

# SPORT

No Tension with Digestion



Mark O'Neill (L) has got one month to fix a few things in the Tigers' batting and one of his challenges would be to tune up misfiring Bangladesh opener Soumya Sarker (R).

PHOTO: STAR

## Aus pay dispute nearing end

SMH



The industrial war that has paralysed Australian cricket is all but over with the game's warring parties set to strike a new pay deal that would lift the game out of crisis.

Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers Association are in the final steps of drawing up an in-principle agreement having reached a compromise on key points of difference. A deal could be finalised as early as Tuesday.

With all the major issues solved, only minor clauses and financial detail need to be finalised. It would take a monumental backflip for the deal to be called off.

Any agreement would have to be signed off by the CA board, the ACA executive and the players, which means it's unlikely any announcement will come before Wednesday.

After marathon talks across the weekend, intensive negotiations continued into Monday night as both sides close in on an agreement that had seemed improbable throughout the bitter dispute. So poor have relations been between the two sides not-

ing can be taken for granted until both parties sign the dotted line.

CA and the Australian Cricketers Association have in the past two weeks both believed they were nearing a resolution only to be blindsided by the other party.

ACA chief Alistair Nicholson sent a draft heads of agreement and tour contracts to CA last week only to be accused of stalling tactics. It came a week after CA rejected a terms sheet sent by the ACA, plunging the game back into crisis.

However, there has been greater urgency in talks since CA announced last Thursday it would take the case to arbitration if a new deal was not agreed by early this week.

Cricket's feuding parties were locked in talks into the early hours of Monday morning, after which the ACA held an internal briefing that did not wind up until 2.30am.

Despite the progress, relations remain tense as seen by both sides' insistence they are responsible for the recent breakthroughs. There is also a feeling the high stakes has expedited progress.

CA says the call for arbitration had brought the matter to a head and believe that its proposal for players to be re-contracted was important.

## NAT'L V'BALL PDB, Ansar take titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Power Development Board (PDB) and Bangladesh Ansar were respectively crowned champions in the men's and women's sections of the Shahjalal Islami Bank National Volleyball Championships, which concluded at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PDB retained the men's title with a 3-1 sets win over Bangladesh Army. Despite losing the first set by 12-25 points, PDB came back strong and won the next three sets -- 25-20, 25-21, and 25-23 -- to ensure their second national title.

In the women's final, Bangladesh Ansar dethroned Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) to regain the title after posting a 25-16, 25-20, 25-22 win over eight-time champions BJMC. It was the seventh national title for Bangladesh Ansar.

In the place-deciding matches, Bangladesh Navy beat Titas Gas in 3-1 sets to finish third in the men's section while Rajshahi finished third in the women's section with a 3-1 sets win over Chittagong district.

## Anxiety, curiosity engulf illness

SPORTS REPORTER



The country's cricket fraternity had been anxiously awaiting health updates on former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud since early yesterday morning after news broke the previous night that the popular cricketer figure had been admitted to hospital in critical condition.

His well-wishers, friends and fans besides his colleagues in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) thronged to the hospital to know his condition. On social media wishes abounded for the speedy recovery of the cricketer, who is affectionately called a fighter as the all-rounder not only won many matches on the domestic scene but also made significant contributions for the national side; in particular his role of successfully leading the national team at a difficult juncture has been an inspiration for many.

The sigh of relief for everybody however came very quickly when it was announced in the morning by the BCB that the condition of Mahmud was improving, that he was taken off ventilation and there was nothing wrong in the MRI report. Everybody was also happy to know that the BCB had decided to send him to Singapore last night by air ambulance for better treatment.

Apart from the anxiety, many however were also searching for an answer to what actually happened with Mahmud's health. What were the complaints with which he was actually admitted to hospi-

tal? For what reasons was the condition so serious?

As BCB president Nazmul Hassan briefed reporters at the hospital about Mahmud's condition, he also faced the same questions and the BCB boss's answers only heightened the curiosity and concern.

"At the moment, the problem is that nobody is saying anything to be very

frank. Whoever I am asking is unable to provide a specific answer. I haven't met anyone from his family, such as his wife or children. However, I met his brothers and sisters and they are not saying anything. They are saying that they found him in that condition in the hospital. So it's very difficult to say and I don't know exactly at the moment what happened. But I feel that he needs to get better first

and then only he can tell us what happened. Even the doctors haven't told us anything about how it happened," said Hassan.

Praising the treatment at United Hospital, Hassan added that it was the best time for them to send him abroad. "A doctor from the BCB is going and none of his family have visas so they will need a few days to get it processed. However, his brother has an American passport so he can travel without a visa and will go with Mahmud. We believe that Sujon [Khaled Mahmud] will be completely healthy in two-three days."

Mahmud was initially admitted to Kurmitola Hospital and then shifted to United Hospital. When contacted, Dr Shagufta Anwar, director, communication and business development of United Hospital, told The Daily Star that: "At 2.40am [Sunday early hours] he was admitted to our hospital. Initially he was in emergency and then shifted to ICU and at 5.45am a four-member medical board was formed. He had a CVA [Cerebrovascular accident] and in CVD [Cardiovascular disease] condition which means he was not getting enough oxygen in his brain. At that time the GCS [Glasgow Coma Scale; the score that estimates coma severity] was six out of 15, which was very low."

"He had an MRI this [Monday] morning and the report didn't detect any haemorrhage. It might be a case of neurological depression. He is responding to the treatment but he is still not out of danger," she added while he talking to this reporter around 8:00pm last night.



Fans and well-wishers of former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud want him to return with that glittering smile on his face.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

## Friendly matches offered for booters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) looks forward to arranging a couple of international friendlies for the latter part of September after Afghanistan, Myanmar and Mongolia showed their interest in playing against the Bangladesh national team.

"Afghanistan, Myanmar and Mongolia have recently showed their interests to play international friendly matches against Bangladesh, either in Dhaka or in those countries. However at the moment, we don't want to hamper the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League by arranging international matches," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag yesterday.

"As there will be a mid-term transfer window in the latter part of September, we have an opportunity to arrange the matches during that time. However nothing has been finalised as yet," Shohag added.

The first phase of the 10th edition of the premier league is scheduled to end on September 20 and the mid-term transfer window will open the following day and close on September 30. The FIFA international match days are set between October 2 and October 10.

The national team have not played any matches since their 1-3 defeat at the hands of Bhutan in an away match of the Asia Cup Qualifying Playoffs on October 10, 2016. The team is also supposed to take part in the proposed Bangladesh Gold Cup in December.

## Moeen feat in landmark Test

AFP, London

Moeen Ali became the first bowler in The Oval's 100 Test-history to take a hat-trick as England wrapped up a crushing 239-run win in the third Test against South Africa on Monday.

Off-spinner Ali ended the south London ground's landmark match when, after having Dean Elgar (136) and Kagiso Rabada caught at first slip by Ben Stokes with the last two balls of his 16th over, he had Morne Morkel lbw with the first ball of his next -- although England had to first review umpire Joel Wilson's not out decision.

It meant Ali had become the 13th England bowler to take a Test hat-trick. Victory put England 2-1 up in this four-match series, with just the fourth Test at Old Trafford starting Friday to come.

South Africa, set a mammoth 492 for victory, were all out for 252 after lunch, with Worcestershire all-rounder Ali taking four for 45.

But the way this series has seen-sawed -- England won the first Test at Lord's by 211 runs and South Africa took the second at Trent Bridge by 340 runs -- will give the Proteas hope of bouncing back in Manchester.

South Africa resumed on 117 for four, with left-handed opener Elgar (72 not out) and Temba Bavuma (16 not out) having already helped the Proteas

recover from 52 for four on Sunday.

Victory was all but beyond South Africa, with no side having made more to win in the fourth innings of a Test than the West Indies' 418 for seven against Australia at St John's in 2003.

Their more realistic, if difficult, goal was to bat out the minimum 98 overs on Monday's last day to salvage a draw.

Player-of-the-match Stokes, who'd taken two wickets in two balls on Sunday to dismiss Quinton de Kock and South Africa captain Faf du Plessis after

making 112 in England's first innings 353, opened the bowling on Monday.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 353

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 175

ENGLAND: Second innings 313 for 8 decl

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 252

(Elgar 136, Bavuma 32, Morris 24, Maharaj 24 not out; Roland-Jones 3-72, Stokes 2-51, Moeen 4-45)

Result: England won by 239 runs and lead four-match series 2-1.

Player-of-the-match: Ben Stokes.



England's Moeen Ali (C) became the first cricketer in history to claim a hat-trick at The Oval by taking the last three wickets to fashion their 239-run win against South Africa yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Metropolis football

SPORTS REPORTER

Rainbow Athletic Club and Mir Hazirbagh SC recorded wins in the Dhaka Metropolis Football tournament at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Rainbow AC defeated Narinda Lions Club 2-1 while Mir Hazirbagh SC beat BFF U-16 XI 1-0.

## Dinesh likely to return for second Test

AGENCIES, New Delhi

Dinesh Chandimal is expected to return to lead the Sri Lanka team in the second Test against India at the SSC next week, after recovering from a bout of pneumonia that kept him out of the first Test in Galle. Rangana Herath, who suffered an injury to his finger in the first Test, is being closely monitored, ahead of the match which starts from August 3.

"Dinesh should be fit, he actually played this (Sunday) morning and he has batted the last couple of days," said Asanka Gurusinha.

## Note of Gratitude



On 6 June 2017 midnight I suddenly suffered a brain hemorrhage. With the instruction of the daughter of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina whom I consider my mother, and leaders and activists of root level Bangladesh Awami League feel their last resort, I was taken to Singapore Gleneagles Hospital on air ambulance where I received the best treatment. Famous surgeon Dr. Timothy Lee performed surgery on me. After his treatment, now I am here amongst you in good health.

I am grateful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina because it is due to her kind initiative I got a second life. I am also grateful to Bangladesh Awami League's General Secretary and Honourable Minister for Roads Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader, MP, Vice-Chairman of Beximco Group Salman F Rahman, all the employees of his company, our respected elder brother from the sports fraternity Harunur Rashid, Bangladesh Shooting Federation's General Secretary Intekhabul Hamid, President of Asian Football Confederation, Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore, Youth and Sports Ministry, BOA President and Chief of Army Staff, Executive Members of the BOA, Bangladesh Football Federation, National Sports Council, all the Sports Federations, Sonali Oil Club and all the other clubs, all the sports organizers of our country, Shommitto Krira Poribar, athletes, coaches, journalists, Executive Members of Bangladesh Awami League, all political colleagues of Comilla district and Daudkandi thana, countrymen and grassroots leaders and activists of Awami League. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my friends, colleagues and well-wishers who have prayed for me and stood beside me during my great peril.

My family will be indebted forever for the love shown by these people and these organizations.

Gratefully yours

Badal Roy

An activist from grassroots level of Bangladesh Awami League and a national award-winning former footballer