



**Bangladesh opener Imrul Kayes examines his bat at the Sylhet International Stadium during training yesterday ahead of the Test series against Zimbabwe which begins on Saturday.**

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## 'Will try to carry form into Tests'

DWOHA CHOWDHURY from Sylhet

Imrul Kayes did not play a match during the two-Test series in West Indies in July this year. The 31-year-old left-hander, who played his last Test against Sri Lanka in Mirpur in February this year, failed to score even a fifty in his last 16 innings since making 78 against England in October 2016 in Mirpur. Since making his Test debut against South Africa in November 2008, the southpaw has played 34 Tests

It is easy to say but hard to do. I haven't played well in Tests for a while, but have done well before. Everyone goes through bad times but it's best not to think about that.

**Bangladesh opener  
Imrul Kayes**

and has an average of 26.23 -- all forlorn stats indeed.

However, the batsman has reason to be confident when the Tigers take on Zimbabwe in the first Test at the Sylhet International Stadium from November 3 as

he has come here on the back of a phenomenal run-spree in the three-match ODI series against the same opponents.

Imrul also pointed to that background while talking to reporters yesterday.

"The format is different. But when you are among the runs, it gives you enough confidence regardless of whether you scored in ODIs, Tests or T20Is. The main thing is confidence and I will try to carry my ODI form into the Test series," said Imrul, who hit two centuries and a 90 in the ODI series.

"It is easy to say but hard to do. I haven't played well in Test for long, but have done well before. Everyone goes through bad times but it's best not to think about that," he added.

The left-handed opener said that people hardly take notice of an innings unless it is a century.

"I have had some good scores but all finished in the 50s, 60s or 70s. If you look back at 2010, I scored around a thousand runs [867 runs in ODIs], but it was not considered big because hundreds were missing. Now, as I have got centuries, everyone is considering it big. But I know how to play big knocks and now I am trying to capitalise on good starts," he said.

The soft-spoken cricketer also added that he was well aware of both sides of the coin, which is why he was not thinking too much about the praise he has been receiving after the ODIs.

"No doubt you feel good when you are praised but I know the criticism will start if I fail to perform. So it's better to focus on my performance. I need to do my job," he said.



**SHAKIB AL HASAN**



**TAMIM IQBAL**

## Star duo's possible return against WI

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh cricket team lost both Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal to injuries during the Asia Cup in the United Arab Emirates, however, the duo could return to action in the upcoming home series against West Indies.

Cricket committee chairman Akram Khan informed that the team management is hopeful of Shakib and Tamim's availability in the West Indies series, which begins with the first Test on November 22.

"We might be able to get them [Tamim and Shakib] for the series against West Indies. We probably won't get them from the start but we are hoping that they will be available," Akram said.

All-rounder Shakib injured his left hand's little finger during the tri-series final against Sri Lanka at home. That injury flared up again ahead of the virtual Asia Cup semi-final against Pakistan, with the pain rendering him unable to wield a bat. He subsequently left the tournament and immediately underwent emergency surgery upon his return to Dhaka to extract the pus from his infected finger. The southpaw then

consulted a specialist in Australia and informed that his infection was under control while adding that there was no possibility of undergoing another surgery within the next six to 12 months.

Now it turns out that, according to Akram, the all-rounder did not report any further discomfort with his finger and, depending on a medical report, Shakib could be granted an NOC (No Objection Certificate) to participate in the T20X tournament in the UAE as requested.

"We are awaiting the result of a medical report and if the report is positive, Shakib will be granted the NOC. There is no possibility of undergoing surgery within a year and right now there is no pain in his finger. If he is medically fit then he will be able to play," Akram told reporters.

Meanwhile, Tamim Iqbal had suffered a fracture in his left hand's index finger knuckle following a blow from Sri Lanka pacer Suranga Lakmal during the opening game of the Asia Cup. The left-hander consulted a doctor in England and his rehabilitation is apparently going well. He is expected to recuperate and restart cricketing activities soon.

## First youth one-dayer washed out

SPORTS REPORTER

The first youth one-day match between Sri Lanka under-19 and Bangladesh under-19 was abandoned due to rain at Dambulla yesterday.

Batting first Sri Lanka U-19 managed to score 207 runs for 9 wickets in 50 overs. Mohammad Mritunjay Chowdhury of Bangladesh U-19 took 4 wickets for 46 runs.

In reply, Bangladesh U-19 scored 66 runs for 1 wicket in 13.2 overs before rain stopped play. Tanzid Hasan Tamid scored 51 before he was out.

## Sania, Shoaib blessed with baby boy

AFP, New Delhi

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza has given birth to a baby boy, her Pakistani cricketer husband Shoaib Malik said on Tuesday, prompting a flood of congratulatory messages on social media.

"Excited to announce: It's a boy, and my girl is doing great and keeping strong as usual #Alhumdulillah. Thank you for the wishes and Duas, we are humbled. #BabyMirzaMalik," Malik tweeted.

Mirza and Malik enjoy a high profile owing to their successful sports careers and their unusual marriage straddling the border of nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan.

"It's a boyyyyy!!!!" Mirza's her younger sister, Anam Mirza, wrote on Instagram.

Malik's manager and agent, Ameer Haq, said the former Pakistan captain was "over the moon" to become a father.

"#BabyMirzaMalik boy is here! Baby and mother are all smiles, the dad is over the moon," Haq tweeted.

Mirza, who is a three-time Grand Slam doubles winner, announced her pregnancy in April.

## Dhaka on top after Shuvagata ton

SPORTS REPORTER



As incessant rain barred even a ball being bowled for the second consecutive day at two venues, the two other matches of the fifth round of the National Cricket League moved apace at Rangpur and Bogura yesterday.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura, Dhaka Metro's position at the top of Tier-2 was in grave danger as they ended the second day on 59 for two, needing a further 268 runs to make Dhaka Division bat again. Dhaka's middle-order batsman Shuvagata Hom hammered his 10th first-class ton yesterday, a day after Metro declared their first innings on 59 for eight to prevent their Tier-2 rivals from gaining the 1.5 points that they would have gotten by claiming nine first-innings wickets.

Resuming the day on 167 for three after opener Rony Talukdar had hit 86 the previ-



**SUNZAMUL... 7 for 69**



**SHUVAGATA... 106**

ous day, Dhaka rode on Shuvagata's ton to drive home their advantage by piling on 386 and taking a massive first-innings lead of 327. Metro's medium pacer Shykat Ali took four for 21 while pacers Qazi Onik, Shahidul Islam and left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny took two wickets each.

At the Cricket Garden Stadium in Rangpur, Rajshahi Division's left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam bagged his 14th first-class five-wicket haul by finishing with figures of seven for 69, but could not prevent Rangpur Division from adding 106 runs to their overnight score of 230 for five. Having taken three wickets the

previous day, Sunzamul took four of the last Rangpur wickets, including the last one of Subhasish Roy to dismiss the hosts for 336.

Rajshahi's reply was painfully slow as they reached 64 for two in 41 overs. Junaid Siddique was batting on 35 off 110 deliveries along with Farhad Hossain, who was unbeaten on a 78-ball 19. Rangpur pacer Robiul Haque took both the wickets to fall.

Meanwhile the Tier-1 match between Khulna Division and Barisal Division at the Barisal Divisional Stadium, and the Tier-2 game between Chattogram Division and Sylhet

HIGHLIGHTS	
<p><b>Rajshahi Division's left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam bagged his 14th five-wicket haul during Rangpur's first innings of 336 all out. Sunzamul, who also played one Test and three ODIs for the national team, took seven for 69 in 41.3 overs. He needs four more wickets in the second innings to</b></p>	<p><b>reach 250 first-class wickets. Dhaka Division batsman Shuvagata Hom scored his 10th first-class ton, striking 106 in their first innings of 386 in response to Dhaka Metro's 59 for eight declared. He hit five sixes during the knock, which came off 146 balls.</b></p>
SCORES IN BRIEF	
<p><b>RANGPUR V RAJSHAHI</b> <b>RANGPUR:</b> First innings 336 (Rakin 79, Mahmudul 36, Naeem 89, Dhiman 57, Sajedul 23 not out; Sunzamul 7-69, Shafiqul 2-82) <b>RAJSHAHI:</b> First innings 64 for 2 (Junaid 35 not out, Farhad 19 not out; Rabiul 2-18) <b>DHAKA METRO V DHAKA DIV</b></p>	<p><b>DHAKA METRO:</b> First innings 59 for 8 decl and second innings 59 for 2 (Shadman 26 not out, Shamsur 16; Taibur 1-0) <b>DHAKA DIV:</b> First innings 386 (Rony 86, Saif 49, Shuvagata 106, Taibur 56, Mazid 39; Shykat 4-21, Onik 2-67, Shahidul 2-47)</p>

Division at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar did not see any action because of rain for the second day in a row. With those matches

likely headed for draws and all Tier-2 teams with an identical number of wins, losses and draws, Dhaka are in pole position to take top spot in the tier.



## Mushy with the gloves again?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim may be back to keeping during the first Test against Zimbabwe. In Bangladesh's most recent Tests in West Indies in July, Mushfiqur played as a specialist batsman while Nurul Hasan took the gloves. Mushfiqur suggested while leaving practice that the team management want him to keep.

## A love for sport not returned

ANWAR ALI from Rajshahi

"I have always smiled despite all my difficulties and sorrows, but I couldn't continue smiling after seeing the hardships that my parents and sister are facing due to my illness," said the paralysed patient in her village home in Rajshahi's Dargapara area.

These could be the words of any working Bangladeshi beset by illness and lacking the support mechanisms to cope with the hardships. But that the words were spoken by one of the country's few genuinely all-round sportspersons, whose achievements gave her an audience with the Prime Minister -- a picture of which she proudly displays beside her sickbed along with her medals and crests -- should raise serious questions about how we treat our sporting heroes after they leave the spotlight.

On Monday afternoon when this correspondent visited her, Chamily Khatun could not move unassisted when she tried sitting up on bed to have lunch. Her mother helped her to sit up, supported by a pile of pillows against the decrepit wall of her one-room home.

Chamily began her versatile sporting career with athletics and won medals in the 17th, 18th and 25th



**Supported by a pile of pillows, paralysed cricketer Chamily Khatun sits up on bed at her Dargapara residence in Rajshahi on Monday. (Inset) During her playing career, she received many accolades, including an award from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.** PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

National Junior Athletics Competitions. She won silver in the Asian Games in China in 2010 and played for the national women's football team in the under-19 AFC Cup in India in 2006.

She is however best known as a right-handed batter and off-spinner. She played for the national women's team that won the 2008 South Asia Cup Cricket in Malaysia. She took part in the Tri-Nation Cricket in Sri Lanka

in 2009 and 2011 and was with the Bangladesh team that qualified for the World Cup and achieved ODI status.

However, she was forgotten and dropped from the team after suffering an injury during a practice session in a Dhaka gym in 2011 and has not received proper treatment since. Even so, she continued her stressful job with Ansar and Village Defence Party, before eventually becoming bedridden due to paralysis.

The 30-year-old did not marry, thinking of the needs of her parents and divorced sister.

"I had to leave the playground since I got injured. Now, my right side has become paralysed twice in the last 15 days," Chamily Khatun told this correspondent, "Doctors advised me to go for better treatment years ago, but I couldn't afford it as I was fighting to survive. I have my parents and a divorced sister to look after."

"I haven't talked about it all these days because I had my job. But now I have become helpless because of my paralysis. My job in the Ansar and Village Defence Party is at stake. If I lose the job, I will have to starve to death," she said.

Chamily has dealt with poverty ever since her childhood, and realised that she would have to leave home for a

better life.

"I passed many days when I ate one meal and starved for the rest of the day," she said. "I miss my days in the fields. Although I played for my own survival, my love for sports and my country was above everything else. I began my career in the sports for my love for it, but I learnt to love the country through sports."

She sought help from the cricket lovers and countrymen so that she can start her normal life again.

Bangladesh men's team all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan called Chamily on Monday evening and asked about her wellbeing. A representative of bowler Mustafizur Rahman also called and both popular cricketers promised assistance soon. Women cricketers Panna Ghosh and Shahnaiz Ahmed have been helping Chamily for the last few months.

"The [Bangladesh Cricket Board] president [Nazmul Hassan] has already given us directions and we have contacted her. We have to learn what treatment she requires, and then we will give her all the medical assistance she needs," Bangladesh Cricket Board CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I want to play again. It is possible if I get proper treatment. I want to live a