

# SPORT



The Bangladesh national team enjoyed a practice session at the picturesque Cobham Oval yesterday, ahead of their first practice match against New Zealand XI here today. The three-match ODI series against the Black Caps will begin with the first match in Christchurch on December 26.

## Tanveer living the dream

SPORTS REPORTER



Of the three uncapped players in Bangladesh's ODI squad for their first encounter against New Zealand, Tanveer Haider is one of them. The other two are Shubhashis Roy and Mehedi Hasan Miraz. With Bangladesh's pace department struggling, Shubhashis's inclusion was always on the cards while Mehedi's impressive performance in the Test series against England always gave him a good chance to make the cut.

It would be fair to say that Tanveer's inclusion in the 15-man squad was one of the more unexpected moves made by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) selectors.

Even a year ago, Tanveer was seen by many as one of those players who had passed his prime and would spend most of his time playing domestic cricket in Bangladesh. However, the sudden leap that he has made has made many curious regarding what he can offer.

Tanveer is primarily a batsman who bowls leg-breaks. According to the selectors he was picked because of his bowling. With no leg-spinners in the side, the team management hopes that the 25-year-old can fill that gap.

Tanveer, who has a bowling average of 35.14 in 43 List A games with 14 wickets, believes that he can spin his way into the team.

"It feels really good to get a chance in the national team. It was my dream ever since I was a child. I always wanted to play at the top level. Hopefully this dream of mine will get fulfilled. The team has a plan and if I get a chance I will try to bowl as per the demand of the team and live up to their expectations," he said in an interview with the BCB media department yesterday.

The first test for Tanveer will be to ace the practice match today against New Zealand XI. If he does well there, he might just find an unlikely place in the first ODI's playing 11.

### Afriди slams fan's arrest

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi said Wednesday the arrest of an Indian student for wearing a shirt bearing his name was "shameful", but would not deter the subcontinent's fans from supporting rival players.

Ripon Chowdhury, 21, was arrested on Sunday in Hailakandi while watching a local cricket tournament after his shirt angered a Hindu nationalist group.

Afriди, whose mighty sixes and all-or-nothing approach to batting earned him a huge following across the cricketing world, slammed the move.

"It was shameful to arrest a fan for wearing my shirt," the 36-year-old told AFP. "Such incidents don't suit civilised people."

"You cannot stop fans from supporting a player by arresting them," he said. "Sports and politics should be kept apart and such incidents go against the principles of sportsmanship."

In January a Pakistani fan was arrested for waving the flag of India after his idol Virat Kohli struck a match-winning knock against Australia.

Umar Daraz, 22, was charged with sedition and faced up to a decade in prison, but was later quietly released by officials in the central town of Okara.

### U-19s bow out Lose semi against SL by 26 runs

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh were eliminated from the ACC Under-19 Asia Cup after they lost their rain-curtailed semifinal match against hosts Sri Lanka by 26 runs in Duckworth-Lewis method. Batting first on winning the toss, Bangladesh were bundled out for 194 in 48.3 overs in the day-night affair at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Sri Lanka made a strong reply and were 106 for the loss of two wickets when rain intervened and forced the match to be decided by the D/L method. The hosts were 26 runs ahead of the D/L par score and were declared winners by the same margin.

Bangladesh began their innings well but lost wickets at crucial moments and hence failed to build game-changing partnerships.

Captain Saif Hassan and Mohammad Sozib Hosen gave Bangladesh a good start with a 42-run stand in 8.3 overs. However, after Jehan Daniel removed Saif for 26, Bangladesh lost their way. Sozib was bowled by Thisara Rasmika in the 12th over for 18 and Bangladesh were reduced to 56 for 2.

Afif Hossain, Habibur Rahman and Mohammad Rakib provided some middling contributions, but no one made a telling contribution with the bat as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. The men in red and green lost their last six wickets for 28 runs as the innings crumbled six runs short of 200, with nine balls to spare.

Left-arm spinner Praveen Jaywickrama, who took a four-wicket haul, and Hareen Weerasingh, with three scalps, were the key wicket-takers for Sri Lanka.

After the exchange Vishva Chaturanga scored a patient 68 off 77 balls to take Sri Lanka to the brink of a win, before rain stopped play.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH:** 194 all out in 48.3 overs (Saif 26, Afif 36, Rayan 38, Rakib 22; Jaywickrama 4-25, Weerasingh 3-29)

**SRI LANKA:** 106 for 2 in 27.1 overs (Chathuranga 68, Kelly 23; Nayem 2-12)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 26 runs.

### Tushar hits record 19th century

SPORTS REPORTER



The second day of the fourth-round matches of the National Cricket League (NCL) was marked by hundreds from Anamul Haque, Tushar Imran and Suhrawardi Shuvo yesterday.

33-year old Tushar also made a record by hitting his 19th century as the right-hander now holds the

The two centurions added 217 runs for the third wicket, which blunted left-arm spinner Monir Hossain's six-wicket haul.

Facing a huge deficit, Barisal finished the day without any damage for 10 runs in the first-tier match.

At the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, resuming the day on 62, Rangpur Division batsman Shuvo completed a century in their tier-2 encounter against Chittagong Division. The left-hander scored 121

runs off 204 balls with 14 fours as Rangpur posted 450 before being bundled out after starting the day at 315 for seven.

Mohammad Saddam picked up two wickets as Chittagong ended the day on 82 for two.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Dhaka Division could manage only a 21-run first innings lead as Dhaka Metro bowlers Shahidul Islam and Mohammad Ashraful took three wickets each to wrap up their

innings for 187 runs.

Mohammad Sharif and Shahadat Hossain however brought the smiles back to the Dhaka Division by the end of the day's play as Metro lost four wickets for 27 runs at stumps.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Forhad Reza claimed five wickets as Rajshahi bounced back from their poor first innings batting performance and ended the day with a 77-run lead with seven wickets in hand.



**Khulna's 33-year-old batsman Tushar Imran made scored a Bangladesh record 19th first class century during the second day of the fourth round of the NCL at BKSP yesterday.**

PHOTOS: WALTON



**ANAMUL HAQUE ... 136**

**SUHRAWARDI SHUVO ... 121**

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

##### DKHAKA METRO VS DHAKA DIV

**DKHAKA METRO:** 166 and 27-4 in 17.2 overs (Shadman 14 not out, Ashraful 0 not out; Sharif 2-2, Shahadat 2-13)

**DHAKA DIV:** 187 all out in 63 overs (Minhaz 43, Zahiduzzaman 32; Shahidul 3-44, Ashraful 3-47)

**BARISAL VS KHULNA**

##### RAJSHAHI VS SYLHET

**RAJSHAHI:** 204 and 92-3 in 20 overs (Moshukur 38, Junaid 42 not out)

**SYLHET:** 219 all out in 72.1 overs (Sayem 36, Kapali 40, Ruman 41, Abul 59 not out; Reza 5-91, Mamun 3-47)

##### RANGPUR VS CHITTAGONG

**RANGPUR:** 450 all out in 108 overs (Litton 73, Nasir 30, Ariful 52, Shuvo 121, Babu 64; Saifuddin 4-93, Ali 3-77)

**CHITTAGONG:** 82-2 in 32 overs (Avishek 28, Irfan 24 not out; Saddam 2-16)

### Russell's black bat banned

AFP, Brisbane

Cricket officials Wednesday banned a black bat used by West Indian Andre Russell in Australia's T20 Big Bash League because its colour marks the ball.

The Sydney Thunder star used the bat with a black blade and pink handle during Tuesday night's opening BBL match against the Sydney Sixers after Cricket Australia initially gave the all-clear.

But after feedback from match officials that it was leaving black marks on the match ball, they reversed their permission.



### Unnecessary pressure on BCCI: Thakur

PTI, Jaipur

BCCI president Anurag Thakur said there are few recommendations by justice Lodha Committee which the board members feel are not practical to implement but they have not been able to convey the same as the body has not given them time for last two months.

"The matter is subjudice and I have full faith in the Indian judicial system. We have called meetings time and again to implement justice Lodha committee recommendations. More than 85 per cent recommendations have been implemented," Thakur told reporters on Wednesday.

"The members do not agree to implement three-four recommendations as they are not practical. To convey this, we sought time but the committee is not giving us time for the last two months," he added.

Thakur further said: "Before the recommendations, we have brought many reforms in the BCCI which is the best run organisation in the world today."

"We are the number one team in Tests, number two in T20s and number three in ODIs. Look at the performance of our junior team where they have finals of the Asia Cup. Our women's team have won the Women's Asia Cup. So where are shortcomings? Pressure is being created unnecessarily on us."

Crowe admitted he barely knew any of his comrades and was "almost nervous" about playing with them.

### Mechanic's double ton

AGENCIES, Perth

He'd barely picked up a bat in five years before the beginning of the summer but Jonno Crowe showed he'd forgotten nothing after belting a 62-ball double-century in a midweek competition in Perth on Tuesday.

Crowe, a refrigeration mechanic, recorded the astonishing knock for Roleystone/Karragullen in the Swan and Helena Districts Cricket Association T20 competition.

The 26-year-old returned to Gosnells Cricket Club's 1st grade side this season after some time away from the game and was keen for a hit during the week ahead of next month's WACA Premier Cricket final against Fremantle.

Crowe admitted he barely knew any of his comrades and was "almost nervous" about playing with them.

### Faf loses appeal

AFP, Dubai

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has had his appeal against a ball tampering fine dismissed, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Wednesday.

Du Plessis had been fined 100 per cent of his match fee last month after being caught on camera during South Africa's second test against Australia in Hobart sucking a mint and rubbing saliva into the ball.

ICC Code of Conduct Commission chair Michael Beloff deemed that the "original sanction" by ICC match referee Andy Pycroft "was appropriate" and dismissed Du Plessis's appeal.

ICC chief executive David Richardson described the offence as "an obvious breach" of the ball-tampering law.

"We are pleased that both the Match Referee and Mr Beloff QC have agreed with our interpretation of the Laws and hope that this serves as a deterrent to all players not to engage in this sort of unfair practice in the future," said Richardson in an ICC statement.

Du Plessis had said last month that the original sanction risked opening "a can of worms" and accused the ICC of "using [him] as a scapegoat".

