

## SPORT



(L) Bangladesh players enjoy a Maori cultural programme, which involved singing and dancing, organised by the hosts in Whangarei where they also got to meet the mayor of the region yesterday. (R) Soumya Sarkar, Tamim Iqbal and Mosaddek Hossain are sweating it out at the gym.

(Below) Taskin Ahmed is busy signing a few autographs for his fans.



PHOTOS: BCB

## Tigers treated to Maori hospitality

SPORTS REPORTER



It was an eventful day for the Bangladesh national cricket team yesterday. Not only did they go through an intense training session at the Cobham Oval in Whangarei, they also got a chance to witness a cultural show at the venue and meet the mayor of the region.

Following their training session, they were officially welcomed by Mayor Sheryl Mai of the Whangarei District Council. During the programme the players were treated to a Maori cultural performance.

Women dressed up in their traditional attire sang and danced for the Tigers. While it was clear that the Bangladeshi players did not really understand much of what the performers were singing, they definitely did seem to enjoy the show.

Mushfiquur Rahim who was seated right at the



front along with Mahmudullah Riyad and head coach Chandika Hathurusingha seemed to enjoy the programme most. While being seated, he

actually tried copying the dance moves for a few seconds and then stopped as soon as the moves became a bit more complex.

After the programme, the national team thanked the organisers by singing their team song 'Aamra Korbo Joi.' All the players stood up and sang the song for close to a minute before leaving the premises.

It is a song that the Bangladeshi players generally sing after they win a match. In this case though, the New Zealand series is yet to begin, but by singing the song the players showed their appreciation and also expressed their enjoyment of the programme quite.

Aside from the above, the Tigers were also approached by fans, originating both from Bangladesh and New Zealand. Young pacer Taskin Ahmed, who is likely to play a big role in the seam-friendly conditions of New Zealand, was one of the more popular players among the local youth.

## Mustafizur, Mehedi in first ODI squad

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced a 15-member squad for the warm-up and the first ODI of the New Zealand series.

Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Tanveer Haider and Shubhashis Roy are the players who have got in the side, while Nasir Hossain, Shafiul Islam, Al-Amin Hossain and Taijul Islam have been dropped from the ODI squad which had been named for the England series. Tanveer, Shubhashis and Mehedi are the uncapped members.

The good news for Bangladesh is that Mustafizur has returned to the squad. The left-arm had undergone a shoulder surgery in August this year and has not played any sort of professional cricket ever since.

It's still not certain if Mustafizur will surely feature in the first ODI against New Zealand. According to chief selector Minhajul Abedin, Mustafizur's performance in the practice match against New Zealand XI tomorrow will provide a better idea regarding his immediate future.

"We are playing Mustafizur in the practice match. Let's see how he does there. If he does well, he will play the first match. If he doesn't, he won't. He still has a bit of a pain in his arm. Let's see how it goes. It's still difficult to say if he will be fit enough for the first ODI," said Minhajul.

Mehedi, who enthralled Bangladesh's fans during the England Test series with his off-spinners has been given a chance in the one-dayers. Mehedi's turners ran through

## SQUAD

Masrafe Bin Mortaza (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Soumya Sarker, Sabbir Rahman, Mushfiquur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shakib Al Hasan (vice captain), Mosaddek Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Shubhashis Roy, Tanveer Haider

England's strong batting line-up and were one of the main reasons why Bangladesh did so well in the Tests.

Mehedi's inclusion, however, comes as a surprise since coach Chandika Hathurusingha, during an interview with The Daily Star following the England series, had said that if he had an option he would not play Mehedi in the ODIs since it could spoil the rhythm of his bowling.

Chief selector Minhajul Abedin described Mehedi to be a very useful all-round player in limited-overs cricket. "His participation will obviously depend on the wicket for the first ODI. If there is grass, he won't play. If there isn't, he will. We believe that he has the ability to play in all formats for Bangladesh in the future," said Minhajul.

Tanveer is a batsman who bowls leg-spinners and the team management wants to utilise that aspect, while Shubhashis and Rubel are the best available pacers following the injuries to Mohammad Shahid and Shafiul.

