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Drama far from over

BISHWAJIT ROY

WARID Cricket Series Off the field, he is as modest and simple as one can be but once he has the red or white cherry in his grasp, paceman Shahadat Hossain turns into the typical fast bowler: aggressive, cuss in his breath and a long glare.

The South African batsmen got the impression of the 21-year old bowler's hostility as he single-handedly took the game away from the visitors at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Each and every celebration of the lanky pacer after scalping a wicket is the perfect poster of a 'real fast bowler'.

It often happens that players listen to their mentor's advice but Shahadat demonstrated this rare quality to be successful in a very difficult condition for the pace bowlers.

The advice was simple: bowl on the right spot.

It was however not an easy job for Shahadat to abide by this as he always loves to test the batsmen with his bouncer.

"My coach told me to bowl in the right areas and I did just that, hence my success. And I got the reverse swing going for me today to take four more wickets," said an ever-smiling Shahadat in his simple statement at the press conference after the second day's play.

There was much talk about the spinners before the start of the match because of the nature of the pitch in Mirpur but it was funny to see that the pace bowlers claiming 18 wickets out of the 24 dismissals.

And without any doubt, Shahadat touched the peak among the fast men with his career best figures of 15.3-8-27-6 and understandably he declared his effort as

the best in his career. The performance gave the home team an exciting first innings lead of 22 runs and put them on top at the end of the day.

"It was not an easy job for the fast bowlers in this kind of wicket which has a lack of pace and bounce. And it was also a challenge for me to bowl against the world's second best team who have big-scoring players like (Jacques) Kallis," said Shahadat, who was the fifth Bangladeshi bowler to take six wickets after Naimur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Monjurul Islam and Enamul Haque.

"It's my best effort," declared the man with his Narayanjan accent, who's earlier best figures of five for 86 was against Sri Lanka in Bogra.

Shahadat's only prayer was that the remaining batsmen bat till tea session to give the bowlers a score for earning a memorable Test victory.

"I hope our batsmen will put up at least 250 runs on the board and if they can do that, anything can happen," he said.

A great Hindi movie fan, Shahadat quipped, "Film *abhi baki hai* (the movie has not ended)".

Praising the fast bowler, Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraful also believed that there is a lot of work left to be done before thinking about any positive outcomes in the Test.

"(Shahadat Hossain) Rajib was really fantastic. I think he improved lot in terms of control since the second Test in New Zealand. He gave us a brilliant platform to do something special but there is a lot of hard work to do," said Ashraful.

"I think the first session on the third day would be crucial for us. If we can at least manage a 250-plus target then it would be really a fantastic Test match. We are not

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



5 UP, ONE MORE TO COME: Shahadat Hossain (2nd from L) takes off to celebrate the dismissal of Morne Morkel, the Bangladesh paceman's fifth of the six wickets, on the second day of the first Test against South Africa at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Youths' date with SA



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-19 captain Suharwardi Shuvo's words ahead of today's quarterfinal reflected his team's mindset.

"We are confident and positive of a good result," said the left-arm spinner, who inspired his side on Friday with both bat and ball, on the eve of their crucial knockout fixture against South Africa at the Bayeams Oval in Kuala Lumpur.

Bangladesh escaped from 49-7 to win by 13 runs against a strong England outfit when Shuvo played patiently to score an unbeaten 56 and then took a wicket.

The Rajshahi lad and Dollar Mahmud took part in light practice despite suffering in the searing heat of the Malaysian capital. The rest of the side were kept fresh, taking part in a light warm-up followed by a net session that lasted an hour in the late afternoon.

Batsman Saikat Ali is set to replace out of form Rony Talukdar and Saikat will bring in a bit of medium-pace into the well-blended Bangladesh bowling attack.

Team liaison officer Ziaul Alam Rony informed last night that the temperature reached almost 38 degree Celsius on Friday and is expected to remain the same on Sunday.

But the heat was the last thing on the team management's mind as they looked to close out the Proteas, much like they did earlier this year in a tri-nation tournament

in South Africa.

Bangladesh had toured South Africa in the build-up to this World Cup and there wasn't much to choose between the sides. They drew one Test although South Africa had taken a sizeable first-innings lead, and clinched a one-dayer by a two-wicket margin.

Word from the South Africa camp is that Bangladesh are a tough side to break and are being perceived as a genuine threat.

There were suggestions that today's opponents would not be as strong as England but it would be unwise to let go of a major chance to win a big tournament due to over-confidence.

Their opponents had to depend on India beating West Indies to qualify for the quarterfinals and they might have expected to play

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Nayeem stars in Indo-Bangla T20

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's combined divisional under-22 team made a good start in the three-match Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games Twenty20 series, beating Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) under-22 side by 15 runs in the first match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Sent in to bat first, Bangladesh scored 123-6 in 20 overs with middle order Nayeem Islam contributing 30 runs off 35 balls, including a boundary.

Wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh's quickfire 24 off 12 balls, with two fours and a six, added impetus in the final overs.

Opener Nazmus Sadat earlier hammered 18 off 11 balls, Mahmudullah Riyad made 13 off 24 balls while Nazmul Hossain Milon scored 11 runs in 16 balls with a six.

Sourav Dutta and Mohammad Ashrafuddin bagged two wickets each.

In reply, CAB Under-22 team were all out for 108 runs with skipper Soham Ghosh contributing an unbeaten 28 off 24 deliveries, including one four and a six and one down Amit Biswas making 25

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

N'ganj in JFA zonal final

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Narayanganj moved into the zonal final of the JFA Cup under-15 football tournament, thrashing Munshiganj 5-1 the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

Nayeem, Sohel, Arif, Limon and Habib struck one each for Narayanganj while Rana scored the consolation goal for the losing side.

Narayanganj will face Narsingdi on Monday.

School cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Mahimaganj High School entered the regional final of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers school cricket competition at the local stadium here yesterday.

They beat Kanchipara High School by 69 runs in the second semifinal.

Opting to bat first, Mahimaganj were bowled out for 140 runs in 31.4 overs with Imran top-scoring with 30.

In reply, Kanchipara were bowled out for only 71 in 25.4 overs. The final will be played between Mahimaganj and Sahabullah on February 25.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

'Next time, I'll keep it down'

Cricket

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

In a day where the Tigers' bowlers hogged the headline, it was still South African batsman AB de Villiers who captured the imagination.

However, it was not due to his eye-catching batting performance but the manner of his dismissal which will endure in the memory of all those lucky enough to have witnessed it.

With his team struggling at 77-5, de Villiers and partner Johan Botha had put up a solid partnership which the Tigers seemed unable to unlock.

Up stepped captain Mohammad Ashraful for a turn of the arm and hoping for better results than the established spinners - and struck gold with his first delivery.

His leg-spinner was bowled well short and predictably de Villiers rocked back to try and negotiate it.

What he did not contend for was the 'multi-faced' Mirpur track where the ball kept shockingly low.

So a rank half-tracker turned into a delivery that shot through the floor, bouncing twice before reaching the batsman.

Not one to let such an opportunity pass, de Villiers launched himself into the delivery and miscued it high.

But height was all he got as it dropped like a fly into the arms of the gleeful Ashraful.

A shocked de Villiers stood his ground hoping for, as he later put it, "someone to call it a no-ball or something".

But the South African batsman obviously was not aware of Law 24, section 6 of cricket's law book

which states that the umpire shall call a no-ball only if a delivery bounces more than twice before reaching the popping crease.

Ashraful for his part was in no doubt, his euphoric ear-to-ear grin all the answer necessary.

But he later admitted that the two-bounce trick was not intentional.

"I have bounced the ball twice before in domestic cricket but I never got a wicket for it. The ball actually slipped from my fingers and I was surprised to benefit from it."

de Villiers confessed himself unaware of the rule and admitted he had never been dismissed in such a fashion before.

"I went back in my crease when I saw it pitched short and when it bounced twice I knew I could not be given out so I hit it up in the air."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Div 1 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Ekota registered an emphatic seven-wicket win over Dhanmondi Club in the First Division Cricket League match at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

Sent to bat first, Dhanmondi were dismissed cheaply for 77 runs in 35.5 overs with Murad top-scoring with 32.

Moniruzzaman and Tanvir claimed three wickets each for Badda.

In reply, Badda reached 78-3 in 21.1 overs with Somen Das contributing 35. Rummam Islam captured two wickets for 16 runs.

Leg-spinner Bayezid Imran's three-wicket haul helped Indira Road win by 15 runs over Cricket Coaching School at the BKSP.

Defending only 153 runs, Bayezid's efforts and that of Rakibul

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



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Bangladesh v South Africa
First Test, Day Three
Live from 10:00am

STAR Cricket

Quarterfinals
U-19 Cricket World Cup
Live from 7:50am

STAR Sports

Australia v India
10th ODI, CB Series
Live from 9:15am
Primera Liga
Barcelona v Levante
Live from 11:55pm
Madrid v Getafe
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

ESPN

Reading v Aston Villa
English Premier League
Live at 6:25pm
Blackburn v Bolton
English Premier League
Live at 8:55pm



Bangladesh v South Africa
First Test, Day Three
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium



PHOTOS: STAR

Khurshida Khatun of Bangladesh (L) flashes victory sign after winning the gold in the women's 400m sprint while West Bengal's Rahmatullah crosses the finish line to become the men's 100m champion on the second day of the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Hosts dominate Day One

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh dominated all three disciplines on the opening day of the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games in different venues of the capital yesterday.

In athletics, swimming and shooting, Bangladesh were one-up over their West Bengal rivals, with the swimmers winning seven gold medals, athletes clinching five and the shooters grabbing five as well. The visitors finished with ten

gold medals three in athletics, four in swimming and three in shooting.

Bangladesh Under-19 football team beat their West Bengal counterparts 2-1 in the first match of the men's football match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium here.

Zahed Parvez and Mithun Chowdhury scored one each for Bangladesh and Sheikh Jewel netted the lone for West Bengal in the second half.

The women's football match ended in a goalless draw.

In volleyball, Bangladesh beat West Bengal 3-0 at the Volleyball Stadium while Bangladesh kabaddi team made a good start beating West Bengal 31-12 with one lone.

Today, the second match of the cricket, volleyball, kho kho, football (men and women) and basketball will be held in different venues across the country.

The home Kabaddi team will face their West Bengal opponents at 3:45pm in Dhaka.

ATHLETICS

Nazmun Nahar Beauty won the first gold medal for the hosts in the Games.

She touched the finishing line in 200m sprint in 24.3 seconds. India's Rakhi Saha became second in this event taking 24.5 seconds.

Jesmin Akhter of Bangladesh became gold medal winner in 100m women's hurdles taking 14.8

seconds. Despite the dominance of Bangladeshi athletes, fastest man in the country Shamsuddin lost in the 100m to West Bengal's Rahmatullah who emerged as the champion in 10.6 seconds making a new record.

Shamsuddin got silver in 10.7 seconds while Abu Abdullah of Bangladesh secured bronze.

Sushuvon Hajra of West Bengal won gold in the 800m race in a minute and 55.7 seconds.

In the men's 400m sprint, Bangladesh's Afzal Hossain finished his run in 48.9 seconds to win gold. Khurshida Khatun of the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6