

## Stomach bug disrupts booters' camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Four national team booters were struck down by stomach bug just a day after some of the players made allegations of sub-standard food being served at the BFF dormitory. Shakhawat Hossain Rony, Aminur Rahman Shajib, Shahedul Alam and Faisal Mahmud were struck down on Saturday night right after having their dinner. Those four players, along with striker Enamul Haque, who is nursing a calf muscle injury on his left leg, skipped yesterday's training session and warm-up match.

"We don't know whether they [the four booters] ate something from outside. However, we are providing quality food which costs around Tk 20,000 every day. We are also providing them with water which we also drink at the office," said Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag when asked about the issue. Team doctor Shajib Shams Bakshi informed that the condition of the four players is not serious, but striker Shajib and midfielder Shahed have also caught fever following stomach illness.

## BD bag three more medals

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh won one silver medal and two bronze medals on the second day of the Commonwealth Karate Championship in New Delhi on Sunday. Nuruzzaman Synthia, Mohammad Hossain Khan and Mohammad Hassan Khan won silver in the men's kata team event while Sabuj Mia and Iqbal won bronze medals in men's -50kg kumi and -55kg kumi categories respectively, said a press release from Bangladesh Karate Federation yesterday. Yesterday's haul took Bangladesh's tally to four medals, which includes a gold medal won on the previous day by Maun Zera Borna.

## BOA adds wushu

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has decided to add wushu into the contingent for the upcoming 12th South Asian Games, which is scheduled to be held in Guwahati and Shillong from January 10. The BOA had initially kept wushu out of consideration due to differences among the Bangladesh Wushu Federation officials. Now that the differences have reportedly been resolved, the BOA decided in principle to include the discipline after holding talks with the federation officials on Saturday. "We have decided in principle to include wushu and asked them to start training camp after Eid-ul-Azha. However, the final decision will be taken at our executive committee meeting," said BOA vice-president Harunur Rashid. Bangladesh won a total of 18 gold medals in the last SA Games in 2010 in Dhaka, two of which came from wushu.



Dejected Bangladesh A players walk towards the dressing room after their Indian counterparts posted a mammoth 297 during the final one-day in Bangalore yesterday. The visitors failed to keep up with the chase and lost the series 2-1.

PHOTO: BCB

# 'We couldn't adjust ourselves'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's top order failed for the third consecutive time in Bangalore yesterday as the second-string side crumbled to a 75-run defeat in a rain-affected match. The defeat marked the end of the three-match one-day series which the visitors ended up losing 2-1. After winning the toss, India A captain Unmukt Chand, despite the cloudy conditions, opted to bat first. The hosts battled with plenty of patience and caution in the first half of the innings and that paid dividends later on as they went on to post a healthy 297 at the end of 50 overs.

Suresh Raina scored 104 off 140 balls while Sanju Samson struck 90 off 99 deliveries. The trick was to negotiate the early phase of the game, during which time the batsmen have generally seemed to be at their most vulnerable state throughout the series and that's exactly what they did. After openers Unmukt Chand and Mayank Agarwal were sent

back to the pavilion in the first 20 overs, Raina and Samson shared a 116-run partnership. The pair batted till the 39th over and laid a good foundation for the middle order batsmen to capitalise on. Eventually, the hosts posted 97 runs in the last ten overs.

All of Bangladesh's pacers were among the wickets, with Shafiqul Islam leading the group with figures of 2 for 56. Nasir Hossain, who had scalped a five-for in the second one-day, finished on 1 for 42 from eight overs.

Where India's top order was successful, the visitors failed. Bangladesh top three of Soumya Sarkar, Rony Talukdar and Anamul Haque failed to give the visitors a good start and were sent back to the pavilion within the first nine overs.

Skipper Mominul Haque, who scored a hard-fought 37 yesterday, later told reporters that his batsmen had failed to cope with the pressure of the chase.

"I think in the first match, when they got 322, we tried to score as much as possible at the top. When you chase over 300, you look to score runs off every ball and that was the main problem.



Nasir Hossain was adjudged player-of-the-series for scoring 176 runs at an average of 88 and scalping eight wickets.

PHOTO: BCB

"We couldn't adjust ourselves. The pressure is always on the chasing side when the target is above 300. We were looking for boundaries but we didn't pick our bowlers to attack. That was also a problem," explained Mominul during the post-match press conference.

At the end of 20 overs, Bangladesh found themselves in a disappointing position with half

the team sent back to the pavilion. Nasir Hossain, who came in at number seven once again, managed to provide some hope for the visitors when he began stitching a partnership along with Sabbir Rahman. However, the pair only managed 48 runs and once again Nasir was sent back to the pavilion, there wasn't a lot that the visitors could do. Sabbir's 41 helped Bangladesh

cross the 140-mark. By the time the rain interrupted the match for the third time, the visitors were poised at 141 for 6 in 32 overs. The match was called off after that and as per the Duckworth-Lewis method, India A won the game by 75 runs. Nasir was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

Bangladesh A will now head to Mysore to play a three-day match against Karnataka. They will return to Bangalore after that to play their final three-day match against India A.

