



With the hosts 1-0 up in the three-ODI series, the Bangladesh (L) and Zimbabwe teams were in contrasting moods as they arrived at the Radisson Blu in Chattogram yesterday. The second ODI will take place at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium tomorrow.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Shakib now seeks NOC

SPORTS REPORTER



It came as a surprise when news emerged that Bangladesh's injured star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, currently recuperating from an injury, had asked the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to play in the inaugural Emirates T20 league known as the 'UAE T20X' tournament.

The tournament is set to begin on December 19 and will last for 24 days.

"Shakib asked for an NOC to play in the T20 tournament but a decision is yet to be made in this regard. A decision will be taken in a day or two," BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus told the media.

Sources close to the board however informed that the board is unlikely to provide the NOC to Shakib for the tournament.

The all-rounder had to return home mid-way through the Asia Cup as his injury in the little

finger of his left hand flared up. He underwent a small surgery to get the pus out upon returning to Dhaka before leaving for Australia for treatment on October 5. He returned from Melbourne with the good news that the infection was under control. While in Australia he had said that it would take at least three months for him to start testing his finger with cricket again, and six months to undergo surgery, which he said would be required in all likelihood.

The reports from Australia suggested that Shakib will not be able to undergo surgery before roughly six months and until the infection subsides. In the meanwhile he would continue rehabilitation to mobilise the joint, known as soft tissue therapy.

BCB boss Nazmul Hassan told The Daily Star in a recent interview that Shakib playing the World Cup in England next summer was the top priority and that all cricket leading up to that -- including the Indian Premier League, the Bangladesh Premier League and the New Zealand tour -- were unimportant in comparison.



## Dot balls a problem for Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER



After the tour of the West Indies and before the Asia Cup, Bangladesh's limited-overs batting coach Neil McKenzie said that he was not too worried about his charges' perceived lack of six-hitting ability because it was made up for by the batsmen's penchant for playing good cricketing shots. He also said that what happened in between the boundaries and how the batsmen took advantage of certain areas interested him more.

Then Bangladesh's stand-in T20I skipper, Mahmudullah Riyad said much the same before the T20 Nidahas Trophy in March. The implication is that Bangladesh's batsmen are skilled in picking the singles and make up for their six-hitting ability by hitting the fours and

milking the bowling. However, recent history strongly suggests otherwise.

In recent times, the Tigers also have shown a tendency to lose wickets in clusters, losing three or more top-seven wickets for less than 15 runs in five of their last seven matches since the beginning of the Asia Cup. Over these games a cluster of dot balls built the pressure and the Tigers often lose wickets to release shots.

In their last five matches, Bangladesh have failed to score off 54.6 per cent of the deliveries they faced. It is revealing of the dot ball's importance to a team's fortunes that only South Africa -- among the six teams ranked higher than Bangladesh in ODI cricket -- have a higher percentage in their last five matches. Top-ranked England -- with just 45.3 per cent dot balls played in the last five matches while making the opposition play 50.3 per cent -- lead the way. It is

### DOT BALL PERCENTAGES IN THE LAST FIVE ODIs OF TOP 8

Team	Ranking	Dot-ball %	Opp dot-ball %
England	1	45.3	50.3
India	2	52.4	55.8
New Zealand	3	49.6	50.5
South Africa	4	57.9	58.6
Pakistan	5	53.5	53.3
Australia	6	47.8	47.7
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>55.6</b>
Sri Lanka	8	55.6	49.3

a strange statistic for the Proteas and can be seen as an anomaly as they have been known as a team adept at picking singles. Bangladesh, mean-

while, have a history of having a dot-ball problem as Mahmudullah had said after a defeat in the Nidahas Trophy to India.

This problem has been masked well by Bangladesh's excellent bowling as they have managed to bowl an even higher percentage of dot balls against the likes of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. However, when faced with a decidedly superior attack, such as the second-ranked India in the Asia Cup, they were thoroughly outperformed in this statistic -- in the Super Four game Bangladesh played an eye-watering 190 dot balls out of a total of 295 balls played.

While it is true that one Bangladesh batsman or other has stood up -- like Imrul Kayes on Sunday -- to make up for this failing, McKenzie will have to find a solution to the dot-ball problem if Bangladesh are to continue climbing the ladder.

## Nayeem Dhaka's nemesis

SPORTS REPORTER



The first day of the fourth round of the National Cricket League was dominated by spinners as Chattogram Division's young off-spinner Nayeem Hasan led the way by bagging an eight-wicket haul against Dhaka Division in the Tier-2 match at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The 17-year-old, who registered his previous best first-class figures of six for 119 in the previous game against Dhaka Metropolis, hiked up the devastation and ended up with eight for 106 from 35 overs to help bundle out Dhaka for 288.

Despite a good start provided by Dhaka openers Saif Hasan and Abdul Mazid' 82-run first-wicket stand, the innings lost its way after their departures.

Mazid's 72 was the highest score for Dhaka while Shuvagata Hom also



NAYEEM HASAN... 8 for 106



SOHAG GAZI... 5 for 40

struck a fifty, but Dhaka were caught in Nayeem's spin web and were eventually all out below 300. Irfan Hossain and Shakhawat Hossain picked the other two wickets.

In the other Tier-2 game at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Sylhet ended the first day on 292 for nine, riding on fifties from Shanaj Ahmed, Zakir Hasan and Shahanur Rahman after being asked to bat by Dhaka Metropolis.

Qazi Anik, Arafat Sunny and Mohammad Ashraful took two wickets for the bowling side.

In the Tier-1 game, another off-spinner in Sohag Gazi made hay as he picked up his 21st five-wicket haul to help Barishal skittle out hosts Rangpur for just 147 after asking them to bat at the Rangpur Cricket Garden.

Opener Rakin Ahmed's 46 was the highest score while Naeem Islam

added 39. Sohag ended up with figures of five for 40 from his 18 overs while left-arm spinner Monir Hossain scalped two for Barishal.

In reply, Barishal were in a spot of bother and ended the day on 35 for two with pacer Subhasish Roy picking up both wickets.

In the other Tier-1 game at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, the hosts ended the day on 281 for seven after taking first strike against Rajshahi. Despite fifties from Anamul Haque, Soumya Sarkar and Tushar Imran, no one went on to convert the start into a big knock. Ziaur Rahman will resume the second day on 37 along with number nine Moinul Islam.

Left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam picked up three and Forhad Reza bagged two wickets for the bowling side.

## World T20 up next for women

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh women's cricket team will soon begin their mission in the ICC World T20 in the West Indies as the Tigresses will fly for the Caribbean today to take part in the mega event.

Bangladesh are placed in Group A alongside the hosts, South Africa, England and Sri Lanka. The Tigresses will begin their campaign by taking on defending champions West Indies in the tournament opener on November 9 at Providence.

Salma Khatun and her troops will then face England and Sri Lanka on November 12 and 14 respectively. Bangladesh are also set to take part in two warm-up matches against Ireland and Pakistan ahead of the tournament.

The Tigresses have enjoyed a prolific run ever since their ACC Asia Cup triumph in June this year in Malaysia, where they beat India in the final before following up with a series win against the Netherlands. The women in red and green also went on to clinch the ICC World T20 Qualifiers by defeating Ireland in the final.

Bangladesh have prepared for this multi-national event through a four-match T20I series against Pakistan at home, which saw the home side face a 3-0 defeat in the T20I series before they went on to win the lone ODI.

Just a day ahead of their departure for the Caribbean, Bangladesh took part in a practice game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and so, skipper Salma is confident about the team's chances despite the series defeat against Pakistan.

"We are going there 10-12 days ahead to adapt to the conditions as we are not aware of the Caribbean environment. I hope we will be able to give our best. Our spin department is very strong and at the same time our fast bowlers have also done well. Let's see how the pitch behaves for our spinners and I hope we will be able to utilise them properly," Salma told reporters yesterday.

## Herath to retire after opening England Test

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's left-arm bowler Rangana Herath is retiring earlier than expected and will bid farewell after next month's opening Test against England in Galle, the cricket board announced Monday.

Herath, 40, was expected to bow out at the conclusion of England's three-Test tour, but he will now call it quits from international cricket at the same ground where he made his Test debut against Australia in 1999.

"We respect and support Rangana's decision even though his retirement will be a big loss for Sri Lanka Cricket," the Sri Lankan board said.

"We wish to thank him for the invaluable contribution he has made."

Herath has played 92 Tests, taking 430 wickets -- making him Sri Lanka's second most prolific bowler behind Muttiah Muralitharan, who holds the all-time world record of 800.

His last ODI appearance was in Wellington against England in March 2015. The first Test against England starts on November 6.

## Aus, Eng reject Al Jazeera's fixing claim

AFP, Sydney

Australia and England Monday rejected fresh allegations about corruption in cricket by television news channel Al Jazeera, which claimed there had been 26 spot-fixing incidents in 15 international matches.

In a follow-up documentary to one aired earlier this year, the Qatari-based broadcaster reported on Sunday that a small group of England players allegedly cheated in seven games between 2011 and 2012.

It claimed Australian players were similarly involved in five matches over the same period, Pakistan players in three and players from other, unidentified, teams in one match.

"In some cases, both teams appear to have delivered a fix," it said, pointing to purported recordings of a match-fixer calling in the fixes to a notorious Indian book-maker linked to organised crime.

## Australia brush aside UAE in one-off T20

AFP, Abu Dhabi



D'Arcy Short smacked an unbeaten half-century as Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory over United Arab Emirates in a lone Twenty20 international in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

Short struck eight boundaries as he finished 68 not out off 53 balls to help Australia chase down a modest 118-run target in 16.1 overs after UAE were restricted to 117 for 6.

Short overcame the loss of skipper Aaron Finch (one) and Chris Lynn (20) as Australia tuned up for

their three-match T20 series against Pakistan starting in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

The other two matches will be played in Dubai on Friday and Sunday.

Nathan Coulter-Nile and Billy Stanlake finished with identical bowling figures of two for 20 as UAE lost wickets at regular intervals before Shaiman Anwar top-scored with 41 and Mohammad Naveed made 27 not out.

Anwar hit three boundaries and two sixes during his 44-ball knock while Naveed also smashed two sixes and two boundaries in his 13-ball innings.



Bangladesh women's cricket team pose for a photograph with BCB president Nazmul Hassan yesterday. The Tigresses will depart today for the ICC Women's World T20 in the West Indies.

PHOTO: BCB