

Lazio salute
Gazza

Troubled former England star Paul Gascoigne was moved to the brink of tears on Thursday when he was hailed as a "lionheart" by Lazio fans on his return to the city where he spent three seasons.

The 45-year-old donned a light blue-and-white scarf, the colours of Lazio, as he was presented to the crowd ahead of the Europa League clash between the Italian side and Tottenham.

"Welcome back Gazza. Lionheart, headstrong, pure talent, real man: still our hero," said one of the banners.

CLEAR
MEN

Today's Score Card

BANGLADESH: First innings 387
(Hasan 113, Mahmudullah 76, Nasir 52; Edwards 6-90)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 241-2)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shohag	49	4	143	2
Hasan	24	0	113	0
Rubel	28	8	75	2
Naeem	11	1	35	0
Shakib	38	8	111	0

25
13
127
260
109
4
26
564
To bat: Sammy, Permaul, Narine, Best, Edwards
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-43, 3-369, 4-546.



Bangladesh's only two successful bowlers in the innings so far, off-spinner Shohag Gazi (L) and fast bowler Rubel Hossain, share a light moment during the third day of the second Test against the West Indies at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Small rewards for Rubel's shift

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Rubel Hossain kicked the air in disgust after Shahriar Nafees reluctantly watched a ball flying through the slip to the boundary. Understandably, the young pace bowler was frustrated by the poor effort of his fielder when the chances were few and far between for the bowlers in a difficult surface at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna.

Rubel and his partner Abul Hasan bowled brilliantly in the first sessions and created some chances but luck didn't favour them to get any success against the West Indies batsmen. Rubel picked up one wicket yesterday after a whole day's effort but his bowling figure definitely will not show how well he has bowled.

Undoubtedly it was a tiring day for the bowlers and there was no reason any bowler would enjoy this kind of surface where there was no assistance. But Rubel was not being bored while he was bowling on this pitch.

"I always enjoy my bowling no matter what the condition is and that's why I didn't feel bored. The wicket is friendly for the batsman that's why I always tried to put the ball in the right areas and I tried to maintain my line and length," said a shy-smiling Rubel.

There had been much talk about the luck-factor as especially Rubel didn't get his reward after the way the right-arm paceman bowled against the two set batsmen in Marlon Samuels and Darren Bravo.

"Yes, luck factor is there as sometimes bowlers get wickets off a bad ball and sometimes the opposite happens but I am not thinking about this not am I worried about it," said a confident Rubel.

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Biplob in doubles final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Biplob Ram and Tom Fancutt of Australia moved to the boys' doubles final of the Focal Point 26th Bangladesh ITF Tennis Championships, beating their Thai opponents Juprang Atikan & Thongvinit 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinal at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. The pair will meet Naruka Digrivijay Singh & Vellodi Keshav pair of India in the final today.

Meanwhile, Fancutt also advanced to the final of the boys' singles as he brushed aside Juprang of Thailand 6-0, 6-1 in one of the semifinals. Fancutt will meet the number 2 seed Al Obaidy of Kuwait, who defeated Lee Ho Jun of Taipei 6-2, 6-1 in the other semifinal, in the final today.

In the girls' group, top seed Ma Ka Man Carina and Hsieh Yu-Ting made it to the final beating Zhang

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Work ethic pays off for Marlon

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

Marlon Samuels added another feather to his cap after making his maiden Test double-hundred against Bangladesh on the third day of the second Test at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium yesterday.

It has been a great year for the moody Caribbean star who came here with two centuries under his belt as well as a spectacular match-winning innings in the World Twenty20 final in Sri Lanka to give his country a memorable success in the ICC's multi-national tournament.

So the obvious question after the yesterday's achievement was what was the secret behind his great success in this year?

"When you have family and kids, you value your life more. You continue to work hard, your work ethic is different, eating right, staying fit. The hard work I am putting in the background is working for me," was the answer from the 31-year old Jamaican.

He was delighted but at the same time he was also little bit disappointed as he missed an rare opportunity to make a triple hundred as a beautiful delivery from Rubel Hossain shattered his dream of achieving the rare mark.

Samuels makes
Tigers suffer

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

Marlon Samuels hit his maiden double hundred and Mr Test Cricket, Shivnarine Chanderpaul ambled to yet another century as the West Indies piled the misery on hosts Bangladesh on the third day of the second Test at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on Friday.

Samuels, whose previous Test best was 123, played with exemplary patience on way to notching a spectacular 260, which came of 455-balls with 31 fours and three sixes. The elegant right-hander had his sights firmly set on reaching the magical 300 mark but even his cautious approach was not enough to keep out an excellent delivery from Rubel Hossain. It was only the second success on a long day for the Tigers, following the wicket of Darren Bravo, who

fell also after completing his century.

