

SPORT

Search for swimmers continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

In an endeavour to find the 60 best swimmers of the country, the Bangladesh Swimming Federation – with the assistance of Bangladesh Navy – held the Talent Hunt Programme at the Stadium pond in Manikganj yesterday. Their aim is to ultimately turn those 60 best swimmers into world class swimmers.

The competition was divided into four age groups (11-12, 13-15, 15-17 and 18 plus years) with a total of 34 boys and five girls from different areas of the district taking part.

Out of them, six boys and two girls of Manikganj advanced and will now participate in the divisional level swimming competition.

At the conclusion of the district level competition, Hossain, Md Jihad, Md Jewel, Sohel Rana, Doly Akter, Sakib Hossain and Biplob Sheel were awarded certificates, medals and monetary prizes.

Nahid Hasan, Manikganj district sports association's secretary Sultanul Azam Khan Apel and its assistant secretary Sudev Saha were present and distributed the prizes to the winners.

Mahi stars in Florida

SPORTS REPORTER

Afnan Mahmud Mahi, a young and promising golfer of the Kurmitola Golf Club, has recently become the runners-up of the boys' 18-year age category in Florida Junior Amateur Golf Tournament, which was held at the World Golf Village Golf Course in Florida on July 11 and 12.

Mahi scored a total of two-over-par (146) in the two-round event, losing out to eventual champion Jacob Soucinek of Florida by a single stroke.

Mahi, who is currently undertaking a 45-day coaching course under Tom Barnett and Reid in Florida, will return to the country after participating in the Hurricane Junior Open which is scheduled to begin tomorrow.



Players selected to take part in the High Performance programme, who arrived at the BCB's National Cricket Academy yesterday, have a look at the sessions arranged for them in the programme set to begin today.

PHOTO: STAR

High Performance camp begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur was abuzz yesterday as cricketers selected to take part in the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) High Performance (HP) programme reported to the camp, which is set to begin at the National Cricket Academy today.

The BCB HP squad includes 25 players. They aren't members of the 30-member squad which will take part in the national camp from July 20 onwards, but the HP squad as a base from where players make the national team in the near future.

Simon Helmot, who joined as the head coach of the High Performance programme on June 11 this year, is expected to join the camp in the first week of August as the 44-year old Australian is currently busy with his assignment with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Steel T20 team in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

"It was earlier decided that he (Simon Helmot) will join the camp in the first week of August after CPL," said Nazmul Abedin Fahim, BCB's national game development manager.

The HP squad mainly includes young talents such as former Bangladesh Under-19 captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Al-Amin. It however, also includes senior players such as 27-year old pacer Shubashish Roy who impressed selectors in the recently concluded Dhaka Premier League.

The HP camp will run till October this year and during this time the coaches will work with the players to make them understand the demand of the international cricket.

"The main focus would be to prepare them for the international cricket. So everything will be touched during the camp, from mental to physical aspects and there will be special sessions for the cricketers so that they can understand the gap between domestic and international cricket," said Fahim.

"You see they are all talented young cricketers. We think this camp will help them to prepare themselves for international cricket and learn the craft of facing the challenge in international cricket," he added.

BCB has also a plan to hire coaches and trainers from abroad for the HP programme's batting, bowling and mental sessions.

Calm Shakib wins it for Jamaica

STAR SPORTS DESK

Ace allrounder Shakib Al Hasan put in a memorable performance for the Jamaica Tallawahs to help them come back from precarious 2 for 4 against the Guyana Amazon Warriors and then lead them to a five-wicket win in the Caribbean Premier League yesterday.

The left-hander, who batted at number five, scored an unbeaten 54 off 47 balls and also took a wicket. His performance landed him the player of the match award at the Sabina Park in Kingston.

Chasing a total of 128, Jamaica's top four batsmen were sent back to the pavilion in just 1.1 overs. Shakib came in and he too was dropped early on. However, he decided to calm the nerves by just staying at the wicket initially.

He received support from Andre Russel, who smacked two sixes and two fours to score a 15-ball 24. However, Russel too was dismissed before the end of the powerplay and that brought the score down to 45 for 5.

The jitters though were brought to an end once Chris Gayle joined Shakib in the middle. Gayle absolutely destroyed Guyana, hitting four sixes and two fours during his 29-ball 45, and put the pressure back on the opponents. Jamaica eventually romped home in 15.5 overs.

At the post-match Shakib admitted that he was under pressure during the chase early on.

"It wasn't ideal losing four wickets. We were under pressure. But we knew that if we stayed at the wicket, it would get easier," the allrounder said after the game.



Shah puts Pakistan on top

AFP, London

Pakistan's Yasir Shah made a useful unbeaten 30 after starring with the ball to leave Pakistan well-placed come stumps on the third day of an intriguing first Test against England at Lord's on Saturday.

Pakistan were 214 for eight in their second innings at the close, a lead of 281 runs, after leg-spinner Shah took six for 72 in England's first innings 272.

