



After some much-needed down time, Bangladesh's cricketers were in high spirits and enjoying ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's (3rd From R) famous sense of humour on the first day of the preliminary camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium's gymnasium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Players' fitness initiative a big plus'

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national team's fitness trainer Mario Villavarayan sounded out a positive note on the first day of the Tigers' preliminary camp yesterday, saying that

he was delighted by the big strides made in the players taking personal responsibility about their fitness.

"I was telling the boys in the morning today, it has been four years since I came here in May 2014. Even when I was in Colombo I heard that Tamim [Iqbal] was training on his own and some other boys were training on their own and that gave me a lot of pleasure," the Sri Lankan told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. "That's what I wanted when I came here -- for the boys to take the responsibility and start doing things on their own. That's why I say it's a huge improvement in their attitude."

The first week of the preliminary camp will focus on strength and conditioning, which means that Villavarayan will be in charge of the camp for the time being.

"I want to find out where they are. Those guys whose fitness levels are low, I need to

keep working with them. We will continue through the next month during the Twenty20s [against Afghanistan] and then before we go to West Indies."

There was also good news in the state of the injured national cricketers Tamim (left knee), Taskin Ahmed (back pain), Mahmudullah Riyad (ankle), Mushfiqur Rahim (ankle) and Mehedi Hasan Miraz (shoulder).

"They are back in the running. Taskin, Mushy, Riyad and Tamim -- who started early -- are fine. They are getting back and they did what they had to do," Villavarayan informed.

While happy with the players' initiative to start fitness work early, he wanted the principle of personal responsibility to extend to players while playing warm-up football matches away from the national team. Among the current injured lot, Mushfiqur and Nasir Hossain were laid low by games of football.

"Look, as long as I am there and they are playing with me they play within the guideline I set, which is not playing rough. While they play domestic cricket I don't know what happens.

"If you wake up and play soccer and injure yourself who's going to miss out playing in a World Cup?"

KKC players complain of non-payment

SPORTS REPORTER



"I received only 30 per cent of my payment initially before the BCB paid 20 per cent later, but still I did not receive the remaining 50 per cent when I played for Brothers Union [in the Dhaka Premier League] two seasons back [2015-16]. The following season I played for Kalabagan Krira Chakra (KKC) and Tk 1 lakh of my salary was unpaid. They retained me this season despite my request not to, and I only received 50 per cent," were the helpless words of left-arm spinner Nabil Samad -- a prominent name in the domestic circuit -- at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Nabil was at the home of cricket alongside six of his Kalabagan teammates to talk to Bangladesh Cricket Board CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury about their pending payments from this season's Dhaka Premier League, which concluded last month.

Three among those seven cricketers are yet to receive any payment from the club while the others are



Kalabagan Krira Chakra cricketers tell reporters of their payment issues with the club in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: MAZHAR UDDIN

still waiting for their outstanding 50 per cent from Kalabagan, which was relegated to the first division this season.

Tasamul Haque, one of those to have received 50 per cent of his payment, informed that Kalabagan gave the players a warning notice to the effect that 15 per cent of their

salaries would be cut if performances were poor, and the players signed an agreement at the time.

"We were given a letter in the middle of the league which says that the club can cut some percentage of our wages for poor performance and we were asked to give a reply. However, the club officials told us

that the letter was only to create some pressure to bring out the best performance and nothing serious," Tasamul told reporters.

"Previously we had written a letter to the board regarding the payment issue and the board took that into account and sent a letter to the club. The club replied to BCB's letter, following which the board informed that they will sit with the club. However no dates have been confirmed as yet," Tasamul added.

It was learned that Mohammad Ashraful, who struck five hundreds in the DPL this season for Kalabagan, is yet to receive any payment from the club. Apparently, Kalabagan have asked for one more day from Ashraful to settle his dues.

"Both players and club officials are important for us; we will try to discuss the matter with the club regarding the complaint and look to solve the situation soon," BCB CEO Chowdhury told reporters.

Meanwhile, when contacted, Kalabagan Krira Chakra president Shafiqul Alam Firoz said: "The club will speak to the players face to face and will review its own documents before making any comment."



Players of Bogra's Police Line School and College pose with the trophy after beating Govt. Jubilee High School of Sunamganj by nine wickets at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

Police Line crowned champs

SPORTS REPORTER



There was a champion and a runner-up by the time the final of the Prime Bank National School Cricket Championship ended

yesterday at the Sylhet International Stadium, but the most significant news seemed to be that the match was completed at all at the end of a tournament marred by washed-out matches with winners often being decided by a coin toss.

But the sun shone bright on Bogra's Police Line School and College, who comprehensively outclassed Govt. Jubilee High School of Sunamganj by nine wickets to be crowned proud champions. There was no let-up in the Bogra outfits clinical march to the trophy as they bundled Jubilee out for just 91 in 32.4 overs after choosing to field first.

Skipper Rokibul Islam Sajib bagged three wickets for 18 runs in nine overs and Arafat Islam took three for 20. S.I Tamim top-scored with 15 in Jubilee's sorry innings. In reply, Police Line

School and College raced to the target in 18.2 overs with six wickets remaining. Rokibul completed a payer-of-the-match performance with an unbeaten 18 to seal the trophy triumph.

The extent to which rain played a part is evident in the fact that both top run-scorer and player-of-the-tournament Rezaul Islam (427 runs and 14 wickets for Manikganj Model High School) and the top wicket-taker Morshed Alam (28 wickets for Sunshine Grammar School) were from schools that had their campaigns ended by a coin.

Shakib dismal in big loss

SPORTS REPORTER

Chennai Super Kings batsman Ambati Rayudu's unbeaten 62-ball 100, which featured seven fours and seven sixes, bested Hyderabad opener Shikhar Dhawan's 49-ball 79 as Chennai won their Indian Premier League match last night by eight wickets.

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan scored eight runs off six balls in Hyderabad's total of 179 for four, before returning terrible figures of 41 for no wickets from his four overs.

Mumbai Indians left Mustafizur, who has not played for Mumbai Indians since April 24, out of the team in a seven-wicket loss to the Rajasthan Royals.

Jos Buttler scored 94 off 53 balls as Rajasthan reached the 169-run target with two overs to spare.

SCORES IN BRIEF
HYDERABAD: 179 for 4 (Dhawan 79; Thakur 2-32)
CHENNAI: (Watson 57, Rayudu 100 not out; Sharma 1-36)

Result: Chennai won by 8 wkts.

Mumbai: 168 for 6 (Lewis 60; Archer 2-16, Stokes 2-26)

Rajasthan: 171 for 3 (Buttler 94; Pandya 2-52)

Result: Rajasthan won by 7 wkts.

Ireland following on

AFP, DUBLIN



Ed Joyce and William Porterfield restored a measure of batting pride in Ireland's inaugural Test with an unbroken opening partnership after the hosts were made to follow-on by Pakistan at Malahide on Sunday.

But come the third day's close, Ireland remained in trouble at 64 without loss in their second innings -- still 116 runs adrift of Pakistan's 310 for nine declared after a meagre 130 all out first time around.

But with Mick Jagger, a lifelong cricket fan, among the crowd -- the Rolling Stones play a

concert at Dublin's Croke Park on Thursday -- the openers at least gave Ireland some satisfaction in a day dominated by Pakistan.

Joyce was 39 not out and Ireland captain Porterfield unbeaten on 23 at the close after they were both dropped off Mohammad Amir.

Joyce was on nought when he edged Amir low to the left of wicket-keeper Saifraz Ahmed, with the diving Pakistan captain unable to cling on to the chance. And Porterfield had made just three when Azhar Ali made a mess of a routine catch at third slip.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 310 decl

IRELAND: First innings 130 all out (O'Brien 40, Wilson 33; Amir 2-9, Abbas 4-44) and



Former Bangladesh coach Gordon Greenridge, in town for a reunion, ecstatically introduces his wife to long-time friend and BCB director Enayet Hossain Siraj (R), who played a big role in organising the upcoming event.

PHOTO: STAR