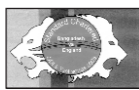


They've reasons to celebrate

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



England seamer Richard Johnson got his second five-wicket haul in Test cricket on Friday and said that he was looking forward to bowling against top teams like Australia and South Africa in the coming days.

"I have only played two Tests and those were against Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. When you play Test cricket, you obviously want to test yourself against the best and I'm relishing the prospect of bowling against the likes of Australia if the opportunity comes," said Johnson who took five for 49 off 21 overs to bowl Bangladesh out for 152 on the third day of the second Test.

Johnson was happy with the wicket at the MA Aziz Stadium.

"It had a bit in it. It had bounce. So I could actually target short stuff and bowl at their weakness," said the 28-year-old.

Johnson, who had to cut short his honeymoon to join the England squad as replacement of injured pacesman James Anderson, said he was already planning to make up for that missed scope.

"My wife and I will be going away in January," said the Middlesex quick.

Former England skipper Nasser Hussain was England's other hero on day three and missed out on a hundred by just five runs. But he insists he had no regrets as the team came first.

"We were under strict instructions to bat in a way so that we don't have to play on the fourth morning. I got enough time to get to that hundred but couldn't make it. But I don't mind because England are in a strong position," said Hussain.

The Essex right-hander was also impressed with the wicket and thought that the Bangladesh team would be better off playing on similar tracks.

"It was a true cricket wicket. The one in Dhaka was rather poor. It can only benefit the Bangladeshis if they prepare more such wickets."

Hussain was satisfied with the way he batted in both innings of this Test.

"My timing was perfect. In the first innings, we were three wickets down in quick time and with an inexperienced middle-order, I had to dig in. In the second innings, I batted more freely. Both innings gave me satisfaction as I could contribute in a way as was required by the team."



A SIGHT NO ONE WANTS TO SEE: Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza being carried off the field by John Gloster (L) and Kirk Russell after the Bangladesh fast bowler injured his knee yesterday.

Oh! No Mashrafe

RABEED IMAM from Chittagong



Country's fastest bowler Mashrafe bin-Mortuza has become the victim of a freakish injury yet again.

Having successfully recovered from a series of mishaps including a back strain, an injury to his left knee and an ankle injury, Mashrafe was looking like the bowler of old.

However, just after lunch on day three of the second Test, the 20-year-old's right knee gave way when he was in his bowling follow-through.

He went down holding the knee and had to be carried off the field. An MRI was done at a local diagnostic centre to get an idea of the extent of damage and the report was later sent to Col. Jahangir of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) who is a specialist in the related field.

"We are expecting his expert opinion on the injury sometime tomorrow. Until then we can't say how long he will be out of the game. But it might not be as bad as it looked," said a source close to the team management.

Team physio John Gloster and his England counterpart Kirk Russell

both had a good look at the bowler's knee and are hopeful of a quick recovery, which could take some two to three weeks in the best-case scenario.

The Narail tearaway is most likely not going to take any further part in the series, which includes three one-day internationals against the tourists starting November 7 and the team management is prepared to give him ample time to recover.

For the time being it was also learnt that Mashrafe was able to walk, albeit gingerly, and would be staying back with the team in Chittagong unless there is any need for drastic medical measures.

Injuries are nothing new for the young man dubbed the 'Narail Express' but more often they have come when he least expected them.

While he was on his way to fitness from a serious back problem in 2001, he damaged his knee-ligaments while doing some skipping exercises. He recovered from that only to step over a ball and injure his ankle during practice in the last Cricket World Cup and couldn't take any more part in the competition.

After returning to the field, Mashrafe was beginning to make the world stand up and take notice of his prowess when this latest injury happened.

In fact, just the day before he had bowled his best spell in Test cricket when he took four for 60.

"I also have a four-wicket haul against Zimbabwe but had conceded over a hundred runs for those wickets. So definitely this is my best bowling performance. I enjoyed this day more than any other day in my career," said the 20-year-old after the second day's action on Thursday.

