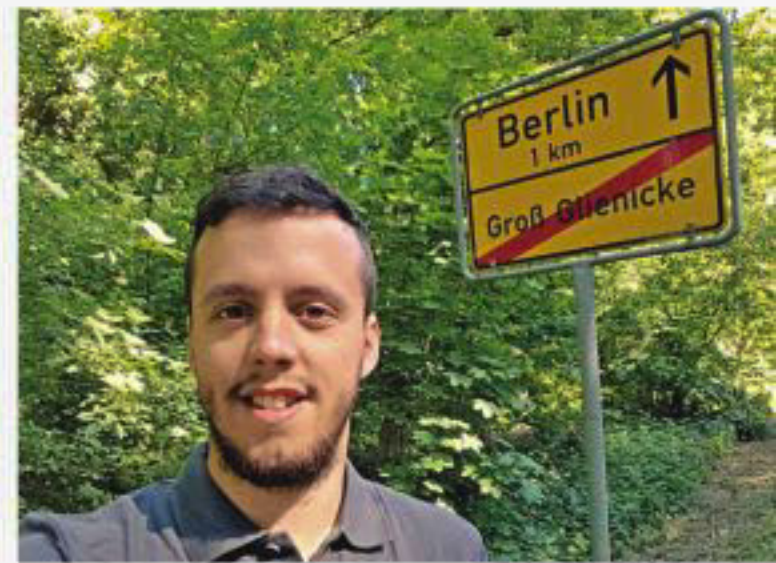


# SPORT

## JUVE FAN WALKS 700 MILES

Juventus fan Nicolo De Marchi is walking 683 miles from Turin to Berlin on the promise -- from Juventus themselves -- of a free Champions League Final ticket. It all stemmed from a Twitter pledge with Nicolo answering Juve's 'if we get to the final...' hashtag by boldly proclaiming 'I'll go on foot!'. He's since walked through Italy, Austria, Switzerland and a lot of Germany. As per his latest Instagram update, he's just on the outskirts of Berlin, having averaged some 80 miles-a-day since he set off last Wednesday.

-- INTERNET



## 'All my focus is on June 10'

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Tamim Iqbal admitted that he was 'slightly worried' upon learning of his latest medical development. On Thursday it was revealed that the left-hander's latest MRI report suggested that there could be a cyst in his knee. The BCB's sports physician however, stated that the condition wouldn't affect Tamim's sporting activities and that it wasn't serious.

The left-hander told The Daily Star yesterday that while he was anxious regarding the development, he won't let it interfere with his batting in the India series which begins on June 10.

"I had an MRI when I was in Malaysia recently and sent the reports to Doctor David Young in Australia. He informed me regarding a new finding in my knee. He called it Ossifying Fibroma. He said that it won't affect my game but asked me to remove the cyst whenever there is a gap in the schedule. He also said that there might be some pain in my knee but that I would have to bear that pain and play.

"So right now, I am completely focused on June 10. I am working on my rehab schedule. My leg is doing well... I feel good. I can't say what will happen in the match, but at this moment there is no problem," Tamim said.

"It's only natural for me to be a little worried. I am a little anxious. But I am sure that when the India series begins, I won't be thinking of this issue," he added.

When asked if he had mentally planned a date to undergo an operation and remove the suspected cyst, Tamim said, "We get very few opportunities to play Test cricket. I want to play this entire season. I can't miss these chances. I can only take a decision after this year is over. But yes, if I feel uncomfortable on the field, then there's nothing that I can do. I'll have to take the required measures then."

Tamim had surgery on his left knee in December last year and then he suffered an injury to his right knee in the Bangladesh Cricket League's one day tournament before the home series against Pakistan. That was the reason that the southpaw was asked to skip the final round of the BCL's four-day competition.

The left-hander was Bangladesh's star player in the last series against Pakistan. He scored two consecutive centuries in the ODI series and became only the second Bangladeshi to score a double hundred during the Test series.



TAMIM IQBAL



Lodewijk de Kruij (C) relays his game-plan to his charges during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh will host Kyrgyzstan on June 11 and Tajikistan on June 16 at this venue in the first two fixtures of the Joint Qualifiers for the World Cup and the Asian Cup.

PHOTO: STAR

## Injury spoils Riyad's dream

SPORTS REPORTER

Having been in the international arena for eight years, Mahmudullah Riyad must have gone through a number of injuries in the past. However, the fracture that he sustained on his left index finger during catching practice on Thursday in Mirpur probably hurt like never before.

With an astounding performance in the World Cup and a century in the final round of the recently concluded Bangladesh Cricket League, the 29-year-old was arguably enjoying the best phase of his cricketing career. And it's not the best feeling when you are compelled to take a break, due to a mere mishap, during such a phase.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, an understandably disappointed Riyad lamented not being able to take part in the India series.