Bangladesh will play their only practice match against a New Zealand XI side at the Cobham Oval (New) in Whangarei tomorrow. The first ODI of the three-match series against New Zealand will take place at Christchurch on December 26.



MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN



MEHEDI HASAN

SHUBHASHIS ROY

TANVEER HAIDER

NATIONAL BASKETBALL  
Navy bag 15th title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy emerged champions in the 27th National Basketball Championship with a 77-66 point win over Bangladesh Army at the Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Bangladesh Navy dominated the first half with a score of 38-31 and completed the victory to capture their 15th national championship title. Soaib and Tareq caged 28 and 16 points respectively for Navy while Barkatullah and Ataur netted 23 and 15 points respectively for Army.

In the third-place deciding match, Boarder Guard Bangladesh thrashed Rajshahi District 91-67.

## Young Tigers in confident mood

## Take on SL U-19s in semi today

SPORTS REPORTER



A confident Bangladesh Under-19s take on Sri Lanka in the second semifinal of the Under-19s Asia Cup today at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

With a fresh group of players, Bangladesh went to take part in the competition to gain some experience but the successes against Afghanistan and Singapore and the close defeat against Pakistan in the group stage provided enough confidence to raise expectations.

"The boys are now very much confident after their performances in the group stage and the team also took a good shape. We believe that this team has the ability to overcome the semifinal hurdle," Ehsanul Haque, the junior team selector who is travelling with the team, said over phone yesterday.

"We were in a winning position against Pakistan but unfortunately we lost the match in the last over, but the match gave the boys enough confidence. They are gelling as a team. Although Sri Lanka will play in their home conditions we believe that we can beat them. The boys practised well today," he added.

Saif Hasan has so far led the team from the front to ensure that they finish as group champions.

Meanwhile, in the first semifinal India outclassed Afghanistan in the first semifinal to reach the final yesterday. They beat Afghanistan by 77 runs.

## Bowlers rule opening day

SPORTS REPORTER



On a day dominated by bowlers, Sylhet Division pacer Abu Jayed was the most successful bowler on the first day of the fourth round of the four-day National Cricket League (NCL) matches that began yesterday at four different venues across the country.

Jayed claimed six wickets for 48 runs to dismiss Rajshahi for 204 runs in the second-tier encounter at the Shahid Chandu Stadium in Bogra. At stumps, Sylhet however was not in a comfortable position as they ended on 43 for two.

It was veteran pacer Mohammad Sharif who took charge at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium along with slow left-

armer Nazmul Islam to bundle Dhaka Metro out for 166 runs in the first-tier game, but Dhaka Division failed to finish the day on a high note as they



ABU JAYED...6 for 48

## SCORES IN BRIEF

## DHAKA METRO V DHAKA DIV

DHAKA METRO: 166 all out in 77.1 overs (Shadman 47, Ashraful 39; Sharif 4-35, Nazmul 3-46)

DHAKA DIV: 19-2 in 6.2 overs (Minhaz 8 not out, Rakibul 2 not out)

## BARISAL V KHULNA

BARISAL: 171 all out in 60.4 overs (Fazle 95; Al-Amin 2-40, Ziaur 3-29, Ashikur 3-33, Halder 2-28)

KHULNA: 101-1 in 20 overs (Mahedi 55 not out, Hasanuzzaman 23, Anamul 15 not out)

## RAJSHAH V SYLHET

RAJSHAH: 204 all out in 65.5 overs (Mizanur 32,

lost two wickets for 19 runs at stumps. Shadman Islam top-scored with 47, while Mohammad Ashraful scored 39 for Metro.

At BKSP, captain Fazle Mahmud's 95-run innings was not good enough for Barisal to put up a decent first innings total on the board as they were dismissed for 171 runs. Khulna's batsmen however did not spoil the bowlers' party as Mahedi Hasan steered them to 101 for one at close of play. Mahedi was not out on 55.

At the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, Rangpur bucked the bowler-dominated trend and put up a strong batting display as they scored 315 for seven at stumps against Chittagong. Out-of-favour batsman Liton Das got back among the runs with a 73-run knock.

Farhad 35; Jayed 6-48)

SYLHET: 43-2 in 15 overs (Sayem 30 not out)

## RANGPUR V CHITTAGONG

RANGPUR: 315-7 in 76 overs (Liton 73, Nasir 30, Ariful 52, Shuvo 62 not out; Saifuddin 2-68, Ali 3-64)

## 40th National Athletics from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The 40th National Athletics Championships get underway tomorrow on the new-looking turf of the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The track at the country's premier sports venue has taken a different look after the National Sports Council renovated it following damages it suffered in nearly hundred places during the opening ceremony of the ICC World Cup in 2011.

Though the look of the track has changed after renovation, the state of the country's athletics is still poor and there is hardly any of finding a breakthrough athlete during the three-day meet. The old faces are expected to dominate in all 36 events for men and women. Some six hundred athletes from 64 districts, educational boards, BKSP and service teams are expected to compete.

Joyjatra Foundation, sponsors of the championships, declared monetary awards for the fastest man and woman to the tune of Tk 10,000 each.

## T&amp;T Club post third win

SPORTS REPORTER

T&T Club posted their third victory in the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League with a 2-1 win over bottom-placed Chittagong Mohammedan at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Tanzimul Hasan gave T&T Club a 26th minute lead before Chittagong Mohammedan levelled the margin through Farhad in the 68th minute. However, Rasel Ahmed struck in the next minute to ensure T&T Club's move to fifth position with 12 points from 10 matches. Chittagong Mohammedan stayed at the bottom with seven points.

## Australia draft in Cartwright

AFP, Brisbane



Australia called up uncapped, Zimbabwe-born all-rounder Hilton Cartwright on Tuesday as cover for their fast bowlers after the gruelling first Test win over Pakistan.

Cartwright, 24, joins the squad for next week's second Test in Melbourne as Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Jackson Bird recover from their exertions in the Brisbane heat.

"We wanted to give ourselves the option of including an all-rounder in Melbourne to ease that workload somewhat," said interim national selector Trevor Hohns.

"To do that we wanted a batting all-rounder, someone to bowl seam-up and capable of batting in the top six as well, and after considering several names we came to the conclusion that Hilton fits that bill."

Cartwright, part of Australia's one-day squad for last month's three ODIs against New Zealand, gets the nod ahead of the more established names.

Steve Smith's team were taken to the wire by Pakistan before squeezing out a tense 39-run victory on Monday, with the bowlers getting through 145 overs between them.

Coach Darren Lehmann said the recovery of Starc, Hazlewood and Bird, who bowled 56, 56 and 45 overs respectively in Pakistan's second innings, was being monitored closely.

## Jadeja routs England

## India ace Test series 4-0

AFP, Chennai



Ravindra Jadeja claimed seven wickets as India thrashed England by an innings and 75 runs in the fifth and final Test in Chennai on Tuesday to win the series 4-0.

The left-arm spinner ended with career-best figures of 7-48 to skittle out England for 207 in their second innings in the final session as they were unable to hold on for a draw.

England, who rode on an 103-run opening stand between Alastair Cook and Keaton Jennings, lost six of their batsmen for 15 runs in the evening to capitulate against an inspired Indian attack.

"We got ourselves into a good position at lunch but we weren't good enough to bat the rest of the innings out," Cook said afterwards.

"Credit to [India captain] Virat [Kohli]. They've outplayed us. It's

hard to say as a professional but they've been better.

"It's a tough dressing room to be in. We tried our best but it wasn't good enough," he added.

Jennings top-scored with 54 as

England's batting order crumbled under the pressure of having to play out the day to save the match.

The Indian players erupted in celebration after Jadeja got number eleven Jake Ball for nought to finish



Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja ran through England's batting line-up, picking up seven wickets on the fifth and final day of the fifth Test in Chennai to give India a 4-0 win in the series.

PHOTO: AFP