



Bangladesh players have a jog at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur after an indoor practice session yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO:
STAR

Opportunity is there for Jubair to prove

SPORTS REPORTER



In the fifth ball of his very first over, Jubair Hossain tossed up a delivery around middle and off that turned a bit and forced opener Dean Elgar to play down the wrong line. To the naked eye, that seemed like a goner and it wasn't a surprise to see the excited 19-year-old scream his guts out.

The umpire though, went the other way and that was a good thing too, for replays suggested the slightest of inside edges. Disappointed with the outcome, Jubair completed a maiden and ritualistically took his cap from the umpire and walked along.

It was the sort of start that one expected from the leg-spinner. His piercing, tossed-up turners were a welcome change from the barrage of slow bowlers who mostly focused on line and length rather than turn.

Throughout the first innings of the first Test in Chittagong against South Africa, Jubair, apart from the deliveries that got him his three scalps, managed to beat the bat at least on four occasions.

There was a beautifully delivered googly that beat Faf du Plessis's inside edge and rammed on to his pads in the 31st over. Replays suggested that the 'umpire's call' would have saved the batsman even if Bangladesh had taken the review. In his next over, he

bowled another loopy delivery that turned, bounced and flew past the bat of du Plessis.

While Bangladesh's fans no doubt enjoyed those scenes, they did however seem equally disappointed with the other side of his bowling.

The leg-spinner's lack of consistency was evident in the first Test. He bowled eight full-tosses in 16.1 overs, along with a series of half-trackers -- two of which fortunately gave him wickets.

Now a leg-spinner who isn't afraid to toss the ball up is bound to give away a few freebies every now and then. Jubair however, seemed to let the pressure off on a number of occasions by bowling deliveries that weren't up to the mark.

He may have picked up one wicket more than the Test against India, but it clearly lacked the spunk that he displayed against Virat Kohli and company, during his first spell on Day Two. Then again he had displayed a sense of inconsistency against India as well. While he did bowl an eye-catching spell, his start was wayward to say the least.

Jubair has been referred to as a rare attacking option for Bangladesh in Tests a number of times. After the India Test, Shakib Al Hasan reckoned that the bowler could scalp 400 Test wickets while coach Chandika Hathurusingha, prior to the first Test against South Africa, described him as a bowler who

could do great things for Bangladesh cricket.

He is Bangladesh's first-ever leg-spinner to play international cricket and there's plenty of expectations from the teenager. That is perhaps the reason why those full-tosses and half-trackers tend to sting so much.

A reason behind the lack of consistency could be the fact that Jubair doesn't get too many domestic games to play. After making his debut in November 2014 against Zimbabwe, Jubair just played five first-class matches in February before facing India in June.

He didn't get to take part in the four-day Bangladesh Cricket League contest that took place in April; a move that perhaps led to his axe from the team for the Pakistan Tests.

He was also ignored during the Dhaka Premier League and went into the South Africa ODIs, with just one 50-over game under his belt this year.

Whether the mindset of the domestic teams will change remains uncertain, however, with three more Tests to go this year, one would hope that the youngster could make the most of them and gather as much experience as possible.

For if the threatening short spells are anything to go by, he is bound to do something special the moment he gets accustomed to the tricks and trades of Test cricket.

Rogers trains to prove his fitness

AFP, Birmingham

Australia opener Chris Rogers came through a nets session against the tourists' pace attack with no visible ill-effects at Edgbaston on Monday as he aimed to prove his fitness for the third Ashes Test.

The 37-year-old left-hander succumbed to a sudden bout of dizziness during the second Test at Lord's last Sunday and had to leave the field as Australia completed a 405-run thrashing of England to level the five-match series at 1-1.

A week of tests in London revealed nothing more serious than a balance problem in the inner ear, thought to have been caused when he was hit on the helmet by a short ball from James Anderson at Lord's in his first-innings 173 -- Rogers's Test-best score.

Following Monday's net session, Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc insisted Rogers had been given a proper workout.

"We all had a bowl at him," the left-arm quick told reporters.

SA set for long India tour

AFP, New Delhi



South Africa will undertake their longest cricket tour of India later this year to contest all three formats over a nine-week period, the Indian board announced on Monday.

The tour, which comprises three Twenty20 matches, five one-day internationals and four Tests, will run between September 29 and December 7.

It will be the first time South Africa will play a Twenty20 international on Indian soil in preparation for the World Twenty20 which will be held across India in March-April next year.

South Africa have also never contested a four-Test series in India before, adding a new challenge for Hashim Amla's top-ranked Proteas side.

The tour starts with the three T20 games from October 2 to 8, followed by the five one-dayers from Oct 11 to 25.

The four Tests will be played in Mohali (November 5-9), Bangalore (Nov 14-18), Nagpur (Nov 25-29) and New Delhi December (3-7).

The second match in Bangalore is expected to be South

SCHEDULE	
Sept 29: T20 practice match, Delhi	Oct 22: Fourth ODI, Chennai
Oct 2: First T20 international, Dharamsala	Oct 25: Fifth ODI, Mumbai
Oct 5: Second T20 international, Cuttack	Oct 30-31: Two-day tour match vs Board President's XI, Mumbai
Oct 8: Third T20 international, Kolkata	Nov 5-9: First Test, Mohali
Oct 11: First ODI, Kanpur	Nov 14-18: Second Test, Bangalore
Oct 14: Second ODI, Indore	Nov 25-29: Third Test, Nagpur
Oct 18: Third ODI, Rajkot	Dec 3-7: Fourth Test, Delhi

T&T lift CPL title

INTERNET

Fifties from Kamran Akmal and Cameron Delpoit helped Trinidad & Tobago Red Steel claim their maiden Caribbean Premier League title, after they beat defending champions Barbados Tridents by 20 runs in the final in Port-of-Spain on Sunday.

