

SPORT



Wounded Tigers will be in preliminary camp

SPORTS REPORTER

The preparation camp for the upcoming assignments against Afghanistan and West Indies will kick off from May 13 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The national selectors are expected to declare a preliminary squad for the camp tomorrow.

"We are planning on submitting a 28-member preliminary squad for Test, ODI and T20I series on May 5. There is hardly any chance of any new faces entering the picture as the High Performance and A teams will also be in the midst of practice and if needed we can call someone from there," said chief selector Minhajul Abedin yesterday.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury informed that all the injured players will be able to join the camp but there will be some restrictions on them.

Over the past six weeks Nasir Hossain tore a ligament in his right

No progress yet on appointment of head coach

Tamim, Mushfiqur, Miraz, Mahmudullah in various stages of recovery

Taskin's recovery 'not satisfactory', Nasir to go to Australia for treatment

Afghanistan series dates to be finalised within next week

knee, Mehedi Hasan Miraz suffered a labral tear on his right shoulder similar to pacer Mustafizur Rahman's injury in 2016, Tamim Iqbal has had issues with his meniscus in his left knee, Taskin Ahmed has been experiencing back pain, Mushfiqur Rahim sprained his ankle and Mahmudullah Riyad also suffered an ankle injury.

"Tamim has almost recovered and he has no problems while jogging. Now we would like to see how he responds in sprinting. Mushfiqur started running and he has no complaints. But as Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah will both go abroad

to perform Umrah, their rehabilitation programmes will be halted for a few days.

"We already made an appointment with [Dr. David] Young [in Australia] for Nasir. Miraz was given two injections and he is feeling good. Taskin's improvement however is not satisfactory and we will review his condition on Saturday. All the injured players will join the camp but there will be some restrictions for them and we are hopeful of their timely recoveries," informed Chowdhury.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed yesterday that the series against Afghanistan next month will be finalised within a week. "Cricket operations manager [Sabbir Khan] went to Dehradun in India to see the ground and other facilities and we will receive a report within the next two-three days," said Nizamuddin, who also added that there was no update regarding appointment of new head coach but they were trying to finalise before the tour of West Indies in June.

'Mashrafe's Test return a sensitive issue'

SPORTS REPORTER



At a time when Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) high-ups took to public forums to voice their opinions regarding Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's possible return to Test cricket, Bangladesh ODI and T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan showed more wisdom.

"It's difficult for me to make a comment... when we sit in regards of the team, then we can say something about it. We don't know what the team combination will be and there has not been any formal discussion yet. I don't want to say anything as it's a very sensitive issue. I think it should come through the proper channels and it should come through the management," Shakib told Jamuna TV at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

BCB director Khaled Mahmud had informed the media a few days ago that Shakib told him that he wants Mashrafe back in Tests.

The ace all-rounder left Dhaka yesterday

after spending three days with his family during a five-day break from his IPL duties for Sunrisers Hyderabad. "I thought it would be good to spend the time with my family when I got a five-day break."

Shakib was very optimistic about a good result against Afghanistan in the coming T20I series. "If we get good wickets in India we should get good results there because we are now a better team. It is possible for us to get good results if we can maintain our Nidahas Trophy form," Shakib said.

Shakib said that next year's World Cup would be the most challenging as the new format requires them to play against all the other nine teams. "I played the 2007, 2011 and 2015 World Cups and in my opinion the next World Cup will be most challenging because you have to win at least four-five matches against the top sides. But there is no reason to be negative because we are playing good cricket."

When asked about Bangladesh's promotion to number eight in the Test rankings, Shakib said: "It's a big achievement but it has given us the responsibility to do better."



SHAKIB AL HASAN

Tigresses take on SA in first ODI today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team will take on their South African counterparts in the first ODI at Senwes Park, Potchefstroom today.

On Wednesday, the Tigresses warmed up in the best possible way for their demanding five-match ODI series when they thrashed North West Women by 90 runs at North-West University Ground.

Bangladesh captain Rumana Ahmed and one-down Fargana Hoque were in impressive form as they each struck tons. Rumana hit a fluid 136 while Fargana scored 102 in Bangladesh's 270 for two.

Leg-spinner Fahima Khatun was also stunning with the ball as she took an astonishing eight wickets for five runs.

The Bangladesh women's team have never defeated South Africa in ODIs.



Abahani's Mehedi Hassan (R) avoids a challenge by a Victoria player during their Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Abahani thrashed Victoria 8-0.

PHOTO: STAR

Ruthless Abahani rout Victoria

SPORTS REPORTER



Club Cup champions Abahani continued their rampage in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League by thumping Victoria SC 8-0 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Sky Blues came into the match on the back of a massive 10-0 win over Bangladesh Police and though they thrashed Victoria SC 11-1 in the Club Cup Tournament, faced some stiff competition this time until Mohammad Mohsin, who joined Abahani after participating in the Asian Youth Olympics Qualifiers, finally broke the deadlock with a nice reverse-hit in the 16th minute.

Once the impasse was breached, Abahani began the goalfest as Taher Ali struck twice within three minutes to make it 3-0 before Asharful Islam converted a penalty to go into the break with a 4-0 lead.

Sarwar Hossain, Rumon Sarker and Musa Mia deftly controlled the midfield while Arshad Hossain and Mohsin tore apart Victoria SC's backline, which featured one of two Indian players the team fielded, to add four more goals in the second half.

Krishna, Arshad, Sarwar and Mohsin struck in the 42nd, 50th, 66th and 68th

minutes respectively to complete the rout which helped the Dhanmondi-based outfit remain on top of the 12-team table with six points from two outings.

"To be honest, there is shortage of quality players in the country and Abahani always formed a team to become champions with quality players. That is the reason behind the huge difference between the heavyweights and the lightweights in the league," Abahani coach Mahbub Harun said after the match.

"I am happy with the organized way the boys played. The Abahani's performance will get better as the league progresses though we are going through a very hectic schedule. If we can continue such performances, no team can stop Abahani I believe," the veteran coach continued.

Harun added that his squad will only get stronger when their Malaysian recruits join after May 10.

In the day's other matches, Sonali Bank posted their second successive victory by handing a 3-1 defeat to Sadharan Bima, despite conceding the lead in the seventh minute. Sonali Bank hit back strong in the 24th minute through Promod Dewan while Rajib Das and Proshenjit Roy scored in the second half to ensure the win, which follows a 3-2 triumph over Wari Club in their league opener. Bangladesh SC beat Azad SC 2-1.

INDEPENDENCE DAY KABADDI

Final round starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the Independence Day Kabaddi tournament gets underway today at the Kabaddi Stadium with eight divisional champions taking part in the three-day meet.

The participating districts, after being split into two groups, will play in round-robin format to determine the top two teams who will advance to the semifinals, to be held on Sunday. The final will also be held on the same day.

Approximately 58 districts took part in the preliminary rounds, held at their respective divisions, from April 5-25. However the final round which consists of 15 matches will conclude within just three days, making things quite difficult for the participants.

Though service teams always take part in such tournaments, they have recently been prevented from participating due to their players' involvement in the ongoing national team training camp for the Asian Games.

The participating teams are Bogra, Khulna, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Kurigram, Barisal, Madaripur and Chittagong.

India say no to D/N Test on Aus tour

AFP, New Delhi



India have refused to play a day-night Test during the tour of Australia later this year because of doubts over the quality of the pink ball, their cricket board said Thursday.

"Yes, it's pretty clear that we are not playing a day-night Test in Australia, no doubt about it," BCCI administrator Vinod Rai told AFP.

Cricket Australia (CA) had wanted the first Test in Adelaide from December 6 played under lights to tap on the growing popularity of pink-ball cricket.

But the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said they did not want to get involved in an experiment in a high-profile series.

"We have been saying this all along that we are experimenting with pink ball cricket in the Duleep Trophy (India's domestic competition) and that's it for now," said Rai.

CA chief executive James Sutherland has lobbied hard for top-ranked India to play a day-night match, but hinted the tourists were scared of conceding an advantage to Australia, who have won all three pink ball Tests at Adelaide.

"I think everyone in world cricket knows that, to be frank, I think they want to come out here and beat us," said Sutherland.

"There's a sense, or a reality, that Australia has won each of the pink-ball Test matches that have been played in Australia and there may be a sense that it gives us a bit of an advantage," Sutherland told SEN Radio Wednesday.

Observers believe the tour could be one of India's best chance to record a first Test series win in Australia as the hosts' star players Steve Smith and David Warner are serving 12-month bans for ball tampering.

Rai, who heads a special committee appointed by India's Supreme Court to run the BCCI, said India would not be forced into playing a day-night Test.

"Nobody can put a gun on our head and say play (day-night cricket). There have been doubts about the pink ball itself in Duke and Kookaburra," Rai said.

The powerful BCCI are one of the few national governing bodies to have avoided playing pink ball cricket at the international level.

Langer named Aus head coach

Focus will be on earning respect

AFP, Sydney



Justin Langer vowed to fix the scandal-hit Australian cricket team's behaviour and win back respect after being named head coach in all three formats of the game Thursday.

The former Test opener, 47, starts his new role on May 22 for a four-year term which takes in two Ashes series, a World Cup and a World Twenty20 tournament.

He takes the reins at a time of crisis following the 12-month suspensions of ex-captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner over a ball-tampering scandal which also saw previous coach Darren Lehmann quit.

"The expectations are high in the Australian cricket team. We have got to make sure the behaviours are good. If we do that, I think the outcomes will look after themselves," Langer told a media conference.

"I think one of the things that's really important is that we keep looking to earn respect. To me, respect is worth more than all the gold in the world."

Cricket Australia has ordered a review of the damaged sport's culture in the wake of the scandal during the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town that tarnished Australian cricket's reputation.

"We all know what the acceptable behaviours are. There is a difference between competitiveness and aggression and we've got to be careful with that," Langer said.



great kids, we have all made mistakes, we can all get better at things.

"If we can keep mentoring and helping them and they want to meet the standards of the Australian cricket team, then of course they'd be welcomed back."

Langer comes into the job after dominating domestic cricket in recent years as coach of Western Australia and the Perth Scorchers.

CA chief executive James Sutherland said he was the "clearstandout" choice.

"We look to encourage great cricketers, but also great people. So we if we can encourage great people and great Australians over the next four years, I think that's a really important foundation for us."

Langer opened the door for a return of Smith, Warner and Cameron Bancroft, who was also banned for the tampering incident.

"We'll learn from what's happened," he said. "They are great kids and it was such a surprise they made the mistake they did. But they are

due to complete his term until next year, we have had a succession plan in place for this role for some time," Sutherland said.

"The plan has allowed us to consider several worthy candidates, but Justin was the clear standout, particularly based on his recent coaching and player development achievements."

"We firmly believe Justin is the right person to lead this team and have huge confidence in what he will bring to the role."

Langer had a highly decorated playing career, representing Australia in 105 Test matches and eight ODI matches. He scored more than 7,500 Test runs -- including 23 centuries -- and was an integral member of the team during one of its most successful eras. His playing career spanned almost 20 years and 360 first-class matches, scoring more than 28,000 first-class runs.

As a coach, he had been in charge of Western Australia and the Perth Scorchers since November 2012.

Langer led the Scorchers to Big Bash League T20 championships three times, the most of any coach, in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2016-17.

Karthik overpowers Dhoni's CSK

STAR SPORT DESK

Dinesh Karthik hit a whirlwind 14-ball 45 and Subman Gill struck a beefy fifty to throttle Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to a resounding six-wicket win against leaders Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in an Indian Premier League match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Karthik batted in a way as if his shirt was on fire, hitting seven fours and a six, as KKR made Super King's stiff total of 177 for five an easy chase, romping to 180-4 with 14 balls to spare.

Gill also hit an equally impressive 57 off 36 balls that contained six fours and a couple of sixes. The victory took Knight Riders to the third position behind Super Kings and Shakib Al Hasan's Sunrisers Hyderabad in the eight-team table with 10 points.

KKR were never troubled after player-of-the-match Sunil Narine gave them a rollicking start. The left-hander struck a 20-ball 32 after claiming two wickets for 20 runs in his four overs. The West Indies leg-spinner dismissed a menacing Shane Watson for 36 before removing Ambati Rayudu for 21. Chennai captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni scored a quick-fire 43 off 25 balls, but his KKR counterpart Karthik more than matched that exploit when it was his turn.