

SPORT



Dhaka Platoon batsman Tamim Iqbal was in a jovial mood, sharing a joke with coach Mohammad Salahuddin and teammate Mominul Haque in Chattogram yesterday after returning to training yesterday. Meanwhile two policemen pounced on the chance to take a selfie with Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tamim set for return

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Opening batsman Tamim Iqbal joined his Bangladesh Premier League side Dhaka Platoon on Saturday evening and took part in the training session at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) in Chattogram yesterday.

The dashing left hander was hospitalised for a night at the Apollo Hospital in Dhaka after suffering from high fever and an upset stomach and went on to miss Dhaka's first game of the Chattogram leg on Wednesday.

The thirty-year-old took part in training and spent time at the nets and is likely to take part in Dhaka's next game against Cumilla Warriors in the first match of the day at the ZACS today.

Another left-handed batsman, Mominul Haque, had replaced Tamim at the top. Mominul justified his opportunity with a fluent 53-ball 52 only for the effort go in vain as his side lost by 18 runs to

Chattogram Challengers.

Tamim has so far played three games for Dhaka in the BBPL. The southpaw started the tournament on a low and was dismissed for five runs but he came back strong in the next game and scored 74 off 53 against Cumilla at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and followed that up by scoring 31 runs against Sylhet Thunder.

Tamim returned to cricket after a long gap, having not played since captaining the one-day side on Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka in July this year.

He asked for a break from the Bangladesh Cricket Board for the one-off Test against Afghanistan in August and the following tri-series. He was scheduled to return during the Tigers' crucial tour of India in November but also sat that out due to personal reasons.

With so many missed chances, Tamim will be hoping to make an impression in the BBPL ahead of the Tigers' proposed three-match T20I series in Pakistan.

Fading Dhaka face Cumilla

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram



Dhaka Platoon will take on Cumilla Warriors in the today's first game while Khulna Tigers will take on Rajshahi Royals in the evening as the Chattogram phase of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) enters its last set of matches at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Dhaka were considered one of the favorites due to their star power, with the likes of skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Shahid Afridi and Thisara Perera in the side.

However, Mashrafe's side are yet to get momentum and are currently fifth in the points table ahead of their game today, having have only been able to win two of their four matches.

Dhaka lost their previous game against

Chattogram Challengers by 16 runs in a high-scoring encounter, sans their experienced batsman Tamim Iqbal. It will be a big boost in the dressing room to have Tamim back after he looks to have recovered from high fever.

Meanwhile Dhaka's young pacer Hasan Mahmud -- who has picked up four wickets in the tournament and has caught the eyes of many with his pace and potential -- says he is following the likes Pat Cummins, Mitchel Starc and Lockie Ferguson and is willing to work on his variations in the coming days.

"Variation is very important in T20s. You won't be able to survive by just bowling fast. The batters can easily hit you all over the park if you keep bowling fast, so variation is very important," Mahmud said.

The cricketer from Laxmipur has been a part of the national age-level set up and is among

the few other pacers in the tournament who has impressed so far.

On the other hand, Cumilla are in a similar situation with two wins from four games. Dashun Shanaka's side also lost their last game against Chattogram in another high-scoring affair.

In the second game of the day, Mushfiqur Rahim's Khulna will look to regroup once again after defeat in the previous game against Sylhet Thunder.

With three wins from four games, Khulna are second but Andre Russell's Rajshahi, with two wins from three games, will also be looking for a win today.

Rajshahi lost their previous game against Khulna by five wickets despite a blistering 87-run knock from Shoaib Malik was complemented by a match-winning 96 from Mushfiqur.



Liton Das was in a relaxed mood with Rajshahi Royals teammates under the guidance of coach Rajin Saleh yesterday. Rajshahi lost their last match against Mushfiqur Rahim's Khulna Titans but will be looking to bounce back in the reverse fixture today. PHOTO: STAR

Shakib makes Wisden's ODI team of the decade

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan -- banned from all cricket for two years, with one year of that suspended -- has been named in Wisden's ODI team of the decade.

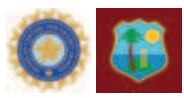
The list was made by a panel of writers who contribute to Wisden, colloquially the Bible of cricket. Shakib played 131 ODIs in the last 10 years, scoring 4276 runs at an average of 38.87. The all-rounder also scalped 177 wickets, the most by a spinner in the last decade.

His highest knock during the last decade came against the West Indies in the 2019 World Cup in England. He ended up as the third-highest run-getter at the World Cup with 606 runs at an average of 86.57.

The Wisden ODI team of the squad: Rohit Sharma, David Warner, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Jos Buttler, MS Dhoni, Shakib Al Hasan, Lasith Malinga, Mitchell Starc, Trent Boult, Dale Steyn.

Kohli conquers Cuttack and Windies

AGENCIES, Cuttack



India skipper Virat Kohli got his rhythm back at the right time as the right-hander hit 85 to help India win the three-match series against West Indies with a four-wicket victory in the series-deciding third and final ODI at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack yesterday.

After a 122-run opening partnership between Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul in chase of a target of 316 runs, the home side lost a few quick wickets but the Indian skipper rewrote history at the venue to confirm India's 10th straight series win against the West Indies.

The master batsman had an aggregate of only 34 runs in his previous four matches at the venue and went to the decider with scores of 4 and 0 in the first two games.

Although Kohli departed with 30 runs still to get in 23 balls, Ravindra Jadeja finished the job with eight balls to spare with an unbeaten 40 off 31 balls.

Earlier, Nicholas Pooran and Kieron Pollard hit attacking half-centuries to power the West Indies to 315 for five.

Pooran, who hit 89 off 63 balls, and Pollard, 74 not out, put on 135 runs for the fifth wicket as the West Indies put up a challenging total after being in trouble

at 144 for four in Cuttack.

The left-right batting pair of Pooran and Pollard, who hit three fours and seven sixes in his 51-ball blitz, combined to rebuild the innings and then took the attack to the opposition bowlers.

India paceman Navdeep Saini claimed two wickets on debut, including sending the dangerous Shimron Hetmyer back to the pavilion for 37. Hetmyer's wicket ended a 62-run third-wicket stand with Roston Chase who was bowled by a toe-crushing yorker from Saini for 38.

But Pooran counter attacked and completed his second successive fifty. He hit 10 fours and three sixes in his knock that lasted 64 balls before falling to Shardul Thakur with a mistimed hit to deep point.

Pollard hit two successive boundaries to raise his fifty and pulverised the bowling in the final few overs as West Indies managed 77 runs from the last 30 deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF
WEST INDIES: 315 for five (Pooran 89, Hope 42, Pollard 74 not; Saini 2-58)

INDIA: 316 for 6 in 48.4 overs (Sharma 63, Rahul 77, Kohli 85, Jadeja 39 not out; Paul 3-59)

Result: India won by four wickets and won the three-match series 2-1.

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli
Player-of-the-series: Rohit Sharma



India skipper Virat Kohli flipped the script at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, where he had totalled 34 runs in four games previously, with a match-winning 81-ball 85 in the series-deciding third and final ODI against the West Indies yesterday. India ultimately won by four wickets.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'The last thing you want to do is what you did five years ago'

Cumilla Warriors' English recruit Dawid Malan has been a familiar face in Bangladesh's domestic circuit over the past six years and the left-handed batsman has remained one of the most consistent performers whether it be in T20s in the Bangladesh Premier League or the Dhaka Premier League's fifty-over matches. The 32-year-old, who had a fantastic T20I debut for the England national team by scoring 78 against South Africa in 2017, is currently third position in the ICC T20I batsmen rankings, spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin in an interview at the team hotel in Chattogram yesterday. Excerpts of that interview are given below:

The Daily Star (TDS): You are playing franchise cricket all over the world and also for England. Are you happy with the way things are going?

Dawid Malan (DW): I can always be happier because if you are satisfied then you are not going to push yourself. I am looking forward and still trying to learn a lot more about T20 cricket and adapting my game to match the trajectory of the game. The last thing you want to do is what you did five years ago because the game changes so quickly. So far, I am happy with the record I have got but obviously I want to keep improving and win more matches.

TDS: Would you like to be more regular in the England national team at least in the shortest format given the experience you have playing franchise cricket?

DM: Yeah, obviously you want to play international cricket and be the number one guy on the teamsheet. But you know England have been wonderful for the past three-four years so it's hard to break into that team. But hopefully you keep getting the opportunity and when you score runs eventually you make a spot of your own. That's the key thing when you try to break into a strong team -- putting up performances. Even if you get one chance, you make sure you score runs. If you don't score runs you can't really ask to be a regular player. I strive to play in the England team and want to be a part of the eleven. For that you have to score a lot of runs not only for England but also in franchise leagues as well.



TDS: Any young local bowlers that impressed you so far here?

DM: We played against Rangpur and a young bowler, Mukidul Islam, made his debut. He bowled well. He might be very quick here in Bangladesh but when you compare him with someone like Wahab Riaz who is quicker than him, it's a different story. He needs to learn pretty quickly that he is not the quickest among the lot. But he was pretty impressive to set up with his overs and its always a good sign that guys are thinking.

TDS: With pitches favouring the batsmen, how do you approach bowlers?

DM: Probably the biggest mindset change that I had. When you play county cricket, you usually get across two or three good bowlers and two or three bowlers whom you can target. So, you used to see off the better bowlers and attack the bowlers who were not good.

But in international cricket you have to take down the best bowlers. It's part of my thing: trying to attack the best bowlers no matter what the run rate and situation is. But obviously when the situation dictates that you can't take the risk, then that's different.

TDS: Do you think England winning the World Cup will be a huge boost for the nation's cricket?

DM: I think the World Cup win and what the boys achieved was unbelievable. Four years in the making, four years of sticking together, backing each other, facing a lot of grief from the media after the way they played. But they still stuck to the game plan and strategy from Eoin Morgan and Trevor Bayliss and that was the key for that World Cup win. If you look at what it has done for cricket in England, hopefully the younger generation want to be the next Ben Stokes, Eoin Morgan or Jos Butler.