

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 18, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Irina Shayk's smart move

Don't you just hate it when you're attending an MTV party in Greece and you're asked to cut up the shirt of your boyfriend's fiercest competitive rival on camera?

Sports Illustrated model Irina Shayk totally knows the feeling, having been ambushed by a reporter wielding a Leo Messi shirt and a pair of scissors, expecting her to defend her partner Cristiano Ronaldo with a bizarre partisan gesture. Thankfully, the Russian professional-good-looking-person was smart enough to decline the offer, avoiding some awkward headlines and complete alienation in



PHOTOS: AFP

Robiul Islam (above) and Rubel Hossain (L) bowled their hearts out on the opening day of the first Test at Harare yesterday. However, both Bangladesh pacers were denied their fair share of success by some sloppy fielding and a glaring error of judgement.

## Day ends on even keel



SAKEB SUBHAN from Harare

Three dropped chances, a dismissal cancelled by a no-ball and a classy century by skipper Brendan Taylor saw Zimbabwe reach a respectable 217 for four after the first day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

On a pitch that rewarded skilful pace bowling but one that is true in pace and bounce, Bangladesh's bowlers bowled well to sustain the pressure but Zimbabwe's batsmen, led by Taylor saw through the tough times to finish the day on even terms, perhaps even slightly ahead as their best batsman remained unbeaten on 105.

Zimbabwe's score hinged on a crucial partnership between Taylor and Malcolm Waller when the team had slipped to 65 for three after lunch, with Hamilton Masakadza, the centurion in Zimbabwe's comeback Test against Bangladesh in 2011, was caught at slip off left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr. The 127-run fourth wicket partnership however enjoyed its fair share of luck as Shahriar Nafees spilled a difficult chance at wide long off after doing the hard yards to get to the ball on the full. The beneficiary was Taylor, batting on 35, and the aggrieved party Enamul. Soon after Enamul had more cause to curse his luck as Mohammad Ashraful spilled a low chance at point off Waller when the batsman was just on 21.

When Bangladesh took the second new ball, Rubel Hossain bowled a fiery spell, bursting through Waller's defences in his first over with the new cherry. He spurned his just rewards in the 86th over when he bowled Elton Chigumbura only for the ball to be adjudged a no-ball after the umpires consulted with the third umpire. Rubel might have been a touch unlucky as the camera angle on which the decision was based was not square on to the bowling crease and it was hard to be certain whether Rubel had a portion of his foot behind the line. The wicket would have had Zimbabwe five down and given Bangladesh the edge at stumps.

Earlier, visiting skipper Mushfiqur Rahim chose to field after winning the toss in order to give his pacers full use of a green-tinged pitch. Nafees dropped debutant Zimbabwe opener Timycen Maruma at first slip off the last ball of the first over by Robiul Islam. But Robiul was not disheartened, bowling a lion-hearted spell to snap both openers by the 15th over, with Zimbabwe reaching 22. Maruma could score just 10 before a venomous yorker uprooted his middle stump. The talented Vusi Sibanda survived a few close leg-before shouts from Robiul before a marginal decision saw him heading back to the pavilion.

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## Multi Expert Moment of the day

NEW  
Fair & Lovely  
MAX FAIRNESS



## Jurgensen satisfied

SPORTS REPORTER from Harare

Bangladesh coach Shane Jurgensen seemed satisfied after the Tigers' first day efforts in the first Test against Zimbabwe. While Zimbabwe had fought hard to finish on 217 for four with skipper Brendan Taylor hitting an unbeaten 105, Jurgensen thought that the bowlers bowled well to keep the run rate well in check.

"I think the game is still pretty even. They only scored 217, it is not like they finished on 315," said the Bangladesh coach. "We can come out tomorrow and bowl well like we did this morning and most of the day today and get them out for under 300, so the game is still on."

Jurgensen credited the pace bowlers, who were a real concern ahead of the tour as first-choice seamers Mashrafe Mortaza and Shafiul Islam have been injured, for Bangladesh's even finish.

"The pacers did very well today to be honest. Shiplu (Robiul Islam) did really well today along with Rubel (Hossain) who also bowled pretty well," he said.

One dark mark against Bangladesh was that they dropped three chances. "Dropped catches are always disappointing and it actually cost us getting Taylor to 100," said Jurgensen.

Taylor, who hit his second century against Bangladesh, was cautious in his appraisal of his team's chances ahead of the second day.

"The sideways movement is still a threat for the batsman and tomorrow the first hour will be crucial for us. We will have to go through the transition, let the wicket settle down and let the spinners come in, who are less of a threat on this grassy wicket," said Taylor.

## Bowlers take the stage



SPORTS REPORTER from Harare

With the batsmen enjoying unprecedented success on the tour of Sri Lanka, the focus had shifted to the bowlers and the fielders ahead of the Zimbabwe Tests. A spate of injuries to Bangladesh's bowling stocks, and a series of dropped chances in Sri Lanka justify concerns over whether a weakened fielding outfit can take 20 wickets on the Tigers' current tour of Zimbabwe.

