



A jovial Shakib Al Hasan (R) and Soumya Sarkar are seen during a Test in Chattogram last year. The pair will return to Test cricket against West Indies in Chattogram. PHOTO: STAR FILE

# Shakib returns as Tamim waits

SPORTS REPORTER



In recent times, whenever squads for an upcoming series are announced there is a buzz around fresh faces. However, when the squad for the upcoming two-Test series against West Indies was announced yesterday, headlines were dominated by a familiar face -- that of Test and T20I captain Shakib Al Hasan.

The inclusion of the left-hander came as a huge relief as he was finally given the all-clear to return to action following a lengthy lay-off. He will lead the Tigers in his inimitable way from the first Test in Chattogram, set to begin on November 22.

Opener Tamim Iqbal was not included in the 13-member squad for the first Test but chief selector Minhajul Abedin said that the left-hander may be included in the squad for the second Test.

Minhajul also informed that Tamim, who recently started batting again in the nets, had suffered a side strain during training and would be assessed by the medical team on November 23.

Shakib has been nursing a finger injury that he sustained during a tri-nation series in January this year. Although he returned for September's Asia Cup, he had to return from the UAE midway through the tournament due to the finger being infected. The all-rounder also travelled to Melbourne earlier this October to have his finger examined.

Shakib started light batting practice in the nets

## SQUAD

Shakib Al Hasan (Captain), Soumya Sarker, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Mithun, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Ariful Haque, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Taijul Islam, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Nayeem Hasan.

earlier this week but it was uncertain whether he would be fully fit before the Test series. He said that he was feeling better but added that it would take time to get fully match fit. However, all the speculation ended with yesterday's announcement.

Alongside Shakib, left-arm opener Soumya Sarkar and 17-year old off-spinner Nayeem Hasan were inclusions in the shortened 13-member squad for the first Test against West Indies. Liton Das, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Abu Jayed, Shafiqul Islam and Nazmul Islam were all dropped from the 15-member squad that had been named against Zimbabwe.

Minhajul said Liton's failure to impress in the recent Tests against Zimbabwe, combined with Soumya's impressive form in the National Cricket League (NCL), earned the latter a spot in the squad.

The former national captain also mentioned that Soumya's ability to handle fast bowlers would

also be useful against the West Indies pacers.

"Soumya has done well in the NCL while Liton has failed in Tests, so we want to give him [Soumya] a chance. Soumya plays fast bowling quite well and the fast bowlers of West Indies can consistently bowl within a range of 140-145 KMPH so we hope Soumya can do well against them," Minhajul said.

The left-handed opener last featured in a Test for Bangladesh in September last year against South Africa.

It was not surprising that Nayeem -- who was also named in the Test squad for a series against Sri Lanka earlier this year -- was included, especially after he bagged 28 wickets in the recently-concluded NCL.

However, Minhajul said that the youngster was only a backup.

"Nayeem is a future prospect. Right now we are considering him as a backup option for Taijul [Islam] and Mehedi [Hasan Miraz]," added Minhajul.

Mustafizur Rahman and Jayed are the only two genuine pacers in the squad, indicative of how Bangladesh intends to approach the first Test.

Jayed, who was the standout pacer for Bangladesh in July during the Tigers' tour of West Indies, was surprisingly dropped but the selectors stuck with another pacer in the form of Khaled Ahmed.

"It was the coach's plan to drop Jayed for the first Test. The nature of the pitch in Chattogram is slow and Khaled can generate more pace than Jayed and can be more useful in those conditions," concluded Minhajul.

# Neymar punishes Uruguay

Argentina cruise to 2-0 win over Mexico

AGENCIES



Neymar kept his cool to score a controversial penalty that fired Brazil to a 1-0 win over Uruguay in a full-blooded friendly on Friday.

The Brazil captain was subjected to some ferocious fouls from Uruguay as the clash between the South American rivals boiled over at the Emirates Stadium. But the PSG striker had the last laugh, netting from the spot late in the second half after Diego Laxalt was harshly ruled to have fouled Danilo.

