

# SPORT

**Nutrition on The Go**

## Mominul, Nasir give Greens the edge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The batsmen put in some good work on the second day of the three-day practice match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday. Interestingly, the notable innings came from those whose places in the national team are not certain, similar to the first day when the bowling performance of the first day came in the form of a five-wicket haul by reserve pacer Shaiful Islam.

The left-handed Mominul Haque -- who has already been tagged as a longer-version specialist -- and all-rounder Nasir Hossain hit centuries while Tanbir Hayder also made a fifty for the Tamim Iqbal-led Bangladesh Green, who were all out for 283 in response to the Mushfiqur Rahim-led Bangladesh Red's 140 for nine declared.

Both Mominul and Nasir missed the opportunity to play big knocks as Mominul smote five boundaries during his 135-ball 73 while Nasir scored a 92-ball 62 that contained three fours and as many sixes.

On a slow track, Rubel Hossain bowled well and took three wickets. The bowler however jolted the camp for a while when he slipped and fell while on his delivery stride and struggled to stand up immediately. Thankfully, Rubel took only a little time to return to the bowling mark.

After the day's play ended earlier than scheduled due to rain, Nasir -- who played 17 Tests for Bangladesh between 2011 and 2015 -- said that he was just enjoying playing

against the red ball after a long break and making a comeback was not on his mind.

"I am just enjoying the red ball game as after a long break we are playing longer-version cricket. It's not as if I wanted to make my comeback by playing the practice match," said Nasir.

"It's just a practice match, so I tried to capitalise on the opportunity as much as possible. We have been practising hard for quite some time for the coming series against Australia but match practice is always good," he added.

Despite being in good form, Nasir has to struggle for his place in the national team as there has been huge competition for places. Nasir however saw it as a positive sign for Bangladesh cricket.

"Competition is always good and it's good for everybody. As there are a number of players in the pipeline it just shows that our cricket is going up. We need to be mentally strong to make a comeback. And I have that mentality," he said.

Bangladesh Red scored 24 for one in their second innings and it was Imrul Kayes who was dismissed by Mustafizur Rahman after hitting two consecutive boundaries.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH RED:** 140/9 dec and 24-1 in 5 overs (Imrul 8, Soumya 9 not out, Nazmul 7 not out, Mustafizur 1-12)  
**BANGLADESH GREEN:** 283 all out in 78.3 overs (Tamim 29, Liton 5, Mominul 73, Sabbir 10, Nasir 62, Tanbir 51, Sanjamul 22; Rubel 3-54, Saqlain 3-64, Taijul 2-80, Naem 1-23)



Mominul Haque cuts the ball on the back-foot as Mushfiqur Rahim (R) looks on during the Tigers' three-day practice game at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The diminutive top-order batsman hit 73. PHOTO: ANUPUR KANTI DAS

## 'Darwin is like Dhaka & Chittagong'

AGENCIES, Sydney

Australia coach Darren Lehmann is confident his side will have adequate preparation ahead of first Test in Dhaka. Despite an extended lay-off that has left him free for his team to begin and complete preparations ahead of their first Test tour to Bangladesh in more than a decade, Lehmann does not believe they are at risk of entering the series underprepared.

The 14-man squad for the three week Bangladesh campaign assembled in Darwin yesterday to begin a training camp before flying to Dhaka on August 18.

For many of the players who were rendered uncontracted and unemployed during the protracted pay dispute that was resolved last

week, it represents the first time they have returned to a formal cricket environment.

"Test captain Steve Smith went as far as to say that he had not 'picked up a bat in about two months'."

However, Lehmann claimed yesterday that the hiatus from cricket did not represent a concern given the amount of work the squad was due to undertake over the coming week in Darwin, and the sense of mental and physical freshness most had gained.

"Until you get there you don't know," Lehmann conceded to cricket.com.au when pushed about if there was potential for his team to arrive in Dhaka underdone. "We're squeezing enough in this next week, and guys have been doing stuff with their states."

"Even though the MOU they were training and preparing as



DARREN LEHMANN

though they were playing. So in terms of fitness, they are probably ahead of the game, which is really pleasing. Now it's just getting their skills up to the required level."

The left-hander even went as far as to say the break would be good.

"The break's been good for some of them, they've been at the back of a long summer with a lot of travel so sometimes a refreshed mindset is really important," Lehmann said. "They've all come

in really excited to get going again.

He also praised the efforts of the Northern Territory Cricket Association (NTCA) for preparing pitches that mimicked Bangladesh's conditions.

"The NTCA have been fantastic, they've made wickets very similar to what we'll get in Bangladesh -- they're low and they're slow, and they will spin. There's three wicket blocks that are more like Dhaka, three wickets that are a bit like Chittagong, and centre wicket facilities so we can play a match and work on our fielding."

"So in terms of conditions and the heat and humidity that we'll face when we get there, it's great preparation especially for those who have come out of winter in the southern states [of Australia]."

But Lehmann believes the week of concentrated practice in Darwin

coupled with a two-day tour match upon their arrival, in which Australia's full complement of 14 players can be utilised, should prove sufficient preparation for players who have not faced or held a red ball in a match environment since last March.

"We've got enough sessions in place, and then we've got enough time when we get there [to Bangladesh] weather permitting," Lehmann said. "I think we'll be fine, we've got a two-day game which is a mixture of players, the wicket will be very similar to what we encounter for the first Test then we've got training sessions before that Test starts as well."

"We're squashing a lot into the eight or nine days before we go to Dhaka, then we just have to see what the weather and the facilities are like when we get there."

## Mehedi on the bench as Jamaica win

SPORTS REPORTER



It could have been a battle between the two Tigers, but Mehedi Hasan's wait for his Caribbean Premier League (CPL) debut was continued as he did not feature for Trinbago Knight Riders in Wednesday's match against Jamaica Tallawass -- Shakib Al Hasan's team -- at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

After an impressive all-round performance in the previous game, Shakib was also off colour in the match but still his side, led by Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara, posted a four-wicket victory.

Shakib bowled only one over and conceded 12 runs, before scoring 16 off 22 balls in Jamaica's successful chase of 148.

Mehedi Hasan's Trinbago Knight Riders will play their next game against Guyana Amazon at the same venue at 7:00am (Bangladesh time) tomorrow while Shakib's Jamaica Tallawass will take on St Lucia Stars in their next match on the morning of August 16 (Bangladesh time).

Both the players are likely to get two more matches before returning home for the two-match Test series against Australia. Australia will arrive in Dhaka on August 18 to play two Tests in Mirpur and Chittagong.

While Shakib is a veteran of 210 leagues around the world, Mehedi's stint with the Knight Riders is his first experience of playing in a foreign league. He has however been restricted to the reserve bench so far, and with the Knight Riders leading the six-team table, there might not be a reason to ring in the changes before Mehedi returns.

The rest of the Bangladesh players are currently engaged in a training camp in Chittagong ahead of the two Test series which will begin with the first Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on August 27, before shifting to Chittagong's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium for the second Test from September 4.

## Felicitations for Saif SC

SPORTS REPORTER



Saif Sporting Club accorded a reception to its chess team following their second-placed finish in the Asian Chess Club Champions League at a city hotel yesterday.

The Saif SC chess team -- comprising three GMs in Ziaur Rahman, Abdulhaliq Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Razib, IM Minhazzadin Ahmed Sagor and FM Taibur Rahman -- became runners-up beating clubs from China, Australia and Sri Lanka before China's Saipa Chess Club emerged champions with an all-win record in the five-team league that concluded on August 8 in Citrus Hillkuduwa, Sri Lanka.

The players were awarded Tk 50,000 each for the achievement.

Saif SC's runner-up finish was all the more special as they achieved it on their maiden appearance in the competition after the club became champions of the 2016 Premier Division Chess League, also on their maiden appearance in the country's top flight.

"Our main purpose behind forming Saif SC is not only to make the club a reputed one but by clinching the domestic title but also to win internationally. I think this achievement not only increased the image of our club, but also that of the country," said Saif SC chairman managing director Nasiruddin Chowdhury.

Saif SC's chess team was formed by Rashedul Amin, Awami League advisory council member Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Awami League's youth and sports secretary Hanurur Rashid and Bangladesh Chess Federation general secretary Syed Shahabuddin Shamim were among others present.

## Haddin joins Aus staff

AFP, Sydney

Former Test wicketkeeper Brad Haddin has joined the Australian team support staff as fielding coach until the end of 2019.

Cricketer Australia said Thursday Haddin replaces former Australia batsman Greg Blewett, who has taken up a position with the South Australian Cricket Association.

Haddin, 39, has coached the Australia A side and was an assistant coach during Australia's tour of New Zealand earlier this year.

He also had a stint with Islamabad in the Pakistan Premier League.

His first assignment will be Australia's two-Test tour to Bangladesh later this month.

"I grew up in an era of players like Andrew Symonds and Ricky Ponting who gave Australian cricket a real identity in the standards of world-class fielding," Haddin said in a statement.

"I want to hold this group accountable to that kind of standard and I believe we have the talent to do that and I am looking forward to the challenge."

Haddin played 66 Tests, taking 262 catches, and playing 126 one-day internationals, and 34 T20 Internationals for Australia before retiring in 2015.



The Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah is scheduled to host Australia's two-day practice game on August 22-23. But with just over a week remaining the prospect of holding the game looks bleak despite a frantic effort to pump out the water from the vast facility. PHOTO: PIRHOZ AHMED

## Ailing chess champion in need of help

SPORTS REPORTER

Three-time sub-junior chess champion Ikrumul Haq Siam has appealed to the financially fortunate to come forward to save his life as the 20-year-old is suffering from a degenerative disc disease that has all but paralysed his right leg.

The promising player caught the eyes of all after winning the gold medal in the First KOP Youth Chess Festival in Turkey in 2015 but the former national junior champion is now unable to sit in front of the board of black and whites and is confined to a wheelchair and undergoing regular therapy to curb the acute pain.

The BBA student needs at least Tk 16 lakh to undergo a surgery as per the doctor's advice but Siam, who lives with his maternal uncle follow-



IKRAMUL HAQ SIAM

ing the death of his mother and re-marriage of his father, is unable to manage the money he needs for the surgery.

"I have been suffering from degenerative

disease for the last two months. The bone in the spinal cord is bent and that puts pressure on the nerves, causing pain in my right leg. For this problem, I have also lost control of my rectum."

"I went to different government and private hospitals and the neurosurgeons and orthopedists advised me to have surgery as soon as possible, otherwise I will die. I want to live and play chess. I am requesting well-off people to help me financially for the surgery which will cost me Tk 16 lakh," urged a tearful Siam.

Those wishing to offer him assistance can use the following information: BRAC Bank Jhatrabari branch, Name: Ikrumul Haq Siam, Account no: 153910308878001. Besides, Siam has also got a Bkash account: 01752290478 (personal) where they can donate.