Perhaps the weakness was on skipper Mushfiqur Rahim's mind when he won the toss and chose to field, trying to give his pace attack as much advantage as possible out of a pitch that had a tinge of green. What followed was a case of 'morning

shows the day'. In the very first over, Robiul Islam, after bowling five good-length deliveries, surprised Zimbabwe debutant Timycen Maruma with a lifter on off stump which the rookie edged straight to first slip, only for Shahriar Nafees to drop a sitter.

Robiul, hugely impressive in the first session, took the early mishap in his stride and continued bowling an incisive line outside off stump while generating appreciable away movement. He soon had his reward, uprooting Vusi Sibanda's middle stump with a screaming yorker, before trapping the debutant in front to have Zimbabwe reeling at 22 for two.

The pace bowlers were highly effective in the first session, with Robiul especially looking like taking

a wicket every time he ran in to bowl while Rubel Hossain kept up the pressure with unerring accuracy. The result was that Zimbabwe could only score 50. Bangladesh's own 'Mr. Cricket' Nasir Hossain, who is better known as an off-spinner, also bowled an impressive, disciplined spell of medium pace to keep the pressure on. But fielding lapses cost the Tigers, who could have been in a much stronger position at the end of the day had Nafees and Mohammad Ashraful not combined to drop three chances.

Nafees dropped eventual centurion Brendan Taylor when he was on 35 as the Zimbabwe skipper had a rare rush of blood against Enamul Haque Jr, hitting the ball in the air to the left of Nafees at long off. Nafees

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### BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings  
Maruma lbw Robiul 10  
Sibanda b Robiul 5  
Masakadza c Mahmudullah b Enamul 25  
Taylor not out 105  
Waller b Rubel 55  
Chigumbura not out 6  
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, nb-5, wd-2) 11  
Total: (For 4 wickets in 90 overs) 217  
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-22, 3-65, 4-192.

To bat: Mutambami, Cremer, Meth, Masakadza, Jarvis.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Robiul	24	6	56	2
Rubel	20	6	42	1
Nasir	5	2	3	0
Enamul	29	3	76	1
Shohag	11	0	33	0
Mahmudullah	1	0	3	0

**BANGLADESH:** Mushfiqur (capt), Shahriar, Jahurul, Ashraful, Shakib, Mahmudullah, Nasir, Shohag, Enamul, Rubel, Robiul.

Toss: Bangladesh.

## AFRICAN adventures

SAKEB SUBHAN from Harare

For first-timers in Harare, especially coming from Bangladesh, the city presents a bit of a culture shock. The drive from the airport at night takes you through dark highways devoid of streetlights and traffic, with small houses and large open spaces forming the shadowy surroundings -- quite the contrast with the corresponding drive in Dhaka.

As one enters the city proper, the broad roads, well-planned city centre, colonial architecture and multi-storied parking lots paint an impression of affluence, or the promise thereof. But as the world knows, Zimbabwe has fallen upon hard times for more than a decade now. So it was natural to expect a cricket tour by Bangladesh not to raise much fanfare, but that proved unfounded as the press party reached the hotel on Monday.

Injured Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal was making his way across the road from the hotel to have a bite of dinner, and even in the dark a few youngsters shouted 'Bangladesh, we will see you on Wednesday, huh?' Tamim just smiled and went on his way.

Impressed that the Zimbabweans knew their foreign cricketers even in the dark, the illusion was shattered soon afterwards. As some reporters finished their dinner at a local eatery serving halal food, a waiter asked a portly member of the party if he would be playing on Wednesday. Perhaps memories of Akram Khan are still fresh in Harare.

### IT'S OKAY

If stoicism is touted as a national quality of Bangladesh, Zimbabweans take it to another level. It seems to have

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## U-17s coast to win

SPORTS REPORTER

A quick-fire 97 off 93 balls by Adnan Islam led Bangladesh U-17 to a comfortable 67-run victory over Cricket Association of Bengal U-17 in a 39-over game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Batting first the hosts posted 271 for 4. Adnan's 97 was the highest and included eleven fours. He was ably supported by opener Shariar Jummon who scored 69 from 40 balls. Contributions from the middle order helped the hosts reach the comprehensive total.

In reply, the visitors lost early wickets and slumped to 56 for 3 within the first ten overs. Captain Agniv Pan brought some resistance to the side with a 66-ball 69 but failed to get support from his teammates. In the end CAB were bowled out for 204. Nahid Hasan, Sifat Mim and Md Santu took two

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Parul Akhtar splits on the balance beam during a practice session at the NSC Gymnasium yesterday, ahead of the 8th Bangladesh Games which starts on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR



1<sup>st</sup> Convocation of Presidency University

The 1<sup>st</sup> Convocation of Presidency University was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on April 11, 2013. The Education Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Alauddin Ahmed conferred degrees on behalf of the Chancellor.