But at stumps he was shaking hands with Chris Woakes after the Warwickshire all-rounder had taken five for 31 to follow the lively pacer's Test-best haul of six for 70 in Pakistan's first innings 339.

Woakes's 11-wicket haul was the first time he had grabbed at least 10 in a Test match.

England now need to at least equal their record fourth-inning score to win a Test at Lord's of 282 for three against New Zealand in 2004 if they are to go 1-0 up in this four-match series.

Sarfraz Ahmed (45) and Shah, promoted from his first innings position of number 11, frustrated England in a seventh-wicket stand of 40.

Both batsmen were dropped off the luckless Steven Finn as the fast bowler went wicketless on his home ground.

Shah was on two when he chipped Finn out onto the offside and a diving Stuart Broad just failed to cling on to a tough low chance.

But Ahmed should have been out for 36 when Finn took the outside only

for wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow, going to his right, to drop the chance as the ball hit his wrist.

Fortunately for England, it was not too costly a miss with Woakes producing even simpler chances that Bairstow held to get rid of both the gritty Ahmed and Wahab Riaz (nought).

But Finn knew it wasn't his day when Shah, on one knee, hoisted him for four high over deep square leg.

Pakistan were 40 for one at lunch after Mohammad Hafeez had carelessly fallen for a duck in cutting Broad straight to Joe Root at second slip.

But they lost opener Shan Masood soon afterwards when the left-hander, once more fallible outside off stump, flat-footedly edged Woakes to England captain Alastair Cook at first slip.

Azhar Ali (23) then fell lbw to a desperately tight umpire's call as Woakes reduced Pakistan to 59 for three.

Misbah, in his maiden Test knock at Lord's, had made 114 in Pakistan's first innings.

But on Saturday he fell for nought when he lofted off-spinner Moeen Ali legside and Alex Hales, running round to the mid-wicket rope, held a good catch.



One of the few responsible batsmen for Pakistan in the second innings against England, Asad Shafiq followed his 73 in the first innings with a cautious 49 yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: 1st innings 339 all out

ENGLAND: First innings

Cook b Amir	81
Hales c Ali b Ali	6
Root c Hafeez b Shah	48
Vince lbw b Shah	16
Ballance lbw b Shah	6
Bairstow b Shah	29
Ali lbw b Shah	
Woakes not out	35
Broad b Riaz	17
Finn lbw b Shah	5
Ball run out	4
Extras (nb-2)	2
Total: (All out in 79.1 overs)	272
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-118, 3-139, 4-147, 5-173, 6-193, 7-232, 8-260, 9-267, 10-272.	

Bowler O M R W

Amir	18	2	65	1
Ali	14	1	68	1
Riaz	18.1	0	67	1
Shah	29	6	72	6

PAKISTAN: Second innings

Hafeez c Root b Broad	0
Masood c Cook b Woakes	24
Ali lbw b Woakes	23
Khan b Ali	25
Misbah c Hales b Ali	0
Shafiq b Woakes	49
Ahmed b Bairstow b Woakes	45
Shah not out	30
Riaz c Bairstow b Woakes	0
Amir not out	0
Extras (b-6, nb-1, lb-11)	18
Total: (For 8 wks in 77 overs)	214
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-44, 3-59, 4-60, 5-129, 6-168, 7-208, 8-214.	

Bowler O M R W

Broad	18	6	38	1
Ball	16	6	37	0
Finn	13	4	42	0
Woakes	17	6	31	5
Ali	13	3	49	2

Ctg Abahani eye history

SPORTS REPORTER

The new powerhouse of domestic football, Chittagong Abahani, now hope to become the first club from outside Dhaka to win the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which kicks off on July 24th in Chittagong.

The port city side have been strengthened by the huge monetary benefit received after being acquired by Saif Power Tec Ltd and have all the big names they need to achieve their goal.

After finishing in ninth position of the league last season, the injection of cash as well as the intake of a number of domestic stars saw the Chittagong Abahani clinch the title of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup.

Even more stars joined as the club kept splashing the cash and another accolade followed in the form of the Independence Cup title at the start of this season under Slovakian Coach Joseph Pavlic. However, the star-studded side which boasts at least 10 national team players, failed to move out of the group stages in the Federation Cup. Despite this, the team's skipper Mamunul Islam feels that this failure will only further motivate the team to do better in the league.

"It was a disappointment to bow out of the Federation Cup group stages after having won the Independence Cup



(From R) Ismail Bangoura, Mamunul Islam, Akbar Hossain Ridon and Arifuzzaman Himel pose for photographs at the BFF House yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

but this lesson will only encourage us to get a better standing during the league," said Mamunul, who joined the side through a record-transfer, during the club's presentation at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday on the eve of the premier league.

"We have a champion squad. And we want to be part of history by becoming champions. But there are four or five other clubs which are strong as well," Mamunul added, earmarking Sheikh Jamal, Sheikh Russel, Abahani and Mohammedan as their potential competitors in title race.

