

Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net



Fast bowler Rubel Hossain on his delivery stride during a practice session of the national team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The paceman made it to the Test squad against West Indies after recovering from a shoulder injury which kept him out of play for almost seven months.

PHOTO: STAR

Ramos loves bull fighting

Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos has never made a secret of his love for bull fighting. After several of his successes on the pitch, he has brought out a matador's cape and done his interpretive dance/routine. "When you're young, it is important to have dreams," he told AS. "I always wanted to be either a bullfighter or footballer but my mother was a little scared of me becoming a bullfighter. So I opted for football which was less dangerous."



A trying twelve years

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Aminul Islam Bulbul still recalls, not without trepidation, the hot flash of anger that he experienced when seated beside the West Indian Gordon Greenidge during a press conference in 1999.

Greenidge, then the coach of a Bangladesh side taking their nascent steps into world cricket had publicly remarked that the impending Test status was too early for Bangladesh. "I felt a surge of fury," recalls Islam when contacted at his current residence in China. "I felt he [Greenidge] was wrong."

Understandably then, those comments would prove to be the beginning of the end for Greenidge whose stint with Bangladesh would end in acrimonious circumstances. It seemed that the West Indian was the lone warning voice amongst a surge of euphoria that eventually saw Bangladesh join the ranks of the cricketing elite by appearing in their first Test match on November 10, 2000.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman (L) shaking hands with his India counterpart Sourav Ganguly at the start of the historic first Test match for Bangladesh at the Banga-bandhu National Stadium on November 10, 2000.

Bangladesh scored 400 in the first innings against India with Islam's sparkling 145 seemingly the perfect riposte to the scathing words of Greenidge. It seemed, that Bangladesh were here to stay.

BANGLADESH IN TESTS

Played: 73; Won: 3
Lost: 63; Draw: 7

Exactly twelve years on to that memorable day, the words of Greenidge hang like an albatross around the neck of Bangladesh cricket and even Islam is not loathe to admit that the West Indian might have had a point.

"I think the rankings tell the whole story," says a despondent Islam. It does too, for the statistics prove grim reading. Bangladesh have played 73 Test matches, they have lost 63 and won just 3 games, two of which ironically came against a depleted West Indies side while the other

came against a Zimbabwe in crisis. "Our good performances have been sporadic, no way have we shown the consistency that can be demanded of a proper Test team," admits Islam.

The story of Bangladesh's Test cricket then, is

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On a comeback trail

SPORTS REPORTER

Junaed Siddique's batting career has followed the path of a number of other Bangladeshi batsmen. When in song, the top-order batsman played some of the world's best bowlers to the different corners of the park. There were even times when he displayed sheer grit while batting in tough conditions. However, his lack of consistency more often than not, got the better of him.

The top-order batsman, who is aiming to make a return to the Test fold after nearly two years, was seen hitting in the nets during the Tigers' practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

His 181 against Rajshahi in the second match of the national cricket league propelled his changes of making the team as the national selectors were struggling to find a partner for Tamim Iqbal at the top of the batting order.

"It feels good to make the 15-man team. I played a few good innings in Test cricket before and the century in the NCL has definitely given me a much-needed boost," said Junaed.

"There are very few opportunities in Test cricket, especially for us. And I want to make the most of it," he added.

While he played a fine knock in his last

innings in the NCL, he however, struggled to score (19 and 4) in the first match of the league, which incidentally took place at the Sher-e-Bangla.

"The wicket that we played on during the league was quite uneven. Personally, I don't think that was a wicket that would suit international cricket," explained Junaed.

With Bangladesh entering the Test arena after playing the shorter versions of the game for almost a year, the question would be as to how much they have progressed in this format of the game. According to Junaed, it all depends on teamwork and the 'right focus.'

"We can't win a Test match just because of Shakib or any other individual brilliance. The players need to take it session by session. We lost five wickets in one session in a game against India after a good start some time back. We have to ensure that

these things don't reoccur," said Junaed.

Another player, who has literally changed his entire batting approach to make the Test team, is Naeem Islam. The Gaibandha-based cricketer, who last represented the national fold in a one day international against Pakistan in December last year, made his way into the team after a series of gritty performances.

The all-rounder scored two centuries in the two games that he played in the

Rain ruins Siddikur's day

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman couldn't take the field on the second day of Barclays Singapore Open as inclement weather heavily disrupted the day's play. The Bangladeshi golfer, who was in joint 115th position with a 4-over-par first round score and looking at a probable ouster, will begin his second round today, weather

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Reefat, Mostafa on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Reefat Bin Sattar and Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan shared the lead in the Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Ltd 38th National A Chess Championship at the close of the second round at the Media Centre of the Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday. Reefat defeated Mahtabuddin Ahmed

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JUNAED SIDDIQUE

Myshukur hogs the limelight

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: First innings 242 all out in 80 overs (Rabbi 27, Zakaria 45, Nuruzzaman 38, Fariduddin 70 not out, extras 19; Talha 2-35, Arafat Sunny 4-55)

DHAKA METRO: First innings-27-2 in 8 overs (Arman 14 not out, Ashrafal 1 not out, extra 1; Rasel 2-13)

DHAKA: First innings- 84 all out in 32.1 overs (Majid 24, Shuvagato 22, extras 10; Taposh 6-37, Nazmul 2-1)

SYLHET: First innings 92-3 in 44 overs (Rajin 17 not out, Kapali 38 not out, extras 8; Sharif 3-37)

KHULNA: First innings 414-9 in 86 overs (Imrul 51, Soumya 44, Tushar 79, Mithun 33, Nizamuddin 21, Ziaur 77, Dollar 69 not out, extras 9; Mamun 2-64, Yasir 2-39, Iqbal 2-68)

RAJSHAH: First innings 232 all out in 77.2 overs (Myshukur 102, Forhad 45, extras 21;

SPORTS REPORTER

Taposh Baishya and Myshukur Rahman hogged the spotlight on the first day of the third round matches of the National Cricket League at different venues across the country yesterday.

Dhaka made the lowest score of 84 runs in this season against Sylhet as discarded paceman Taposh grabbed six wickets for 37 runs at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium while Myshukur scored a hundred. But his effort was not good enough for Rajshahi to put up an impressive total on the board against Rangpur at the Rangpur Cricket Garden.



TAPOSH BAISHYA...6 for 37

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, a strong batting display helped Khulna to cross the 400-mark on the opening day against Chittagong thanks to some late hitting from Ziaur Rahman and Dollar Mahmud while Dhaka Metro and Barisal shared the honour on the opening day at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

SYLHET v DHAKA
Sylhet took control of the match yesterday following Dhaka's batting collapse.. Rajin Saleh (17) and Alok Kapali (38) kept their cool as Sylhet recovered from an early hiccup to finish the day on 92 for three, eight runs ahead from their opponents.

Earlier Nazmul Hossain picked up two wickets besides Taposh's six-wicket haul as

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Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited

Human Resources Division
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