



China's world record holder Xiang Liu clears a hurdle in the men's 110m hurdles heat 1 on the fourth day of the athletics competition at the 15th Asian Games at the Khalifa Stadium in Doha on Monday.

Mithu runs with idol

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's South Asian Games gold medalist Mahfuzur Rahman Mithu finished tenth out of 14 competitors in the men's 110m hurdles heats at the 15th Asian Games in Doha yesterday.

Mithu was seventh out of eight in Heat 1 where he got the chance to compete with his idol and world champion Xiang Liu of China. Liu, whose world record mark is 12.88s, finished ahead of the pack in 13.74, the third best timing in two heats.

Among eight finalists, Japanese hurdler Masato Naito made the best timing with 13.70s.

Mithu, who went to the Games with a 14.19s season's best record, clocked 14.27s, just 0.16s behind

the final qualifier. The young hurdler, who trained at the Tata Academy in India as preparation for the Asiad, however, would have made it to the final had he achieved his personal best timing of 14.10s. The final is slated for today.

He was the last competitor for Bangladesh in the Games' athletics competition, which concludes today.

On Sunday night, SA Games silver medalist Fouzia Huda Jui clinched 13th place out of 15 athletes in the women's long jump.

Jui only made three attempts with one failure and jumped 5.67 and 5.68 metres respectively in the last two efforts.

The gold went to Kumiko Ikeda (6.81m) of Japan and silver to India's Anju Bobby George (6.52m).

The chess team returned to winning ways when they beat Japan 2.5-0.5 in the fifth round of

the mixed team classical event on Sunday.

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib won his first match in the 9-round Swiss League competition defeating Ryoosuke Nanjo, Grandmaster Reefat Bin Sattar beat Shinya Kojima while Shamima Akhter Liza drew with Emiko Nakagawa.

Level on seven points, Bangladesh placed 13th among 21 teams - were playing United Arab Emirates in the sixth round yesterday.

India led the table with 13 points.

The men's hockey team will face Malaysia in the first of the 5th-8th places classification matches this afternoon at the Al rayyan Hockey Stadium while India meet Taipei.

The two semifinals, Pakistan-China and South Korea-Japan, will be held later today.

Caught in Enamul's web

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The ball carried smoothly for the seam bowlers on a lively pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium but still, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque dominated the opening day's play of the three-day match between Bangladesh A and Zimbabwe A yesterday.

The Zimbabweans continued with their fragile batting show against slow left-arm bowling after capitulating in the just concluded five-match one-day series as Enamul figured 5-21 to wrap up the visitors' first innings for only 146 in 58.5 overs.

Two out-of-favour national pacemen Tapash Baisya and Mohammad Sharif shared the remaining wickets after the home side had put the visitors into bat.

The second string Tigers were 69-2 before bad light stopped play with skipper Tushar Imran (23), who spent the one-day series in the dressing room before being dropped for the last two games, and Rajin Saleh (12) at crease.

Young Test spinner Enamul, who is only considered by the selectors for longer-version cricket, is known for his variation in flight but he acquired significant turn yesterday to tear apart the Zimbabwean batting.

Selector Golam Nawsher Prince was delighted with the behaviour of the pitch at the new venue.

"Enamul has the ability to turn the ball on any surface. It was nice to see the seam bowlers getting assistance from the pitch. I think we should play more matches on this kind of lively wicket regularly," said the former national paceman.

Tapash set the tone for the hosts removing both the openers - Tinashe Hove (0) and Chamurorwa Chibhabha (22) - with the scoreboard reading 29 and the southern African side never recovered from the early damage before eventually being bundled out just after tea.

Sharif carried his domestic form as the right-arm paceman bowled in good line and length to use the condition properly to take three wickets for 40 and his recent all-round performance at least gave the impression that he could be a competitor of Forhad Reza in the national side.

Left-hand bat Sean Williams top scored for Zimbabwe A, hitting eleven boundaries in his 63 off 95 balls, before being bowled by Enamul.

Tigers' Test opener Javed Omar made only 14 while Gazi Salahuddin (16) also struggled against the Zimbabweans seam attack. Anthony Ireland finally got rid of both the openers to give his side a bright start before Tushar and Rajin steadied the innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ZIMBABWE A: 146 all out in 58.5 overs (Hove 0, Chibhabha 22,

Matsikenyeri 7, Williams 63, Nkala 0, Chigumbura 1, Mawoyo 0, Garwe 19, Higgins 16, Cremer 5, Ireland 1 not out, extras 12; Tapash 2-30, Sharif 3-40, Enamul 5-21).

BANGLADESH A: 69-2 in 21 overs (Javed 14, Salahuddin 16, Rajin not out 12, Tushar 23 not out, extras 4; Ireland 2-10).



Bangladesh A team's left-arm spinner Enamul Haque in his delivery stride on the first day of the three-day match against Zimbabwe A at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



Did U Know?

Ellis Edgar Achong, who represented the West Indies, is the only cricketer of Chinese descent to have played Test cricket.



Damien Martyn
(Former Australian batsman)
"I also said to myself that if I stayed doing what I was doing I may equally lose respect for myself and the friendship of those around me."
On his decision to call it quits.

What to WATCH
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Live at 8:30 pm

Rana takes aim at government

AFP, New Delhi

India's star shooter Jaspal Rana on Monday said cricket was prospering in the country only because the government had nothing to do with it.

