

SPORT



Out-of-favour ones stake early claims

SPORTS REPORTER



Good performances from 'out-of-favour' players led Nasir Hossain's Bangladesh A to a 14-run victory over the Mushfiqur Rahim-led Bangladesh national team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

After electing to bat, the second-string side rode on Imrul Kayes's 36-ball 45 to post 171 in 20 overs. In reply, the main team, despite a powerful 48 from Shamsur Rahman, were restricted to 159 for 5.

The nationals' chase began brightly as openers Anamul Haque (30 off 28) and Shamsur scored 55 runs in the first eight overs. Even after Anamul was caught at the deep off Elias Sunny, in the eighth over, and Mushfiqur came to the crease, the good run-rate was maintained.

The runs kept flying in with both Shamsur and Mushfiqur scoring freely. Shamsur hammered five fours and a six in his 34-ball 48, whereas the captain hit four fours and a six in his 21-ball 33.

The match seemed to be going the main team's way when Mushfiqur unleashed his slog sweep to dispatch Muktar Ali for a six in the eleventh over and took his side past the 100-run mark with the loss of just one wicket.

The scenario however completely changed after the captain was caught behind off Nasir in the 14th over, while attempting a drive. Shamsur was caught at long-on in the next over and suddenly Mushfiqur's side found themselves at a nervous position of 112 for 3 in 13.3 overs.

With 60 runs required off the last six overs, the national team's remaining batsmen crumbled under pressure. Mahmudullah Riyad was stumped off Arafat Sunny in the 17th over and newbie Soumya Sarkar was run out in the 18th. Naeem Islam (20 off 19) and Ziaur Rahman

(16 off 7) swung their bats to no avail in the last couple of overs as they slumped to a convincing defeat.

Earlier, Imrul and Mominul Haque (31) led the way for Bangladesh A. Imrul continued his good run from the recently concluded Dhaka Premier League as he smacked three sixes and three fours in his 36-ball innings.

He began by straight-driving Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for a six in the very first over. He repeated the same shot and got the same result, this time in the third over, as he left Mortaza reeling. Despite losing his partner Jahurul Islam, in the fifth over -- courtesy of a brilliant diving catch by Naeem Islam at mid-wicket -- the left-hander continued on his merry way. The eighth over saw him dispatch off-spinner Shohag Gazi for 14 runs. He was eventually bowled off Abdur Razzak while attempting a pull.

Mominul's 17-ball knock was a lot more flamboyant as he frequently went down the track to play his shots. The diminutive batsman smacked four fours and a six. The left-hander's overtly aggressive approach though got the better of him as he was caught at mid-wicket off Razzak in the 13th over.

The same over saw Razzak remove captain Nasir (17) as well. Razzak, with figures of 4 for 36 had a good outing on the field. Lusty blows from Forhad Reza (24) and Alauddin Babu (16) helped the A side score 41 runs off the last five overs.

The second match of the three-match series will be played today.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: 171 for 9 (Imrul 45, Mominul 31; Razzak 4-36, 2-34)

BANGLADESH: 159 for 5 (Shamsur 48, Mushfiqur 33; Elias Sunny 2-30, Arafat Sunny 1-16, Nasir Hossain 1-16)

Result: Bangladesh A won by 12 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Arafat Sunny.



Bangladesh A team's opening batsman Imrul Kayes smacks one during a Twenty20 match against Bangladesh national team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. (INSET) The new chief selector Faruk Ahmed (2nd from L), along with the other selectors, taking a close look at the proceedings.

PHOTOS: STAR

SL post 145

AFP, Dubai

Angelo Mathews scored his second fifty to guide Sri Lanka to 145-5 in the first Twenty20 international against Pakistan at Dubai stadium on Wednesday.

Sent into bat, Sri Lankan batsmen did not capitalise on the good starts before Mathews (50) and Lahiru Thirimanne (23 not out) added 58 for the fifth wicket stand.

Left-arm pacer Sohail Tanvir and off-spinner Saeed Ajmal took two wickets each for Pakistan.

Rain after De Kock ton

AFP, Centurion



The third and final one-day international between hosts South Africa and India at the SuperSport Park in Centurion was washed out to rain after the hosts put on 301 for eight, thanks to a third consecutive hundred from opener Quinton de Kock. The relentless rain meant the visitors could not bat and the hosts took the 3-match series 2-0.

The 20-year-old left-hander joined four other players who had hit a hat-trick of hundreds in one-day internationals - Pakistan's Zaheer Abbas and Saeed Anwar and two South Africans, Herschelle Gibbs

and AB de Villiers.

South African captain De Villiers shared a fourth wicket partnership of 171 with De Kock after South Africa had been floundering at 28 for three after winning the toss.

De Villiers went on to record his 16th one-day international century, finishing with 109.

De Kock had some luck, however, and was dropped on 37 and 43.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 301 for 8 in 50 overs (De Kock 101, De Villiers 109, Miller 56 not out; I Sharma 4-40, Shami 3-69)

INDIA: Did not bat.

Result: No result. (SA win series 2-0).

Man-of-the-series: Quinton de Kock.

Cricket means crowd

SPORTS REPORTER

Wednesday evening, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, was just supposed to witness the start of a mere practice series for the top national cricketers of the country. However, as it so happened, it turned out to be a lot more than that.

When news hit the streets of Mirpur that the gates for the first T20 practice game would be open and free of charge, there were long queues outside the stadium.

It was a welcome break for many, who have been in search of some sort of entertainment, amidst a gloomy last few weeks. The Bangladesh Cricket Board opened the eastern gallery to the public and within an hour it got packed with more than 5,000 people.

With such enthusiasm shown in a mere practice match, one can easily imagine what the people of this country are in for this coming March during the ICC World Twenty20.

Zia draws again

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman earned three points after four rounds of the 5th London Chess Classic FIDE Open after drawing the fourth round game against IM Houska Jovanka of England at the Olympia Conference Centre in Kensington, London on Tuesday. Zia was scheduled to play against another English IM Ansell Simon in the fifth round last night.

Aminul undergoes knee op

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national number one goalkeeper Aminul Haque went through a successful surgery on his left knee on Tuesday which the Muktijoddha Sangsad custodian injured the Federation Cup semifinal clash against Team BJMC on Saturday.

"According to the doctors, the surgery has been successful and the rehabilitation of bending the knee has also started. I will be under observation of doctors a few more days before I can leave the hospital," said Aminul yesterday adding that the doctors have told that he will need at least three months to be match-fit.

Aminul tore a ligament on his left knee as he was trying to stand on his feet after a collision with BJMC Ismail Bangoura as both were chasing the ball out.

Muktis fined

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad have been fined Tk 18,000 for inappropriate behaviour of their officials towards the referee during their Federation Cup semifinal match against Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

Muktijoddha Sangsad manager Abdus Sattar, goalkeeping coach Poniruzzaman, assistant coach Abdul Kaiyum Sentu protested referee Jalaluddin's decision of awarding a penalty against them in the second half, which halted the match for six minutes.

Apart from the monetary fine, the three officials have been warned against repeating such incidents in future. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Football Federation has not replied to Muktijoddha Sangsad's query regarding the questionable penalty decision.



South Africa opener Quinton de Kock celebrates his century, the third in a row against India, in the third and final one-day international in Centurion yesterday.

PHOTO: CRICINFO

Taylor rides his luck

AFP, Wellington



New Zealand's Ross Taylor tormented the West Indies' bowlers Wednesday, making the most of an early let-off to score a century on the first day of the second Test as the home side reached 307 for six.

The former skipper, who scored an unbeaten double century in the series opener, was dismissed shortly before close of play at Wellington's Basin Reserve for 129 when Shane Shillingford pulled off a diving catch.

In-form Taylor arrived at the crease with the home side in deep trouble at 24-2 on a green wicket and was dropped before he got off the mark.

In conditions that favoured the bowlers, the 29-year-old forged half-century partnerships with Kane Williamson, Brendon McCullum and Corey Anderson to swing the match New Zealand's way, taking the sting out of the second new ball

with BJ Watling.

Taylor has amassed a total of 362 runs in just three innings and been dismissed just once. He also passed 4,000 Test runs during his innings and now has an average of 46.52, topping the list of New Zealand batsmen who have played a minimum of 20 innings.

After his early life when dropped in the slips by Kirk Edwards, Taylor offered another opportunity on 122 when Tino Best spilled a catch at fine leg. That came just after Taylor had belted 13 runs off one over by the West Indies quick.

But he was seldom under pressure as he faced 227 balls and hit 15 boundaries before slashing at Shannon Gabriel and being well caught by Shillingford.

New Zealand's cause was also helped by the inability of West Indies strike bowlers Best and Gabriel to maintain the good line and length that saw them claim openers Peter Fulton and Hamish Rutherford in quick succession.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings				
Fulton c Ramdin b Sammy	6			
Rutherford c Ramdin b Best	11			
Williamson c Sammy b Best	45			
Taylor c Shillingford b Gabriel	129			
McCullum c Edwards b Deonarine	37			
Anderson c Edwards b Shillingford	38			
Watling not out	8			
Southee not out	9			
Extras: (b-16, lb-6, nb-2)	24			
Total: (For 6 wks in 90 overs)	307			
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-24, 3-112, 4-189, 5-257, 6-296				
To bat: Sodhi, Wagner, Boult				
WEST INDIES: Sammy, Powell, Edwards, Bravo, Samuels, Chandernaul, Deonarine, Ramdin, Shillingford, Best, Gabriel.				

Victory Day volleyball from Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

Walton Victory Day Volleyball Tournament will get underway from Friday at the Volleyball Stadium with eight teams, split into two groups, taking part in four-day meet.

Two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals which will be held on Sunday while the final will take place on Monday.

Holders Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force, Boarder Guard Bangladesh and Bangladesh Fire Service & Civil Defence team have been placed in Group A while Group B includes current runners-up Titas Gas, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Power Development Board.

Ministry asks for stringent GO procedures

SPORTS REPORTER

The Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday instructed the National Sports Council (NSC) to strengthen the procedure on providing government order (GO) to athletes following the GO allocation to family members of the Bangladesh Chess Federation officials.

The instruction came after most of the national newspapers on Wednesday published a report which said that the wife and daughter of a BCF vice president and less recognised chess players had gained the government order to take part in the 23rd Annual North American Open in Las Vegas, USA.

The sports ministry instructed the NSC to collect bio-data, previous records, original passport etc and check them over and again before sending these documents to the sports ministry for final approval.

The ministry also asked the NSC to maintain record of performances of athletes who are sent aboard and do follow-ups on whether all members of the contingent returned home. The ministry also cautioned that if any athletes failed to return, the allocation of government orders to those federations might be stopped in future.

Meanwhile, the NSC summoned the BCF officials yesterday for an explanation on seeking three additional GOs for the American Open chess in Las Vegas but no one from the federation turned up.

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Football Quiz

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