



**STARS IN CONTRASTING MOOD:** Shakib Al Hasan (L) and Tamim Iqbal are the two most treasured properties of Bangladesh cricket. Both have trained at the home of cricket in Mirpur yesterday. But this combo picture actually provided an idea of where they focused. Shakib's trademark swipe over the mid-wicket boundary can be best described as his preparation for the Caribbean Premier League. It was learnt that the left-hander leaves for the Caribbean tomorrow. Tamim, on the other hand, tries to learn the art of videography, understandably uncertain about next month's home series against Australia.

PHOTOS: STAR

**NAT'L V'BALL**  
**PDB, Titas,**  
**Army power**  
**through**  
**SPORTS REPORTER**

The fourth day of the National Volleyball Championships offered no surprise yesterday. Title contenders Power Development Board, Titas Club and Bangladesh Army scored identical 3-0 wins over Border Guard Bangladesh, Sathkhira District and Khulna respectively in the men's competition.

Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Police also notched 3-0 wins over Rajshahi District and Pabna respectively in the women's section.

**Inter-Uni chess**  
**championship**  
**coming up**  
**SPORTS REPORTER**

An inter-university chess championship under the aegis of the BRAC University Chess Club and sponsored by Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited will be held from September 25 to 27.

This was disclosed yesterday at the National Press Club, where the country's first Grandmaster Niaz Murshed presented a key note speech for the three-day meet. AKM Sadeque Nawaj, marketing's general manager of sponsors Berger Paints, and Syeda Sarwat Abed, director of BRAC Institute of Languages, also attended the briefing. It will be a team event of four players per side and is open for any university to compete.

**PCB receives**  
**CT prize money**  
**PTI, Karachi**

The Pakistan team that lifted the Champions Trophy in June, will be richer by a few million rupees as the PCB has received the winner's prize money of 230 million rupees from the International Cricket Council on Thursday.

Members of the Pakistan team have already been feted with cash awards, plots and luxury cars at functions and ceremonies organised to celebrate the victory.

According to details, the PCB has conveyed to the players and team management that out of the total prize money received from the ICC, there will be 16 shares for the players and one for the management.

Under this arrangement, each player is set to be richer by around 13.5 million rupees.

## Mehedi's time to learn

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehedi Hasan had a spectacular arrival to international cricket as he took nineteen wickets during his debut Test series against England at home last year.

But ten months in international cricket have been good enough for the off-spinner to understand that a miracle does not happen for everybody; rather everyday one must learn to sustain themselves in the demanding environment.

That's why the 19-year old cricketer repeatedly told reporters prior to his departure for the West Indies yesterday that the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) came as a big opportunity for him to learn something.

So far Mehedi, who will play for the Trinbago Knight Riders, has only played one T20I match and gathered some valuable experience from the last Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which is why he considered his first overseas T20 tournament as a big opportunity to claim a place in the shortest version of the game and create more opportunities in the world's lucrative T20 market.



another if you can properly grab it," said Mehedi.

The 19-year-old, who is scheduled to return on August 15 depending on Australia's arrival, was well aware of the fact that he would need to make do with his off-spin since he may not

get the chance to bat.

"They considered me as a bowler and my main target will be to contribute as much as possible as a bowler. What I already learned is that the wickets will be turning there. But I will try to capitalize on the opportunity in batting if I get a chance, like five to seven balls," he said.

The right-arm exuded confidence as he had been encouraged by Shakib Al Hasan -- who has already played the CPL before and is expected to fly out for the Caribbean tomorrow to play for Jamaica Tallawahs -- and his other senior teammates and he believes that his experience from the BPL and a tour to the West Indies with the Under-19 team will also help him.

"Shakib bhai advised me that we must play in an attacking and aggressive mood and should bowl in the right areas to be successful there," he informed.

The young cricketer was also aware of the fact that the whole country would be watching him in CPL matches, so it would not only to improve his personal career but also represent the country to some extent.

And finally he said that: "I want to give the impression that I am gradually preparing for the T20 cricket."

## CA wants 'umpire' to rule on pay dispute

SMH

Australia's cricketers have been blindsided by an extraordinary proposal from Cricket Australia (CA) which could see players re-employed next week and save the Ashes and the upcoming tour of Bangladesh.

In a major twist to one of the most damaging pay disputes in Australian sport, CA dropped a bombshell on Thursday by calling for talks to be taken to a mutually agreed industrial umpire if an agreement cannot be reached by early next week.

The governing body also effectively accused players of using stalling tactics so that the baggy green would become leverage in negotiations, an allegation which vice-captain David Warner dismissed.

The Australian Cricketers Association issued a statement on Thursday night saying arbitration was "adversarial" and would take too long but stopped short of rejecting CA's plan. They will have further discussions on Friday.

Under the governing body's plan, male players would be offered short-term contracts under the existing pay model while women would be paid under CA's proposed model until a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

This would allow the two-Test tour of Bangladesh to go ahead, save the lucrative one-day series in India and ensure the Ashes was not jeopardised. The cancellation of the Bangladesh and India tours would have massive political ramifications for CA.

The development comes with relations between both parties at an all time low. CA chief James Sutherland, whose organisation is under pressure from commercial and broadcast partners, accused the ACA of showing a lack of urgency in their negotiations, which they believe were slowing talks.

It had been believed CA had responded in a conciliatory manner to the draft agreement which would have enabled play to resume.

Much now hinges on continued talks between Sutherland and his ACA counterpart Alistair Nicholson though Thursday's events will do little to build trust between the warring parties.

It's believed Sutherland informed Nicholson of CA's plan 15 minutes before he fronted the media but hours after the governing body had sent out a media alert about the imminent announcement.

Questions are now being raised among players over CA's renewed urgency and why it had not come a month earlier when they were about to head into unemployment.

## Cook defies South Africa

AFP, London



Vernon Philander again proved a thorn in England's side as Alastair Cook held firm against South Africa in the third Test at The Oval on Thursday.

England were 171 for four at stumps, having won the toss, with 31 of the scheduled 90 overs lost to bad weather on the opening day of the 100th Test at The Oval.

Pace bowling all-rounder Philander had superb figures of two wickets for 17 runs in 12 overs, including five maidens, despite a stomach bug.

That followed his man-of-the-match display with both bat and ball in South Africa's crushing 340-run victory in the second Test at Trent Bridge last week -- a result that left the four-match series level at 1-1.

But former England captain Cook was 82 not out at Thursday's close with Ben Stokes on 21 at the other end.

Already England's leading Test run-scorer, the left-handed opener spent more than four-and-a-half hours at the crease to be in sight of his 31st century at this level.

Although the overcast conditions and green-tinged pitch promised to assist pace bowlers, England captain Joe Root opted to bat first after winning the toss, just as South Africa captain Faf du Plessis had done in a similar situation in Nottingham.

Root clearly hoped England could come through some early adverse circumstances and may also have wanted to show confidence in his under-fire batsmen.

But it was not long before England lost their first wicket.

Keaton Jennings, battling to retain his place, was repeatedly beaten outside off stump by Philander and it was no surprise when the South Africa-born opener eventually edged the seamer low to Dean Elgar at third slip for a nine-ball no-hitter.

Tom Westley, one of three England debutants, joined Essex team-mate and mentor Cook with the hosts 12 for one. Westley's promising 25 in a 50-run second-wicket stand ended when he nicked a Morris delivery that curved down to du Plessis at second slip.

Star batsman Root then made 29 before he edged an excellent Philander ball that moved away off the seam and was brilliantly caught one-handed by wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock, diving across first slip.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**ENGLAND:** First innings 171 for 4 (Cook 82 not out, Westley 25, Root 29, Stokes 21 not out; Philander 2-8)

## Tangail beat Asaduzzaman

SPORTS REPORTER

Tangail Football Academy notched up a 2-1 victory over Asaduzzaman Football Academy in the opening match of the Dhaka Metropolis Football tournament at the Birshreshtha Shaheb Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Dalim Barman and Swapna Miah struck one goal each for Tangail while Shahriar Rintu pulled one back for Asaduzzaman.

## Pak set to retain Flower as coach

PTI, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to retain the services of their batting coach, Grant Flower, and will offer him an year's extension.

The PCB had a committee carry out an assessment of the coaching staff of the Pakistan team and initially they were indications that the former Zimbabwean batsman might not be given an extension.

But a reliable source in the board told PTI that it had now been decided to retain the entire coaching staff including Flower after the Champions Trophy victory.

## Bowlers continue onslaught

AFP, Galle



India's bowlers tore through the Sri Lankan top order to put the visitors firmly on top on the second day of the first Test in Galle on Thursday.

Pace man Mohammed Shami picked two wickets in the same over and Umesh Yadav got rid of opener Dimuth Karunaratne after India posted a commanding 600 all out in their first innings.

Former captain Angelo Mathews was batting on 54 with Dilruwan Perera on six when stumps were drawn for the day, with Sri Lanka still trailing by 446 runs with five wickets in hand.

Opener Upul Tharanga struck a defiant 64 off 93 balls but was run out thanks to quick fielding by Abhinav Mukund.

Mukund also took a fine diving catch to send back Niroshan Dickwella (eight) and reduce the hosts to a shaky 143-5.

Yadav gave his side an early breakthrough after the Indian lower-order batsmen scored at a quick pace despite losing wickets at regular intervals.

Yadav had Karunaratne trapped leg before and although the batsman went for a review, the decision was upheld after replays showed the ball pitching on the middle stump.

Shami then dismissed debutant Danushka Gunathilaka for 16 and Ajantha Mendis for a duck in the space of four balls.

Mathews, who quit as captain after Sri Lanka's recent one-day series defeat to Zimbabwe at home, tried to steady the innings and had faced 91 deliveries so far.

Earlier, paceman Nuwan Pradeep clinched his maiden five-wicket Test haul, putting the brakes on India's free scoring.

Pradeep (6-132) dismissed

Cheteshwar Pujara for 153, triggering a batting collapse which saw the tourists lose four wickets in a lively first session after resuming the day at 399-3.

Pujara hit 13 fours in his 265-ball knock to match his previous Test best of 153 against South Africa at Johannesburg in 2013.

Hardik Pandya struck a half-century on debut as India's last two wickets added a quickfire 83 runs in 71 balls to lift the side from 517 for 8.



**India pacer Mohammed Shami (R) celebrates with captain Virat Kohli after dismissing Sri Lanka's Danushka Gunathilaka on the second day of first Test in Galle yesterday.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

balls.

Ashwin (47) fell short of a well-deserved half-century while Saha (16) became the first victim of skipper Herath (1-159).

Things got worse for Sri Lanka, with doctors confirming that all-rounder Asela Gunaratne was out for the remainder of the Test series with injury.

Gunaratne suffered multiple fractures on his left thumb while trying to take a catch off Shikhar Dhawan on the

first day of the match Wednesday.

"Medical experts have indicated Gunaratne will be out of action for a minimum of 6-8 weeks," it said in a statement.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**INDIA:** First innings 600 (Dhawan 190, Pujara 153, Rahane 57, Ashwin 47, Pandya 50, Shami 30; Pradeep 6-132, Kumara 3-131)

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 154 for 5 (Tharanga 64, Mathews 54 not out; Shami 2-30)