While Chittagong Abahani are dreaming of winning the title, Mohammedan Sporting are can only hope to match last season's achievement: finishing third behind champions Sheikh Jamal and runners-up Sheikh Russel.

Joshimuddin Josy, the coach of the Black and Whites, admitted that the squad is not capable of winning the title. "We haven't formed a champion squad. However we will try to win the hearts of fans. Our target is to finish in the top three," said Josy.

Captain Ismail Bangoura also pointed out some of the obstacles the team now face. "We have a lot of problems, which were reflected as failure in the two tournaments [Fed Cup & Independence Cup]. We will need to overcome this."

The coaches and captains of Team BJMC and Feni Soccer Club, who finished in seventh and eighth positions respectively last season, are also looking forward to improve their standings. Arifuzzaman Himel, skipper to Team BJMC which reached the semifinals of the Federation Cup, said: "The shortages we had are being overcome. We showed our potential in the Federation Cup. We want to stick to that performance and finish in a respectable position."

Feni Soccer skipper Akbar Hossain Ridon added that since most of the league matches will be held outside Dhaka, the advantage enjoyed by the Dhaka-based clubs will not be as great as it had been before.

"We are the only team to have been playing for seven seasons as a club from outside the capital. We will try to stay within 5th or 6th position. The league outside Dhaka will be interesting and there will be no easy winners. We have a lack of training, which we hope to overcome by the time the league starts." Feni Soccer forward Ridon opined.

Mini-IPL hits roadblock

TIMES OF INDIA

For the first time in a long while, the all-powerful Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) saw itself sidelined by other member boards of the International Cricket Council (ICC) at the recent annual conference of the game's governing body in Edinburgh early this month.

The BCCI, with president Anurag Thakur at the helm, proposed the idea of an annual overseas Indian Premier League in September. The idea, BCCI suggested, was to take its most lucrative domestic tournament abroad to cater to the vast Indian diaspora and in the process, enhance its financial muscle.

TOI has learnt that four cricket boards – Cricket Australia, West Indies Cricket Board, England Cricket Board and Cricket South Africa – categorically opposed the BCCI's idea. TOI had reported in May about a tussle between the BCCI and ICC to grab the vacant September slot for a marquee T20 event.

While BCCI had been busy looking at ways to push the overseas IPL, the ICC – led by chairman Shashank Manohar – has been in talks with Star TV to again make the World T20 a once-in-two-years affair.

Shah chasing record

AGENCIES, London

Yasir Shah has already written his name into the record books and is chasing more history in Pakistan's current Test series against England.

The leg-spinner erased a 125-year-old milestone on the third morning at Lord's, and requires just 18 more wickets to reach the 100 wicket landmark in world-record time.

Shah, currently playing his 13th Test – and his first outside Asia – ran through England on the second day of the first Test at Lord's to earn a spot on the honours board with five wickets. He completed the job on the third morning, where he opened the bowling, and finished with 6-72 to take his career tally to 82 wickets.

That sixth wicket secured his spot as the most prolific wicket-taker in the history of the game after 13 Tests, beating the record previously set by Charlie Turner in 1893.

Australian seamer Turner had 81 wickets after he played his 13th Test against England at The Oval in August 1893, nearly 126 years ago.

This was Shah's fifth five-wicket haul in 24 innings, and he still has England's second innings to come before he's done at Lord's.

The fastest man to 100 Test wickets is currently England great George Lohmann, whose 18-match career in the 19th century garnered 112 wickets at the extraordinary average of 10.75, with his 100th scalp coming in his 16th Test.

That means Shah has potentially five innings to take the 18 wickets he needs if he is to break Lohmann's 120-year-old record, or seven innings if he is to equal it.

The 30-year-old leg-spinner only

debuted in October 2014, but has proven a revelation since, confounding all comers including Australia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and England.

Currently ranked fourth on the ICC Test bowling rankings, Shah is playing his first Test since returning from a three-month ban for an anti-doping violation.

Though much of the media attention in the lead-up to the Pakistan series against England centred on returning pacer Mohammad Amir, it was Shah who did the damage in the series opener on day two, removing England's middle-order including key pair Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow to put his side in the ascendancy.

With England 7-253, the leg-spinner could even add to his 81 wickets before this innings is out, leaving him primed for a crack at Lohmann's record through the remainder of the series.

MOST WKTS IN FIRST 13 TESTS

PLAYER	COUNTRY	WICKETS
YASIR SHAH	PAK	82
CTB TURNER	AUS	81
T RICHARDSON	ENG	78
FR SPOFFORTH	AUS	77
AA MAILEY	AUS	75
R ASHWIN	IND	75

6 OR MORE WKTS AT LORD'S

HAUL	PLAYER	MATCH	YEAR
7-128	Bert Vogler	RSA v ENG	1907
6-32	Walter Robins	ENG v WIS	1933
6-35	Warwick Armstrong	AUS v ENG	1909
6-72	Yasir Shah	PAK v ENG	2016
6-167	Clarrie Grimmett	AUS v ENG	1930