"I feel really, really bad. Honestly... I can't explain my disappointment in words," said Riyad.

"I had plenty of dreams regarding this series. I was preparing myself accordingly. I didn't even imagine that such a thing could have happened. I was obviously disappointed immediately after the injury. I was however hoping to be able to play the ODIs at least. But that too was not to be," he added.

While Riyad has been deemed out of the India series, the good news is that he is most likely to return in time for the series against South Africa which begins on July 5.

"The doctor said that this was an incomplete fracture and that it had not affected my joint. So it is expected to heal faster than usual. I will start

cycling in two to three days and then begin my rehabilitation.

"At the moment I am looking forward to the South Africa series. I am confident that I can recover in time for those matches," Riyad said.

Following his elevation to number four, Riyad has averaged a brilliant 119.25 for Bangladesh in ODIs with two centuries and three 50-plus scores. While he did have a disappointing series against Pakistan, he fought back with a century at Mirpur in the BCL.

"He will definitely be missed. He has been in good form and he would have been handy for the India series. But there's not much we can do now. I am sure his replacement will do well. The kind of confidence that the team has right now, any player who replaces Riyad will give his best," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed.

## Kieswetter forced to retire

AFP, London

England and Somerset wicketkeeper/batsman Craig Kieswetter has been forced to retire due to an eye injury, he announced Friday.

The 27-year-old player was left with vision problems after breaking his nose and damaging his cheekbone while batting in a County Championship match against Northamptonshire in July last year.

"Having gone through that experience of my eye injury and everything it entailed, I feel mentally I will never again be the player that I was," Kieswetter said in a statement.

"I have had a terrific



career, with plenty of ups and occasional downs, and I am calling time on my career and walking away with no regrets."

Kieswetter played in 46 ODIs and 25 Twenty20 internationals for England, but never got Test cap.

In first-class cricket and list A cricket, he averaged just under 40 with the bat, while his average in Twenty20 was just under 32. Behind the stumps he claimed 308 catches and 11 stumpings.

"I'll have so many memories of a career that spanned nine years of my life during which I have made so many friends," Kieswetter added. "See you all on the sidelines."

## India start camp in Kolkata

AGENCIES, Kolkata

The India Test team arrived in Kolkata on Friday afternoon to prepare for their Test match against Bangladesh on June 10 with a two-day camp. The team will depart for Dhaka on Monday morning.

"They will arrive at different times of the day, as they will come in batches, and there will be practice on Saturday and Sunday. They will take the 7.45am flight to Dhaka on Monday," a source said.

The team is scheduled to undergo a fitness test at the Eden Gardens on Saturday.

Following recurring injuries to players, the BCCI has for the first time decreed that all the cricketers need to take the fitness test before embarking on the tour.

Till now, only injured players were subject to fitness tests prior to a series.

Indian Test skipper, Virat Kohli, is slated to address a press conference on the eve of their departure, while there may also be an Open Session during their practice.

Kolkata is also scheduled to host the three iconic former cricketers, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman, as they were began their jobs after being newly inducted to the cricket advisory committee for India, which is slated to meet for the first time on Saturday in Kolkata.

The committee is expected to play a role in finalising the next India coach and will also set guidelines and a road map for the team.

India will play one Test at Fatullah from June 10-14 and three ODIs at Mirpur from June 18-24 in the upcoming Bangladesh tour.

## 'ICC can't interfere in Indo-Pak ties'

AGENCIES, Karachi

ICC chief executive Dave Richardson has said that while the world body wants resumption of Indo-Pak bilateral ties, it cannot interfere in the matter concerning boards from both countries.

"We realise just how important it is for world cricket to have regular matches between Pakistan and India but unfortunately the ICC cannot interfere in this matter as it is a bilateral matter purely between two boards," Richardson told the "Express" newspaper.

He pointed out that the spectator and viewer interest in Pakistan and India matches was phenomenal and it was great for cricket as a sport.

"We have seen the interest and hype their matches generate even in ICC events but after the new governance system now bilateral tours are to be decided between individual boards and the ICC is only responsible for posting match officials," he said.

"So we can't interfere or do anything in this matter but we would like to see them playing bilateral matches again," he added.

Richardson also ruled out the impression that the ICC was not happy on revival of

international cricket in Pakistan with the tour of the Zimbabwe side recently.

"We didn't send match officials because we look at a situation differently from national teams but it is not as if we don't support having international cricket in Pakistan. I thought it was a boost for Pakistan with the passion their people showed for the Zimbabwe series. International cricket needs Pakistan as a strong cricket nation and team and we are always looking at ways to support them," he stated.

The ICC refused to send its match officials for the limited over series in Pakistan played late May but it gave international status to the T20 and ODI matches played between the two sides.

The ICC official said that the ICC was directly responsible for the security of the match officials and had to take a decision by itself.