At one point, it looked like Samuels would not give away his wicket, but Rubel produced a beauty that reared up from length and took the shoulder of the bat to substitute fielder Elias Sunny at gully. It ended a 177-run fourth wicket stand with Chanderpaul, who finished the day on 109 not out along with Denesh Ramdin.

The visitors were 564-4 at stumps courtesy of a mammoth 326-run third wicket stand between Samuels and Bravo, which was broken just three balls before the lunch session as spinner Shohag Gazi trapped Bravo in front. They will carry a considerable 177-run lead going into the fourth day with a clear intention of putting as many runs as possible on the board so that they avoid batting for a second time.

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ODI SQUAD ANNOUNCED
Gazi makes the cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Off-spinner Shohag Gazi, who has impressed in the ongoing Test series between Bangladesh and West Indies, has been rewarded with a berth in Bangladesh's 14-man squad for the first two one day internationals, which was announced yesterday.

Gazi has picked up eleven wickets in the series so far and has been Mushfiqur Rahim's go-to bowler.

Apart from Gazi, Rubel Hossain and Naeem Islam are the other two players who have returned to the side after missing out during the Asia Cup, which took place in March this year.

Rubel, who returned from a shoulder injury, impressed the selectors with his effort in the Test series. Naeem's inclusion in the squad was propelled by his maiden Test century in the second innings of the first Test match.

Young Abul Hasan, who became only the fourth person in the history of Test cricket to score a century while batting at number ten, was also named in the squad. The young pacer made a late entry into the Asia Cup squad in March, following Shafiqul Islam's injury. He, however, didn't make it to the playing eleven.

Imrul Kayes, Elias Sunny, Nazmul Hossain, Shahadat Hossain and Nazimuddin, who were a part of the ODI squad during the Asia Cup were dropped by the selectors.

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SHOHAG GAZI

Bowlers on top

SPORTS REPORTER

A brisk beginning to the fifth round of the National Cricket League saw three teams fold out early in their respective matches yesterday. Chittagong, at their home ground—MA Aziz Stadium—were bowled out for 138 by Dhaka as spinners Mosharraf Hossain and Nazmul Apu ran through the hosts' batting order.

The game at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi saw Barisal get bundled out for 245 by Rangpur. Meanwhile league leaders Khulna maintained their good run as they bowled Sylhet out for 244 at the Cricket Garden in Rangpur. Rajshahi were the only team batting first, to not get bowled out, as they finished their first day at 235 for 6 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, against Dhaka Metro.

CHITTAGONG v DHAKA

It was a combination of some slow bowling that got the better of the batsmen from the port city as Mosharraf and

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Shahriar Nafees (L) takes evasive action as West Indies batsman Darren Bravo drives during the third day of the second Test against Bangladesh at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Hockey team
win at last

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Eleven ended their Nehru Senior Hockey Tournament campaign with a win as they handed a 3-1 defeat to Army Eleven in their last group match at the Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi, India yesterday.

Krishna Kumar struck twice while Sheikh Mohammad Nannu scored one for Bangladesh.

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Div I football

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagoroni defeated Mohakhali Ekadash 2-0 in their lone fixture of the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Birsreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. Alam Nabi scored the opening goal in the 23rd minute before Mohammad Mezba confirmed the victory scoring in the 65th minute.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

CHITTAGONG: First innings 138 all out in 55.1 overs. (Mahabubul 46, Nur 30; Mosharraf 4-58, Apu 4-34)

SYLHET: First innings 244 all out in 88.1 overs. (Imtiaz 108, Golam

43; Razzak 3-65, Alamin H 2-24)

KHULNA: First innings 6 for no loss in 1 over. (Imrul 4)

RAJSHAHI: First innings 235 for 6

51; Alauddin 3-51, Shuvo 3-72)

RANGPUR: First innings 16 for 1 in 5 overs. (Liton 10; Rasel 1-3)

SYLHET: First innings 244 all out in

88.1 overs. (Imtiaz 108, Golam

43; Razzak 3-65, Alamin H 2-24)

KHULNA: First innings 6 for no loss in 1 over. (Imrul 4)

RAJSHAHI: First innings 235 for 6

51; Alauddin 3-51, Shuvo 3-72)

DHAKA: First innings 123 for 3 in 37

overs. (Nadif 44, Rony 39; Yasir 2-25)

BARISAL: First innings 245 all out in

79.5 overs. (Islamul 74, Zakaria

51; Alauddin 3-51, Shuvo 3-72)

CHITTAGONG v DHAKA

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