

Mashrafe worry for Tigers

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Kimberley

The Bangladesh team management is in a dilemma with the condition of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza ahead of the two-match Test series.

There is however added woe as left-arm seamer Syed Rasel also complained of an old back pain which he received during the England tour with the Bangladesh A team earlier this year.

Both the pace bowlers were checked by a local doctor who found nothing wrong in initial examination but the scan of Mashrafe was expected to be complete yesterday but Rasel's scan will be completed next Monday.

The decisions of taking them to the doctor was taken not before a lot of 'yes-no' as the team management was not sure whether there was any point to have the scan of Mashrafe again within three

months.

"We finally took them to the local orthopaedic doctor who found nothing wrong," informed team operations manager Shafiqul Haque.

"He suggested that there is no need to scan Mashrafe but the bowler himself was insisting to do that although our physio was also against it. Finally we have decided to do the scan as per Mashrafe's wish while it will not be possible to complete the scan of Rasel before Monday," he added.

Mashrafe was not in the team for the third one-dayer as he was complaining severe back pain and has been demanding a scan to become sure about his condition but team physio Darryl Lifson was not ready to do that.

Since then the Bangladesh vice-captain was gloomy and the situation became difficult for the team management to reach any conclusion especially when the Test series is knocking at the door.

The more important thing is

that the team management wanted to be hundred per cent sure that the leading pace bowler will be available for the series.

And it would be a big problem if the paceman ultimately failed to play at the last moment because Rasel is also not fit.

It was however learnt that the team management kept Rasel only to make sure his rehabilitation in South Africa and in that case they were confirmed about his unavailability earlier.

At this moment the team think-tank has yet to ask for any replacements but left-arm seamer Sajidul Islam has a good chance to join the team if Mashrafe is finally unable to play the series.

The team has been facing huge problems with their bowling department as left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak will not also be available for the first Test as he will fly to Australia today to be examined by a human movement specialist and join the team on November 19.



Jewel Ahmed strokes in the men's 50m butterfly to win his first gold medal of the 23rd National Swimming Championships at the National Swimming Complex yesterday.

WI ride on Taylor

AFP, Abu Dhabi

West Indies bowled a disciplined line and length to dismiss Pakistan for 232 in the second one-day international at Sheikh Zayed Stadium here on Friday.

Fast bowler Jerome Taylor overcame a final over glitch in the previous match to take 3-38 and was ably supported by Daren Powell 3-50, as they never allowed the Pakistani batsmen liberty on a docile pitch.

Pakistan, who had collapsed to seven for two in the third over, were indebted to Misbahul Haq (52), Kamran Akmal (45) and Younus Khan (34) but none could play long enough for a big total after Pakistan won the toss and batted.

Younus and Haq staged a little recovery through a 51-run third wicket stand before both fell to injudicious shots. Younus played across to Daren Powell, while Haq miscued a drive off spinner Nikita Miller and was caught in the deep.

Younus hit five boundaries while Haq managed just one during his slow 86-ball knock.

Pakistan were further jolted when captain Shoaib Malik was run out for ten.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Rony, Sonia march on

Swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahjahan Ali Rony established himself as the country's top breast-stroke swimmer yesterday when he completed a double at the Mercantile Bank 23rd National Swimming Championships.

Rony, who bagged the men's 100m title on Thursday in record timing, set a new national record in the 50m event on the third day of the competition at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

The 21-year-old also holds the SA Games record in this event, having won the 50m gold in 30.43s at the 10th SA Games in Colombo in 2006.

Bangladesh Army swimmer Rony, who was barred from the 2007 nationals, took 30.13s to break the 2003 national record of 30.96s set by Karar Samedul Islam of Bangladesh Navy, who had to settle for bronze in 32.43s yesterday.

Fellow Army swimmer Kamal

Hossain (31.66s) won silver.

Although the third day's timings were recorded manually as well as on electronic scoreboard, the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) published results in hand-timings.

"We have installed the electronic scoreboard but it is not fully workable. It is still showing some error," informed a federation timekeeper.

