

SPORT

'Need more time'

SPORTS REPORTER

Partly unfortunate, Mominul Haque didn't have the best of times in the World Cup. It was in complete contrast to the way he had begun the tour. He scored a half-century in Bangladesh's opening practice match against an Australia XI and was called back half-way through his innings in order to give the other batsmen on the team a chance to play. That was as good as it could get for Mominul as he struggled to find a role in the playing eleven. He was sent in at seven against Afghanistan and then promoted to three in the next game. The result of all these moves was quite evident. The left-hander seemed to lose his confidence -- he even dropped Kumar Sangakkara in the crucial encounter against Sri Lanka -- and eventually lost his place in the side.



MOMINUL HAQUE

It was an unfortunate event for a player who comfortably leads the batting average in Tests. Mominul though wasn't too keen on recalling the last few months. On the contrary, he wanted to make the most of the new-found confidence that he received after leading his side, Islami Bank East Zone, to the Bangladesh Cricket League title on Sunday with a well composed 78.

"I don't want to talk about my problems. I think it's best that way. I am personally working on them... hopefully I can come back well," the left-hander told reporters during Bangladesh's training camp yesterday.

"Confidence is something I really needed at this point of time and winning the trophy has given me a good boost. To have scored an innings of that kind in the final... no doubt helped me a lot," he added.

For someone who has been the highlight of Bangladesh's batting in Test cricket in the recent past, Mominul admits that he feels gutted to not be a regular in the ODI squad. He reckoned that he needed more time to excel in the shorter format.

"I am trying to further learn the art of ODI cricket. I am trying to improve my strike-rate. When I was in Australia, our coach told me that I needed some more time to start performing in ODIs. So... I am working hard and trying to stretch myself.

"I don't think the bad phase has anything to do with my mental-self. People go through such periods and maybe this is one of those phases for me," said Mominul.

"People say a lot of things when you play good or bad... I have always tried to be a champion cricketer and that's why I choose to ignore those comments," he concluded.



FOLLOW THE MAN IN-FORM: Opening batsman Tamim Iqbal (L) will surely have to stand up and deliver like the way Mahmudullah Riyad (R) did in the World Cup last month if Bangladesh are to change fortunes against Pakistan in the upcoming series.

PHOTO: STAR

No Pahela Baishakh for Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers, except for Shakib Al Hasan and Rubel Hossain, attended their first official practice session for the Pakistan series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in

Mirpur yesterday.

It was a long day for the players. They first hit the gym for a number of hours in the morning and then attended various skill sessions in the evening.

As all three ODIs are day-night affairs at Mirpur, the Tigers had a batting session under lights at the

centre wicket where Tamim Iqbal and his most likely opening partner Rony Talukdar went first to have some knock.

Shakib, who will be captaining the Tigers in the first ODI in place of the suspended Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, skipped practice as he wasn't feeling well and

decided to take a day-off. Rubel, on the other hand, had a few issues to settle in court.

In a bid to battle Pakistan's strong left-arm seam attack, the Bangladesh batsmen faced left-arm pacers in the nets for a long time yesterday. They will be training today on Pahela Baishakh as well.

IN A NUTSHELL

Sania always had the belief

IBN, Charleston

Sania Mirza never thought she can't be number one. On Sunday, that belief turned to reality. And Sania didn't forget to thank those who pushed her to achieve her goal -- the detractors.



On a pedestal no Indian woman tennis player had the privilege to stand on, the new world No. 1 was understandably elated. With a victory in the Family Circle Cup final partnering Martina Hingis, Sania made India proud.

Hingis, a former No. 1 singles player who came out of retirement to play doubles, and Sania have now won three events on the trot, including Indian Wells and Miami titles before Sunday's Family Circle Cup. And they are unbeaten since joining hands.

"I can't think of a better person to do it with. When we came here, we had one thing in mind, to get No. 1, and she really helped me get there," Sania said during the presentation ceremony. "She helped me through some tough moments this week. She's just a great person and a great player. We also become the No. 1 team in the world today with this," she was quick to remind.

Strauss interested in ECB job

ANI, Johannesburg

Former captain Andrew Strauss has expressed his interest in the newly-created role of 'director of English cricket' for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

In the wake of England's woeful World Cup campaign, the ECB decided to sack managing director Paul Downton earlier this month.