Brazil are now unbeaten in their last 10 meetings with Uruguay, who haven't defeated the five-time world champions since 2001.

"It was a typical South American derby. We have respect for Uruguay. They have dangerous players," Brazil boss Tite said. "We managed to control them. This is our third game now without conceding a goal."

Uruguay manager Oscar Tabarez added: "Neymar was playing with free-

Neymar was playing with freedom. We weren't controlling him very well. But I thought our young team matched Brazil. It's a shame it comes down to a controversial situation.

OSCAR TABAREZ  
 URUGUAY COACH

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"But I thought our young team matched Brazil. It's a shame it comes down to a controversial situation."

Even on a dank, misty north London evening, Brazil's global popularity ensured a large crowd braved the elements to see their star-studded line-up.

Neymar was the headline act as the Maracana came to the Holloway Road. His every touch brought cheers of approval from the crowd.

There was little love lost between the

sides and referee Craig Pawson dished out five bookings in the first half alone.

Neymar was growing increasingly irritated by the Uruguayan tackling, shaking his head in frustration after being clipped by Mathias Suarez. Neymar finally got his revenge for the rough treatment in the 76th minute.

When Laxalt dived in on Danilo, the Brazilian launched into a theatrical fall that led Pawson to give a dubious penalty.

Neymar grabbed the ball and stepped up to send Campana the wrong way from the spot.

In another friendly later in the day, a first-half header from defender Ramiro Funes Mori and a second half own goal from substitute Isaac Brizuela gave Argentina a 2-0 win over Mexico in a friendly in Cordoba on Friday.

The Villarreal centre half opened the scoring a minute before half time when he got his head to a Paulo Dybala free kick before Brizuela put through his own net eight minutes from time.



Brazil talisman Neymar made the difference against Uruguay in a full-blooded friendly, during which he was subjected to numerous fouls, (INSET) even from PSG teammate Edinson Cavani. PHOTO: AFP



The visiting West Indies squad undergo a catching practice session at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday on the eve of today's two-day warm-up game against a BCB XI. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

# Spinners put England on the brink

AFP, Kandy



Spinners led by Jack Leach helped England close in on a series-clinching victory after Sri Lanka lost a fighting

Angelo Mathews for 88 in the second Test on Saturday before rain stopped play.

Moeen Ali trapped Mathews lbw in the first over after tea to end the senior batsman's solid resistance that had kept alive Sri Lanka's hopes of chasing down a target of 301.

Leach struck soon to get Dilruwan Perera for one when torrential rain halted proceedings for the day with Sri Lanka on 226 for seven in Kandy.

The hosts, who trail the three-match series 0-1, need another 75 to win with three wickets and three sessions in hand. Niroshan Dickwella was batting on 27 when play was stopped.

Leach has claimed four wickets with his

left-arm orthodox spin while Ali has taken two on a turning pitch.

Mathews, who hit his third half-century of the series, took crease with Sri Lanka on a shaky 26 for 3.

The former captain played a gritty innings that lasted 137 deliveries and also built crucial partnerships.

England, who had resumed the day on 324 for 9, stretched their second innings lead to 300 with overnight batsman Ben Foakes hitting an unbeaten 65.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 290

SRI LANKA: First innings 336

ENGLAND: Second innings 346 (Burns 59, Root 124, Buttler 34, Foakes 65 not out; Perera 3-96, Dananjaya 6-115)

SRI LANKA: Secpnd innings 226 for 7 (Karunaratne 57, Mathews 88, Silva 37, Dickwella 27 not out; Leach 4-73, Ali 2-65)

# Draft system a smash hit

SPORTS REPORTER



The squads for the 7th Bangladesh Cricket League were formed through a draft at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday in order to bring balance to the teams and make the four-day tournament more competitive.

The tournament committee allowed each respective zone to retain six players while the rest were picked up through the draft.

"It was the board's decision [to introduce a draft system for the first time]. But it will help to bring balance among the sides. Most of the players come from South and North Zone but they represent national team so we get good performances from them. However, when they leave for national duty, those teams are weakened. In this case, the draft can help them form a balanced side. I believe this system will greatly improve competitiveness," observed former national captain and North Zone coach Khaled Mashud.

