



## Shakib leaves hospital

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Test and T20I captain Shakib Al Hasan was discharged from hospital and returned home yesterday. The cricketer had undergone immediate surgery on the injured little finger of his left hand upon returning from the UAE midway through the Asia Cup.

"Shakib Al Hasan came to Apollo Hospitals on September 27 with severe pain and swelling in his left hand little finger. Apollo Hospitals took the matter seriously and, after consulting with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, we quickly decided to perform surgery," said Dr M Ali, senior consultant & co-ordinator Ortho of Apollo Hospital, who had performed the surgery.

"Within two hours of admitting him, we did the surgery and removed 50-60ml of pus from his infected finger. We also detected the type of infection and received a good response after giving him antibiotics. After 72 hours his infection is under control but it will take some more time and he will have to continue the antibiotics as he was discharged today (Sunday)."

Describing the seriousness of the injury, Ali added: "There was a huge blister in his finger and the pus was dropping from it and it could have burst at any time so if we didn't do the surgery his hand would have been in danger. It was so angry-looking. We had to take immediate action and we have successfully done that. He definitely needs surgery later as well, which can only be done after at least three weeks as the infection has to be brought under control," he said.

After undergoing the next surgery three weeks from now, Shakib will need a further two months before he can return to cricket.

Shakib injured his finger in the final of the tri-nation series in January this year when he dived to stop a single and dislocated his left hand's little finger upon impact with the ground.

Initially Shakib was supposed to undergo the next surgery in the US but it was learnt that there are two other options in the form of Australia and England.

Meanwhile, ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who returned to the country after the Asia Cup campaign on Saturday, visited Shakib at the hospital.

A day after returning to Dhaka following that heart-breaking last-ball loss to India in the Asia Cup final, Bangladesh ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (R) did not miss a beat as he went to Apollo Hospitals to visit injured Shakib Al Hasan, who had undergone surgery on his injured finger recently. Shakib and Mashrafe spent quite some time together before the ace all-rounder was discharged and returned home.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Double anxiety in the doctor's room

MAZHAR UDDIN

While the Tigers were battling it out for a much-awaited trophy against India in the final of the Asia Cup, their most assured batsman, Tamim Iqbal, was receiving treatment on his left hand's injured index finger knuckle from a doctor in England.

The left-hander had sustained the knock against Sri Lanka in the opening match of that tournament and was consequently ruled out of the tournament.

However, the dashing southpaw returned home from England yesterday with the good news that he would not require surgery and that he was expected to return to cricket after two months.

But even when Tamim was busy consulting doctors in England, his mind was still in Dubai; on the final of the Asia Cup where the Tigers fought till the last ball trying to defend their 222-run total before falling agonisingly short.

"I was unable to watch the final as I was busy with the doctor but I followed the scores online. So I was not aware what exactly happened on the field," Tamim told The Daily Star upon his return to the country yesterday.

Bangladesh failed to capitalise on a brilliant start from Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan, who put on a 120-run opening stand.

After losing four-five finals, I think we need to reach to the next level if we want to win a trophy. When we reach the next level our skills and mentality also improve so I think we should take the next step soon to achieve that.

BANGLADESH OPENER TAMIM IQBAL

"One thing I can say is that after the 120 run partnership in 20 overs, I was hoping that Mushfiqur would come at number three in that situation. He was in good form and batted the best in the Asia Cup and if he batted at number three and formed a 40-50 runs partnership then we would have been 160 for one. It may have been good but this is my personal observation. At the same time it's easy to comment from the outside and I respect what the team management thought at that time," he said.

The 29-year-old also praised Liton, who struck his

maiden ODI hundred in the final, and believed that it would boost his confidence for the future. Tamim however was surprised to see Mehedi opening the innings and said that he never imagined such an outside-the-box decision which eventually paid off.

But the question still remains, what goes wrong for Bangladesh that leads to them not winning the trophies despite reaching finals and getting so close?

"Obviously not being able to win the trophy is disappointing as we have been saying that we are doing well in the ODIs. But after losing four-five finals I think we need to reach to the next level if we want to win a trophy. When we reach the next level our skills and mentality also improve so I think we should take the next step soon to achieve that. We have to be prepared for such situations next time as, apart from in one or two finals, all the other finals were very tense games. I think we should hold our nerves for longer," said Tamim.

The Tigers returned home on Saturday with their heads held high, but skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza believes they need to overcome a mental block to lift a trophy.

"There is a mental block and to overcome the hurdle it's important for us to win a tournament. If we can do that then it's possible for us to win big tournaments in the future," said Mashrafe before praising his charges for showing strong character.



Playing with a busted lip, Neymar scored two goals and put in a sublime performance against Nice to extend Paris Saint-Germain's 100 per cent record for the Ligue 1 season to a record-equalling eight matches.

PHOTO: AFP

## Julen pleased, Diego frustrated

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois came back to haunt Atletico Madrid as two crunch saves denied Antoine Griezmann and Diego Costa on Saturday in a goalless draw at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Courtois spent three seasons at Atletico but this was his first Madrid derby for Real. He made the most of it, saving when both Griezmann and Costa had only the Belgian to beat.

Gareth Bale did not emerge for the second period, substituted with a thigh injury, which will be a major concern for coach Julen Lopetegui.

Lopetegui's side move back level with Barcelona on points while Atletico sit just two behind.

"It's a pity because we wanted to win but we leave with a good result," Lopetegui said. "The goals will come, I don't have any doubts about that. We created a lot of chances."

About Bale, he said: "Gareth felt something in his adductor in the first half," Lopetegui added. "He came off as a precaution and will have tests tomorrow, so we will see what he actually has."

However, his counterpart Simeone was frustrated with VAR after Casemiro was not penalised for appearing to handle the ball in the penalty area.

Koke's cross in 31st minute was blocked by Casemiro, with the ball striking his arm. And despite VAR being available, the incident was not reviewed and Atletico were denied a chance to take the lead, leaving Simeone irritated.

"What do you want me to say," Simeone said in his post-match news conference. "There are four of them [officials] for VAR up there, four [officials] down [on the ground]. They can make mistakes, as they were all wrong."

"I guess they did not stop because they saw it in a normal play, because it's interpretable. They said it was involuntary, but what do you want me to say? The ball went towards the goal."



Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made two fantastic saves, the first of which denied Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann from a one-on-one, as he made his first appearance on the other side of the Madrid derby yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Close finals in school kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Ma Memorial Model Academy and Mirpur Girls Ideal Institute clinched the titles of the Vasavi School Kabaddi competition at the Paltan Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Both finals turned out to be very competitive affairs. In the boys' group final, Ma Memorial Model Academy beat Civil Aviation School and College by 44-38 points while Mirpur Girls' Ideal Institute clinched the girls' group title with a 48-43 point victory.

## Sports Writing Workshop ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The month-long Sports Writing Workshop, organised by sports website Pavilion.com.bd, concluded on Saturday.

Cricket website ESPNcricinfo's Bangladesh correspondent Mohammad Isam conducted the four session workshop.

Sports writer and cricket coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury attended the closing ceremony, where he distributed certificates among the 18 participants.

Director of Pavilion Mostakim Hossain was also present.

## Feeling good and in form: Neymar

AGENCIES, Paris



Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar declared he feels "good and in form" after scoring two goals in a 3-0 win away at Nice on Saturday which saw the reigning champions equal the record of victories from the start of a French top division season.

Neymar, who ended the game with a bloodied mouth, scored twice as PSG opened the season with eight straight wins, a feat that had only been achieved once, by Lille in 1936. The Brazil international opened the scoring in the first half after being teed up by Moussa Diaby and completed the three-goal haul with an assist from Kylian Mbappe to round off a three-strike week after his penalty against Reims on Wednesday.

"It was an important win," said Neymar post-match. "We won playing good football, everybody chipped in and we head back to Paris with all three points."

"I am very happy with my performance -- I feel good and in form right now and I am very happy to have scored."

PSG manager Thomas Tuchel was very pleased with his players, particularly the convincing nature of the win, as well as the successful use of the loose 3-4-3 formation that he has been trying to implement since his arrival.

"We were really good!" the German tactician said. "We are still winning, and this victory was merited. The first 20 minutes were very intense and a bit difficult but then we took control."

"We had to rotate a bit because I cannot take too many risks with such a small squad. We gave ourselves the chance to utilise Edinson [Cavani] or Marco [Verratti] from the bench, if needed. We are very satisfied."

Speaking with Canal+ after the final whistle, Marquinhos admitted that he and his team had taken their time to put Nice to bed, but that Tuchel's instructions were followed to the letter.

"I think that we took our time to kill the game off," said the Brazilian, who occupied a midfield berth instead of his usual defensive role. "We could have done so sooner. We worked hard to be ready, though, and the coach gave us specific instructions. We kept our shape and wanted to involve Neymar and Di Maria as much as possible -- we did that. We feel good on the pitch and we know that we have to be thorough in Ligue 1 to be ready and go as far as possible in the Champions League."

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY

### Khulna, Dhaka in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna and Dhaka moved into the final of the Walton 4th Women's Hockey Competition after winning their semifinal matches at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Khulna beat Rangpur 2-0 in the first semifinal, thanks to goals from Rani and Kimi, while the second semifinal saw Dhaka edge Rajshahi 2-1.

Tarin Akter gave Dhaka the lead in the sixth minute before Sumi Akter doubled the lead 15 minutes later. Sabita Kujur reduced the margin for Rajshahi in the 43rd minute but Dhaka held onto the slender lead.

The final will be held at 2:45 pm today after the third-place deciding match at 10:00am.

The final will be telecast live on ATN Bangla.

**"FOR SALE"**  
Hot Bread Bakery and Confectionery with Land and all Equipments. Interested Buyers Contact. Mobile. 01788-396611, 01755-749376