

# SPORT

## Camp to begin sans foreign staff

SPORTS REPORTER

The national cricketers will get back to business today after a long Eid holiday, which started with the end of the Dhaka Premier League, to prepare themselves for the home series against England in October. A number of cricketers spent their holidays abroad but all of the 30 preliminary squad members are expected to join the camp today except Shakib Al Hasan -- who is playing in the Caribbean Premier League -- and pace sensation Mustafizur Rahman, who will fly for England today morning to play for Sussex.

The local coaches and trainers will look after the camp initially as members of the foreign coaching staff were yet to return from the holidays. The national team's strength and conditioning coach Mario Villavarayan was supposed to conduct the initial fitness training of the Tigers as he had done previously, but the Sri Lankan has delayed his arrival citing personal reasons for the delay.

There have been whispers doing the rounds recently that the foreign staff have been delaying their return as they were concerned with their security in the aftermath of the gruesome Gulshan

restaurant attack on July 1.

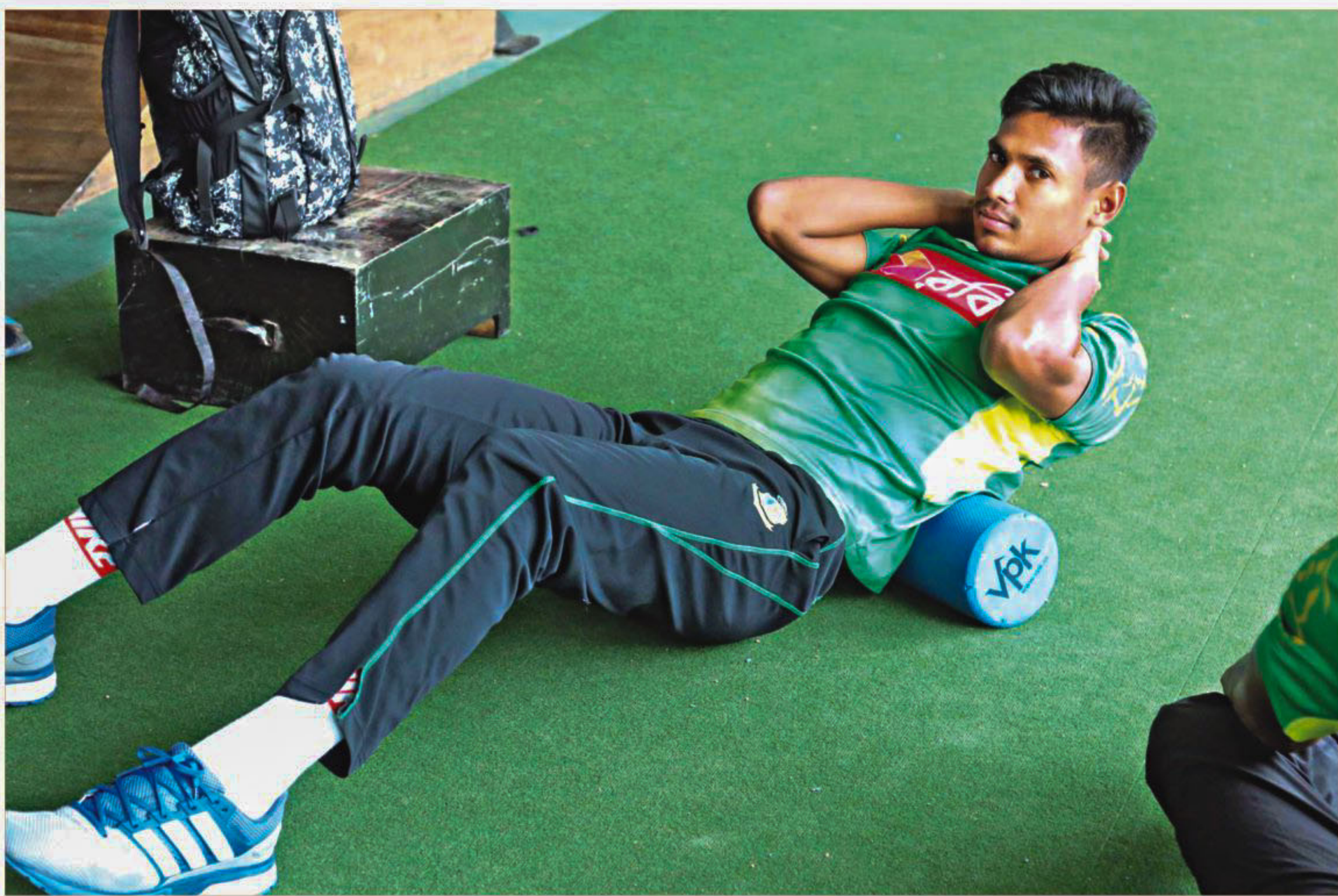
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director and media committee chairman Jalal Yunus however yesterday said that all foreign coaching staff, including head coach Chandika Hathurusingha, will return by the first week of next month.

"They are taking time as there are no important activities initially but we are hopeful that they will join the camp by the first week of next month," said Yunus when asked about the reasons behind the holiday extensions of the foreign coaches, who were all supposed to return before the start of the camp.

He also said that the BCB took huge security measures and has also written to the home ministry regarding additional security for the foreign staff.

Yunus informed that they have taken a go-slow policy regarding the appointment of the new bowling coach for the national team. "We have already talked with two bowling coaches and one was 95 per cent confirmed and was supposed to join. But we are going slow as we don't need a bowling coach urgently right at this moment. Hopefully we will bring him in if everything goes according to plan," he added.

England is expected to arrive in Dhaka on September 30 to play two Tests and three ODIs in Mirpur and Chittagong.



Mustafizur Rahman puts in some work at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium gym in Mirpur as he gears up to depart for Sussex today. Fizz may feature in Sussex's match against Essex tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR

## Naeem Jr and Amit under the scanner today

SPORTS REPORTER

The bowling action review committee led by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Jalal Yunus will get into action today. Speaking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, Yunus said that the BCB will start working with the actions of two bowlers who were reported by umpires during the Dhaka Premier League.

"We will start working with the actions of Naeem Islam junior and Amit Kumar. We will work with them on the first day. Our work will begin at 10 am on Wednesday. We will set up all the required cameras for the test," Yunus said.

Spinners Naeem and Amit played for Mohammedan and Abahani respectively. At least 12 to 13 bowlers' actions were reported during the Dhaka Premier League, the country's premier 50-over competition. The BCB plans to work with all of them ahead of the next domestic tournament.

## Elworthy to oversee 2019 World Cup

AFP, London

South African Steve Elworthy will head up the organisation of the 2019 Cricket World Cup being hosted in England and Wales after the former international cricketer was appointed managing director on Tuesday.

The 51-year-old has accrued vast experience in the organisation of major tournaments.

He was tournament director of the 2007 and 2009 World Twenty20 competitions and the 2013 Champions Trophy held in England and Wales -- a competition he is also in charge of organising for the same hosts for next year.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive officer Tom Harrison said Elworthy was the perfect man for the job based on his previous handling of tournaments.

Elworthy said he was looking forward to the biggest challenge of his career which sees it set to get underway in May 2019.

## Russel burns bright as Shakib mellows

STAR SPORT DESK



West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell stepped up in spectacular fashion to drive Jamaica Tallawahs to a convincing 19-run win over Trinbago Knight Riders to take the Jamaicans to the top of the six-team Caribbean Premier League table at Sabina Park on Monday.

Russell's fellow all-rounder in the side, Bangladesh's star player Shakib Al Hasan, had an off day compared to his stellar showings in the previous two matches. Shakib scored only 10 runs in Jamaica's innings of 158 for seven after the home side were asked to bat. Then the left-arm spinner leaked 28 runs in his three overs as Jamaica kept Trinbago to 139 for nine. Shakib did however pick up the wicket of Umar

Akmal, having him caught at point to bring the Knight Riders down to 60 for four in their chase.

It was Russell's match however, as the big-hitting fast bowler first stamped his authority with a 24-ball 44 including five boundaries and three sixes. He was even more impressive with the ball, picking up the wickets of William Perkins, Denesh Ramdin, Kevon Cooper and Sunil Narine to finish with four for 23 in four overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

JAMAICA: 158 for 7 (Russell 44, Powell 44, Sangakkara 23; Cooper 3-22, Bravo 2-39, Narine 1-22)

TRINBAGO: 139 for 9 (Amla 42, Ramdin 31; Russell 4-23, Steyn 2-21, Wasim 1-15, Shakib 1-28)

Result: Jamaica Tallawahs won by 19 runs. Player-of-the-match: Andre Russell.

## Smalley hesitant

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia's Paul Smalley is hesitant to take the job of technical director of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) following the terrorist attack in Gulshan, said a BFF high official yesterday.

The game's governing body selected Paul following discussions with the Australian during his short trip to Bangladesh earlier this month. However, at that time no agreement signed was signed.

"Paul Smalley is indecisive about coming here as he is worried about [the safety of] his wife and children. He has recently contacted my daughter to express his hesitation. I currently await his final reply," said BFF Boss Kazi Salahuddin at the BFF House yesterday.

## Fizz to depart for Sussex today

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman will be leaving for the United Kingdom today morning to play for Sussex in the Natwest T20 Blast and the Royal London One-day Cup (RODL).

There was a bit of uncertainty surrounding the pacer's departure owing to certain visa issues in the last few days, but the BCB confirmed that Mustafizur had received his visa yesterday and that he would leave today morning.

The left-arter is expected to begin his stint in the UK at the County Ground in Chelmsford tomorrow when Sussex take on Essex in the Natwest T20 Blast. He is likely to play a total of seven matches and is expected to stay in the UK till August 2.

Mustafizur was supposed to leave much

### MUSTAFIZUR'S POSSIBLE MATCHES FOR SUSSEX CCC

Date	Competition	Opposition	Venue
Jul 21	T20 Blast	Essex	Chelmsford
Jul 22	T20 Blast	Surrey	Kia Oval
Jul 24	RODL	Gloucestershire	Cheltenham
Jul 27	RODL	Hampshire	Hove
Jul 28	T20 Blast	Glamorgan	Hove
Jul 30	RODL	Somerset	Taunton

earlier, in fact as soon as he arrived from India in May. However, he could not leave due to certain fitness concerns. He had lost plenty of weight while playing for the Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League. As a result, the Bangladesh Cricket Board decided to give him a break. He spent his Eid holidays in his village in Tetulia and then went through a rehab upon his return to the capital.



Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin (R) makes a point to coach-in-waiting Tom Saintfiet at his office yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Saintfiet deal by 27th'

### No ambiguity after Nigeria appoint Paul Le Guen

SPORTS REPORTER



The cloud of uncertainty following the issue of appointing Belgian Tom Saintfiet as the head coach of Bangladesh national football team seems to have been snuffed out as the Nigerian Football Federation have appointed Frenchman Paul Le Guen.

The 43-year-old coach, had agreed in principle to take charge of the Bangladesh team ahead of their Asian Cup qualifying playoffs against Bhutan, but negotiations halted after his name appeared in the short-list of candidates for the post of Nigeria's head coach.

However, with the announcement of Le Guen's appointment on Monday night, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is free to sign Saintfiet for a three-month deal.

The Belgian has already conducted a six-day training camp of the preliminary squad of the national team.

"I am mentally totally free unless Real Madrid or Barcelona call me up tomorrow. I'm also happy to be here. I was always focused on my team. When I do something I commit fully," said Saintfiet after having met with BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and National Team Committee (NTC) chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed yesterday.

"After I return from Chittagong on July 26 having watched some of the matches of the league, I hope to sign the contract on the 27th of this month," said Saintfiet.

"It's important for me to watch the league matches. I have 28 players in the camp now but I want to see all the rest and maybe I will select some completely new names for the national team. I think the players will look for this opportunity," added the veteran coach.

Nabil then reiterated Saintfiet's thoughts and confirmed that the Belgian is to fly out on July 27 after signing the agreement. He will then return to watch the last round of the league matches in Dhaka before starting the camp for the Bhutan ties from August 21.

"We will sign a three-month contract by next Wednesday as we received the observation of his lawyer today. We will have directions on the short-term contract so that it could be turned into a long-term contract," concluded Nabil.

Nabil also informed that the NTC has a plan of holding an away-practice match against Maldives on September 1, after which the team will return home and prepare for three days for the first-leg home match against Bhutan on September 6.

The training camp of the national team will start from August 21 and at that time the professional football league will remain suspended until the home match against Bhutan is completed.

## Eng coach mulling two spinners

AFP, London



England coach Trevor Bayliss has said it's possible the team could field two specialist spinners at home after Yorkshire leg-break bowler Adil Rashid was called into the squad for the second Test against Pakistan.

Joining Rashid in an unusually large 14-man party were the fit-again duo of James Anderson and all-rounder Ben Stokes, with England looking to bounce back after last week's 75-run defeat by Pakistan in the first Test at Lord's.

Pace bowler Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, is now set to make his Test return on his Lancashire home ground when the second of a four-match series starts at Old Trafford on Friday.

Anderson and Stokes have been proving their fitness following respective shoulder and knee injuries

in the ongoing County Championship match between Lancashire and Durham at Southport near Liverpool.

The more intriguing selection was that of Rashid, all of whose three Test appearances to date came in 'spin-friendly' conditions against Pakistan in the UAE last year.

England have long been reluctant to field two spinners at home, where pitches in recent years have tended to favour faster bowlers.

Moeen Ali, who for most of his career has been better known as a batsman, was effectively 'milked' by Pakistan in their first innings 339 at Lord's and there are those who believe Rashid could replace him as England's front-line spinner.

But while neither Ali nor Rashid are in the class of Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah, who rose to the top of the International Cricket Council Test bowling rankings after his 10-wicket haul at Lord's, Bayliss said it was not impossible both men could feature in the same England side.

"I've always thought of playing two spinners [at home], at some stage," he said. "[Pakistan] have three left-arm pace bowlers, who created rough outside the off stump for Moeen," the Australian added.

"So looking ahead, if we did happen to have two spinners, they could both play an important part for us."

But the biggest immediate problem England have to solve after Lord's is how to bat better against Shah, who knocked Anderson off the top of the rankings on a pitch that did not offer him that much assistance.

"Our batters have to play their spin a lot better," said Bayliss. "Especially in the first innings, I felt we gifted him a few wickets with shots I'm sure the boys would like to replay."

Hampshire batsman James Vince was retained despite a lowly average of under 19 after four Tests.

Bayliss hopes England will be rewarded for adopting an equally patient approach with Vince.

## NZ chief calls for two tiers, 4-day Tests

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand Cricket chief David White called Tuesday for Test cricket to continue its pink-ball revolution by slashing the format to four days and introducing two divisions.

The longest form of the game has struggled to find an audience in the Twenty20 era, prompting the introduction last year of day-night Tests played under lights with a pink ball.

The idea, first floated by former Australian captain Mark Taylor, has already won support from fellow Aussie greats Shane Warne and Greg Chappell, as well as England Cricket Board chairman Colin Graves.

"We need to seriously look at it," White told ESPNcricinfo.com. "One of the challenges at the moment is if you play a three-Test series it has to be played over four weeks."

"But if you play a three-Test series of four-day cricket, it can be played over three weeks, so you save a week."

White also supported plans to introduce two divisions in Test cricket, saying it would give greater "context" to the game.

"If we had a competition with promotion and relegation, and a winner at the end, it would really increase interest, no doubt about that," he said.

White said if two divisions were introduced, steps needed to be taken to ensure countries that were in the bottom tier were not disadvantaged financially.