



Spinner Taijul Islam shapes up to chest the ball as all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan watches on during a football game at training in Mirpur yesterday. The Tigers leave tonight for Khulna where the second Test will begin on November 3.

PHOTO: STAR

Spinners can take Tigers to 'next level'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's assistant and spin-bowling coach Ruwan Kalpage expects spinners Taijul Islam and Jubair Hossain to take the Tigers to the 'next level'. The Sri Lankan also compared the spinners to slow-left armer Rangana Herath and believes that the youngsters can play a similar role for the Tigers in the coming years.

"Taijul bowled a very good line which created a lot of pressure on the batsmen. Coming from Sri Lanka, I have seen Rangana and I can say that Taijul and Likhon [Jubair Hossain] can take Bangladesh to the next level. We also have the world's best all-rounder in our side so that gives us extra options too," Kalpage told reporters at Mirpur yesterday.

"The experience that I shared with Rangana and the other players over there will be helpful. I will try my best to share my knowledge, work with them and give them confidence," he added.

While Jubair applied the pressure with his legbreaks in the first innings, Taijul ran through Zimbabwe's batting order with an eight-wicket haul in the second innings and recorded the best bowling figures by a Bangladeshi.

Currently, his 8 for 39 stands as the second best bowling figures in Test cricket this year. Incidentally, Herath tops that list for his

nine-wicket haul against Pakistan at Colombo in August.

Despite a top-class performance from the spinners in the first Test, Kalpage expects Zimbabwe's batsmen to come back with force in Khulna.

"We can't put any one down. Zimbabwe beat Australia in a one day international this year. I think they will definitely come hard at us in the second Test. We have to expect that, our boys have got to be ready for that change," said Kalpage.

The Zimbabweans, on the other hand, were busy preparing themselves to counter Bangladesh's spin attack at the Mirpur indoor stadium yesterday. Hamilton Masakadza spoke to reporters following their training session yesterday.

"We obviously have a lot of work to do and we have to go a long way from our first Test performance. I am sure the wicket at Khulna will be similar to that of Mirpur. We expect it to spin, so a lot of ideas are being thrown in to sort of counter that," said Masakadza.

The Zimbabwean, who has two Test centuries against the Tigers, failed to perform in the first Test.

"I failed to contribute in this game and that definitely had a big impact on the team. The top order needs to perform in the next game," said Masakadza.

The Teams will leave for Khulna tonight. The second Test will begin on November 3.

Tamim hurt

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's team management received a minor jolt when opener Tamim Iqbal hurt his right hand during the team's fielding sessions at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur yesterday afternoon. The good news was that the player had not undergone a fracture. He has been asked to rest for 48 hours.

While the danger does not seem serious, Tamim will have to prove his fitness levels to the team management before the second Test in Khulna gets underway on November 3.

In January this year, Bangladesh were forced to play a three-match ODI series without Tamim due to a stiff neck. The injury will come as a blow for the left-hander who has been looking to make a comeback for a while. While he had a comparatively decent run in the West Indies series, he scored just five runs in the first Test against Zimbabwe.

Wawrinka in last 16

AFP, Paris

World number four Stan Wawrinka snapped a three-game losing streak on Wednesday as he qualified for the last 16 of the Paris Masters with a 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) victory over Dominic Thiem. The Swiss 29-year-old came through a tight match in 1hr 36min against the Austrian, to book a meeting with big-serving South African Kevin Anderson.

Earlier on the third day of the penultimate tournament of the season, Canada's Milos Raonic kept alive his chances of qualifying for the ATP World Tour Finals with a tough three-set win over American qualifier Jack Sock. He scraped through against world number 44 Sock, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7/4) in just over two hours.

Awaiting Raonic in the third round will be Roberto Bautista-Agut, who knocked out Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-2. Earlier on Tuesday world number one Novak Djokovic celebrated his return to competition since becoming a father last week with a ruthless 6-3, 6-4 second round victory over Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Bipasha's life beyond Rupganj

SPORTS REPORTER



Having kept offers from Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) aside, Bipasha Mali is looking to impress in her maiden call-up to the senior national team in next month's 3rd SAFF Women's Championship which be held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The class VIII student of Rupganj High School in Narail has already impressed all during the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers earlier this month. Donning the coveted number 10 jersey, striker scored two goals and made four assists out of the nine Bangladesh goals in four matches. Her performance earned her a maiden call-up to the senior national team.

Bipasha's rise as a footballer has not happened overnight. The daughter of a day labourer, Bipasha started playing football in 2011. Soon she caught the attention of Kartik Das, a coach of Banchte Shekha, a non government organisation working on women empowerment in the Khulna Division. The NGO provided Bipasha and Sharmila Bairagi, another booter of U-16 national team, with sports gears as well as training opportunities.

The same year, Bipasha were drafted into the Wari Club for the Dhaka Metropolis Women's Football League where she earned Tk 6,000. In the next edition of the league, Bipasha earned Tk 9,000 from Young Men's Fakirerpul Club.

Now Bipasha can dream of a better future as a footballer and continue her studies too through the money she earns from football.

"I want to keep playing football. I want to be famous by playing football and at the same time I want to continue my studies," said Bipasha, who now sees a horizon beyond her familiar surroundings of Rupganj.

"The money I earned from playing football has been deposited at an NGO by my father. But for me, playing football is more important than the money," said Bipasha.

Bipasha informed that she has received offers from Bangladesh Ansar and BJMC after the U-16 Qualifiers and she would take a decision after the completion of the SAFF Championship.



BIPASHA MALI

KING'S CUP IN BHUTAN Jamal, Abahani in separate groups

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Sheikh Jamal DC and runners-up Abahani have been drawn in separate but strong groups in the King's Cup, which will be held in Bhutan from November 15 to December 2.

Sheikh Jamal DC have been placed in group A along with Indian giants Mohun Bagan FC, Thailand's Division 1 League side Nakhon Ratchasima Mazda FC and Bhutanese side Druk United FC. Abahani have been pitted in group B alongside Thailand's Premier League club Osotspa FC, India's Assam Electricity, Nepal's Manang Marshyangdi FC and Ugyen Academy of Bhutan. Top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals.

Sheikh Jamal DC, who started their camp a month ago and bolstered the squad by signing Denmark-based midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan on Tuesday, will start their maiden campaign in this tournament by taking on Druk United FC at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu on November 15.

Abahani, started their camp with 21 footballers yesterday, will begin their second campaign in King's Cup with the match against Ugyen Academy on November 18. Abahani's previous participation in this tournament was in 2004 where they were eliminated from the semifinals.

Women's v'ball from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Inter-District Women's Volleyball Championship gets underway tomorrow at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium with 14 districts taking part in the meet.

The participating teams, divided into four groups, will be playing round-robin league matches and top teams from each group will advance to the semifinals. The final will take place on November 6.

Sponsors Popular Life Insurance Company will provide all expenditure for the championship, which has an estimated budget of Tk 6.6 lakh, informed Bangladesh Volleyball Federation general secretary Ashikur Rahman Miku.

Remembering 'Rumble in the Jungle'



Muhammad Ali's famous hard right punch that floors George Foreman on the canvas during the Rumble in the Jungle exactly 40 years ago on this very day.

PHOTO: INTERNET

STAR SPORT DESK

Today marks the 40th anniversary of 'The Rumble in the Jungle' in 1974 in Zaire, Muhammad Ali's biggest fight after coming back from a 3-year ban for refusing to be drafted into the Vietnam war.

Ali was stripped of his title and boxing license, but he regained the latter in 1970. He was still barred from boxing inside the United States, which led to the fight being shifted to Zaire.

Ali's challenger was the formidable George

Foreman and Ali was at 40/1 with some bookmakers. People feared for the legendary figure's health going up against the mountain that was Foreman.

Amidst the deafening cheers of 'Bomaye, Ali' (Ali, kill him), Muhammad Ali walked to the ring, prepared for a fight like none he had ever had before.

Ali and Foreman traded blows all night, and in the eighth round, after soaking up Foreman's best blows and misses, Ali came off the ropes to floor him with a final right hand that was just about perfect, sealing the night when he became 'King of the World' again.

Draw will suffice Pakistan 2nd Test against Australia starts today

AFP, Abu Dhabi



Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq will seek consistency while his counterpart Australia's Michael Clarke will look for runs in the second Test starting in Abu Dhabi from Thursday.

Pakistan humiliated Australia by a big 221-run margin in the first Test in Dubai and now seek their first series win over Australia for 20 years.

Misbahul Haq, however, was concerned with the lack of consistency of his team, regarded as the most unpredictable in the world.

"The complaint people have with us is that we don't play consistent cricket so we have to focus on consistent performance in this match," said Misbah on Wednesday.

In the case of another win, Misbah would equal Imran Khan and Javed Miandad's record of most Test wins for Pakistan with 14. Misbah said it will be important to win the series against Australia.

"It will be very important because we have not won a series against Australia for a

long time, we have a very good chance to win and that can win back the confidence," said Misbah.

"I think credit must be given to the bowlers that they did not make us feel (Saeed) Ajmal's absence," said Misbah of the off-spinner, suspended last month over an illegal action.

Misbah said the pitch at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi will also suit his team.

"This pitch looks a bit different, it's normally different from the Dubai pitch because it's harder and has pace and bounce, but it looks good and if we look at our strength then it looks good for us," he added.

Clarke refused to accept there was extra pressure on him for not scoring runs in the first Test.

"It doesn't feel any different to any other Test match to me. My expectations are always very high for myself personally to make sure I'm scoring runs and for this Australian team to have success," said Clarke, who managed just two and three in the Dubai Test.

"I don't feel any more expectation or any more pressure. It's about playing our best cricket over five days and if we do that I'm confident we can win the Test match."

Karim dazzles for Baridhara

SPORTS REPORTER

Waliul Karim hit an unbeaten hundred as Baridhara Dazzlers cruised to a comfortable seven wickets victory against Talent Hunt in the First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Dazzlers posted 202-3 in reply to Talent Hunt's 201-8.

In the day's other matches, Azad Sporting Club (133-4) defeated Orient Sporting Club (129-10) by six wickets at BKSP, Bangladesh Boys (147-4) beat Dhaka Wanderers (143-10) at BKSP, City Club (171-8) beat BKSP (134-10) by 37 runs at the Fatullah Outer Stadium and at the Jahangirnagar University ground, Cricket Coaching SC (211-5) won by 5 wickets against Young Cricketers (207-9).