

Bengal get one back

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) U-17 bounced back in the three-match series with a three wicket win over Bangladesh U-17 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Batting first, the hosts were bundled out for 215 runs in 46 overs. CAB's Swarnendu Ghosh, who finished with figures of 3 for 33 was the chief destroyer. Adnan Islam top-scored with 51 for the hosts. The hosts looked good at the halfway mark when they were poised at 141 for 2. They however, suffered from a collapse in the second half of the game and lost their last eight wickets for just 74 runs.

The visitors began their reply in the worst possible fashion as they lost quick wickets and were reeling at 10 for 3 at the end of six overs. However, half centuries from Ayush Das (53), Agniv Pan (76) and Irfan Ansri (66), ensured no further hiccups as the visitors raced to their target with four overs to spare.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BD U17: 215 all out in 45.4 overs. (Adnan 51, Saif 48; Ghosh 3-33)
CAB U17: 218 for 7 in 45.4 overs. (Agniv 76, Irfan 66; Ashiquel 2-56).
Result: CAB U17 won by three wickets.

It begins today

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widen the Games but the athletes have not been given enough time to prepare themselves. Besides, there is little chance of finding any raw talent as most of the disciplines have selected teams on the basis of last national championships.

"I think the performance of the athletes will not be bad as I have seen a lot of enthusiasm among them in the last two days," claimed veteran organiser Harunur Rashid adding that the athletes outside Dhaka had started to come in the capital.

Before the official inauguration today, some events of a number of disciplines like tennis, football, hockey, table tennis, handball and squash have already started and the first two gold medals were decided yesterday.

Cricketers protest DPL delay

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's domestic cricketers will stage a protest at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today morning, with an aim to compel the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to host the country's lone 50-over domestic tournament—the Dhaka Premier League—as early as possible.

The rare protest, which is supported by the Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) will also address the BPL's payment problems. "There are two key issues. Firstly, we want them to start the Dhaka Premier League as soon as possible and secondly we want them to clear the remaining players' payment of the BPL," said Deboprotto Paul, member secretary of CWAB.

"It's a peaceful stance. The players are not boycotting anything, they are ready to participate in the Bangladesh Games as well, but these problems need to be addressed," he added.

The Dhaka Premier League, which was initially scheduled to kick-off in March this year, was indefinitely postponed as per the demand of the participating clubs. As most of the cricketers involved in the competition are heavily dependent on it for their livelihood, the players have decided to take to the field in order to voice their concerns.

Ctg Abahani split points with R'ganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani drew 0-0 against Rahamatgonj MFS in their Premier bank Bangladesh Championship League match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. Asif hossain Rimon of Rahnmatganj got the marching order for two yellow cards.

The win took Abahani's tally to 13 points from seven matches while Rahmatganj collected nine points from same number of matches.

Tamim's

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six days however will be crucial depending on how much the pain reduces over the period. Some movement exercises have already been started, which should contribute to pain reduction.

Tamim injured his right thumb while fielding in the first ODI against Sri Lanka on the Tigers' recent tour of Sri Lanka. When announcing the 15-man squad for the Zimbabwe tour, it was said that Tamim will be fit for the second Test.



GAMES CORNER

HOCKEY

Defending champions Dhaka started their Bangladesh Games' hockey campaign in fashion when they handed a massive 13-1 defeat to Mymensingh at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Golam Mostafa Manik struck four goals while Rubel Hossain, Ajit Kumar and Sheikh Mohammad Nannu scored two goals each. Chandan, Iqbal Nadir and Imtiaz netted one goal each.

In the day's other matches, Rajshahi defeated Patuakhali 7-1, Bangladesh Air Force beat Joypurhat 5-1 and Satkhira beat Bangladesh Police 2-1.

FOOTBALL

Noakhali defeated Rangpur 2-0 in the opening match of the football final round at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Imitaz Uddin Sultan put Noakhali ahead in the first half before Omar Sharif wrapped up the victory ten minutes from time.

In the day's other match, Jhenaidah and Noagaon played out a goalless draw at the same venue.

TABLE TENNIS

Bangladesh Ansar and Dhaka moved to the final of women's doubles in table tennis after beating their respective rivals at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.

Ansar registered a straight 3-0 sets win over Narail while Dhaka also recorded an identical 3-0 win over Rangpur.

In the men's doubles, Ansar, Bagerhat, Chittagong and Biman Bangladesh moved to group semifinals beating Comilla, Narail, Manikganj and Feni respectively.

HANDBALL

Holders BJMC got off to a winning start in women's handball with a 34-1 win over Satkhira at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Ansar recorded a huge 33-6 win over Bangladesh Police, Rangamati thrashed Rangpur 17-7, Naogaon outplayed Panchagarh 17-6, Rajshahi defeated Satkhira 23-8 and Kushtia beat Bangladesh Police 10-9.

Tame draw for U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

The second four-day match between Bangladesh U-19 and Sri Lanka U-19, which was largely interrupted by consistent rainfall ended as a draw at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

In reply to Sri Lanka's 185, the hosts declared on 271 for 7. The visitors played out the remaining overs of the day and finished on 59 for no loss.

The hosts rode on half-centuries from Mosaddek Hossain (74), Nazmul Hossain (69) and Mehdy Hasan (59). Ramesh Mendis, who finished with figures of four for 76, was the pick of the bowlers for the visitors.

With both the four-day matches ending in draws, the series will be shared between the teams.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SL U19 FIRST INNINGS: 185 and second innings 59 for no loss (Hashan 26, Kusal 22)
BD U19 FIRST INNINGS: 271 for 7 in 78 overs (Mosaddek 74,Nazmul 69; Ramesh 4-76).
Result: Draw.

Denness passes away

CRICINFO, London

Mike Denness, the former Kent and England captain, has died at the age of 72 after a battle with cancer.

Born in Scotland, he played 28 Tests and 12 one-day internationals in a career that spanned 22 years. He later became an ICC match referee.

Denness is the only Scotsman to have captained England and led the team in 19 of his 28 Tests although it was a controversial tenure, particularly during the 1974-75 tour of Australia when he dropped himself for the fourth Test in Sydney.

However, his 188 at the MCG was, at the time, the highest score by an England captain in Australia.

First gold

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they set aside their egos and spoke after two long years. Amol's father also watched the final from the gallery.

"Talking to my father after two years was a great inspiration to perform well," said Amol after the match. "Besides, I had been dreaming of winning gold medal in the Bangladesh Games as I became third in 2002."

Robiul shines

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negativity engendered by his side's position in the match. But the swing bowler was still optimistic and did his best to defend the atrocious batting performance. "I will not say it was bad batting. They played well, one or two of our batsmen made mistakes but overall everyone got out to good balls. I am hopeful of a comeback.

"If we can get them all out in the first hour then the lead will be something like 480. With one and a half days' batting it will be tough, but still possible."

Robiul's optimism is probably a product of his magnificent bowling. But if they can get Taylor out quickly tomorrow, his batting colleague's will need to show even more discipline and patience than Robiul if they are to pull off a Test record chase.



PHOTO: CRICINFO

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Karan Sharma (L) and Ishant Sharma jolted the Kings XI Punjab top order during their Indian Premier League match in Hyderabad yesterday.

Zimbabwe in charge

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the match, also the best for Bangladesh in the country.

With the score on seven Vusi Sibanda was the first victim, bowled by a beauty of an outswinger that beat the opener's forward prod. Two runs later Robiul induced one of Zimbabwe's two best batsmen, Hamilton Masakadza, to offer a tame return catch off the back foot. Timycen Maruma was trapped in front by one that came in and for once Bangladesh held their catches as Malcolm Waller edged an outswinger to Nasir Hossain at first slip.

Taylor, the perennial thorn in the Tigers' paw, then built a 57-run partnership with Elton Chigumbura. The only batsman who has looked comfortable on the pitch, Taylor mixed aggression with caution perfectly, buoyed by the substantial first innings lead.

But with the score on 84, Robiul returned to take two in two deliveries, first inducing an outside edge from Chigumbura that was held by Jahurul Islam at gully before trapping Richmond Mutumbami in front with a full delivery that pitched and straightened. Taylor then built a 79-run seventh wicket partnership with his first innings partner in crime Graeme Cremer. Bangladesh spinners, of whom Shakib Al Hasan bowled nine overs, again bowled well without much reward as Cremer showed surprising aptitude to cling to the crease. Only a mix-up late in the day saw that stand broken in the 51st over of the innings, courtesy of a run-out.

Earlier, Bangladesh's batsmen fell in a dramatic heap as they failed to adjust to the change in the quality of bowling of the hosts. Jahurul was the first to go, trapped in front by Keegan Meth in the 11th over of

the day. The decision was marginal as there was doubt about whether the ball would have hit leg stump, but he seemed to have used up his quota of fortune as on the previous evening he survived a dropped chance on two.

Mohammad Ashraful batted without problems against Zimbabwe's four-pronged pace attack, of whom only Kyle Jarvis had enough pace to hurry the batsmen. The troubled Mahmudullah Riyad did not last long as he chopped on a Meth lifter in an attempt to guide the ball to third man. On his return to Test batting, Shakib Al Hasan started busily as ever, using his feet to smother the plentiful swing on offer. But soon, a ball that bounced awkwardly from Shinghai Masakadza had the left-hander fending to offer an easy catch to gully.

In a familiar rush of blood, Ashraful reacted to Shakib's dismissal by trying to pull a Masakadza delivery, but the resultant top-edge only carried to midwicket. The score had then pottered to 124 for five, with a recovery still possible from skipper Mushfiqur Rahim and Nasir Hossain. Ten runs later however, Mushfiqur was adjudged out to a Masakadza delivery that seemed to be heading down the leg side.

With the dismissal came the announcement for lunch, but after the interval Nasir played an irresponsible waft at a harmless Jarvis delivery and was caught behind. That truly opened the floodgates, as Jarvis promptly bowled Enamul Haque Jr and Rubel Hossain, before Masakdza joined his teammate on four wickets, having Shohag Gazi caught tamely at midwicket as Bangladesh were all out without adding to their lunchtime score.

Nine for 39

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wicket from the first ball he played, and for a while it seemed to work. Shakib only left one out of the 13 deliveries he faced, and the sudden bounce outside off that got him out caught at gully may have been survived by a batsman more amenable to letting some balls go early in the innings, especially on a pitch that has seen a fair bit of movement from the seamers.

Mohammad Ashraful, whose batting raised hopes of a patient innings like Taylors' and his own magnum opus -- the 190 in the recent tour of Sri Lanka -- then departed to an ill-advised pull shot off Masakadza that found the fielder at mid-wicket. He indicated to the umpires upon his dismissal that he did not see the fielder and perhaps suggested that the fielder, Malcolm Waller, changed position after the bowler began his run-up. That however was beside the point -- Bangladesh had just lost trump card Shakib, and an aggressive shot was the last thing needed. Also, the top edge could have gone anywhere, regardless of phantom fielders.

Mushfiqur was unlucky because the ball seemed to be missing leg, but Nasir Hossain's dismissal, when the team were 55 short of the follow-on target and him the only specialist batsman left, was perhaps the most irresponsible. He wafted at a harmless Jarvis delivery off the fourth ball after lunch and got an edge through to the keeper. The rest of the bowlers folded meekly to Jarvis and Masakadza without adding a single run.

Yesterday's debacle indicated that Bangladesh are not willing to change tack when the conditions change -- a major failing in a format stretching five days. A deeper worry is whether, like in the corresponding match in 2011, the Tigers are a little complacent against Zimbabwe, believing that they can dominate by right. Robiul Islam's heroics in the hosts' second innings is salt to the wound as it shows how possible it was to create history, which because of the batsmen will probably repeat itself.

Sunrisers leave Kings in dark

SPORTS DESK

Some spectacular batting from Thisara Perera late in the innings propelled the Sunrisers Hyderabad to a 5 wicket win with 7 balls to spare over Kings XI Punjab in their IPL clash last night.

In a tightly-fought game upto the 18th over, Perera hit three sixes off Azhar Mahmood to get Sunrisers to 127, and past the Kings XI total of 123 from 20 overs.

Previously, some disciplined bowling from the Sunrisers had restricted Kings XI to a very chaseable target.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI: 123-9 in 20 overs (Gilchrist 26; Sharma 2-19), lost to **SUNRISERS**
HYDERABAD: 127-5 in 18.5 overs (Vihari 46; Gony 2-24)
Man-of-the-match: Hanuma Vihari

Nadal in Monte Carlo semis

Tennis

AFP, Monte Carlo

Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov flirted with a massive upset before Rafael Nadal managed to restore normal service as the Spaniard earned a tight 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 win in the quarterfinals of the Monte Carlo Masters on Friday.

Nadal, bidding for an unprecedented ninth straight trophy at an event which he has dominated, was given a huge fright by Dimitrov, who fell victim to leg cramp in the closing moments of a thriller lasting just over two hours.

One of the closest calls of Nadal's clay career ended as the Spaniard won his 45th straight Monte Carlo match. He lost a set here for only the third time since 2009.

Dimitrov, feeling his left thigh, managed to save a Nadal match point with a thrilling winner down the line which left him doubled over in pain.



PHOTO: AFP

Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in the Monte-Carlo Masters in Monaco on Friday.