Strauss, along with Alex Stewart and Michael Vaughan, have shown considerable amount of interest in the new role.

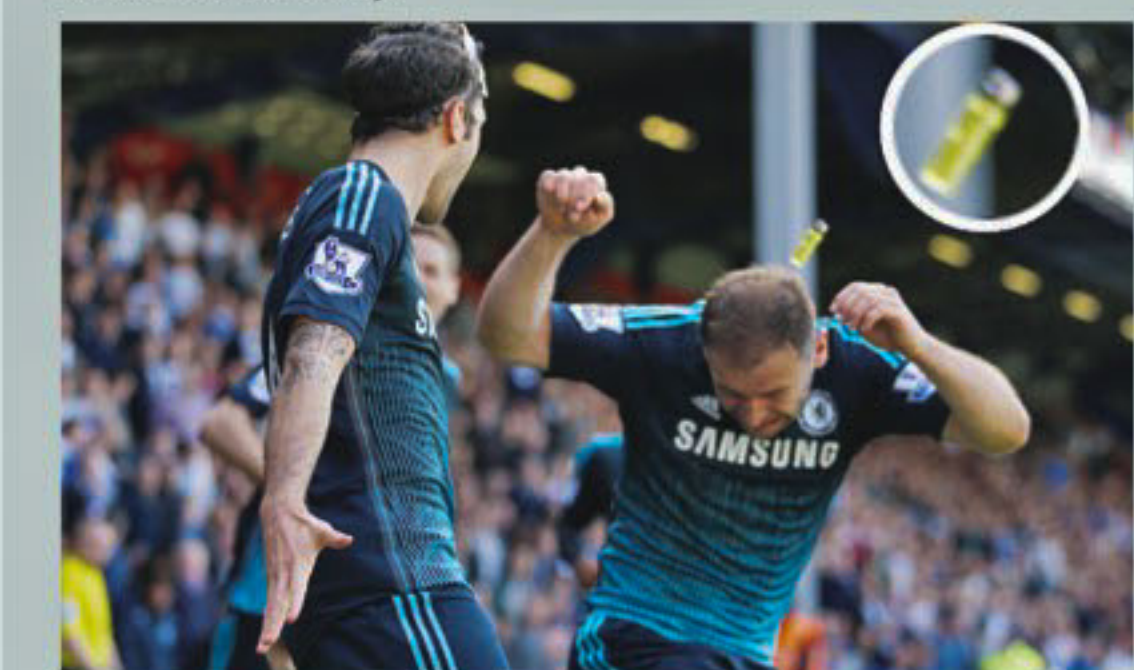
Strauss, the former Ashes-winning captain, said that the allure of such a job is undeniable to anyone who is passionate about cricket, adding that he was certainly interested in any role that might help English cricket move forward, Sport24 reported.

England have been in steady decline since topping the ICC Test rankings in 2011.

Ivanovic lighter incident probed

AFP, London

The English Football Association (FA) are to contact both Queens Park Rangers and Chelsea after Branislav Ivanovic was hit on the head by a cigarette lighter thrown from among the home fans at Loftus Road on Sunday.



Chelsea's Ivanovic was hit as the visitors celebrated Cesc Fabregas's 88th-minute winner for the Premier League leaders in a 1-0 victory.

Reports in the British press suggest QPR are unlikely to face disciplinary action such as a points penalty given the difficulty of preventing such an incident but the FA are keen to see the culprit identified and given a banning order.

They arrive quietly

SPORTS REPORTER

A new-look Pakistan one-day outfit received a rather new welcome at the Hazrat Shahjalal

International Airport yesterday with the visitors preferring to head straight for the team hotel after collecting their luggage.

It's customary for a representative of a visiting side to spend a few minutes with

the media upon their arrival. However, with the security beefed up and the Pakistani officials preferring to keep their young side away from the media -- in a bid to keep them focussed on the task ahead -- their arrival didn't witness much hue and cry.

This was in contrary to the last time Pakistan's players and officials arrived here. They were the toast of local photographers. The scenario this time around though was a little different.