He was also showing signs that he was a quick learner.

"There is no use bowling flat out on these wickets. I tried to bowl fast on a few occasions but understood it was a futile exercise. On my return from injury I bowled at my fastest in Australia where I clocked around 142 kmph. Stephen Harmison was bowling at 145 kmph in the series against South Africa on his home tracks but in Dhaka, he was more in the 135 kmph region. So, you adjust to the demands of the wicket."

"It's not that I can't bowl faster. Sometimes I just intentionally cut down my pace and concentrate on pitching the ball up because then the ball has more chance of moving," said Bangladesh's top paceman.



Did U Know?

The first batsman to twice score a hundred in each innings of a Test was England's Herbert Sutcliffe in 1925 and 1929.



Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza

(Bangladesh fast bowler)
"It was my best day in Test cricket."

BCB names U-19 A Dev squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 19-member Under-19 A Development squad to face an ACC Under-19 Select Eleven next week.

Middle-order batsman Ashiqur Rahman has been named captain while Mahmud Ullah Riyad will be his deputy.

The ACC combined team will play two two-day matches and three limited-over matches during their 15-day tour that begins on November 6.

SQUAD
Zahurul Islam, Tanveer Rashid, Golam Rahman Himel, Mahmud-ullah Riyad, Hasibul Haq Babel, Junaid Siddique, Abdul Halim, Uttam Kumar, Nazmus Sadath, Ashiqur Rahman, Abdullah Moha-mmad Sadi, Shafaq Al Jaber, Faisal Islam, Sajib Datta Shaju, Mahfuzur Rahman, Ashim Chowdhury, Dhiman Gosh, Shiran Sharif and Arif Hossain.

SERIES SALAD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



The organizers of Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CJKS) are expecting ticket sales in the second Test and first ODI against England to reach the projected target of Tk. 20 lakh.

On day three at local MA Aziz Stadium yesterday the revenue stood at Tk. 1 lakh. It was up by Taka thirty thousand from the previous day. But the opening day produced the best figures of Taka thirty thousand.

The crowd turnout on Friday was comparatively large because it was a holiday. But it could have been even better had the home team batted a little longer.

So, far the CJKS has earned Taka seven lakh from sale of various tickets that included Taka 1.5 lakh from three hospitality boxes.

However, the local organisers are destined to lose a big chunk of the revenue if the Test does not into the fifth and final day.

If the Test does not go the distance the CJKS can always bank on the first one-day international. It's a guaranteed money-spinner.

CJKS PLANS A LOCAL FRIENDLY

While England are set to return to Dhaka after the second Test the home team might have to fall back on a make-shift practice match against a combined local eleven. The tourists will enjoy a break before coming back to the port city to play the first ODI on October 7.

But the local organisers have planned to keep the Tigers busy with some sort of cricket during the five-day interval.

It would be wise for the CJKS to gather some local players and arrange a three-day match and in the process earn some money.

So, the CJKS is going to propose to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for such a friendly match between the Tigers and a team comprising players of the division.

A DIFFERENT HONEYMOON
English bowler Richard Johnson is playing only his second Test after making debut against Zimbabwe only a few months back.

He joined the team only two days after getting married on October 5. He did not play the first Test in Dhaka. But he did not have to wait long when an injury to Stephen Harmison and the nature of the Chittagong wicket tempted the team management to field three pacers.

And what a way to celebrate a Test call up as the

Wanderers, Army win

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club and Bangladesh Army made good starts in the Tibet Federation Cup Football Tournament beating their respective rivals yesterday.

Wanderers edged past Farash-ganj Sporting Club 2-1 in a trouble-torn match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while the armymen blanked Prantik Krira Chakra 2-0 at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mohammad Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Wanderers took a 2-0 lead in the first-half thanks to strikes from Monir Hossain and Yousuf Ali in the 17th and 23rd minutes respectively. However, Noor Hossain Ripon reduced the margin in the 78th minute.

Shahinoor Rahman Shaheen of Wanderers and Jalal of Farashganj received red cards for their unbecoming behaviour.

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U-19s crash at Karachi

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

While the seniors were struggling to save the second Test against England at Chittagong, the juniors also found life difficult at Karachi yesterday.

On a day of disappointment, the Bangladesh under-19 team suffered an embarrassing 117-run defeat against hosts Pakistan in the opening match of the four-nation Asian Under-19 Tournament.

Chasing a mammoth Pakistan total of 291-5 in 50 overs, Bangladesh could manage only 174 for nine.

The hopes of the youth team to put up a fight was nipped in the bud when dashing opener and captain Nafees Iqbal fell for only nine.

Nafees, who scored 118 against England in a three-day practice match at the BKSP before flying to Pakistan, was trapped leg before by Pakistan's new-ball bowler Wahab Raja after hitting two fours.

Another young prospect Aftab Ahmed, who was in the 13-man squad for the first Test against England, also failed to deliver and was out for a duck.

One-down Najimuddin hammered a quickfire 42 and Nadeem laboured to score 29 off 101 balls. But their efforts were too little to avoid the heavy defeat.

The match as a contest was all but over when Pakistan, electing to bat after winning the toss, prospered on two brilliant centuries from opener Sohail Ahmed and middle-order batsman Shahid Yousuf.

Shahid scored an unbeaten 117 and Shahid struck a whirlwind 112 off only 101 balls. The pair sent the visitors on a leather

hunt as they produced 189 runs for the third-wicket.

Sohail's unbeaten century featured eight boundaries and a six. Shahid, the more aggressive of the two, clobbered two sixes and seven savage hits across the rope.

Bangladesh now face Sri Lanka, who defeated India by four wickets in the other opening day encounter at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, in their next match tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Asian Under-19 tournament clash between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday:

PAKISTAN	
Sohail Ahmed	not out 117
Khalid Latif	c Sagir b Rubaiyat 5
Jahangir Mirza	c Najimuddin b Aftab 14
Shahid Yousuf	c Arafat b Nadif 112
Khurram Manzoor	c Nafees b Nadif 9

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BD-ENG SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and England at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings 326 all out in 135.3 overs (Nasser Hussain 76, Marcus Trescothick 60, Rikki Clarke 55, Michael Vaughan 54; Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza 4-60, Mushfiqur Rahman 2-50, Mohammad Rafique 2-81)

BANGLADESH:	R	M	B	4	6
Hannan Sarkar lwb b Rikki Clarke	28	98	78	2	0
Javed Omar c Michael Vaughan b Richard Johnson	2	14	5	0	0
Habibul Bashar c Mark Butcher b Matthew Hoggard	18	38	26	3	0
Rajin Saleh c Chris Read b Richard Johnson	32	142	102	1	0
Alok Kapali c Mark Butcher b Rikki Clarke	0	3	1	0	0
Mushfiqur Rahman c Chris Read b Martin Saggers	28	153	95	2	0
K Mashud c sub (Paul Collingwood) b Richard Johnson	0	9	7	0	0
K Mahmud c sub (Paul Collingwood) b Richard Johnson	15	24	16	2	0
Mohammad Rafique not out	12	50	29	2	0
Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza b Richard Johnson	1	5	6	0	0
Enamul Haque jr. c Matthew Hoggard b Martin Saggers	9	19	14	2	0
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6)	7				
Total: (All out in 62.1 overs)	152				

Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Javed), 2-44 (Bashar), 3-61 (Hannan), 4-63 (Kapali), 5-107 (Saleh), 6-110 (Mashud), 7-126 (Mahmud), 8-138 (Mushfiq), 9-139 (Mashrafe), 10-152 (Enamul jr.)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Matthew Hoggard	20	3	64	1

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England pacesman Richard Johnson, who took 5-49, in his final delivery stride on the third day of the second Test against Bangladesh at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP