

# Travel fatigue hot topic ahead of NZ-SA semifinal

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Lahore

Travel fatigue was the hot topic in both New Zealand and South Africa camps right before their semifinal clash of the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy but both sides were adamant to keep this issue on the sideline and focus on the task at hand at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium today. Both the Kiwis and the Proteas reached Lahore from Dubai on Monday in separate flights, with New Zealand arriving in the morning and South Africa reaching in the evening. The Black Caps left Dubai a couple of hours after their final Group A fixture against India on Sunday, which they lost by 44 runs. Meanwhile, South Africa travelled back to Dubai after beating England in their last Group B match because if India had lost to New Zealand on Sunday, then the Proteas would have had to face the Indians in the first semifinal, which took place yesterday. But as India had won that game, the Proteas had to fly back to Pakistan to face New Zealand in the semifinal. "I think scheduling is an issue just all around," New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner, who looked exhausted due to travel fatigue, said during the official press

➤ South Africa and New Zealand have locked horns 73 times in ODIs, with the Proteas holding a dominant record, winning 42 matches compared to Black Caps' 26 wins.

➤ It's, however, even-steven between the two in the ICC Champions Trophy, with South Africa winning one and New Zealand winning the other in the two sides' two meetings in the tournament.



conference in Lahore yesterday. "I think when you do have time to rest and recover, I think it's very important with the quick turnaround of games. One-day cricket can be quite exhausting on the body, so I think for us today [Tuesday] it might be making sure the bowlers are ready for tomorrow [today]." Although all New Zealand players attend-

ed their scheduled practice session at the Gaddafi Stadium yesterday noon, their training was limited to some light warm-ups. Meanwhile, South Africa had their practice session at the same venue under floodlights. "I think, logistically, things could have been, I guess, more efficient... We definitely don't use that as an excuse in terms of our preparation or anything like that. Our mind is geared to what we need to do for tomorrow [today]," South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma said in his press meet in the evening. South Africa and New Zealand have won this competition before, with the former winning the inaugural edition in 1998 and the latter winning it in 2000. However, both sides have a reputation of faltering in the final hurdle with the Kiwis finishing as runners up in the 2015 and 2019 ODI World Cup and 2021 T20 World Cup and South Africa finishing second in 2024 T20 World Cup. Both teams, who last faced off in a knockout fixture in the 2015 ODI World Cup, will be looking to first qualify for the final on March 9 and this time go all the way.



## Shoriful shines in Rupganj's opener

SPORTS REPORTER

National team pacer Shoriful Islam was on fire in the early morning for Legends of Rupganj, picking up a four for against Gazi Group to help his side to a 10-wicket win in their Dhaka Premier League fixture at BKSP Ground 3 yesterday. Rupganj has built a strong unit this season with a string of national team stars and Shoriful landed early blows in the very first over. He picked up Gazi captain Anamul Haque Bijoy on the very first delivery of the innings, a lucky caught-behind decision with the ball appearing to nick the thigh before going to the wicket-keeper. A gem of a delivery saw Mohammad Salman back in the dugout in the fifth delivery. Shoriful then sent back Aminul Islam Biplob and Parvez Hossain Jibon for ducks. When Shoriful's national teammate Tanzim Sakib castled Shamsur Rahman for a duck next over, Gazi had slumped to six down for four in the fourth over. The competitiveness ended there with some lower-order runs seeing Gazi eventually bowled out for 93. Tanzid Tamim hit an unbeaten 46-ball 65 as Rupganj coasted to the win in 13.5 overs. Shinepukur won by 77 runs against Partex Sporting in another game at BKSP Ground 4 as Rayan Rafsan's 81-ball 87 saw Shinepukur put on 298 for five. Partex were bowled out for 221 following a cumbersome batting effort as Al Fahad and Rafiuzzaman Rafi scalped three wickets each. Nurul Hasan Sohan was the hero for Dhanmondi Club during a four-wicket win over Brothers Union in Mirpur. In chase of 262 for five, Sohan struck an unbeaten 53-ball 58 to help Dhanmondi over the ropes after contributions from Yasir Ali (41) and Fazle Mahmud (55). Earlier, Brothers reached 262 for five, thanks to Mahfizul Islam's 111-ball 84.

# PCB hits reset while BCB hesitates

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Lahore

As the Champions Trophy edges towards its climax, with New Zealand and South Africa gearing up for a high-stakes semifinal today, Pakistan head coach Aaqib Javed perhaps felt out of place as he attended yesterday's press conference at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium. There, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced sweeping changes to their white-ball squads. Pakistan's premature exit from the 50-over tournament -- their first ICC event on home soil in nearly three decades -- had sent shockwaves through the team's hierarchy. In response, PCB wielded the axe, stripping Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan of their places in the T20 squad and sidelining Shaheen Shah Afridi from the ODI setup. More significantly, Salman Ali Agha was handed the reins of the T20 side, a clear signal that Pakistan was turning the page with next year's T20 World Cup in mind. But while Javed might have preferred to be in the shoes of Mitchell Santner -- who fielded



I think they (Bangladesh) were the most experienced side after India. But they didn't perform the way they should have. This Champions Trophy is a very tough tournament. There is no second-tier team you can beat.

Pakistan head coach Aaqib Javed

pre-semifinal questions an hour earlier at the same venue -- Pakistan's fate had been sealed early. A bruising loss to New Zealand in the opener, followed by a hammer blow from India, left their final group match against Bangladesh nothing more than a dead rubber. Pakistan were not the only ones left licking their wounds. Bangladesh, too, had flattered to deceive, failing to make a mark in

the competition despite arriving as aspiring champions. Yet, while Pakistan took drastic steps to shake things up, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) appeared in no hurry to follow suit. Although a board meeting was held in Mirpur on Monday, no immediate decisions were made regarding their misfiring senior players, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mushfiqur Rahim -- who, according to BCB's cricket

operations chairman Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, must "prove themselves" for the 2027 ODI World Cup. Asked about Bangladesh's struggles, Javed replied to travelling Bangladeshi journalists, "I think they were the most experienced side after India. But they didn't perform the way they should have." "Because this Champions Trophy is a very tough tournament. There is no second-tier team you can beat." Salman, meanwhile, was also quizzed about Bangladesh's upcoming tour of Pakistan in May, where they will play three ODIs and as many T20s. "Here we are looking forward to them. They are a great side and will always challenge you," said the new Pakistan T20 captain. With a fresh-look squad, Pakistan now turn their focus to a tour of New Zealand, featuring five T20Is and three ODIs from 16 March to 5 April. Bangladesh, on the other hand, remain at a crossroads. The question is not just whether changes are coming, but whether BCB has the appetite to make them.

### TABITH DEMANDS WIN AGAINST INDIA



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# Liverpool, PSG ready for blockbuster clash

AGENCIES

Arne Slot says Liverpool have nothing to fear at the Parc des Princes as he prepares his Premier League title favourites for a blockbuster last-16 first-leg Champions League clash against runaway Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday. Slot's side, who finished first in the league phase with seven wins from eight games, including a 2-0 success against holders Real Madrid, take the next step in their bid for a first Champions League crown since 2019 but history is not on their side as the six-time European champions lost on both their previous visits to PSG, in 1997 and 2018.

OTHER FIXTURES	Feyenoord vs Inter	Team mentioned first will play first leg at home
	Bayern vs Leverkusen	
	Benfica vs Barcelona	

With 20 victories, the Reds, who are closing in on a record-equalling 20th English title, have won more league games than any team in Europe's top five leagues so far this season. "Do we fear PSG? We don't fear anybody. But I'm impressed by their quality, they are on an upward curve a bit similar to ours at the moment," he said. "I don't think the likes of Liverpool, Arsenal, Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona, Real Madrid fear opponents. "But we definitely respect them and there's a reason for that. They won so many games in a row and they have so many quality players."



➤ This will be just the third Champions League meeting between Liverpool and Paris Saint-Germain.

➤ They previously played each other in the 2018-19 group stage, with the Reds winning 3-2 at home and losing 2-1 away, so there is an even head-to-head record as it stands.

➤ Liverpool have not won any of their last five away games against French sides in Europe (D2 L3), with their last such victory coming at Marseille in September 2008 (2-1 in the Champions League).

➤ PSG have won their last five matches in the Champions League and hope to secure six successive wins in the competition for the first time since 1994-95.

➤ Mohamed Salah has 52 goal contributions (30 goals, 22 assists) in all competitions this term -- the most by any player in Europe's top five leagues.

Like Liverpool, PSG are marching relentlessly towards the French title, opening up a 13-point lead thanks to a 24-game unbeaten run in Ligue 1 this season. Facing Liverpool is a challenge of a different magnitude and Enrique is well aware of the threat they pose, describing the meeting of European powerhouses as an occasion more fitting for a final. "I know Liverpool very well, without a doubt they are the team in the best form in Europe both in terms of results and play," he said. "It could have been a Champions League final. We're going to try to do it with our weapons." Meanwhile, Barcelona will look for a win away from home when they visit Benfica. The contest will feature two of the most in-form strikers in the competition this season -- Barca's Robert Lewandowski (nine goals in eight matches) and Benfica's Vangelis Pavlidis (seven goals, two assists in 10 appearances). The two sides have already met in the competition this season, with nine goals being scored in an eventual 5-4 win for Barcelona. An all-Bundesliga affair will take place at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday when Bayern Munich take on Bayer Leverkusen. Leverkusen are unbeaten in their six matches against Bayern Munich across all competitions (W3 D3) under Xabi Alonso. They've kept a clean sheet in three of their last four against them, including the 0-0 in the Bundesliga in February when Bayern managed just two shots and didn't have one on target.

ACME achieved ISO Excellence Award

"TQCSI Client of the year 2024"

Auditors of TQCSI (Bangladesh) handed over the prestigious Award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time likewise 2019 & 2021 to our Managing Director and Additional DMD & ISO MR on 26<sup>th</sup> February'25.

## ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

### আর্মি নার্সিং কলেজ কুমিল্লা

#### ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং কোর্সে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আর্মি নার্সিং কলেজ কুমিল্লায় ১ম বর্ষে (১১তম ব্যাচ) ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং (বিএসসি ইন নার্সিং) ০৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী কোর্সে ছাত্রী ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

**শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাঃ**

(১) ২০২০, ২০২১ অথবা ২০২২ ইং সালে অনুষ্ঠিত বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ থেকে এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় এবং ২০২২, ২০২৩ অথবা ২০২৪ ইং সালে অনুষ্ঠিত বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ থেকে এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণগর্হাই কেবলমাত্র আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

(২) এসএসসি/সমমান এবং এইচএসসি/ সমমানের পরীক্ষা সমূহে গ্রাণ্ড জিপিএ এর যোগফল ন্যূনতম ৭.০০ থাকতে হবে, তবে কোন পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ৩.০০ এর কম হবে না। প্রাথমিক এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় জীববিজ্ঞানে জিপিএ ন্যূনতম ২.৫০ থাকতে হবে।

**ভর্তি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত তারিখ ও সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপঃ**

আবেদন করণ সন্থাঃ	০১ মার্চ ২০২৫ হতে ১৫ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত।
আবেদন করণ সন্থা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ	১৫ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ দুপুর ১৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
প্রবেশপত্র সরঞ্জামের তারিখ	২০ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ হতে ২৪ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত।
নির্ধারিত পরীক্ষা	০৩ মে ২০২৫ (শনিবার, সকাল ০৯০০ ঘটিকা)।

**বিঃদ্রঃ** প্রয়োজনে ভর্তি সড়কায় যাবতীয় তথ্যাবলী কলেজ অধ্যক্ষের দপ্তরে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।

**সময়ঃ** সকাল ০৯০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)

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