"We will look at these games as practice matches for the upcoming series against Australia. We hope to correct our mistakes before the series," said Mominul.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
<b>INDIA A:</b> 297 for 6 (Samson 90, Raina 104; Shafiqul 2-56, Al-Amin 1-51, Rubel 1-59, Arafat 1-58, Nasir 1-52)	
<b>BANGLADESH A:</b> 141 for 6 (Mominul 37, Liton 21, Sabbir 41 not out, Nasir 22; Aravind 2-14, Yadav 2-29)	
<b>Result:</b> India A won by 65 runs (D/L method) and took the series 2-1	
<b>Player-of-the-series:</b> Nasir Hossain	

## Gurkeerat in ODI squad

AFP, New Delhi

India named Sunday uncapped all-rounder Gurkeerat Mann Singh in the one-day squad for the first three matches against South Africa which will also see veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni return to captain the side.

Singh, 25, who has impressed with both the bat and the ball in the Indian junior side, replaced Ravindra Jadeja while leg spinner Amit Mishra came in for seamer Dhawal Kulkarni.

Dhoni, who retired from Test cricket during a disappointing tour of Australia last year, returns to lead the ODI and T20 squads, after Virat Kohli led India to a Test-series victory in Sri Lanka this month.

The selectors said they did not consider changing the limited-over captaincy, quashing speculation of any retirement by the Indian wicketkeeper-batsman from the shorter formats of the game.

The 34-year-old, who won the World Twenty20 on his captaincy debut in 2007, has scored 8,620 runs from 265 ODIs at an average of 52.24.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan, recovering from a hand fracture, is included in both squads.

For the three T20 internationals, selectors picked uncapped Karnataka seamer Sreenath Aravind, who has played 41 first-class matches.

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami, undergoing rehabilitation for a knee injury he suffered during the tour of Australia, was not considered for either squad.

The teams for the remaining two one-dayers and the four Test series will be named later. South Africa begin the gruelling tour with a practice match in New Delhi on September 29, with the first T20 to be played in Dharamsala on October 2.



SQUAD	
<b>ODI:</b> Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ravichandran Ashwin, Stuart Binny, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Axar Patel, Ajinkya Rahane, Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, Mohit Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Gurkeerat Singh, Amit Mishra.	
<b>T20:</b> Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ravichandran Ashwin, Stuart Binny, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Axar Patel, Ajinkya Rahane, Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu.	

## AFC U-16 C'SHIP Saudis thru'

SPORTS REPORTER

Saudi Arabia booked the automatic qualification spot for the final round of the AFC U-16 Championship after emerging Group D winners following a 6-2 win over United Arab Emirates at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Saudi Arabia finished with six points while UAE finished second with three. Hosts Bangladesh finished their campaign with two defeats in two matches.

The Saudis put up a brilliant performance on the rain-soaked pitch despite conceding an early lead. Midfielder Al Abdan Hamad slotted a hat-trick while Ali Alshaiqi, Dhari Al Anazi and Almas Naif Mousa netted one goal apiece for Saudi Arabia. Ali Saleh struck a goal for UAE while the other was an own-goal.

## Fahad's title in Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman emerged unbeaten champion in the under-12 category of 6th Swensen Age Group Chess Championship in Malaysia yesterday.

Fahad, along with three others, earned 5.5 points each from six rounds before snatching it in tiebreaker. "I came here after playing well in two tournaments and I was confident of doing well. I am now hoping to play better in the GM tournament here," said Fahad over phone from Malaysia.

## A visionary departs

AFP, New Delhi

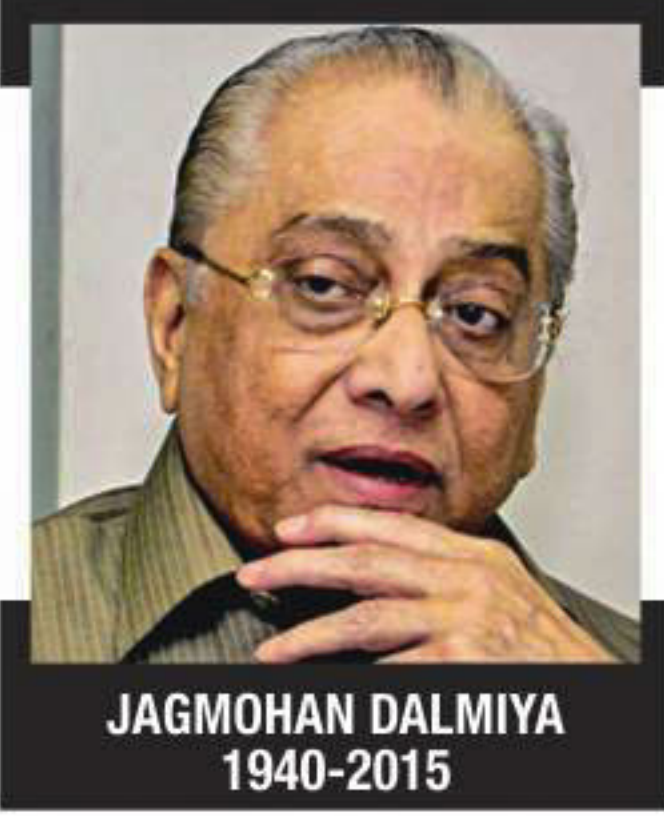
Indian cricket supremo Jagmohan Dalmiya, who oversaw the country's emergence as the game's financial powerhouse, died on Sunday only months after his comeback at the helm of the national board.

The 75-year-old president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) died in a hospital in his hometown of Kolkata after falling critically ill with a heart condition last week.

"The greatest sports administrator of India has passed away, an era ends," BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur said on Twitter.

His death triggered an outpouring of tributes, including from the legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "My thoughts are with the family of Shri Jagmohan Dalmiya in this hour of grief. May Shri Dalmiya's soul rest in peace," Modi said on Twitter.

"Worked hard for the game of cricket and excelled as an administrator," Tendulkar wrote on Twitter. Dalmiya, who was also a former head of the International Cricket Council, presided over a dramatic



JAGMOHAN DALMIYA 1940-2015

increase in India's financial muscle during previous stints at the helm of the BCCI after negotiating mega broadcast deals.

He returned to the post of BCCI president in March but was subsequently dogged by health problems and had been absent from a number of recent board meetings.

Dalmiya was unceremoniously dumped by the BCCI in 2004 over allegations of financial irregularities but made a comeback earlier this year after his predecessor Narayanaswami Srinivasan was forced out by a corruption scandal.

He first shot to fame when he, along with bureaucrat Inderjit Singh Bindra, broke Australia and England's hold on the ICC to win the right to host the 1987 and 1996 World Cups on the sub-continent.

He went on to become ICC president from 1997-2000 and BCCI president from 2001 to 2004.

Television revenue expanded massively under Dalmiya's tenure and the boards of smaller Test-playing nations -- desperate to attract tours by India so they could sell the television rights -- would usually fall in line behind the BCCI when it came to key decisions within the game.

## Nipu drafted into U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

Sarwar Zaman Nipu, the promising striker of Bangladesh under-16 team, has been called up to the under-19 team camp for the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers, which takes place in Dhaka from October 2.

The 16-year-old striker, who scored two goals in three matches in the SAFF U-16 Championship last month and one against Saudi Arabia in the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers last week, has been rewarded by the under-19s coach Saiful Bari Titu.

"I had chosen him during a trial with the under-19 team, but sent him to the under-16s team due to his relatively young age," said Titu yesterday. "However, he has already proven his worth which is why we thought of calling him up for the under-19 side. He is a genuine centre-forward with a sense of positioning and he can make the opposition defenders uncomfortable with his movements," added the coach.



Titu believes the inclusion of Nipu will strengthen his attacking line-up, which already boasts Mannaf Rabbi, Rohit Sarker and Mohammad Ibrahim. The Bangladesh Football Federation has completed Nipu's registration formalities for the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers where Bangladesh will host Uzbekistan, Bhutan and Sri Lanka in Group A. Nipu had his first practice session with his new teammates yesterday before leaving for Kishoreganj to meet his parents. He is supposed to rejoin the camp today.

## Oz's private Bangladesh

AGENCIES, Melbourne

The Australian Cricket team has taken their training for their upcoming tour of Bangladesh up a notch. The team, including Western Australian opener Cameron Bancroft, Queensland batsmen Joe Burns and Usman Khawaja and spinners Nathan Lyon and Stephen O'Keefe, will gather at the Bupa National Cricket Centre in Brisbane this week.

The 29 million dollar facility is part of Australia's high performance training centre, loaded with state of the art facilities.

The interesting part is that the Australians will not train there as they normally would, instead they will be looking to recreate the conditions which they expect to face here in Bangladesh.

With a young batch of players coming for the tour next month, there is a distinct lack of experience in playing in the subcontinent, let alone Bangladesh, where most players have never played before.

## NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE Day Three washed out

SPORTS REPORTER

Incessant rainfall swept the country yesterday and did not allow any play on Day Three of the National Cricket League. Not a single ball was delivered in the four matches taking place in Fatullah, Barisal, Rajshahi and Bogra.

As a result of the rain three out of the four matches are expected to finish as draws.

The match between Barisal and hosts Rajshahi is the only game which has a possibility of producing a result. At the moment, Rajshahi are poised at 25 for no loss and require 345 runs to win the match. If there is play today, on day four, Mushfiqur Rahim's men will hope that they can survive the day.

## DIV-I BASKETBALL The Gregs lift title

SPORTS REPORTER

The Gregs emerged unbeaten champion in the Citycell First Division Basketball League, which concluded at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The Gregs were crowned champions as Bakshi Bazar beat Cantonians by 66-61 points in the last match of the league yesterday. Mahin caged 30 points for Bakshi Bazar while Arefin netted 24 points for Cantonians. Bakshi Bazar finished as runners-up and confirmed promotion, along with The Gregs, into the upcoming premier division league.