Richardson also made it clear he always liked going to Pakistan but this time couldn't accept the invitation to visit Lahore for the Zimbabwe series due to prior commitments.

The ICC official said that if any other board wants to send its team to Pakistan it is a matter between the two boards and they have to deal with all aspects of the tour.

## Samuels, Dowrich consolidate

CRICINFO

Marlon Samuels and Shane Dowrich led an encouraging fightback from West Indies on the third day in Dominica, where they had moved into the lead by tea.

Dowrich fell to Josh Hazlewood shortly before the break, the only wicket claimed during the session, but Samuels was still there on 71 and had been joined by Jermaine Blackwood, who had 6, and the total was 189 for 4.

That meant a slim 19-run advantage for West Indies, who had started the day on 25 for 2, with plenty of

work ahead of them to even make Australia bat again. The settled Samuels loomed as the key man for West Indies well-paced innings that frustrated the Australians during his 144-run stand with Dowrich.

Samuels was steady through the morning session, although he had one nervy moment when he left a delivery from Shane Watson and lifted his back foot just after Brad Haddin whipped the bails off. After lunch, Samuels gradually became more expansive and within the space of three balls launched Nathan Lyon over mid-on for a four and a six.

His half-century came from his 115th delivery, although he was fortunate in the previous over that

David Warner had missed the stumps from mid-off when Samuels hesitated in taking a single off Dowrich's bat; he would have been out by half a pitch. As it was, Samuels stuck around and continued to frustrate the Australians and had seven fours and one six by tea.

Dowrich also played a few more aggressive shots in the middle session, including a six over mid-on off Lyon, and he brought up his half-century from his 153rd delivery with a pull for four off Mitchell Johnson. But on 70, Dowrich fell for Michael Clarke's trap of a short catching mid-on beside the pitch; his attempted clip through leg off Josh Hazlewood was misplaced and went straight into

Shane Watson's hands.

It was the only breakthrough of the session and meant that by tea, West Indies had added 164 runs for the day for the loss of two wickets. Dwayne Bravo departed early in the morning when on 5 he drove Hazlewood uppishly and was well caught by Warner, hurling himself to his right at mid-off.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: First innings 148 AUSTRALIA: First innings 318 (Marsh 19, Smith 25, Clarke 18, Voges 130 not out, Lyon 22, Hazlewood 39; Bishoo 6-80)

WEST INDIES: 2nd innings 189 for four (S. Dowrich 70, M. Samuels 71 not out, J. Blackwood 6 not out)

## IN A NUTSHELL

### Voges' wife knew first

It was the news Adam Voges had been waiting to hear for more than a decade and when it came, his wife Kristy knew about it before he did.

Kristy and the couple's children, four-year-old Xavier and two-year-old Ella, sent Australia's 442nd Test cricketer a video message of congratulations from Perth, with the help of Cricket Australia.

Voges was able to watch the video before making his debut in Dominica this week.

After the day's play he paid credit to his Western Australia state coach Justin Langer, his wife and children, and his father Ken, who hopes to be there in person for next week's second Test in Jamaica.

The pressure's on Voges now to score a second consecutive hundred, so dad can see it live this time.

"It's a funny one actually," Voges said.

"My wife actually knew I was playing the game before I did. Cricket Australia got a message back to her before I'd actually found out myself so no wonder she wasn't answering my phone calls when I rang.

"They would have loved to be here.

"One or two of them might be coming to Jamaica, hopefully."

### ACU chief resigns

Ravi Sawani, chief of Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) resigned from his position on Friday citing personal reasons.

It wasn't an unexpected decision as Sawani had reportedly tendered his resignation in April but was asked by the board to continue on until the end of Indian Premier League (IPL).

Jagmohan Dalmiya accepted the resignation and Neeraj Kumar, who was recently roped in as an advisor to the Indian board's ACU, is expected to take over. Sawani's tenure is likely to end in June.

### Sally Pearson breaks arm

Olympic champion hurdler Sally Pearson is in doubt for August's world championships after breaking her arm in a fall at the Diamond League meeting in Rome on Thursday.

The 28-year-old former world champion clutched her left arm and shrieked in pain on the track of Rome's Stadio Olimpico after clipping a hurdle during the women's 100 metres hurdles.

"Pearson suffered a dislocation and a complex fracture of both the ulna and the radius in her left arm in the fall," Athletics Australia said in a statement.

"It is, however, too early to tell what impact the injury will have on the remainder of her season and her hopes of competing for Australia at the 2015 IAAF World Championships in Beijing in August."



Pearson was scheduled for surgery in Rome later on Friday and was then likely to head home to Australia, AA said.

The athletics governing body said she was "devastated by the injury and in a great deal of pain."

The world championships will be held in Beijing from August 22-30.

Compiled By Star Sport Desk