TIGERS' CLASS OF '23



Shakib





Mahmudullah



Mushfigur

Miraz

Nasum



Shanto

Taskin



Hridoy





Mustafizur



Shoriful



'Injury concerns' prompted Tamim's exclusion

SPORTS REPORTER

Finally, when the dust settled vesterday after almost 24 hours of speculation and rumorus, it was revealed that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) did not include seasoned campaigner Tamim Iqbal among the 15 selected to represent the country in the 13th edition of the World Cup, to be played in India from October 5 to November 19.

Although it came as a surprise to the entire nation and the fans, the national selectors had a straightforward reason behind Tamim's exclusion.

"There are some injuries which you can't take a risk with. This is very important. If we include someone and that player suffers from injury after going to the World Cup, then that would see the team management in a fix. So, that's a risk. So, we took this decision after considering all these," chief selector Minhajul Abedin Nannu, addressing the media in Mirpur last night, said while pointing out Tamim's recurring back injury as the main reason behind dropping the opener from the World Cup squad.

World Cup, having represented the followed while deciding the squad.

country in every edition of the mega event since mesmerising everyone in his first in the West Indies in 2007.

The exclusion of the country's best opener from one of the biggest cricketing events raised a lot of questions, especially since there were a lot of rumours circulating in mainstream as well as social media.

One such rumour was that skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who will lead the Tigers in the World Cup for the second time after having done so in 2011, was reluctant to captain the side if Tamim vas included.

"We were never relayed any such information. We heard many things in the media but nothing of that sort was relayed to us," added Minhajul.

Another rumour suggested that Tamim had informed the board that he would only be able to play five of the compulsory nine games the Tigers are set to play in the mega event in India. Answering this query, Minhajul said: "No. Let me clear this to everyone, we never received any information that Tamim would only play five games."

The chief selector repeated a number This was set to be Tamim's fifth ODI of times that a proper procedure was

"The squad is prepared after discussing with the medical department, team management, players, the skipper, and the head coach as well. We followed the same procedure as we normally do in the case of any other player.

"You also have to keep in mind that Tamim felt a bit of pain [in his back] after he batted and fielded in the second game," Minhajul asserted.

It is customary for the selectors to announce the squad and take questions regarding before any major event, but with what had happened since Monday night, probably the selectors were not the right people to face the media yesterday.

Even though the events that transpired in the country's cricketing fraternity yesterday were consistent with how usually things happen almost before every major event, Tamim's exclusion, despite all the reasoning provided by the BCB, keeps a scope for many more

Maybe some of those questions of the curious cricket fans and media personnel will be answered when Tamim speaks up, as the 34-year-old left-handed batter confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday that he would provide his own statement regarding the incident.

'Indian conditions not a worry for Pakistan'

Mahedi

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan captain Babar Azam does not think lack of familiarity with Indian conditions would hurt their bid for a second 50-overs World Cup title as they embark on a rare tour of the neighbouring country on Tuesday.

Bilateral cricket remains suspended between neighbours, thanks to their soured political relations, and the last time Pakistan toured India was for the T20 World

Pakistan players do not feature in the Indian Premier League either, which means most of them would have little knowledge of the conditions they are going to face during the showpiece event beginning on Oct.

In his pre-departure press conference, Babar dismissed suggestions it increased the pressure on his team to do well across the border.

"There's no such pressure," the 28-year-old told reporters as his team prepared to leave for India via Dubai. "Every player keeps himself ready to perform in every

condition, in every country. "Most of us have not played in India but the information we have gathered suggest conditions are going to be similar, except in Chennai maybe where spinners get more help.

"Rest of the venues will have good, sporting tracks. "I played the 2019 World Cup as a player but this time

I'm leading the side. It's a big honour for me and our effort would be to perform well and bring home the World Cup.' The difficulty in securing visa for India tour means

Pakistan would not get much support from the stands either but Babar was not perturbed.

Shanto offers the sole silver lining

SPORTS REPORTER

Amid all the rumours surrounding the announcement of the World Cup squad, the focus on Bangladesh's performance in their third and series-deciding encounter against New Zealand took a back seat at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The curiosity was more on whether Tamim Igbal would be selected for the World Cup squad than how Bangladesh team would perform in their last ODI prior to the fastapproaching showpiece event next month.

However, due to yet another poor batting display, the hosts went on to face a seven-wicket thumping and New Zealand cruised to victory and sealed the series 2-0.

It was Bangladesh's first series defeat against the Black Caps in fifteen years and the Tigers will thus head into the World Cup without little momentum in their sails.

Stand-in skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who marked his ODI captaincy debut with innings-highest score of 76, informed that the team are not too worried over their collective batting form after failing to post 200 in the last two matches.

starts but no big scores. Think it'd have been different if Hasan and head coach Chandika Hathurusingha will I'd batted till the end. We needed two big partnerships. surely need to find better tactics for a side who enjoyed Hopefully, next time the batters will take responsibility a terrific home record till 2022.

and bat long," said Shanto after match yesterday.

Bangladesh earlier made four changes to their playing eleven from the previous match. Shanto came in for the first time in the series, alongside Mushfiqur Rahim, Shoriful Islam and Zakir Hossain, with the latter making his ODI debut.

Despite having elected to bat, Bangladesh were struggling at 35 for three inside six overs. Young opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim, who made the cut in the World Cup squad, scored five while Zakir also fell cheaply.

Shanto, on the other end, after having recovered from a hamstring injury, looked solid as he smashed his fifth ODI fifty to remain the only silver lining in the Tigers batting unit.

Shanto also reached special landmark by becoming the highest Bangladeshi rungetter on ODI captaincy debut, surpassing Aminul Islam Bulbul's 70-run knock against India in 1998.

New Zealand fast bowler Adam Milne, introduced for the first time in the series, was the pick of the bowlers. He scalped four wickets for 34 runs, while Trent Boult and Cole McConchie picked up two each.

As Bangladesh travel to India for the World Cup on the back of

"Our batsmen didn't score big runs. Most of us got the three series defeats this year, regular skipper Shakib Al



SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh:

171 all out in 34.3 overs (Shanto 76, Mahmudullah 21; Milne 4-34, Boult 2-33)

New Zealand:

175 for 3 in 34.5 overs (Young 70, Nicholls 50 not out; Shoriful 2-32) **Result:**

New Zealand won by 7 wickets Player-of-the-match: Will Young **Player-of-the-series:** Henry Nicholls

Shanaka retained as Sri Lanka skipper for World Cup

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka retained out-of-form skipper Dasun Shanaka on Tuesday in its 15-member squad for next month's World Cup in India despite pressure from fans and the media to drop him.

The island nation is still smarting from its ignominious defeat by India at the six-nation Asia Cup finals this month in which they were all out for just 50 runs.

The thrashing on home soil prompted scathing social media attacks on the board and its players, and demands for Shanaka's sacking.

"Perhaps it's time Sri Lanka moved on from Shanaka before the country ends up being an absolute joke in the World Cup," the Daily Mirror said in a scathing editorial last week.

But after much internal debate, the board decided to stick with him and the rest of the team, a Sri Lanka Cricket source told AFP.

Bowling all-rounder Wanidu Hasaranga is still recovering from injury and was not included in the squad but could still play in the tournament if his condition improves, the board said.

The board said in a Friday statement that selectors and officials "were in agreement that the national team is in the right direction towards making further progress".

It said they were "optimistic that the upcoming World Cup will bring glory to the nation".

SQUAD

Dasun Shanaka (capt), Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Pathum Nissanka, Dimuth Karunaratne, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dushan Hemantha, Maheesh Theekshana,

Dunith Wellalage, Kasun Rajitha, Matheesha Pathirana, Lahiru Kumara, Dilshan Madushanka.

Fencers suffer heavy defeat

SPORTS REPORTER FROM HANGZHOU

Despite early promise, Bangladesh fencers Fatema Mujib and Roksana Khatun suffered defeats in all five matches in their respective pools in yesterday's Asian Games individual sabre events in China.

Fatema fought neck-and-neck with Thailand's Bandhita Srinulnd in her opening match, losing 5-4 in front of loud spectators in the gallery of a welldecorated Hangzhou Dianzi University Gymnasium. Her following four bouts, however, -- against opponents from Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong -all turned out to be one-sided affairs, resulting to elimination.

Roksana, meanwhile, performed similarly and a 5-4 defeat against Saudi Arabia's Alhsna Alhammad in her second match was her best display of the day, as she could offer little resistance against Uzbek, Korean, Singaporean and Saudi Arabian counterparts.

Both Fatema and Roksana's Asiad debuts were distinctly different from their successful show in the 2019 South Asian Games, when the country's fairly new discipline brought 11 medals, including gold and silver by Fatema and Roksana, respectively.

approach, forcing opponents on the opponents managed to pick the points

level today was good as the opponents played only two international were better than me," said Fatema after the match at the mixed zone of the gymnasium.



"Actually, I could not understand the technical instructions of the referee. Perhaps I was not able to make the referee understand and that's why he did not give me points," claimed Fatema, who was given four yellow cards and one red card, leading to her losing three points in five matches.

Coach Abu Jahed Chowdhury It was evident that both Fatema and pointed at the inexperience factor three out of five judges.

Roksana started with an attacking behind the outcomes.

"We lack international experience. backfoot, but their technically superior So far, I came to know that each of foreign participants took part in 10 to 20 tournaments prior to competing "I think what I performed at this in the Asian Games, whereas Fatema tournaments since 2019."

"Our players are training at home but they don't have an idea about the outside environment, new rules and footwork, technical positions and how to attack the opponents. These are the areas where we lack.

"If the fencers can go abroad to compete more, then they will have an opportunity to rectify the small mistakes and improve their performances," added the former national fencer.

Boxer Selim in pre-quarters Boxer Selim Hossain beat Sri Lankan

opponent Rukmal Prasanna 3-2 at the Hangzhou Gymnasium yesterday to move into the pre-quarterfinals of the 51-57kg category, scheduled for September 30.

Selim was ahead of Prasanna following the first two rounds but he lagged behind in the third and final round by three minutes. Selim was eventually declared the winner by

The 'Flying Dutchwoman' retires

AFP,The Hague

Two-time world sprint champion Dafne Schippers, known as the "Flying Dutchwoman", announced her retirement at the age of 31 on Tuesday, saying she was hanging up her spikes "without regret".

Schippers won 200m gold at the world championships in Beijing in 2015 and London in 2017. She narrowly missed out on 200m Olympic gold in

"The race stops here," Schippers wrote on Instagram. "Today, I have decided to take my life off track to pursue and embrace whatever comes Schippers had been blighted by

injury in her later career and her last competitive medal came when she won silver in the 60m at the 2019 European indoor championships. Her time of 21.63sec in Beijing

remains a European record and makes

her the sixth fastest performer in history. "As an athlete, you always know this day will come, that at one point, your career will be a moment in time, a collection of memories and hopefully

medals," Schippers said.

Starc, Maxwell 'on track' for return

AFP, Rajkot

Australia pace bowler Mitchell Starc said on Tuesday he and all-rounder Glenn Maxwell remain close to match fitness ahead of the World Cup.

Starc and Maxwell, both returning from injuries, took part in the team's training ahead of the third one-day international against India in Rajkot on Wednesday.

"It's on track," said Starc on his recovery, on the eve of the final match of the series already won by

Starc suffered a shoulder injury in this year's Ashes, followed by a groin injury.

"The goal is to play tomorrow but that will depend how today goes," he said. "The priority being the World Cup, and not compromising on

Starc, a left-arm quick, said they have three matches before their World Cup opener against India on October 8 in Chennai. "It's been somewhat of a different lead-up with

the South African tour, the three-match series here and the two warm-up games," he said. Maxwell had a good hit in the nets as he recovers from an ankle injury, and Starc said the batting all-rounder will be an X-factor for Australia in the

"He is on track as well, but I am not sure (about) his particular timeline, but no doubt he will be looking to make an impact as soon as he gets his chance," said Starc.