Rony, who competed in spite of suffering from jaundice (he has been tested positive for hepatitis B), has yet to decide whether he would go for a third breaststroke gold today or not by participating in the 200m.

Sonia Akhter was back to her best as the Class VII student of BKSP claimed a couple, taking her tally to five gold in three days. The teenager, who had won six gold medals last year, has already bagged seven medals including two silvers in this year's championships.

Having set three new national marks on the first two days, Sonia broke last year's own 50m butterfly record in 32.65s. The old record was

33.06s.

Sonia and her BKSP teammates won the 4x200m freestyle relay also in record time, finishing in 10:15.63s to put the 10:32.72s old record behind them. Bangladesh Ansar and Kustia won silver and bronze respectively.

Navy's ace swimmers Jewel Ahmed and Rubel Rana also two gold medals each. Rubel won his third individual gold of the meet winning the 200m backstroke before lifting the men's 4x200m relay along with Nazrul, Munum and Jewel.

After a subdued start, Jewel finally won his first individual gold of the competition when he beat BKSP's Anik Islam and fellow sailor Nazrul Islam for the 50m butterfly honours before joining the relay.

Mahfuzur Rahman won his third gold of the meet in the men's 1500m freestyle while his teammate Seema Sultana won the women's 800m freestyle to keep BKSP atop the table with 11 gold, ten silver and eight bronze.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Keeping fingers crossed for big Indonesian win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will look to Indonesia today for a place in the semifinals of the 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup.

Indonesia, who have already qualified for the last four with Thursday's 2-0 win against Bangladesh, face hosts Myanmar in the last Group A match at the Thuwanna Youth Training Centre Stadium in Yangon today.

Bangladesh, who drew goalless with the home side, ended on one point and still can make the semis by virtue of goal difference if Indonesia beat Myanmar -- also on one point -- by a three-goal margin.

Malaysia have already booked a place in the semis from Group B with four points when they drew 1-1 with South Korean club Ulsan Hyundai Horang-i yesterday. Malaysia had blanked Vietnam U-23s 3-0 in their earlier game.

Olympic Day Run held

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) observed the Olympic Day Run in the capital and elsewhere in the country yesterday in a bid to popularise the Olympic movement in Bangladesh.

Chief of the Bangladesh Air Force Air Marshall SM Ziaur Rahman inaugurated the run in the capital from the Ramna National Tennis Complex at 7:30 am.

For the first time, BOA took the initiative to hold the program on a large scale, simultaneously in all the districts and divisional headquarters.

The run started from Ramna Tennis Complex and terminated at the Bangabandhu National Stadium going past the High Court, Press Club and Baitul Makkaram building.

The program, sponsored by Dutch-Bangla Bank, Gazi Tanks, Exim Bank, Coca Cola, Amicus

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

India dump England

Cricket

AFP, Rajkot

England narrowly avoided their worst one-day defeat in terms of runs as India won the first game of the seven-match series by 158 runs here on Friday.

Yuvraj Singh smashed an unbeaten 138 off 78 balls to lift India to their second highest one-day total of 387-5 after being sent in to bat at the Madhavrao Scindia stadium.

England managed only 229 in reply in perfect batting conditions despite a classy 63 from skipper Kevin Pietersen and Ravi Bopara's unbeaten 54 off 38 balls lower down the order.

The tourists were in danger of falling below their heaviest-ever loss total before Bopara's late charge, which included five sixes and two fours, saved Pietersen's men the blushes.

England have twice lost by 165 runs, once to the West Indies in 1994 and again to Pakistan in 2005. They were beaten by 162 runs by Australia in 1999.

India, who stunned world champions Australia 2-0 in a Test series on Monday, switched quickly to the one-day mode to reduce England to 38-4 by the 11th over.

Left-handed Yuvraj, who batted with a runner because of a back injury in the early part of his innings, hammered 16 boundaries and six sixes in his ninth one-day century.