While Akmal slammed 60, Delpoit smashed a 38-ball 50. Later on, Bravo hit one six and four fours to push the total to 178 for the loss of six wickets. In reply, Barbados Tridents only managed to score 158 for the loss of four wickets.

Suleiman Benn was the pick of the bowlers with his two wickets from his four overs for Red Steel. Despite Dwayne Smith's 49 and Steven Taylor's 20 off 10 balls, Kieron Pollard's team could not chase down the target. While Benn removed the crucial wicket of Smith, Johan Botha trapped Taylore leg before. Kyle Corbin and Misbah-ul-Haq could not match and the pressure came upon the middle-order. Pollard scored 20 off 14 balls.

'That was a lucky wicket'

SPORTS REPORTER



As a part-time left-arm spinner Dean Elgar would have been the last South African

bowler expected to get a settled Tamim Iqbal out in the first Test. His full length delivery down the leg-side though, surprised many in the stadium; it uprooted the opener's stumps. It was a crucial wicket which helped change the flow of the game.

Speaking to reporters before training yesterday, Elgar cherished the wicket and claimed that he had a bit of luck on his side.

"I enjoy getting wickets in any format to be honest. It was nice. That wicket was important. They had a good partnership going on, which had put a lot of pressure on the bowlers. Luck was on my side that he [Tamim] decided to sweep a yorker. It is always good to try and contribute with the ball.

"It is something I do work on and it's nice to know that the captain has got faith

in me to come up and try and get a break through and to just keep it tight," said Elgar in Mirpur yesterday.

Apart from a steady bowling performance, Elgar also put in good stands at the top in both the innings to lay the foundation for his team. With the rains hovering around the city as well however, it's as to whether he can continue his good run in this leg of the tour.

"It is very frustrating for us at the moment, especially after what had happened in Chittagong. Now it looks like the rain has followed us and it has been here for a while. It's something that you cannot control. In cricket you talk of controlling the controllable. But this is one of factor that you don't have any control over," said Elgar.

When asked if South Africa were under pressure to win the second Test after the draw, Elgar said, "Not at all. I think there is a process that has got us to the number one position as a Test side. It's a big Test for us. The result will look after by itself if we do the key elements and the key areas of the game well," concluded Elgar.



South Africa's opening batsman Dean Elgar packs up after a practice session at the indoors of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO:
STAR

Indo-Pak series in doubt

PTI, New Delhi



The BCCI on Monday appeared to rule out an immediate resumption of Indo-Pak cricket ties in the wake of Gurdaspur terror attack, in which militants from across the border are believed to be involved.

There were talks about resumption of bilateral cricket ties between the two nations at the end of this year but BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur said that it may not be possible under such circumstances.

Asked specifically if India and Pakistan can resume cricket ties, Thakur talked tough and said it was not a possibility now.

"Earlier also there was no such decision that the series will take place. Only the PCB has reached out to the BCCI. We were talking on those lines but when you see such attack on India time

and again, the Jammu region, now the Punjab, where Indians are losing their lives, as an Indian I don't see a possibility to that," Thakur told a TV channel.

The Hamirpur MP condemned the terror attack in Gurdaspur, where six persons were killed, including an SP.

"I condemn the terrorist attacks, specially in the Gurdaspur region. If you talk about cricket with Pakistan, we must understand that life of every Indian is very important to us. As I see my responsibility as BCCI secretary, as a Parliamentarian, life of every Indian is very important to me. It's not only about cricket, it's about my country."

Thakur made it clear that unless the situation improves, the two Asian neighbours won't play cricket.

"I think, before we step onto the cricket field, it's important to clear the issues between the two Boards and the two countries. If we don't clear those issues, it would not be possible to enter that territory," he said.

Azhar fastest Asian to 1000

INTERNET

Going past, a bunch of great players, Azhar Ali became the fastest Asian to get to 1000 ODI runs, en route to his 49 against Sri Lanka in the 3rd ODI.

Zaheer Abbas was the first Asian to reach to that landmark in 26 innings which was soon bettered by Navjot Singh Sidhu who got that landmark, taking an innings less (25) to be more precise.

Since the time Sidhu got to his 1000 runs, there are four other Asians who had achieved the feat and also went on to surpass it.

Yasir Hameed got it in the year 2004 followed by Virat Kohli who reached the feat in 2010 and Shikhar Dhawan in 2013.

All of them got it in 24 innings and Azhar Ali have gone past all of them by achieving the landmark in 23 innings.

Ten Doeschate is the quickest amongst the batsmen from associate teams.

Abbas wants cricket back in Pakistan

THE DAWN.COM

Legendary batsman and president of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Zaheer Abbas, has vowed to keep cricket 'alive' in Pakistan by using his position to convince member countries to tour the country.

In May this year, Zimbabwe became the first Test team to tour Pakistan since terrorist attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in March 2009, suspending all international cricket in the country.

But Abbas, one of Pakistan's most prolific batsmen, was hopeful of Sri Lanka would return to the country after Zimbabwe's historic visit.

"The time will come when our neighbours will come. I am hoping especially that Sri Lanka would come," Abbas told ESPNcricinfo on the sidelines of Pakistan's ODI series against Sri Lanka where he was invited as a special guest by the Sri Lankan board.

"We've been very close to each other in every department. If a gesture comes from them I will be very happy.

Abbas admitted that his post as the president of cricket's governing body had limitations but pledged to use his relationship with other cricketers to help Pakistan.