Immediately after reaching the hotel, the players attended an optional gym session and then spent some time in the pool.

Pakistan will be playing the ODI series without two of their most experienced cricketers -- Misbahul Haq and Shahid Afridi -- with both retiring after the World Cup. They will be led by Azhar Ali, a batsman who last played ODI cricket in November 2013.

In terms of head-to-head stats, Pakistan are way ahead of the hosts, losing just once in the 32 encounters between the sides. The only time Bangladesh beat Pakistan was back in England during the 1999 World Cup.

While they did come close to beating their South Asian neighbours in the recent past, the Tigers failed to cross the final line.



PHOTO: STAR

Prolific Pakistan spinner Saeed Ajmal missed the World Cup with a suspension over illegal bowling action. But the subsequent clearance by the ICC to bowl again may not be a good news for the Tigers batsmen.

Warner, Dhawan thump RCB

SPORTS REPORTER

Two contrasting half-centuries led the Sunrisers Hyderabad to an eight-wicket win over the powerhouse of the Indian Premier League, Royal Challengers Bangalore, in their own den yesterday.

The first half-century came from the bat of David Warner who reached the mark in a jiffy. Batting first, a brilliant bowling spell from Trent Boult, who scalped of 3 for 36 helped restrict Bangalore to a below-par 166. In reply, Warner hammered Bangalore's bowlers right from the word go and smacked 57 off 27 deliveries. He hit four sixes and six fours to set up the perfect foundation for the middle order.

He was however, trapped in front courtesy of a well-flighted leg-spinning delivery from Yuzvendra Chahal in the eighth over.

After his fall, skipper Shikhar Dhawan ensured that there were no further hiccups and took his side home. He hit a cautious 42-ball 50 and took no risks whatsoever. He hit two sixes and four fours and was half as aggressive as his opening partner Watson, however, it was his maturity that ensured the win.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGALORE: 166 all out in 19.5 overs (De Villiers 46, Kohli 41; Boult 3-36, Kumar 2-30)

HYDERABAD: 172 for 2 in 17.2 overs (Warner 57, Dhawan 50; Chahal 2-28)

Result: Hyderabad won by eight wickets.

U-19s lose 3rd game

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s were denied to stretch their lead as their South Africa counterparts secured a two-run victory in the exciting third game of the seven-match series at Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The visitors bounced back in the series after losing the first two games as the home side failed to score 10 runs in the final over. The visitors won the game thanks to an intelligent last over from Ziyaad Abraham who picked up two wickets and gave away seven runs to restrict the home side at 227 for seven in 50 overs, in reply to 229 runs.

In the chase, Bangladesh lost the wicket of Pinak Ghosh early, but Saif Hasan anchored the innings with a patient 70-run

knock to put the hosts on course for another win. But no one else was able to carry on a good start as three batsmen scored 30-plus runs.

Abraham was the most successful bowler for the tourists with three for 31, but it was Abdu Galiem, who bagged the player-of-the-match award for his 51-run knock and taking the crucial wicket of Mosabek Hossain, who made 35 off 39 balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA U-19s: 229 for 8 in 50 overs (Verreynne 40, Moonsamy 36, Galiem 51, Foxcroft 36, Ebrahim 31 not out; Shawon 3-41)

BANGLADESH U-19s: 227 for 7 in 50 overs (Saif 70, Zakir 30, Saifuddin 36, Mosabek 35; Abraham 3-31)

Result: South Africa won by two runs; Bangladesh led the 7-match series 2-1.



Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (2nd from L) and Ahsan Khan Chowdhury (L), DMD of sponsors Pran RFL Group, unveil the Bangladesh cricket team's jersey for the Pakistan series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Monday. Also seen are BCB's marketing and commercial committee chairman Kazi Enam Ahmed (2nd from R) and Top of Mind CEO Ziauddin Adil.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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শুভ নববর্ষ
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- পুবালী সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প
- শিক্ষা সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প
- দ্বিগুণ সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প
- মাসিক মুনাফা ভিত্তিক মেয়াদী আমানত
- স্বাধীন সঞ্চয়
- স্বপ্ন পূরণ
- লীজ ফাইন্যান্সিং
- ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয় ঋণ
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