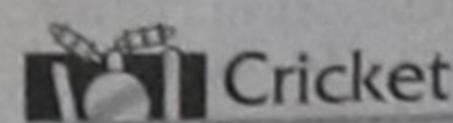


Tigers chase a dream

Second Test against WI starts today



AFP, St George's

Bangladesh will carry bitter-sweet feelings into the second and final Test against the West Indies starting on Friday at the Queen's Park Stadium Complex.

Bangladesh need only to draw to fulfil a long-held dream of their first Test series victory after they took a 1-0 lead with a 95-run victory in the opening Test at St Vincent.

But celebrations have been tempered following a knee injury to their new captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza which appears likely to sideline him for the match.

Mortaza fell clumsy on his right knee when bowling during the first Test, and spent the last two and a half days off the field.

He underwent a medical scan on Tuesday, and though the results of the test are not as bad as initially feared, the visitors do not want to risk long-term injury to their main fast bowler.

The Tigers have flown out Nazmul Hossain as back-up for Mortaza, but the way things unfolded in the first Test, the captain may not be missed.

It was Bangladesh's spinners who

made life difficult for the West Indies batsmen in the first Test, particularly the second innings, when Mahmudullah and Shakib Al Hasan -- who is likely to lead the side in Mashrafe's place -- dominated.

The Tigers will consider playing three spinners with Mehrab Hossain Jr the likely choice to fill the breach, particularly if the pitch looks favourable.

Winning the series will be very important to Bangladesh, after they arrived in the Caribbean as rank outsiders.

Fortune favoured them when the long-

running feud between the West Indies Cricket Board and the West Indies Players' Association escalated just prior to the opening Test, and the leading West Indies players decided to boycott the series.

This meant Bangladesh's chances of a Test victory -- and perhaps a Test series victory -- were enhanced, once the hosts fielded a hodgepodge of players with limited Test and international experience.

Fortunately, they kept their nerve through a batting collapse in the first innings, and then a solid, if formidable West Indies reply, and sealed the deal in over the second half of the match.

As the dispute between the West Indies board and leading players continues, the home team will again field a weakened line-up for the Test.

The batting has been boosted with the addition of Ryan Hinds, one of the leading batsmen in last season's first-class competition.

Hinds played the last of his 14 Tests against England in March this year at Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval, but he is yet to make a meaningful impression at the top level.

The left-hander managed just 91 runs in four Tests against England on their

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TEAMS

WEST INDIES (from): Floyd Reifer (captain), Darren Sammy, Ryan Austin, David Bernard Jr, Tino Best, Travis Dowlin, Ryan Hinds, Kevin McLean, Nikita Miller, Nelson Pascal, Omar Phillips, Dale Richards, Kemar Roach, Chadwick Walton.
BANGLADESH (from): Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Enamul Haque Jr, Imrul Kayes, Zunaid Siddiqui, Mahabubul Alam, Mahmudullah, Mehrab Hossain Jr, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nazmul Hossain, Rokibul Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Sahajil Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Tamim Iqbal.
Umpires: Asoka de Silva and Rudi Koertzen.

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Bonapara cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rangpur Railway Club defeated Nayabandar Sporting Club by seven wickets while TBS Krira Chakravarty narrowly defeated Simultair Meghdip Eleven by one wicket in the Bonapara premier cricket league held at the Bonapara Kazi Azher Ali High School ground yesterday.

In the first match, Rangpur Railway Club scored 42-3 in their stipulated ten over. In reply Nayabandar Sporting Club made 40 runs for the loss of all wickets.

Hira of Rangpur scored 27

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In a West Ham United v Wolverhampton Wanderers match in 1970, Bobby Moore managed to knock out a referee with an attempted clearance.



Jimmy Adams

(Former West Indies cricket captain)

"They want to say, 'All you need to do is agree a figure and you should forget about everything else. That is sports management in 1952."

On the outdated attitude of the West Indies Cricket Board.

STAR Cricket
England v Australia
2nd Ashes Test, Day 2
Live from 5:00pm

TEN Sports
West Indies v Bangladesh
Second Test, Day 1
Live from 9:00pm

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