"The new format means a player-by-choice system has been introduced. Everybody has tried to retain their old players as six were allowed. We lost two or three players like Imrul Kayes, Ziaur Rahman and Mosaddek Hossain but we

picked new players in their place. We have confirmed Rakibul Hasan and Shafiqul Islam and we have Al-Amin and Kamrul Islam. We tried our best to make a good, balanced side," said South Zone veteran Tushar Imran.

Zafrul Ehsan, the Walton Central Zone coach, also spoke in favour of the draft system.

"I am taking it positively. Good and quality players will play and the formerly weaker zones can now play with good

players. There is hardly any chance to see good players sitting in the dressing room, so I am optimistic," opined Ehsan.

The four-team first class tournament will start from November 21 with Prime Bank South Zone taking on Walton Central Zone at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. BCB North Zone will face off against Islami Bank East Zone in the other first round match at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.



South Zone's run-scoring machine Tushar Imran (R) and coach Sarwar Imran (C) ponder over the paperwork during the first-ever BCL draft at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: BCB

## SQUADS

### BCB NORTH ZONE

Jahurul Islam, Junaid Siddiqui, Farhad Hossain, Naeem Islam, Subashis Roy, Mizanur Rahman, Sunzamul Islam, Ziaur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Sabbir Rahman, Dhiman Ghosh, Tanbir Hider, Sohag Gazi, Mohor Sheikh, Ebadat Hossain, Tanvir Islam, Muktar Ali, Ariful Haque and Tawhid Hridoy.

### ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE

Mohammad Saifuddin, Mominul Haque, Khaled Ahmed, Abu Jayed, Zakir Hasan, Afif Hossain, Farhad Reza, Rony Talukdar, Shamsur Rahman, Yasir Ali, Tasamul Haque, Enamul Haque Jr, Hasan Mahmud, Mahidul Islam, Mahmudul Hasan, Sadiqur Rahman, Iffran Hossain, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan and Imrul Kayes.

### PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE

Tushar Imran, Anamul Haque, Shahriar Nafees, Al-Amin Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Abdur Razzak, Shafiqul Islam, Rakibul Hasan, Kamrul Islam, Al-Amin, Nahidul Islam, Fazole Mahmud, Mahedi Hasan, Sajedul Islam, Monir Hossain, Salman Hossain, Delwar Hossain, Soumya Sarkar, Mohammad Mithun and Mehedi Maruf.

### WALTON CENTRAL ZONE

Shadman Islam, Abu Haider, Shuvagata Hom, Taibur Rahman, Mosharrarf Hossain, Marshall Ayub, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Robiul Haque, Abdul Mazid, Shahidul Islam, Jaker Ali, Arafat Sunny, Mosaddek Hossain, Salauddin Sakil, Saif Hassan, Sharifullah, Yeasin Arafat, Liton Das, Zabid Hossain and Taskin Ahmed.

# Kohli warned

AGENCIES, Mumbai

The Board of Control for Cricket in India's Committee of Administrators (COA) has asked Indian captain Virat Kohli to conduct himself with "humility" on the tour of Australia which kicks off with a T20I game on November 21.

In the days leading up to Team India's departure for Australia on Friday, a COA member in a WhatsApp chat took up with Virat the matter of being civil and courteous in his interactions. This was followed by a phone call in which it was reiterated that he must, at all times, behave in a manner that befits the captain of the Indian team.

"He was told to be humble, in his interactions both with the press and the public," said a COA official. It was conveyed to Kohli that his recent conduct reeked of arrogance. While Kohli's immediate response to the advice is not known, his subdued behavior at the pre-tour press conference on Thursday seemed to suggest that he had taken it seriously.

# Two more join umpire's panel

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will now be represented internationally in cricket by two new individuals, not as players but as umpires. Tanvir Ahmed and Gazi Soheli officially joined the ranks of Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and Masurur Rahman Mukul on the Emirates International Panel of ICC Umpires yesterday, doubling the number of Bangladeshi nationals on the esteemed panel.