

Beauty, Al Amin earn pass mark

SPORTS REPORTER

Sprinter Nazmun Nahar Beauty and long jumper Al Amin have been finally declared fit for the upcoming 11th South Asian Games as both passed their fitness tests at Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan yesterday.

After missing the final trial on January 15 due to injuries, a special trial was arranged for Beauty and Al Amin and both of them came out successful to compete in the regional extravaganza, beginning on January 29.

Four times a fastest woman of the country Beauty, however, will compete in the 200m instead of her favourite event of 100m sprint in which she finished just ahead of bottom-placed Nepalese Chandrakala Thapa in the last SA Games in Colombo.

Beauty was given a target of 25.25 seconds to run 200 metres and she reached the finish line, though she took a little longer, said coach Kitab Ali after the test.

Jasmin Akhter Chumki and Israt Jahan Iva will compete in the women's 100m sprint.

In the trial, Al Amin was asked to jump 6.25 metres and he jumped it successfully though his best performance was recorded at 6.60m in the National Championships.

Bangladesh Athletics Federation general secretary believes if Al Amin can jump in between 6.40 to 6.50 metres, he can win a medal in the meet.

Both Beauty and Al Amin suffered injuries after returning from Malaysia where they took a three-month higher training. They had earlier missed two trials at BKSP.

SA GAMES

Bhutan booters arrive in Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Bhutan's Under-23 football squad became the first official foreign team to arrive in Dhaka for the 11th South Asian Games, beginning on January 29.

The eight-team football event gets underway on January 30 with four matches scheduled for the opening day in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Bhutan will face champions Maldives in the opening match of Group A at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Bangladesh will take on Nepal in the same group later at the same venue.

India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, who are in Group B, will play at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

Meanwhile, 13 swimmers and officials of the Nepal swimming team had earlier arrived in Dhaka last week to prepare themselves in Bangladesh following the chilly weather in Nepal.

What to WATCH

- BTV & NEO Cricket**
Bangladesh v India
Second Test, Day Three
Live from 9:30am
- STAR Sports**
Australian Open
Quarterfinals
Live from 6:00am
- STAR Cricket**
Australia v Pakistan
Third ODI
Live from 9:25am
- ESPN**
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Idea Cup Test Series
Bangladesh v India
Second Test, Day Three
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur
Time: 9:30am

National Cricket League
(Four-Day, Day One)
Rajshahi v Dhaka
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong
Chittagong v Sylhet
Venue: Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium, Rajshahi
Barisal v Khulna
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium



Master India batsman Sachin Tendulkar plays one over the top on way to scoring 143, his 45th ton, against Bangladesh on the second day of the second and final Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bouncy Shahadat

SPORTS REPORTER



When he speaks he speaks his heart out. And there was no exception when Shahadat Hossain turned up to face the press after the eventful second day's play of the second and final Test against India at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

In terms of taking wicket he might not be as successful as Shafiqul Islam and Shakib Al Hasan, both taking two wickets each, were but the lanky pacer was the man who tested the Indian batsmen most. The 23-year-old right-arm pacer produced an array of short balls one of which hit Rahul Dravid in the jaw and had to be taken to hospital.

"It feels well that I gave a bouncer to Dravid and it hit such a great batsman like him," was the simple statement from Shahadat when asked about the matter in the press conference.

"Yeah, it's for the first time that one batsman left the field receiving a bouncer from me. When I hit Ponting (Ricky), I hit him with an old ball. But this time I hit him with new ball," he added.

Shahadat also explained the reason why they produced too many short balls on the day.

"Most of Indian players are not comfortable against bouncers, especially (Virender) Sehwag and Dravid and they tend to leave short balls. It was our plan to give them bouncers," he explained.

The lanky pacer was also not disappointed with the drop catches.

"Missing catches are part of

the game. Everyone tries to hold catches. I did not think I should have got Tendulkar's wicket. Had he taken the catch, it would have been special. But still I am happy that I bowled well," he responded.

He also said that it was not easy for the bowlers to bowl in this kind of conditions.



Bangladesh pacer Shahadat Hossain exults after dismissing India opener Virender Sehwag (unseen) at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dravid sent to hospital

CRICINFO, undated

Rahul Dravid has been admitted to hospital with a suspected fractured jaw after being struck on the side of his face by a bouncer from Shahadat Hossain on the second day of the second and final Test against hosts Bangladesh on Monday.

Dravid has been kept in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Square Hospital in Dhaka under observation as a precautionary measure.

"He is comparatively better than before," Fazlul Haq, the attending doctor in the hospital, told Cricinfo. "He will be here for a night and he is likely to be discharged tomorrow."

Asked whether it was a fracture, Haq said: "It's not exactly a fracture, more a sort of severe sprain. We are just keeping him here as a precaution."

However, Mostafa Kamal, the BCB president, who visited the hospital, said Dravid had sustained "light fractures".

"I just met Rahul, he is feeling fine and is having his meal," Kamal said. "My doctors have told me that there are couple of light fractures, nothing serious. He will be fine."

Kamal was quoted by Bangladesh TV channels as saying Dravid would be returning to India but he sought to clarify that statement. "I meant my doctors have told me he can go back tomorrow if he wants to. It's a decision for Rahul and the

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Harbhajan warned

CRICINFO, undated

Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has been officially reprimanded by the ICC match referee Andy Pycroft for kicking and damaging an advertising board after a misfield near the boundary during the first day of the second Test in Mirpur.

Harbhajan pleaded guilty to the Level 1 offence of the Code of Conduct which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings". Since he didn't challenge the verdict, there was no need for a hearing.

"While giving my verdict, I took into account that Harbhajan admitted his mistake and apologised for his actions," Pycroft said. "I also accepted Harbhajan's explanation that he had kicked the advertising board in frustration. Professional cricketers try to give their best effort when they are on the field and whenever they don't live up to the standards they have set for themselves, they feel disappointed. However, venting their frustrations in this manner is unacceptable."

All Level 1 offences carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand and a maximum penalty of fifty per cent of the match fee.

Centurion Tendulkar praises BD bowlers

BISHWAJIT ROY



Bangladesh finished the second day's play of the second and final Test against India on a positive note as the stumps were drawn after young pacer Shahadat Hossain had got an edge off Harbhajan Singh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

But the day actually belonged to the Indian batsmen as the twin tons from Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid established the visitors' supremacy by taking a 226-run lead with five wickets in hand. But considering the conditions and the strength of the Indian batting line-up, the local bowlers, especially the three-pronged pace attack, however deserved some credit as they consistently bowled in good areas and showed some aggression which even sent a batsman like Dravid to hospital after he was hit by a bouncer from Shahadat Hossain in his jaw.

More celebrations might have come the Tigers' way had they not missed some good chances. And dropping Tendulkar twice in the end proved costly as the batting maestro capitalised on those by hitting his 45th hundred. Rokibul Hasan was the main culprit to frustrate the bowlers in a condition where bowlers had to toil hard for a wicket and where one must make the half-chances into a successful one.

And the bowlers were duly praised by the little master, who worked hard for his 143 off 182 balls before he was caught at midwicket off left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan.

"In the last match I said, they [Bangladeshi bowlers] bowled well. They also bowled well today. They had a specific plan and they stuck to it. At certain stages they bowled well in partnerships. There were a few overs in between when we had chances to hit boundaries," said Tendulkar, who hit his second hundred in the series after his face-saving century in the first innings of the Chittagong Test.

"Runs don't come easy. You have to still go out there and score those runs. That's when it happens. I am of this opinion that no attack can be underestimated. And I've always applied myself whether we play against Australia or South Africa or Bangladesh or Zimbabwe. From my side, what I need is to focus on that," he responded when asked whether scoring centuries against an attack like Bangladesh was easier for him.

Was it luck that favoured him to make the hundred, Tendulkar smilingly said: "Every century I score, I can't go without having any luck on my side. It's part and parcel of the game. When I don't get that, you would also say the same thing."

Tendulkar also informed that it was not an easy task for them to score runs at a certain rate.

What the batting maestro said could be a good lesson for the Bangladesh batsmen, especially when they come out to bat in the second innings with a huge burden of India's first innings total.

"It's a two paced wicket. The bounce was also inconsistent. It's not an easy track to bat on. It has variable bounce. They [Bangladesh]

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IT WAS NASTY: India's top batsman Rahul Dravid sits on the ground after being struck by a bouncer on the second day of the second Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Straight Drive
SUNIL GAVASKAR

Can Tigers learn from Sachin and Rahul?

In sport as in life there is always so much to learn and the Bangladesh batsmen had a lesson for free on the second day of the Test match at Dhaka. Maybe it wasn't all free since they had to pay for it with runs and not Takas which is the local currency but it would be well worth it if they show in the second innings that they have absorbed something from the awesome display of batting by the two Indian stalwarts Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar. This is not trying to run the Bangladesh batsmen down, not at all, but having seen the way they have approached the task at hand in three Test innings so far, it is clear that they need to look at one that enables them to spend time at the crease fruitfully.

More than the stroke production it was the manner in which Dravid and Tendulkar built their innings brick by brick that was fascinating. They were patient to start with, taking their time to get used to the pitch. Both had come in to bat after a batsman had been dismissed by a short ball. While that is not

unusual it is not often that well-set batsmen are surprised by a short ball. Sehwag had in fact despatched the previous delivery past the bowler for a boundary and then Shahdat produced a snorter that came 10 kmph quicker than the one hit for a four and took Sehwag totally by surprise. Gambhir too was looking set to join Don Bradman as the batsman to score centuries in 6 consecutive Tests when a bouncer bowled from round the wicket by Shafiqul Islam had him fending off for Mushfiqur to take the ballooned ball.

It was in such a situation that Dravid and Tendulkar had arrived at the crease. Apart from those two deliveries that just took off, there was nothing in the pitch so they had to be watchful. Encouraged by the success with the short ball, the Bangladesh bowlers tried that a little too often and became predictable since a bouncer is best as a surprise weapon if a bowler is not express in pace. Even with spin both batsmen took their time though they

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NZ name squads for Bangladesh series

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Wellington fast bowler Andy McKay and the Central Districts opening batsman Peter Ingram are in line for their international debuts after being named in the squads to take on Bangladesh next month.

New Zealand will be without Shane Bond, Jesse Ryder, Kyle Mills and Grant Elliott, all because of injury.

There was no place for Scott Styris or Aaron Redmond, both of whom played in New Zealand's most recent limited-overs series against Pakistan in the UAE in November. BJ Watling also missed out on the Twenty20 squad having made his debut on that tour while the selectors could not find a place for Lou Vincent, despite his strong domestic Twenty20 form.

McKay, 29, has been named in a 12-man group to take on Bangladesh in three one-day internationals in Napier, Dunedin and Christchurch. A left-arm fast-medium bowler, McKay is the equal leading wicket-taker in the

domestic one-day competition this summer with 11 victims at 20.63.

Ingram, 31, has been chosen in the one-day squad and the Twenty20 team to play a one-off international in Hamilton next week. Ingram has been on the domestic scene for nearly a decade and has been in outstanding four-day form this season, with 530 Plunket Shield runs at 75.71, although his one-day form has been less commanding with 154 runs at 30.80.

"The teams have been selected with an eye to the T20 World Cup in the West Indies in May, and players for next year's ODI World Cup in Asia," selector Mark Greatbatch said. "We have picked two sides for Bangladesh, but our mid to long-term focus is on the two World Cup campaigns."

SQUADS
TWENTY20: Brendon McCullum, Peter Ingram, Martin Guptill, Ross Taylor, James Franklin, Gareth Hopkins, Jacob Oram, Nathan McCullum, Daniel Vettori (captain), Ian Butler, Daryl Tuffey, Tim Southee.

ODI: Brendon McCullum, Peter Ingram, Martin Guptill, Ross Taylor, Neil Broom, James Franklin, Daniel Vettori (captain), Jacob Oram, Ian Butler, Daryl Tuffey, Tim Southee, Andy McKay.

Roger, Nikolay in qtrs

AFP, Melbourne



A dominant Roger Federer joined the Williams sisters in the Australian Open quarterfinals Monday while Li Na ensured China has two players in a Grand Slam last eight for the first time.

The world number one Swiss shattered the hopes of local fans by crushing Lleyton Hewitt 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 for his 15th consecutive win over the Australian 22nd seed.

It was an imperious display which set up the 15-time Grand Slam champion with an intriguing last eight showdown with the in-form Nikolay Davydenko, who has won their last two meetings.

The Russian sixth seed ensured he stayed alive by coming through a marathon five-setter against Spanish ninth seed Fernando Verdasco, prevailing 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3.

"He's beaten me the last two times but I'm hoping with the best of five sets play I can get the better of him," Federer said of Davydenko, while paying tribute to Hewitt.

make you nervous in a match."

Third seed Novak Djokovic, the 2008 winner, also progressed with an emphatic 6-1, 6-2, 7-5 win over Poland's unseeded Lukasz Kubot and will next meet French 10th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who he beat in the 2008 final.

Tsonga won a thriller against Spanish 26th seed Nicolas Pietrangeli, 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-7 (6/8), 9-7.

They join Spanish defending champion Rafael Nadal, British fifth seed Andy Murray, American seventh seed Andy Roddick and 14th seeded Croat Marin Cilic in the quarters.

Like Federer, women's defending champion Serena Williams was a class apart as she devoured Australia's Sam Stosur 6-4, 6-2.

She will play either Belarussian seventh seed Victoria Azarenka or ninth seeded Russian Vera Zvonareva next as she guns for a fifth title.

"It's really good to match my game against her serve, because she's one of the best servers on the tour," Williams said of Stosur.

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