with one ball to spare to take the series in Sydney on Sunday.

Cameron White steered the Australians home with an unbeaten 41 off 31 balls to pip the Proteas in a tense decider at Sydney's Olympic Stadium.

The Australians had restricted the South Africans to 145 for six off their 20 overs after winning the toss, but needed 19.5 overs to get the winning run off White. Australia took the series 2-1 after losing the opening game in Adelaide by seven wickets then claiming the next in Melbourne by seven wickets and winning in Sydney.

White's composed knock got the Australians over the line after South Africa's five bowlers had threatened to pull off a gritty victory as wickets tumbled.

**SCORES IN BRIEF SOUTH AFRICA:** 145 for 6 in 20 overs (Hendricks 49, de Kock 48, Miller 34 not out; Faulkner 3-28, Cummins 1-23)

**AUSTRALIA:** 146 for 8 in 19.5 overs (White 41 not out, Finch 33, Maxwell 23, Dunk 14; Wiese 3-21, Peterson 3-28)

**Result:** Australia won by 2 wickets and won the 3-match series 2-1.

**Player-of-the-match:** Cameron White.

**Player-of-the-series:** James Faulkner.

## India thrash Lanka again

AGENCIES, Hyderabad



India beat Sri Lanka by six wickets in the third One-Day International (ODI) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Sri Lanka scored 243 with Mahela Jayawardene getting his 17th ODI ton. In reply, India were untroubled in their run-chase and sailed home with 35 balls to spare.

Having won the toss, Sri Lanka chose to bat first. As has been the case in the two previous games, they lost wickets at regular intervals and in heaps at times.

Jayawardene and Tillakaratne Dilshan put on 105 runs to help Sri Lanka recover after early collapse. Dilshan wasn't at his fluent best as he managed 53 off 80 balls. On the other hand, Jayawardene was slow to start with, but picked up pace as the innings progressed. The typical delicate touch was on offer as he played some great shots on way to becoming the fifth batsman to cross the 12,000-run landmark.

With Angelo Mathews and Jayawardene Sri Lanka decided to go for the batting powerplay in the 31st over. That decision backfired as they only scored 16 runs and lost three wickets. The young Akshar Patel was the wrecker-in-chief as he picked those three scalps.

Jayawardene got to his ton in style, by smashing one for a six over mid-wicket. For India, Umesh was the most successful bowler as he recorded his career best figures of four for 53.

India were never troubled during the run-chase and went about their business in a clinical fashion. Ajinkya Rahane and Shikhar Dhawan setup the platform yet-again with a 62-run opening stand.

Dhawan scored a fluent 91. He was authoritative in his strokeplay and did not let the bowlers get on top. Along with Virat Kohli, he dominated the bowling and took India close to victory. Kohli went on to score another half-century and also became the fastest to 6,000 ODI runs in history as he went past Viv Richards in the process.

**SCORES IN BRIEF SRI LANKA:** 242 all out in 48.2 overs (Dilshan 53, Jayawardene 118; Yadav 4-53, Patel 3-39)

**INDIA:** 245-4 in 44.1 overs (Dhawan 91, Kohli 53)

**Result:** India won by 6 wickets.

**Man-of-the-Match:** Mahela Jayawardene

## Astro-turf being laid at Kamalapur

SPORTS REPORTER

The installation of an astro-turf at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur started on Saturday under the supervision of an Indian company named Great Sports Infra Pvt. Limited.

The installation work is expected to be completed within six months.

The 500,000-dollar astro-turf is being laid under the FIFA Goal Project-4 as Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) had earlier availed three Goal projects -- BFF House, the astro-turf adjacent to BFF House and Sylhet Football Academy, which will be opened on November 13.

## FED CUP FINAL Czechs take 2-nil lead

AFP, Prague

Petra Kvitova and Lucie Safarova gave the Czech Republic a 2-0 lead over Germany in the Fed Cup final in Prague on Saturday after winning their opening rubbers in straight sets.

Kvitova, the Czech number one player and world number four, overcame Germany's number two Andrea Petkovic 6-2, 6-4 in an hour and 17 minutes.

## MAX U-12 FOOTBALL FEST Arambagh clinch title

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh Football Academy A clinched the title of Max U-12 Football Festival, organised by Sonali Otit Club, after a 1-0 win over Bangladesh Sporting Club in the final at the BFF Astro-turf in Arambagh yesterday.

Rahim struck the all-important goal for Arambagh in the third minute of the match. The goalscorer was adjudged the man of the final.

Deputy sports minister Arif Khan witnessed the match and distributed prizes among the winners where Sonali Otit Club's president Badal Roy and general secretary Sheikh Mohammad Aslam were also present.

## Players beware!

Abandoning int'l tours will cost T20 deals

PTI, Dubai



The representatives of the International Cricket Council Board on Sunday expressed their deep disappointment at West Indies team's decision of abandoning their India tour mid-way, stating that a repeat of this kind from any team or players may lead cancellation of their T20 contracts with their franchisees.

Top West Indies players like Dwayne Bravo, Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Darren Sammy freelance as T20 specialists for various private leagues across the globe.

According to a release issued by ICC, it states, "In a show of solidarity, all Member Boards collectively expressed the view that they consider such player action to be extremely disruptive, damaging and unacceptable.

"Players, who behave in a similar manner in the future will not only risk breaching the disciplinary rules of the relevant Member Board and being sanctioned accordingly, but may also put in jeopardy their ability to conclude future contractual arrangements with domestic franchisees or clubs in other jurisdictions."

ICC president N Srinivasan, said: "It was undoubtedly a sad chapter in our sport. It damaged cricket's integrity and reputation, as well as affecting confidence within the cricket community, especially that of the fans. The ICC Board was determined to address this situation and ensure such incidents never happen again."

"The ICC is working with the concerned Members towards finding a positive resolution and is confident that there will be constructive outcomes for our game."

The meeting was also attended by WICB chief Dave Cameron. The members felt that the action of the West Indies players have caused "irrevocable damage" to the sport.

"Putting aside the legitimacy or otherwise of any grievances of parties involved [and which are now the subject of a domestic Task Force probe], the ICC and all Member Boards noted that players abandoning tours have the potential to cause irrevocable damage to the sport in the jurisdiction of the relevant Member Board concerned, as well as enormous financial damage, which might adversely affect the financial viability of the sport itself," it states.