

# SPORT



## 'Ten-day camp in Sussex vital'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal said yesterday that he was looking forward to the 10-day camp in Sussex ahead of their tri-series in Ireland and ICC Champions Trophy in England.

"We have a 10-day camp in Sussex before the tri-series and the ICC Champions Trophy, which is very important for us. I am eagerly waiting to take part in the camp because it will help us a lot before the two demanding assignments," Tamim told reporters yesterday.

"Conditions in Ireland will be different than in England, so we would need good preparation for that tri-series and that is why the 10-day camp is so important for us. We will need to make sure that we will utilise every minute in the camp," he added.

The left-handed opener also expressed his satisfaction over the two squads that were announced yesterday for the two international commitments and said that their main target would be to play their best cricket.

"Most of the expected players were included in the teams. [There were] one or two changes brought, considering the conditions. I am very satisfied with the team," said Tamim.

"Whoever plays, the main target would be to do the job properly and I am confident that we will be able to play our best cricket," he continued.

Tamim pointed out that Bangladesh have been playing good cricket for quite a while now, which is a positive sign for their team ahead of the big challenge of the ICC Champions Trophy.

Bangladesh have been drawn in Group A along with Australia, New Zealand and hosts England, against whom they will play the tournament opener on June 1.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

Prime Bank's off-spinning all-rounder Mohammad Al-Amin (2nd from L) took a fantastic five-wicket haul before Sabbir Rahman's (R) unbeaten 78 eased them to a win against Mohammedan in their Dhaka Premier League encounter at Fatullah yesterday.

## Al-Amin's spin and Sabbir's blows crush Mohammedan

Khelaghar win after Amit's maiden ton; Kalabagan clinch a close one

SPORTS REPORTER



SCORES IN BRIEF		
<b>KALABAGAN KC V VICTORIA</b> KALABAGAN: 259 for 6 (Mehrab 63, Tushar 56, Muktar 52, Tasamul 44; Monir 2-46, Roshane 1-25) VICTORIA: 249 for 9 (Moinul 75, Shafiqul 64, Nasiruddin 58; Abul 2-31, Muktar 2-42, Masakadza 2-43) Result: Kalabagan KC won by 10 runs. Player of the match: Muktar Ali	<b>MOHAMMEDAN V PRIME BANK</b> MOHAMMEDAN: 142 all out in 36.1 overs (Tamim 46; Al-Amin 5-25) PRIME BANK: 150 for 3 in 27.4 overs (Sabbir 78 not out, Talabur 42; Enamul jr 1-15) Result: Prime Bank won by 7 wks. Player of the match: Mohammad Al-Amin	<b>PARTEX SC V KHELAGHAR SKS</b> KHELAGHAR: 288 for 8 (Amit 101, Nazmus 79; Jubair 3-69, Nuruzzaman 2-27, Mamun 2-46) PARTEX: 211 all out in 45.1 overs (Jubair 44, Sajjad 39, Irfan 35; Ariful 3-24, Tanvir 3-31, Sadekur 3-58) Result: Khelaghar won by 77 runs. Player of the match: Amit Majumder

Amit Majumder scored his maiden List A century to lead Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity to their first win, Mohammad Al-Amin took a five-wicket haul to help Prime Bank Cricket Club score a thrashing win over Tamim Iqbal's Mohammedan in a rain-reduced game, while Kalabagan Krira Chakra edged Victoria by 10 runs in the third round of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

After two straight defeats, Khelaghar finally saw some sunshine as they beat Partex Sporting Club by 77 runs at the BKSP yesterday. While they began on a dismal note, crumbling to 64 for three in 20 overs, a 133-run stand for the fifth wicket between Nazmus Sadat, who scored 79 off 51 and Majumder, who hammered 101 off 85 balls, helped them recover and post a daunting total. In the last 10 overs, they managed to hammer 96 runs and

posted 288. Partex began their chase well with openers Irfan Sukkur and Sajjad Hossain putting on a 70-run partnership in 13 overs. However, once Irfan was trapped in front in the 14th over, the wickets began to tumble. Ariful Islam Jony, Tanvir Islam and Sadekur Rahman Tazin took three wickets each to wrap up the innings in 45.1 overs. Partex were bowled out for 211.

The other game at the BKSP was a lot closer. Batting first, Kalabagan Krira Chakra, courtesy of half-centuries from Mehrab Hossain, Tushar Imran and Muktar Ali, posted 259 against Victoria. Muktar, in typical fashion, came in

towards the end and smashed 52 off 27 balls with four sixes to help his side cross the 250 mark. At 161 for three after 40 overs, they needed someone to shift the innings to the next gear and that is exactly what Muktar did.

Victoria's chase began badly with the top five gone just for 108. However, a 109-run stand for the sixth wicket between Shafiqul Hayat Ridoy, who scored 64, and Moinul Islam who posted 75, brought them back into the game.

In the last five overs, they needed 44 runs to win with five wickets in hand. It would have been possible if the duo were still there in the middle. However, Shafiqul was removed in the 46th

and Moinul in the very next over and Victoria's challenge fizzled out. They were restricted to 249 for nine.

At Fatullah where early morning rain reduced the match to a 41-overs a side affair, Sabbir Rahman's half-century and off-spinning all-rounder Al-Amin's five-wicket haul, which included the wickets of Tamim Iqbal and



AMIT MAJUMDER...101

Mehedi Hasan Miraz, led Prime Bank to a seven-wicket win over Mohammedan.

Batting first, Mohammedan were bundled out for just 142 in 36.1 overs. After the exchange, Sabbir scored an unbeaten 78 off 75 deliveries to lead them home in 27.4 overs.

## Bolt in shock as friend Mason dies

AFP, Kingston

Sprint superstar Usain Bolt was caught up in a fatal motorcycle crash in Jamaica which claimed the life of Germaine Mason, the British high jumper who won a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, media reported.

Jamaican-born Mason, 34, died Thursday in the early morning crash which occurred near Kingston, police said, when he lost control of his motorcycle.

Team Jamaica, a website run by Jamaican athletics supporters, said a number of athletes, including Bolt and Frater, were riding in a convoy with Mason when the crash took place.

"Usain Bolt was part of the group that came by and he was very, very emotional, and still is," police senior superintendent Calvin Allen told the BBC. "I understand they are very close friends."

Mason began competing for Britain, his father's homeland, in 2006 after having taken bronze for Jamaica at the 2004 world indoors and claimed silver at the 2000 world juniors in Chile and bronze at the 2002 world juniors in Kingston.

"Germaine was an outstanding athlete and a truly lovely man. He had a wry sense of humour and was a pleasure to be around," said Fuzz Caan, a senior high jump coach at British Athletics who worked with Mason. "He was a great ambassador of British high jumping. It is an honour for us to have him as part of our sporting history."

Mason, still the Jamaican national record holder in the event, matched his personal best of 2.34m to claim silver at Beijing, one of a then-record 47 British Olympic medals taken in China.

"The whole of the British Olympic Association is incredibly sad to hear of the passing of Germaine Mason," said BOA chief executive Bill Sweeney. "Germaine was a great athlete, an Olympian and a silver medal-winning part of Team GB who made history at Beijing 2008. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends at this difficult time."

## Siddikur makes cut in Japan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman scraped by to make the cut at the Panasonic Open Japan yesterday. The 32-year-old, who had an overnight score of one-over-par (72), gained one stroke to finish the second day with a par score (142).

The cut was set at one-over-par (143).

Siddikur's round could have been a lot more fruitful, but he traded away his three birdies for two bogeys at the Chiba Country Club's Umesato Course. He was placed joint 46th in the USD 1.37 million tournament.

Meanwhile, overnight leader Jason Knutzon hit four birdies and two bogeys to extend his lead to two strokes with a nine-under-par (133).

Four golfers, including local talent Yujiro Ohno, shared the second spot with seven-under-par (135). Ohno started the day at 29th, but he hit seven birdies and just one bogey to make the leap.

## No joy for Shakib in first game

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan had an inauspicious outing in his first match of the 2017 IPL, and it was a similar outcome for his team Kolkata Knight Riders as they lost by four wickets to Gujarat Lions at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

Shakib did not have much to do with the bat in Kolkata's first innings of 187 for five, powered by Sunil Narine's 17-ball 42 and Robin Uthappa's 72 off 48 balls. Shakib came to the crease only to knock the last ball of the innings away for a single.

He then opened the bowling but his first two overs went for 23 as Gujarat openers Aaron Finch and Brendon McCullum put all the bowlers to the sword. His next over, after a 20-minute rain break, was better as he conceded eight runs to finish his outing with none for 31 off three overs.

Skipper Suresh Raina (84 off 46) took the team close to the finish line, falling eight runs short of the target, before James Faulkner and Ravindra Jadeja took them home with 10 balls to spare.



Bangladesh's home of cricket, the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, has hosted a glut of matches without a break, causing damage to its turf and most notably the world-class drainage system. This picture, taken recently, shows extensive renovation works in progress, which has bred uncertainty over whether the stadium can host matches during Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh in July-August.

PHOTO: STAR

## Will Mirpur be ready for Pakistan?

SPORTS REPORTER



There is a possibility that the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCS) in Mirpur may not host Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh, which is scheduled to take place around July, after the Champions Trophy.

The SBNCS is undergoing major renovation, because of which around six inches of the topsoil from the ground is being replaced. A few pipes at the ground are being replaced as well.

This is being done in order to make it easier for the rain water to seep through the ground. According to the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) grounds committee chairman, Hanif Bhuiyan, the entire process of getting the ground ready might take until August.

"The top six inches of soil have become hard which makes it difficult for the rainwa-

ter to go through. That's why we decided to take this step. The last time the BCB did a makeover like this was probably 10 years ago," said Bhuiyan.

"I am confident that the ground will be ready by around July. And after that we will need 45 days to grow the grass. We are targeting to finish this work before the Pakistan series."

"But I cannot say for sure if the series will be played here. New grounds often have problems. There may be problems with the outfield. Be it Pakistan or Australia [in September], I am sure the ICC and BCB will check the Mirpur ground before the series."

"But there's nothing to worry because the other grounds in the country -- Sylhet, Fatullah, Chittagong -- are all prepared. I can get them ready for an international series in a very short time," added Bhuiyan.

He further said that the BCB has decided to create a nursery from where they plan to supply grass to all the venues of the country.

## Amla, AB among marquee locals

AGENCIES, Johannesburg



Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers are among the top marquee local players announced by Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Friday for their new T20 league that is set to take place later this year.

The other marquee players for the first two editions of the T20 Global

Destination League are Quinton de Kock, Faf du Plessis, JP Duminy, David Miller, Kagiso Rabada and Imran Tahir.

"The selection of our own South African marquee players has been very exciting," Haroon Lorgat, CSA chief executive, said. "And it will be even more exciting when we engage fans to help us to allocate the 'hometown hero' to each franchise team."

"This announcement is another

major step towards establishing our new T20 League in South Africa. We must not understate the world-class quality of our own players."

Each of these eight players will be assigned to a franchise that is based in the city that he has been associated with over the years.

De Villiers revealed that he is honoured to be present among the marquee players.

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