

## SPORT

## Pace trio curbs WI to 380

SPORTS REPORTER



An improved display from Bangladesh's pacers helped restrict the West Indies to 380 on the second day of the second Test at the Beausejour Stadium in St Lucia yesterday.

Bangladesh, who started batting an hour before Tea lost Shamsur Rahman, who got himself caught behind to a delivery down the leg-side. At Tea Bangladesh stood at 25 for 1, with Tamim Iqbal on 23.

The rarity of Bangladesh's pace-bowling performance can be understood from the fact that the last time the pacers took seven or more wickets in an innings was back in 2007.

With an overnight score of 246 for 3 the hosts were expected to cruise through to a huge total. However, the morning session saw them lose four wickets for just 19 runs.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the second Test at St Lucia yesterday:

WEST INDIES: First Innings (overnight 246 for 3)				
Brathwaite c Taijul b Shafiq	63			
Johnson lbw b Taijul	66			
Edwards c Shamsur b Mahmudullah	16			
Bravo c Mushfiqur b Robiul	46			
Chanderpaul not out	69			
Blackwood c Anamul b Al-Amin	8			
Ramdin c Mushfiqur b Al-Amin	0			
Roach c Mushfiqur b Shafiq	0			
Taylor c Mahmudullah b Taijul	40			
Benn c Safiul b Al-Amin	25			
Gabriel b Robiul	4			
Extras: (b-8, lb-4, w-10, nb-6)	28			
Total: (All out in 124 overs)	380			
Fall of wickets: 1-143, 2-145, 3-185, 4-251, 5-268, 6-268, 7-269, 8-323, 9-375				
Bangladesh: First Innings				
Tamim not out	23			
Shamsur c Ramdin b Roach	1			
Anamul not out	1			
Extras: (b-0, w-0, nb-0)	0			
Total: (For 1 wicket in 12 overs)	25			
Fall of wicket: 1-14				
Bowler				
O	M	R	W	
Al-Amin	31	6	80	3
Shafiq	27	7	80	2
Robiul	26	7	63	2
Taijul	22	4	89	2
Mahmudullah	16	2	49	1
Nasir	2	0	7	0

Bangladesh: First Innings				
Tamim not out	23			
Shamsur c Ramdin b Roach	1			
Anamul not out	1			
Extras: (b-0, w-0, nb-0)	0			
Total: (For 1 wicket in 12 overs)	25			
Fall of wicket: 1-14				
Bowler				
O	M	R	W	
Taylor	6	1	16	0
Roach	4	2	5	1
Gabriel	2	0	4	0

After Roach's departure the hosts were at 269 for 7 and that's when Jerome Taylor entered the game.

He hammered a 32-ball 40 and transferred the pressure back on the visitors. His hits were straight and cleared the ground with ease. He punched Shafiq for two sixes down the ground. Taylor did however live dangerously. He edged a delivery from Shafiq miles in the air in the 106th over only for Mominul Haque to drop it at cover. He was eventually caught at long-on off Taijul Islam while attempting a slog hit.

Suleiman Benn tried to replicate Taylor and smacked a 19-ball 25. He however, was caught at fine-leg while attempting a pull shot. Soon after Shannon Gabriel was bowled by Robiul and Chanderpaul who had scored his 65th half-century remained unbeaten on 84 and failed to get to his century.



Bangladesh's pace attack enjoyed a rare good day on the field yesterday at St Lucia as the trio of Shafiqul Islam, Robiul Islam and Al-Amin Hossain picked a total of seven West Indies wickets in the first innings.

PHOTO: AFP

## Saqlain's record bowling

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's bowlers may be struggling on the Caribbean islands, but back at home their spinners continue to dominate. Saqlain Sajib, one of the many slow left-arm spinners who have been waiting along the corridors of a national call up for a while, notched up the best bowling figures for a Bangladeshi in first-class cricket with 9 for 82.

The second-string Zimbabwe side were left perplexed at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium at Cox's Bazar yesterday as they were bundled out for 206 by Bangladesh A on the first day of the first four-day match yesterday.

On a typical slow and low wicket, the visitors -- who elected to bat -- began solidly as Vasimuddin Sibanda (62) and Brian Chari (30) took the side to 85 for 1 by lunch. The pair completed its half-century stand after the interval and was looking strong at a 103 for 1.

But that's when Saqlain's turners started causing problems. They lost their next six wickets for just 19 runs. Wicketkeeper Regis



Chakabva (64) provided some resistance with a fighting half-century, but he too was dismissed by Saqlain right before the end of the innings.

It was a proud moment for the left-arter who beat Abdur Razzak's record of 9 for 84 taken in Bogra in 2012.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Saqlain said that he hoped his good run continued.

"Honestly speaking, the last two years have not been good for me. I did not get wickets in the national league and I have been in and out of form.

TOP FOUR	
Saqlain Sajib: 9 for 82 vs Zimbabwe A, 2014	
Abdur Razzak: 9 for 84 vs Chittagong, 2012	
Abdur Razzak: 9 for 91 vs Dhaka Metro, 2014	
Mosharraf Hossain: 9 for 105 vs Chittagong, 2005	

So I really feel good. Hopefully this is a sign that good times are around the corner," said Saqlain.

"The wicket turned a bit and they also played a few rash strokes. I did not try to do anything different. Just maintained my line and tried to utilise the conditions," explained Saqlain.

After the Zimbabweans were wiped out an hour after tea, the home side finished the day on 30 for no loss. Opener Liton Kumar scored two boundaries in his 43-ball 23 while his partner Sadman Islam remained cautious and scored four runs in 38 balls.

## Zahid leaves for Korea

SPORTS REPORTER

Right winger Zahid Hossain left here for South Korea last night as a replacement for Atiqur Rahman Meshu, confirmed a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Zahid left Dhaka on a Dragonair flight at 1.35am (Monday morning) and is scheduled to reach Incheon three hours before the start of Bangladesh's first match against Afghanistan.

"We arranged the air ticket immediately after receiving Zahid's accreditation card and he will reach there three hours before the start of the match," said BFF executive Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

## Scholastica v'ball ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The annual Scholastica inter-school volleyball tournament ended on Saturday at Scholastica's Uttara campus, with eight teams taking part in the three-day meet.

Reigning champions Scholastica emerged victorious again, defeating SFX Greenherald in the girls' final.

In the boys' section, American International School defeated Scholastica in an enthralling game. Scholastica's senior campus principal brig gen (ret) Kaiser Ahmed distributed the trophies.

## Inspiration 2010

SPORTS REPORTER from Incheon, Korea



Bangladesh U-23 side are set to face their Afghan counterparts for the first time since their historic 4-0 triumph in the 2010 South Asian (SA) which gave them back the South Asian title after 11 years.

Four years into that feat, Bangladesh take on Afghanistan again in another important match. Even though it is not a final, it is as crucial for Bangladesh in their quest for making the second round of the Asian Games for the first time.

Statistics is slightly in favour of Bangladesh who have beaten Afghanistan once and drew against them three times between 1979 and 2008 at senior level.

Will Bangladesh be able to take inspiration from the 2010 victory and the favourable history to brighten their chances of playing in the knock-out stage of the Asian Games?

After speaking to the players, most of whom were with the U-19 side during the 2010 SA Games, it seems that they are worried about Afghanistan's overseas players. Yet they believe they can repeat the feat.

"I watched that match from the gallery and I can still remember how Bangladesh bulldozed Afghanistan in that match. But this time it's a different Afghanistan who have some good players playing in Europe. Yet we are confident that we can repeat the feat," said centre-back Yeasin Khan, who will have the main responsibility, in the absence of experienced Atiqur Rahman Meshu, to thwart Afghan attacks.

Captain Mamunul Islam, the lone member from the 2010 SA Games gold winning squad, is backing his teammates to leave the field with full three points.

"Whenever two South Asian teams play against each other, it is a fifty-fifty affair even though currently Afghanistan are higher in terms of rankings. But we will go there for points, all three points to be precise, so that we can keep our hopes alive," said Mamunul.

Mamunul said that the players are in high spirits after the practice match against Vietnam and believes that they can achieve anything if they can give their hundred percent effort on the pitch.

"We are not worried about their players playing in Europe. We also have some good players amongst us like Hemanta (Vincent), Sohel (Rana). They have the ability to play in Europe, which is just a matter of getting the opportunity," said a confident Mamunul. "All the players are in high spirits and eager to beat Afghanistan before playing the do-or-die match against Hong Kong."

Zahid Hasan Emily, who was in the initial squad for the Asian Games but later withdrew himself due to an injury, feels Bangladesh have the ability to beat Afghanistan.

"Back then (four years ago), we had a balanced squad which played six to seven years together but this time the players have lack of international match experience. Still I think Bangladesh can beat Afghanistan if the players can give their full effort on the pitch," said Emily.

AJMAL'S ACTION

## Saqlain to be paid Rs 1m a month

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq will be paid a whopping one million rupees per month for helping suspended Pakistan offie Saeed Ajmal to undergo corrective measures in his illegal bowling action.

Saqlain, who remains one of the top spinners produced in Pakistan cricket, is to be working on Ajmal's bowling action which got him into trouble with the ICC earlier this month after biomechanic tests in Brisbane.

"Besides the one-million-rupee fees, the PCB will bear all expenses on the biomechanic tests Saeed will undergo further while Saqlain will also be provided accommodation and other perks," the source said.

The PCB is hoping that Saqlain will be able to help Saeed remodel his action to an extent where he can clear the ICC tests and meet the required standards of extending his elbow not more than 15 degrees.

## A win at last for Van Gaal

AFP, Manchester



Radamel Falcao made his debut as Manchester United belatedly kickstarted their season with a breezy 4-0 win at home to Queens Park Rangers in the Premier League on Sunday.

The 28-year-old Colombia striker, a loan signing from Monaco, made his entrance as a 67th-minute replacement for Juan Mata, but by then United had already secured an overdue first victory of the season.

Falcao, who squandered a late chance, had been the focus of pre-match attention, but it was £59.7 million (\$98 million, 75 million euros) record signing Angel di Maria who stole the show on his home debut.

The Argentina winger put Louis van Gaal's side ahead with a 24th-minute free-kick and had a hand in further goals by Ander Herrera, Wayne Rooney and Mata as United blew off the cobwebs in style.

After two draws and a loss in the league, and a 4-0 humiliation by Milton Keynes Dons in the League Cup, it was United's first competitive win under Van Gaal and meant they avoided going four league games without winning at the start of a season for the first time since 1986.

While United climbed to ninth in the table, seven points below leaders Chelsea but only two points shy of the top four, QPR remain 16th, a point above the bottom three.

Falcao began the game on the bench on a mild autumn afternoon, but fellow signings Daley Blind and Marcos Rojo were both handed starts as Van Gaal abandoned the 3-4-1-2 formation he had introduced in pre-season.

Blind anchored a midfield diamond in front of a flat back four, with Herrera and Di

Maria either side of him and Mata supporting strikers Rooney and Robin van Persie.

The sight of former Old Trafford favourite Rio Ferdinand, now of QPR, receiving a memento from United director Bobby Charlton prior to kick-off only reinforced the sense of a changing of the guard.

United quickly took control, with Mata spooning a shot over from Herrera's cut-back, and mid-way through the first half they went ahead.

Di Maria immediately looked a threat and he supplied the breakthrough, whipping in a free-kick from wide on the right that eluded everyone to creep in at the far post.

Jonny Evans then had to block a shot from Matt Phillips after United goalkeeper David de Gea charged from his goal and missed his kick, but 10 minutes before half-time the hosts doubled their advantage.

Di Maria was again the inspiration, driving deep into QPR territory and neatly flicking the ball inside for Rooney.

The United captain's shot was blocked, but he steered the rebound into the path of Herrera, who drove a first-time shot into the bottom-left corner.

The game was up a minute before the break. A slick exchange initiated by Di Maria culminated in Herrera teeing up Rooney to drill a low effort past Rob Green's outstretched right hand from the edge of the box.

After De Gea had saved with his feet from QPR debutant Niko Kranjcar and Rooney's prod had been smothered by Green, Mata added a fourth in the 58th minute, firing into the roof of the net from Di Maria's miscued shot.

Falcao almost crowned his debut with a goal, but after Green had parried a skidding shot from Blind, the former England goalkeeper sprang up quickly to save at the Colombian's feet.



## Banned no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will be eligible to play domestic and international cricket from today as his disciplinary suspension has come to an end. Shakib's suspension was reduced to two months and seven days from six months in August after the left-hander publicly apologised for his disciplinary issues and asked the BCB to reconsider its decision.

The player however, will not be able to take part in foreign leagues as the ban on providing him with no-objection certificates till December 31, 2015 remains.

While the left-hander thanked the board for reducing his sentencing, he however, declined to make any comment yesterday.

Ever since the player was suspended on July 7, the 27-year-old has spent his time following a separate training programme at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. He also took part in an unofficial two-day practice match at Mirpur and played for Bangladesh Under-19.

The all-rounder's next international assignment will be in Incheon, Korea when Bangladesh take part in the Asian Games.

## False ceiling falls down at Cox's

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A may have had a good day on the field at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday by bundling out their Zimbabwean counterparts for a below-par score, things could have been slightly different had they not averted an accident off the field.

The false ceiling of the dressing room allocated for the hosts collapsed in the middle of the game, temporarily frightening members of the team management. However, nobody was in the dressing room -- since the players were fielding-- when the incident took place.

"From the information that I have gathered there was apparently a strong breeze which created a problem for one of the parts [of the false ceiling in the dressing room]. We are looking into the matter and will take appropriate steps," said Bangladesh Cricket Board CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

After the end of the day members of the team management shrugged off the incident and described it as nothing too serious.

The teams will play their next four-day game at Fatullah.

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