"The government seems to know nothing about how sports should be run and most disciplines would be better off without its involvement," said Rana, who won three gold medals at the Doha Asian Games.

"People say cricket has gobbled up other games in India but that is only because it does not depend on the government.

"Cricketers are in the limelight even if they are not doing well but

Scots want to make a mark

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A spin-worry Scotland arrived in Dhaka yesterday with a hope to make a mark in the two-match one-day international series against Bangladesh.

It would be the first international matches on foreign soil for the International Cricket Council (ICC) associate members when they take on Habibul Bashar's men on December 15 in Chittagong and December 17 in Dhaka.

"Obviously it is a great honour. We have come here knowing that Bangladesh have been playing some good cricket and it is an opportunity for all of us to make a mark," said captain Craig Wright on their arrival at the Zia International Airport.

"Cricket in Scotland is getting

popular but is still some way behind football in terms of passionate following. It is nothing like what cricket is in Bangladesh but more and more people are getting interested in the game these days," he added.

The Scottish skipper is set to become the most capped international player of all time for his country if he plays in both the games against Bangladesh. The match in Dhaka will be his 154th cap and will enable him to overtake current record holder Greig Williamson.

Coach Peter Drinnen said that the conditions would be the major challenge for his side.

"We know that spin usually plays a big part here. We have four spinners in our team and they should enjoy bowling on conditions that suit slow bowling," said Drinnen.

For Gavin Hamilton, Bangladesh's name holds bitter

memories as the 32-year-old all-rounder's unfortunate run out in the 1999 World Cup in Edinburgh had paved the way for Bangladesh to win the match. The star cricketer scored 63 runs in that match.

"Yes I remember that match very well. We lost unfortunately. I would say that Bangladesh have gone ahead since and that is only natural because they have had the chance to play against top quality teams on a regular basis which is the only way you can improve in cricket," remembered Hamilton, who has also played for England.

Scotland have made a last minute change to their side with Brisbane-born Glen Rogers replacing Johan Dewald Nel.

The tourists fly to Chittagong tomorrow and play a warm-up match against Academy side in the port city on Thursday. Bangladesh have left last night.

Razzak 12th in ICC ODI ranking

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's 5-0 whitewash of Zimbabwe helped three bowlers and a batsman get into the latest top 20 one-day rankings published by the International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak hit a high 12 after taking a dozen wickets in the series against Zimbabwe with 659 points, which saw him leap 14 places. The other two Tigers were fellow left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique (15th, 646 points) and Mashrafe Bin Mortuza (16th, 639 points). Bangladesh's leading wicket taker Rafique finished with five wickets while Mashrafe grabbed 11 in the series.

The only batsman to make the top 20 list is Shahriar Nafees, the left-handed opening batsman who has scored three centuries against Zimbabwe in as many matches, in Zimbabwe, in India during the ICC Champions Trophy and in the first match of the recently concluded series.

Nafees, who is placed 19th, ended the series with 274 runs.

Premier League Transfer Sakib, Brothers take spotlight on Day 2

SPORTS REPORTER

After a starlit opening night, the Premier Cricket League transfer for the 2006-07 season turned grey yesterday in presence of mediocrity.

Most of the national cricketers had completed formality on the first day of the three-day bourse and Sakib Al Hasan was the lone star to turn out at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on the second day.

The middle-order batsman signed for Mohammedan Sporting Club from Victoria Sporting Club, which meant all the 16 members of the national pool have been occupied now.

"I have already played for the national team, so there is no special feeling joining Mohammedan. Yes, they are a popular side and there would be little pressure because we have to fight for the title," said the left-hander who has established himself as a regular Tiger in one-day cricket.

At Mohammedan, he joins his national teammates Habibul Bashar and Aftab Ahmed.

Brothers Union, who have lost all key players, went for heavy marketing by recruiting 13 cricketers including former national openers Shahriar Hossain Biddut (Biman) and Hannan Sarkar (Mohammedan), Abahani opener Imran Ahmed, paceman Alamgir Kabir, Anwar Monir, Debaratra Pal and veteran Anisur Rahman, all-rounders Humayun Kabir and Abu

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Spin-friendly WACA!

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

WACA groundsman Cameron Sutherland thinks the wicket for the third Ashes Test could help England's spinners.

Perth - once considered the fastest wicket in the world - has become increasingly docile in the past decade.

Sutherland said: "It hasn't got the

raging pace it used to have 10 years ago but there should be a bit in it for the quick bowlers and spinners.

"There's a bit more grass on it, and there will be a bit of turn on offer for (Monty) Panesar."

With England 2-0 down in the series, left-arm spinner Panesar has been tipped to earn a recall for the next Test, which starts on Thursday.

Otherwise Ashley Giles will aim to use his accuracy to improve on his haul of three wickets so far at an average of 87.33.

Sutherland's views were confirmed by Australia opener Justin Langer, who plays his domestic cricket for Western Australia.

Spinners tend to bowl into the sea breeze - known as the Fremantle Doctor - which blows strongly from the coast.

"Finger spinners tend to be more accurate than wrist-spinners, so they can utilise the breeze and bouncer pitch more," Langer told BBC Sport in a recent interview.

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Players and officials of the Scotland cricket team on their arrival at the Zia International Airport on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR