



Tamim Iqbal runs towards the dressing room to take cover from rain which started four overs after his side Chittagong began batting on the final day of the NCL's first round in Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Shooting team expect good things

SPORTS REPORTER

With the South Asian Games scheduled for January next year, Bangladeshi shooters are getting opportunities to test their standard through two international tournaments -- the 8th Air Gun Championship in India this month and the 13th Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait in November.

A total of nine shooters including four women who have been in a training camp for nearly three months, are scheduled to leave here for India on Thursday with a target of replicating their training performance in the Air Gun Championship, which starts on September 25 in New Delhi.

"The shooters have been performing well in training and I want them to perform accordingly in the championship," coach Saiful Alam Rinky said. "However, we will be trying to win a medal which (bronze) was once won by Asif Hossain Khan."

Rinky is not only hopeful about the senior shooters, but he is also optimistic about the junior ones.

"There will definitely be hope over senior shooters like [Abdullah] Baki, [Sharmin Akter] Ratna but we are also hoping for good performance from the junior ones," said the former national shooter.

Robiul Islam, Shakil Ahmed, Sharmin Akter Jr and Jui Chakma are the junior members of the squad, which also includes seniors Baki, Jesimuzzaman, Riasatul Islam, Ratna and Syeda Atkiya Hasan.

The shooters were given a specific target (624 points for men and 413 points for women) for selection, with national runner-up Anjan Kumar Singh and third-place finisher Shovon Chowdhury failing in their pursuits.

SCHOLASTICA BASKETBALL

Sunbeams, Notre Dame win titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Notre Dame College and Sunbeams School won the boys' and girls' titles respectively in the Scholastica Interscholastic Basketball Tournament, which concluded at Scholastica's Uttara Section on September 19.

Notre Dame beat Green Herald in the boys' final while Sunbeams got the better of Scholastica in the girls' final, according to a press release. 16 school and college teams from Dhaka and Chittagong took part in the three-day event.

Rain spoils Tigers' prep

SPORTS REPORTER



Rain spoiled the national players' chances of getting match practice ahead of the two-Test series against Australia as all the four first round games of the National Cricket League ended as draws yesterday.

Like the third day, there was no play in Rajshahi and Bogra on the fourth day either due to rain. But the Dhaka-Khulna match saw some action at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. Four overs were bowled in Fatullah as well. A minute's silence was observed before the start of the day's play to pay tribute to BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya, who passed away on Sunday evening in Kolkata.

Dhaka's left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain shone on the

final day as he scalped figures of 7-119 to help dismiss Khulna for just 340. Surprisingly though he was not the player-of-the-match, an award which went to new bowling sensation Mustafizur Rahman for his four-wicket haul.

Mohammad Mithun was the top scorer for Khulna with 87 runs.

National opener Tamim Iqbal got the opportunity to bat at Fatullah, but only for 18 minutes as rain played foul after Sylhet declared their innings at 352-8.

"It's unfortunate that the national players missed out an opportunity to get some game-time due to the rains. There is hardly any chance to see the national players in the second round since their camp for the Australia series will begin by then," said tournament committee chairman Akram Khan. He also added that the second round of the National Cricket

League will start in the first week of October.

"It's really frustrating as a season has begun with rain interruption and most importantly our national players missed the opportunity to get match practice ahead of a tough series against Australia. Now it will depend on the team management as to whether they will ask the national players to play the second round," said selector Habibul Bashar.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
BARISAL: 302 and 160. RAJSHAHI: 93 and 25-0. Result: Match Drawn	
DHAKA: 187 and 15-0 in 6 overs (Mushkur 6 not out, Majid 9 not out). KHULNA: 340 all out in 93.3 overs (Imrul 29, Mehedi 53, Shakib 13, Tushar 26, Mithun 87, Nurul 53, Zia 14, Miraz 34, Robiul 24; Mosharraf 7-119, Nazmul 2-79). Result: Match drawn	
DHAKA METRO: 238. RANGPUR: 266-5. Result: Match Drawn.	
SYLHET: 352-8dc. CHITTAGONG: 36-0 in 4 overs (Tamim 13 not out, Yasir 23 not out). Result: Match Drawn.	