Virender Sehwag (85) and Gautam Gambhir (51) set up the big total with a whirlwind opening stand of 120 by the 20th over.

Yuvraj put on 89 for the third wicket with Suresh Raina (43) and 105 for the fifth with skipper Mahendra Dhoni (39) as India plundered 124 runs in the final 10 overs.

It was India's highest total against a major cricketing nation -- they made 376-2 against New Zealand in 1999 -- although their best ever is 413-5 against Bermuda at the 2007 World Cup.

"At the end of the day when you stand up and watch innings like the ones Yuvraj, Sehwag and Gambhir played, you just have to say: well played guys," said Pietersen.

"The pitch was a perfect batting beauty. They played superb cricket today (Friday), but we have to regroup and sort things out. There are six games still left in the series."

Dhoni said the huge scores posted by his players made victory easier.

"It was a great start given by Sehwag, Gambhir and Raina, and Yuvraj was just fantastic," the Indian captain said.

"That kind of innings by Yuvraj just takes you through. And after those early wickets, we knew the game was ours."

Yuvraj, who was ignored for the Australia Test series, said he was

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

FASTEST ODI HUNDREDS BY AN INDIAN

Balls	Player	Against	Venue	Year
62	MAZharuddin	NZ	Baroda	1988
64	Y Singh	Eng	Rajkot	2008
66	S Raina	HK	Karachi	2008
69	V Sehwag	NZ	Colombo	2001
71	S Tendulkar	Zim	Sharjah	1998

INDIA'S HIGHEST ODI TOTALS

Score	Opposition	Ground	Year
413-5	Bermuda	Port of Spain	2007
387-5	England	Rajkot	2008
376-2	New Zealand	Hyderabad	1999
374-4	Hong Kong	Karachi	2008
373-6	Sri Lanka	Taunton	1999



PHOTO: AFP

India batsman Yuvraj Singh raises his bat after reaching the second fastest hundred by an Indian in the first one-dayer against England at the Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Ground in Rajkot on Friday. The classy left-hander smashed 138 off just 78 balls with a severe back spasm that bothered him throughout the two-hour knock.



Did U Know?

The last time a wooden racket was used at Wimbledon Championships was in 1987.



Fabio Capello

(England soccer manager)
"I am eager and determined to help England rediscover the spirit that they once had as the teachers of football."



TEN Sports & ZEE Sports

ICL Twenty20
Second Final
Hyderabad v Lahore
Live from 8:00pm

ESPN

English Premier League
Bolton v Liverpool
Live from 6:40pm
Arsenal v Aston Villa
Live from 8:55pm

Primera Liga

Valladolid v Real Madrid
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)
Valencia v Sporting Gijon
Live from 3:00am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

Shanghai Masters Tennis
Semifinals
Live from 3:00pm
English Premier League
West Bromwich v Chelsea
Live from 11:25pm

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Great start for women's team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's and women's teams got off to contrasting starts in the 38th Chess Olympiad in Dresden, Germany on Thursday.

The women's team defeated Paraguay 2.5-1.5 in the opening round but the men went down 0.5-3.5 to a strong all-grandmaster Netherlands side.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

Cancer survivors Sumon (R) and Shirin light the Flame of Hope at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at end of the Olympic Day Run yesterday.

মুন্দের একটি দেশ
এটিয়ে নিয়ে যায় তারক

আমার
বাংলাদেশ

চোখ রাখুন
CHANNEL
এর পর্দায়
আজ সন্ধ্যা ৬ টায়
পর্ব-৩: বেকারত্ব, কর্মসংস্থান ও পেশা নির্বাচন

আলোচক : মোকোয়া আফজাল রহমান
সেসিওস্ট, বাংলাদেশ প্রযুক্তিগত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বিএকটটিই)

মামুন রশীদ
বাংলাদেশ পরিচালক এবং
সিটি কাল্পনিক পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ
সিটি ব্যাংক, এন এ

উপস্থাপক : সৈয়দ মুনীর খসরু
অধ্যাপক, আইইএ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সমর্থক :