



Bangladesh national team swimmers spent their leisure time inside mosquito nets in fear of dengue fever at the Krira Palli-2 dormitories of the Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Athletes leave SA Games camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Female athletes taking up residence at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi began to leave the training camp for the South Asian Games in a bid to avoid dengue fever as well book travel tickets for their Eid-Ul-Adha vacations early.

Approximately 80 female athletes from kabaddi, kho kho and basketball disciplines were being accommodated at the Sultana Kamal Women's Complex. Athletes of the first two disciplines had their training sessions at the complex premises while basketball players were being trained at the Dhanmondi Indoor Gymnasium.

So far, eight female athletes have been diagnosed with dengue fever and are being nursed at the Bangladesh Medical Hospital (BMH) in Dhanmondi while kabaddi player Muslima Khatun was shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) ICU from BMH yesterday.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) medical committee member secretary Dr. Shafiqur Rahman informed that Muslima was shifted to CMH following other complications such as stomach pain, however, her blood platelet count has improved from what it was on Sunday.

"All 25 kabaddi players left the camp with three players being admitted to the hospital due to dengue fever," Kabaddi assistant coach Shahnaz Parvin Maleka said. "Actually, we requested the Bangladesh Olympic Association for early vacations to avoid dengue fever as well as celebrate Eid-Ul-Adha."

Bangladesh Kho Kho Federation general secretary Fazlur Rahman Babul informed that about six players left the complex yesterday while others are preparing to leave the camp, subject to the availability of bus tickets to visit their home districts. Babul informed that five kho kho players out of 21 were diagnosed with dengue fever.

BOA training committee member secretary AK Sarker said, "The official Eid vacation will start from August 8 but we allowed the female athletes from Kabaddi, basketball and kho kho to leave the camp early as they are facing problems to get bus tickets."

The SA Games preparation got underway on July 15 with athletes from about 21 disciplines beginning their preparations at different venues across the country. However, the athletes at the Sultana Kamal Women's Complex succumbed to dengue fever despite BOA having already taken some initiatives to prevent the spread of the disease.

# Steyn calls time on Test

REUTERS, Cape Town



South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn has announced his retirement from test cricket, but will be available for one-day international and Twenty20 cricket, he confirmed on Monday.

Steyn, who has battled a recurring shoulder injury that kept him out of the recent World Cup in England, said he has made the decision in order to prolong his international career.

"Today I walk away from a format of the game I love so much," he said in a media release from Cricket South Africa. "In my opinion, test cricket is the best version of this game. It tests you mentally, physically, emotionally.

"It's terrible to consider never playing another test again but what's more terrifying is the thought of never playing again at all.

"So I will be focusing on ODIs and T20s for the rest of my career to maximise my full potential and ensure my longevity in this sport.

"I'd like to thank everyone in cricket, no one specific, because everyone has been a part of my journey. And I look forward to continuing to play for the Proteas in the shorter formats."

Steyn, 36, has amassed 439 test wickets, more than any other South African, but has only played eight five-day matches in the last three years as shoulder, groin and foot injuries have



STATS				
Tests	Wkts	BBM	Avg	Econ
93	439	11/60	22.95	3.24

FACTS				
-------	--	--	--	--

South Africa right-arm quick Dale Steyn played his last Test for South Africa at the same ground he had made his debut. Back in December 2004, Steyn made his debut against England at the St George's Park in Port Elizabeth, where he also played his last game for the Proteas against Sri Lanka in February 2019. Unfortunately, South Africa lost both the matches.

Steyn has 26 five-wicket hauls and five 10-wicket hauls in Test matches for South Africa.

His figures of 11 for 60 against Pakistan back in February 2013 remains his best bowling figures in a single Test match.

kept him sidelined.

He burst onto the test scene as a raw speedster against England in 2004, but his career flourished two years later when he learnt to gain greater control.

Steyn is a bowler with a reputation of being able to take wickets in all types of conditions, his raw pace, accuracy and ability to get movement both ways being his key weapons.

"Dale is undoubtedly one of the all-time greats of cricket," CSA Chief Executive Thabang Moroe said. "From the time he made his test debut against England in 2004 and dismissed their captain, Michael Vaughan, with a superb delivery, he has been one of the standout fast bowlers in world cricket.

# Nadal longs for pre-online days

AFP, Montreal

Rafael Nadal admitted on Sunday that he prefers the tennis environment of a decade and a half ago, when players actually had more human contact and less online time.

The Spaniard with 18 Grand Slam titles is back at the ATP Montreal Masters as defending champion after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas for his fourth Canadian trophy last year.

The world number two remains among tennis' elite, but the 33-year-old said that perhaps the "old" days were better for human communication.

"We had energy as younger players to do things but there were no social networks then, so you didn't always have to be in front of a laptop," Nadal said of the early 2000s when he began his world-beating career.

"There was more contact among the players than there is today. I grew up without the new world of social networks, and I prefer it that way.

"But the world changes and we have to adapt to the times," he said.

Nadal said that while he of course uses various social media platforms, he also knows how to enjoy "real" life.

The Mallorcan who loves fishing and water sports, is awaiting delivery of a new yacht for use in the Mediterranean surround his home base.

"I know how to enjoy the life between tournaments," he said. "I take everything with a little more calm."

Montreal holds a special place in Nadal's heart. It's where he defeated Andre Agassi for the title in 2005 for his first elite hardcourt crown.

## SOUTH ASIAN GAMES PREPARATION

# New crisis hits badminton camp

SPORTS REPORTER



Newly appointed coach, Ohiduzzaman Raju, informed yesterday that he will not be available

to help conduct a training camp for the upcoming South Asian Games. In addition, shuttler Elina Sultana quit the camp on the grounds that the environment is unhealthy while the unwarranted talks about another recently appointed coach, Enayet Ullah Khan, was also a driving factor. Elina and Shapla Akter, Bangladesh's top two shuttlers, earlier decided to boycott the preparation camp, citing the appointment of low-quality coaches who had nothing to give them. The SA Games bronze medal winners then later affirmed their stance on not joining the camp until qualified coaches are appointed for the national badminton team.

For the women's team, the Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) appointed Level-2 coach Enayet and Level-1 coach Raju in place of Level-1 coaches Maruf Alam and

Gautam Chandra, who were given charge of the men's national team.

Coincidentally, Raju and Enayet are the husbands of Shapla and Elina respectively.

"I requested the federation to release me from my duty because I don't have time to coach the national team," said Raju, who hinted that unnecessary talks regarding him and his wife Shapla was also another reason he declined the coaching role.

"We did not want our husbands as coaches rather we sought qualified coaches. A few federation officials and a quarter of media are not considering the qualification of newly appointed coaches. They are finding the relation with us. It is not fair because the federation appointed the coaches. The environment in badminton is dirty. Few officials also are making bad comments on husband-wife relations. They are also making comments about me to make room for junior players by leaving badminton," Elina told The Daily Star over the phone after leaving the camp yesterday.

Enayet yesterday trained only two

shuttlers out of six after Elina left the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium. Shapla, along with two other shuttlers from Bangladesh Army, is expected to join the camp after Eid-ul-Adha.

When the husband-wife relation was pointed out, former national champion Enayet said, "I have been selected on the basis of my quality, not as the husband of Elina. It is a place of professionalism and there is no question of husband-wife. It is national duty for me and everyone is equal in my training camp."

BBF general secretary AH Bahar also believes the marital aspect will not have any impact on training as both coaches were selected on the basis of experience and quality.

"We don't see any problem with it [being husband and wife]. Besides, a foreign coach is likely to take charges of the national team by the end of this month," Bahar said. "There was grouping among the coaches and it happened because of two executive members. We will definitely look into it afterwards."

# Suarez sinks Arsenal

AFP, Barcelona



Luis Suarez's late volley saw Barcelona to a 2-1 win in the Joan Gamper Trophy friendly in front of a bumper crowd at the Camp Nou, as Antoine Griezmann made his home debut following his big money move from Atletico Madrid.

Suarez flashed home Sergi Roberto's lofted pass in the 89th minute in front of nearly 99,000 people, who packed the stands to see new signings Griezmann and Frenkie De Jong, with his strike and Ainsley Maitland-Niles' comical own goal cancelling out Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's fine first half opener.

"It was an entertaining game, the

atmosphere was great and it was a privilege to reunite with our fans," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde.

"I think we did well, but perhaps in the first half we lacked a bit of rhythm."

Barca are aiming for European glory this campaign after suffering Champions League humiliations against Roma and Liverpool the last two seasons.

Before the match captain Lionel Messi addressed those defeats -- which saw Barca throw away comfortable first-leg leads before being dumped out -- in a speech to the crowd.

However Messi didn't take the field and it was left to his long-time strike partner rather than the new boys to see off the Gunners after a powerful second half display.



Barcelona striker Luiz Suarez (C) scored the winning goal against Arsenal in the Joan Gamper Trophy match at the Nou Camp on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Maguire becomes world's most expensive defender

AFP, London



Manchester United signed Harry Maguire from Leicester

on Monday for a reported £80 million fee that makes the England centre-back the world's most expensive defender.

United have secured Maguire on a six-year contract with an option for a further 12-month extension.

The £75 million Liverpool paid for Virgil van Dijk in 2018 was the previous record fee for a defender.

However, Juventus' capture of Van Dijk's Netherlands teammate Matthijs de Ligt earlier this month (July) could rise to 85.5 million euros (£77 million) in add-ons.

It is also a record fee between Premier League clubs, surpassing Van Dijk's move to Anfield from

Southampton and Romelu Lukaku's switch from Everton to Manchester United.

"I am delighted to have signed for this great club. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Leicester and would like to thank everyone at the club. However, when Manchester United come knocking on your door, it is an incredible opportunity," Maguire told United's website.

"From my conversations with the manager, I am excited about the vision and plans he has for the team. It's clear to see that Ole is building a team to win trophies. I am now looking forward to meeting my new teammates and getting the season started."

Maguire, 26, could make his debut in his new club's Premier League opener at home to Chelsea on Sunday and United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is confident he will live up

to his hefty price tag.

"Harry is one of the best centre-backs in the game today and I am delighted we have secured his signature," he said.

"He is a great reader of the game and has a strong presence on the pitch, with the ability to remain calm under pressure - coupled with his composure on the ball and a huge presence in both boxes - I can see he will fit well into this group both on and off the pitch.

"He has a great personality and is a fantastic addition to the club."

Manchester City had been interested in Maguire, but Pepe Guardiola admitted on Sunday that the champions couldn't afford his huge fee.

Maguire, 26, shot to prominence for his performances at last year's World Cup as England reached the semifinals for the first time since 1990.