3-dayer starts today

SPORTS REPORTER



After a 2-1 series defeat in the one-dayers, Bangladesh's second-string side will begin their three-day encounter in Mysore today against Ranji Trophy champions Karnataka. Both captain Mominul Haque and coach Heath Streak reckon that the three-day matches will be a good opportunity for the players to hit form ahead of the two-Test series against Australia due to begin next month.

Skipper Mominul, wicketkeeper Liton Das and Nasir Hossain played in the last Test against South Africa.

There are also the likes of Anamul Haque, Soumya Sarkar and Shuvagata Hom who will want to use this tour to break into the national side's playing eleven.

Anamul will have to put an emphatic performance to take Imrul Kayes' place at the top. The same goes for Soumya, who batted down the order in the Tests against Pakistan and India, but was overlooked against South Africa. Shuvagata, on the other hand, faces a

tough battle against Nasir, who performed out of his skin in the one-dayers.

Amongst the paces, Mustafizur Rahman and Mohammad Shahid seem to be the favourites. The likes of Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam and Al-Amin Hossain will have to work quite hard to make their comebacks.

Pacers Rubel and Shafiqul, who played in all the three one-dayers, are likely to be rested. Spinners Shuvagata and Jubair Hossain are likely to make their mark in the series today.

Coach Heath Streak expects Karnataka to be a tough opposition.

"We have looked at them. They are a strong side. If they weren't, they wouldn't have won the Ranji trophy otherwise. It will be a good challenge for our boys. We are looking forward to a good match-up," Streak told The Daily Star.

"There are players in the side who plan to get as much practice as possible ahead of the Test series and then there are players who the selectors have their eye on and have the possibility of a Test call-

'Will miss his ready laugh'

PTI, New Delhi

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar on Monday paid tributes to BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya terming him as someone, who put the game of cricket above everything else.

The legendary opener, who shared a cordial relation with Dalmiya said that he will miss his smiling persona.

"I will miss his ready laugh. May his soul rest in peace," Gavaskar said in his tribute.

Terming him "A giant of international cricket", Gavaskar said, "Jagmohan Dalmiya was one of those administrators for whom the game of cricket was above everything else. It was under his stewardship that the BCCI and ICC became the financial powerhouses they have become today.

CHAMPION & FRIEND

SABER H CHOWDHURY

President of Board of Control for Cricket in India, a former president of the International Cricket Council and the first Indian to be elected to that position are indeed impressive references and credentials.

However, on the very rare occasions that the name of an individual towers above these exalted positions and commands even greater respect, we know we are in the company of greats.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, Jogu-Da to those who had the privilege of knowing him personally, an inspiring visionary and an outstanding leader, has etched a place for himself as one of cricket's most able administrators, ever.

Not only has he fashioned and revolutionised the administration of the game and taken it to new heights, he transformed the business of cricket and through skillful and astute management established it as a global sport, thanks to leveraging the power of television and strategic bundling of event rights.

A tested friend of Bangladesh cricket, steadfast and unwavering in his support, patronage and commitment, Jogu-Da also always stood by the side of the smaller nations and promoted their interests. To him, Fiji for instance was as important in the greater scheme of cricket's interest and fraternity as Australia.

Bangladesh's elevation to Test status and full membership of the ICC owes much to Jogu-Da. The journey began in earnest in 1998 when we were able to establish Dhaka as a centre of international cricket through the successful hosting of the first ever Champion's Trophy or the mini world cup, as it was then known.

Bangladesh experienced one of its worst and most prolonged floods prior to this tournament and there was considerable nervousness and uncertainty as to whether we would at all be able to host the event. My conversation with him as president of BCB was short. He simply asked me, can you do it and I said yes and that was it. The tournament went ahead and he too shared in our challenge and ensured that this was one of the most well organised and managed events ever.

A major milestone in our quest for full membership of the ICC was the support of the Asian Cricket Council. How could we after all realise our Test status aspirations without the support of our own region? The cause of Bangladesh cricket thus became that of Asia and he was fully supportive as ever.

The solidarity of Asian cricket and its emergence as the power house of world cricket was energised by his leadership. It was Australia and New Zealand's turn to host the 2011 Cricket World Cup. It was during a meeting of the ACC in Dubai in 2000 that I discussed the possibility of having this event in the sub-continent instead and thanks to the unity of Asian cricket that he helped to

promote and cement, we were able to have the 2011 World Cup in this part of the world.

I believe he stood by Bangladesh cricket and that too at a time when we had few, if any, backers not because of his West Bengal base but due to the fact that he realised and sensed the potential we had as a cricketing nation and was able to connect and relate this to his global vision for the game.

Bangladesh's on-the-field successes of recent times is a testimony to his wisdom and foresight and a vindication of his abiding belief in our bright future.

His vision of globalising the game and courage in challenging the domination of the established nations in the global administration of it, earned him respect and admiration across the board. As President of the ICC from 1997-2000 he was at his prime as were the likes of Dr. Ali Bacher of South Africa, Denis Rogers of Australia, Sir John Anderson of New Zealand, Ehsan Mani of Pakistan and the debates they had as to how cricket should be taken



PHOTO: COLLECTED

A file photo shows Jagmohan Dalmiya and former BCB president Saber Hossain displaying the ICC Champions Trophy in Dhaka in 1998.

forward were of the highest standard and level -- inspiring, stimulating and challenging for us all.

World cricket is fortunate to have had a Jagmohan Dalmiya to lead and shape it. Bangladesh, too, owes him a huge debt of gratitude. As we try to come to terms with the shock and sorrow of his demise, we mourn the loss of an outstanding administrator, a true friend of Bangladesh and a wonderful human being.

Through decades of dedicated service, Jogu-Da has left global cricket in far better shape than many could have thought possible and his star will always rightly shine as one of the brightest. In the years to come, many distinguished individuals will no doubt serve in the positions he had held but they will all perhaps be successors, not a replacement in the true sense of the term.

Saber H. Chowdhury MP was President of Bangladesh Cricket Board 1996-2001. He is currently the President of Inter Parliamentary Union.

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SK KAMAL INT'L CLUB CUP

'Eight teams confirmed'

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Chittagong Abahani claim to have finalised the eight participating teams of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, which is scheduled to get underway at the MA Aziz Stadium from October 20.

Tournament coordinator Shakil Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday informed that four local clubs and as many foreign clubs will be taking part in the tournament.

The four chosen local clubs are: professional league champions Sheikh Jamal DC, Dhaka Abahani, Mohammedan Sporting Club and hosts Chittagong Abahani, while the four invited foreign clubs are: current Indian I-League champions Mohun Bagan, reigning Calcutta League champions East Bengal, defending Sri Lanka Premier League champions Solid SC and the to-be champions of Nepal Football League (which is scheduled to complete on October 17).

Explaining the criteria followed for inviting the teams, Shakil said, "First, we invited the league champions of this region and then we picked the fan-based clubs like Abahani, Mohammedan SC and Mohun Bagan."

"Three clubs of Bangladesh have ensured their participation verbally and we are expecting their official confirmation within a couple of days while the foreign teams have given their initial confirmations through e-mail," said Shakil adding that the hosts would bear all expenditure of the participating teams such as including airfare, food, accommodation and local transport.

Clubs from Afghanistan and Pakistan have also reportedly showed interest, but the organisers preferred clubs from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Day topples McIlroy

AFF, Chicago

Jason Day claimed his seventh USPGA Tour victory Sunday to take over the world number one ranking, becoming the third player in as many weeks to capture golf's coveted top spot.

The 27-year-old Australian went wire-to-wire, closing with a two-under 69 to win by six strokes at the BMW Championship, the third of four tournaments in the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Day began his round with a six-shot lead over a star-studded pack that included Rory McIlroy, who Day toppled from the number one spot, and US Open and Masters winner Jordan Spieth -- who was ranked second behind McIlroy going into the event.

Day becomes the youngest Aussie to reach number one and the third in history behind Greg Norman and Adam Scott. It was also Day's fifth win of 2015 as he joins Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh as the only players in the last 20 years to win at least that many in a season.



Former India captain Sourav Ganguly pays his last respect to Jagmohan Dalmiya at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP