

Foreign coaches return to Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's fielding coach Richard Halsall and strength and conditioning coach Mario Villavarayan have returned to Dhaka after a long break. While Halsall arrived on Friday, Mario reached Dhaka yesterday.

Tigers head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and the rest of the foreign contingent are expected to reach Dhaka this week and join the ongoing national camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The arrival of Halsall and Villavarayan has dismissed rumours related to the arrival of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's foreign coaches. There were talks about how some coaches were rethinking their plans following the terrorist attack in Gulshan. The BCB though, repeatedly dismissed those talks and stated that it would only be a matter of time before the coaches arrived.

While both Halsall and Mario were unavailable for comments yesterday, BCB director Jalal Yunus said that both the coaches were happy with the arrangements made for them.

"Both Halsall and Mario will join the national camp from Sunday. The others will come in a day or two. The situation is completely normal. In fact, the coaches aren't thinking about anything apart from cricket and the plans for the players," Yunus told The Daily Star yesterday.

COMMONWEALTH CHESS Shakil ends in 22nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abu Sufian Shakil became 22nd in the Commonwealth Chess Championship after losing the last round held at Waskaduwa in Sri Lanka yesterday.

Shakil, who had been in third position till the seventh round, lost to Indian GM Abhijit Kunte in the final round and finished with six points from nine matches.

Unbeaten Indian GM Abhijit Gupta claimed the title with eight points, while his compatriot GM Sunilduth Lyna Narayanan finished second with 7.5 points.



Ace golfer Siddikur Rahman carries the Bangladesh flag during the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana Stadium on Friday night.

PHOTO: AFP

Shyamoly takes off, Baki in waiting

SPORTS REPORTER from Rio de Janeiro

Archer Shyamoly Roy finished 53rd out of 64 competitors in the ranking round of the recurve bow event as Bangladesh's Rio 2016 Olympics mission started on Friday.

The 22-year-old from Narail scored a total of 600 points at the Sambodromo archery venue to set up a first round clash against Gabriella Ballardo of Mexico. Shyamoly's opponent scored 648 points and is expected to prove a tough challenge when the two meet in the first round on Monday. The young Bangladeshi archer, who has already participated in a number of international events, rued the lack of preparation for her poor score in the ranking round.

"I was a bit nervous and I couldn't score as per my usual standard. I think I would have done better if I could have a few days of preparation here at the venue," she lamented.

Shyamoly's event took place in the afternoon before the night's opening ceremony at Maracana, where golfer Siddikur Rahman led the Bangladesh contingent with the red and green flag in his hand.

While Siddikur's event is still four days away, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Abdullah Hel Baki will carry the country's hopes when he gets in on the act at his pet event of 10m air rifle at the Olympic Shooting Centre on Monday morning.

Baki, along with Siddikur, are two of the athletes who will be eager to bring an end to Bangladesh's sorry statistic of having never won an Olympic medal.

The party begins

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Rio De Janeiro

Friday started in a frenzy in Rio. Brilliant sunshine had people swarming all over the sidewalks and beaches. Long tailbacks consumed the city streets as almost everyone got into the mood of the Olympics. Not everyone though; some had more pressing issues on their minds, and they took to the busy intersection of Copacabana to press home their demands.

The demonstration was large, it was colourful and it was boisterous. A young couple from Brasilia, who had come here to watch the Olympic events, said the protest was demanding the ouster of interim president Michel Temer, who they believe assumed power through a coup, and reinstatement of Dilma Rousseff, the former president who is subject to an impeachment process.

Military police stood head on as the protesters kept chanting their slogans against Temer, against big corporations and against Temer's foreign allies. The protests ebbed away as evening ensued, and the traffic, which was mostly heading to the Maracana for the opening bash, only grew thicker.

The subways were even more crowded. To avoid the heavy traffic and the risk of missing out on the opening ceremony, thousands of people crammed into the subways, leaving precious little space for one to move or even stand properly. Volunteers deployed for the games shouted at the top of their voice to let people know which station to alight and board a different train which leaves to the

unoccupied long before the opening ceremony got underway.

A few Mexican waves went around the galleries as performers kept the crowd entertained before the real deal began. From the moment of the first beat of the drum to the rhythm of the bossa nova and the moves of the samba, the show kept the audience riveted for its length of four hours: with songs ringing around and dance moves simulated around the stands. The athletes carrying the Olympic flag were greeted with boisterous cheers while the speeches of the International Olympic Committee president and the Brazilian Olympic Committee president were met with loud approval.

Most of the teams received loud cheers from the crowd but the most powerful one was reserved for the Brazil team, which was led by pentathlon star Yane Marques. And then Vanderlei de Lima lit the Olympic cauldron before fireworks and samba moves wrapped up the night's party, with the hope that the next three weeks of the sporting extravaganza would lift the gloom that been haunting this country for the past few years.



Maracana.

After a more than 40-minute ride, the Maracana towered above. The iconic venue, most famous for Brazil's heartbreaking defeat to Uruguay in the final of 1950 FIFA World Cup which is believed to have recorded an audience of close to 200,000, is a much larger and modernistic complex today, yet with only 78,000-capacity inside the stadium. And there weren't any of those seats left

Perera seals SL's historic win

AFP, Galle



Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera bagged six wickets to fashion Sri Lanka's historic series win over Australia Saturday as the world number one side suffered a humiliating 229-run loss inside three days in the second Test in Galle.

Australia, chasing a challenging 413 for victory, were bundled out for 183 after lunch as Sri Lanka, who won their last series against the visitors in 1999, took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match rubber.

Veteran spinner Rangana Herath set up the win for the hosts with his maiden Test hat-trick which helped dismiss Australia for a record low of 106 in their first innings.

Australia faltered in their second outing as well after Perera, who registered his career-best figures of 6-70, sent the visitors packing in just 50.1 overs as the Sri Lankan players went into a celebratory huddle.

"Not many teams do this to the number one team. I thought we played some outstanding cricket throughout the first and the second Test," Sri Lankan skipper Angelo Mathews said.

Perera, who bagged 10 wickets in the match, bowled Adam Voges to register his fourth five-wicket haul in 11 Test matches.

"What a performance from Dilruwan [Perera] after a quiet match in Pallekele. We backed him and the selectors backed him," said Mathews of his bowling allrounder, who also top-scored a useful 64 in the second innings.

But it was Herath's left-arm spin that did the early damage in a match dominated by Sri Lankan slow bowlers.

Herath and Perera shared four wickets between them on a chaotic second day which saw the fall of 21 wickets and put the match on the fast track.

"The record shows we haven't won a game in about 15 or 16 years in the sub-continent. We certainly have a lot of work to do," a disappointed Smith said after the loss.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First innings -- 281 all out in 73.1 overs

AUSTRALIA: First innings -- 106 all out in 33.2 overs

SRI LANKA: Second innings--237 all out in 59.3 overs (Angelo Mathews 47, Dilruwan Perera 64; Mitchell Starc 6-50)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (target: 413 runs; overnight 25/3)

Warner lbw b Perera 41

Burns c de Silva b Herath 2

Lyon c Silva b Dilruwan 0

Khawaja b Dilruwan 0

Smith c Silva b Perera 30

Voges b Perera 28

Marsh lbw b Sandakan 18

Nevill run out (Mendis) 24

Starc b Herath 26

Hazlewood c&b Perera 7

Holland not out 0

Extras: (lb-7) 7

Total: (All out in 50.1 overs) 183

FOW: 1-3, 2-10, 3-10, 4-61, 5-80, 6-119, 7-123, 8-164, 9-181, 10-183.

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**

Herath 19.1 1 74 2

Perera 23 5 70 6

Sandakan 6 1 30 1

De Silva 2 0 2 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 229 runs and lead the three-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Dilruwan

Mymensingh's football in a state of disarray

ANISUR RAHMAN from Mymensingh



Female footballers like Marzia, Maria Manda, Tahura Khatun, Sanjida Akter and many others have now become household names after their back-to-back triumphs in the AFC U-14 Regional Girls' Championship. However, while those girls from Kalsindur under the Dhobaura Upazila of Mymensingh have brought many plaudits, men's football in the district has been lingering in a dismal state.

A football-crazy man like Mofizur Rahman, popularly known as Mofiz Sir, groomed players like Marzia, Maria and Sanjida at the grass-roots level and elevated them to the national fold, but there is hardly any self-driven person like Mofiz in downtown Mymensingh to prepare players and bring back the glory days when a united Mymensingh (comprising Jamalpur, Netrokona, Sherpur, Tangail and Kishorgani) became runners-up at a national level tournament before 1980 and had players from the region such as Shamsul Alam Manju, Manwar Hossain Nannu and Abdul Hamid who donned the national colours.

Though the region has a tradition of producing cricketers such as Ram Chanda Goala, Saiful Islam, Mahbubul Alam Selim, Jakir Hossain, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shuvagoto Hom and Mosaddek Hossain among others, it has failed to produce quality footballers who can play in the country's top-flight.

The region once boasted 20 footballers such as Kibria, Haroon, Babul, Chalm, Razzak and Yeamin who would ply their trade in the then Dhaka First Division Football League in the '80s, but it has now been reduced to a one-man show with Team BJMC's Jakir Hossain Jiku the only player representing Mymensingh in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League.

Morsalin Mustaque, one of local coaches and the honourary president of Boikalin KC, discussed the state of Mymensingh football.

"Footballers are not coming from well-off families and having no educated coaches is one of big reasons we do not produce good footballers," said Mustaque.

The inconsistency of holding the district league is another reason which distracts people from football as the District Football Association (DFA) in Mymensingh only held the league thrice since its in 2008.

"After being elected president, we held the league in the past two seasons with the participation of 12 teams and we are getting good response from the spectators. However, it is true that before the formation of DFA, the league was held regularly under the District Sports Association," said DFA president Omar Hayhat Khan yesterday.

"I have seen some footballers with potential in the league but they have no platform to show their worth in front of organisers or coaches of the Dhaka clubs," said Khan, who once played in the Dhaka First Division, adding that financial constraints did not allow the DFA to run the programme round the year.

Shakib helps Jamaica to CPL final

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan celebrated ten years in international cricket yesterday by scalping three wickets for the Jamaica Tallawahs at St Kitts against the Trinbago Knight Riders and helped his side reach the final of the Caribbean Premier League.

While Shakib scalped three wickets, the hero was Andre Russell who slammed a 40-ball ton, an innings which included eleven sixes.

Batting first, Jamaica were in trouble at 67 for 4. However, a 101-run stand between Russell and Shakib revived Jamaica. Shakib rotated the strike, before being bowled for 19, but Russell took Tallawahs to 195.

After the exchange, Shakib changed the complexion of the game in the eleventh over. He first got Hashim Amla stumped with a quicker one and then had Sunil Narine caught with a teasing, flighted delivery. Then he got rid of DJ Bravo before Russell came in and completed the 19-run win.

Sk Russel can't stop losing

SPORTS REPORTER from Mymensingh



Sheikh Russel KC coach Maruful Haque banked on his home advantage in hopes of turning the tides of his side's woeful campaign but all for naught as they suffered a 0-2 defeat at the hands of Feni Soccer Club in their JB Bangladesh Premier League match at the Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium yesterday.

Having lost all three fixtures in Chittagong as well, Sheikh Russel arrived at Mymensingh two days ahead of the match in a bid adjust to the conditions but luck was not with the big-spenders as they rattled the woodwork twice as well as squandering another three opportunities before conceding two goals during the second half.

The lads of local boy Maruful, a resident of Mymensingh's Akua area, did everything in their power to win, except score goals, and paid heavily for it as they remain on the bottom of the 12-team table with four straight defeats. This in turn put them out of the title race.

Sheikh Russel, a rare treble winner in the 2012-13 season started nicely, with midfielders Jamal Bhuiyan and Monaem Khan Raju controlling the midfield brilliantly, giving the impression that the losing streak was at an end.

Within half an hour, the two had created four scoring opportunities but compatriots Mintu Sheikh and

Shakhawat Hossain Rony scuffed the chances as they headed wide from close range, while Jamal and Rummon Hossain were denied by the crossbar.

The wave of attacks prompted Feni to adopt a counter-attacking strategy which paid off for the charges of Nigerian Ladibaba Lola as they took the lead against the run of play in the 35th minute. Ghanaian Twum Frank was the one to break the dead-lock, with a low driven shot which beat goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman, after avail-

ing a poor clearance by Sheikh Russel's defenders outside the box.



The players of Feni Soccers Club leave the field after a highly satisfying 2-0 win over falling giants Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra in their Bangladesh Premier League match in Mymensingh yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP