



Bangladesh A opener Anamul Haque looks to sweep a delivery on his way to an 87-ball 89 on the second day of the three-day match against Karnataka in Mysore yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

Anamul leads 2nd innings revival

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh A's top order clicked for the first time in their tour of India yesterday as the visitors finished the second day of their three-day encounter against Karnataka on 188 for 3 in Mysore.

The visitors improved vastly compared to the previous matches on the tour. Opener Anamul Haque who had scores of 0, 34, 1 and 5 in the last four innings came back with a boundary-filled 89 off 87. 62 of his runs came from boundaries as he hit five sixes and eight fours.

However, he failed to end the innings on a high note as he was sent back to the pavilion an hour before the end of play. The positive aspect of Bangladesh's batting yesterday was that unlike the last few matches, the batsmen didn't crumble after the fall of a wicket.

After Anamul was dismissed, in-form Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar ensured that the visitors didn't lose any more wickets and added 46 runs to Bangladesh's total before the close of play.

Anamul's opening partner Rony Talukdar scored 15, while skipper Mominul Haque was trapped in front for 22.

Bangladesh A seemed to be experimenting a bit with their batting order. Liton,

who played at number three in the last innings, batted after Mominul at number four yesterday.

While Bangladesh's batting clicked, their bowlers struggled to battle against Karnataka's tail. India A had begun the day on 163 for 6. Shishir Bhavane and Jagadeesha Suchit made a 127-run stand for the seventh wicket to take that score to 227 before Bangladesh got their first wicket of the day.

After that wicket fell, number nine Udit Patel came in and smacked 40 off 60 deliveries to further trouble the visitors. He hit three sixes and three fours before getting caught off slow left-armer Saqlain Sajib. Spinners Saqlain and Shuvagata Hom finished with four wickets each, while Jubair Hossain and Al-Amin Hossain entered the wickets column with one wicket each.

With the match headed towards the final day today, Bangladesh A have a lead of 59 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: 158 and 188 for 3 (Anamul 89, Liton 37 not out, Soumya 24 not out, Mominul 22, Rony 15; Patel 2-44, Suchith 1-45)
KARNATAKA: 287 all out in 92.3 overs (Bhavane 88, Suchit 41, Patel 40; Shuvagata 4-45, Saqlain 4-85, Jubair 1-44, Al-Amin 1-47)

BCB XI just a smokescreen?

CRICKET.COM.AU

Bangladesh have picked a pace-heavy line-for Australia's sole warm-up match, making no secret of their attempt to disrupt the tourists' preparation by not including any front-line spinners.

Part-time spinning all-rounders and four pace bowlers have been included in a 13-man squad for the three-day match on the traditionally low and slow Fatullah pitch. The match will not be a first-class contest but does serve as the only in-country preparation for Steve Smith's new-look team.

Bangladesh national selector Minhajul Abedin said denying Australia their ideal preparation was behind the Bangladesh Cricket Board XI selections. "We are taking home advantage. Like any other touring side that comes to Bangladesh, we will make it challenging for Australia to play spin, which is our biggest area of strength," Abedin said.

"We have picked more batsmen because Australia has a good bowling attack."

The BCB XI line-up is not entirely devoid of players Australia might expect to face in the two Test matches however. Opener Imrul Kayes will take the chance for an early look at Australia's bowlers. Fast-bowling all-rounder Soumya Sarkar has played three Tests, most recently against India in June, while five others have been capped by their country - Anamul Haque, Shuvagata Hom, Naeem Islam, Al-Amin Hossain and Shaiful Islam.

The first Test between Bangladesh and Australia begins on October 9 in Chittagong.

Papon quiet on Pakistan tour

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon returned home yesterday, but did not make any comment regarding the confirmation of the national women's team's tour to Pakistan.

Papon was expected to make an official announcement regarding the tour, as all the requisite work regarding the trip is almost done.

When reporters clamoured to him on his arrival at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, the BCB boss said that since he had just come back, he would need time to iron out the details before making any comment.

According to sources, Papon also felt the need to further discuss the issue with concerned parties before making the short trip official, which is being considered by many as a risky venture considering the security scenario in Pakistan.

Papon will most likely make the announcement today as the board has booked the team's flights to Pakistan on September 27 and September 28.

The board decided to go ahead with the tour and complete the formalities after receiving the report of a five-member security team -- which visited Karachi and Lahore on September 5 -- gave it the green signal, but the fear factor remains as reports of terrorist attacks in various parts of the country, including attacks inside secure zones and on politicians, has been grabbing world headlines sporadically.

The BCB is in favour of the tour because it wants to continue its good relationship with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in order to maintain bilateral series as well as Pakistan players' participation in Bangladesh's domestic circuit, but questions remain whether it would be wise to take such a risk.

The women's team is scheduled to play two ODIs and as many T20Is.

Pistorius hearing next month

AFP, Johannesburg

The South African state's appeal to have Oscar Pistorius convicted of murder instead of culpable homicide will be heard on November 3, officials said Tuesday, as the Paralympian waits to be released on parole.

Last year Judge Thokozile Masipa ruled Pistorius was not guilty of murder for shooting dead his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Instead Masipa found the 28-year-old athlete guilty of culpable homicide -- also known as manslaughter -- and sentenced him to five years behind bars.

"I can confirm that the Oscar Pistorius hearing is scheduled for November 3," National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Luvuyo Mfaku told AFP.

Pistorius was due to be allowed out of jail on parole in August, but South Africa's justice minister made a last-minute intervention blocking his release.

A parole review board will meet next week to rule on whether he should be released under house arrest -- a routine procedure for an inmate convicted of culpable homicide.

If he is found guilty of murder, he would face a minimum of 15 years in prison.

Ganguly eyes CAB seat

AGENCIES, Kolkata

Sourav Ganguly will meet West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday to discuss his chances of taking over the president's post of the Cricket Association of Bengal after Jagmohan Dalmiya's death. Ganguly is currently a joint secretary of the state association.

Dalmiya died on Sunday leaving a vacuum in Bengal cricket administration. With no clear successor in sight, Ganguly is a popular choice but his inexperience in cricket administration can go against him. It's only been a little over 12 months that Ganguly has been a CAB official.

CAB sources said that Ganguly has the blessings of Mamata Banerjee.

"During Dalmiya's funeral on Monday, Didi [Banerjee] had asked Sourav to take Dalmiya's legacy forward," said a former CAB official who was present during the ceremony. Ganguly also has the backing of former BCCI president and Dalmiya's mentor, Biswanath Dutt.

But it won't be a smooth sailing for Ganguly. There are 121 units that have voting powers and there are at least two former BCCI members - Chittrak Mitra and Gautam Dasgupta - who are eyeing the president's seat. Current CAB treasurer Biswarup Dey is also a strong contender.

Under-19s eye a better campaign

SPORTS REPORTER



Two years ago the decisive factor in Bangladesh's failure to qualify for the 16-team final round of the AFC U-19 Championship was the goal-difference. Under the supervision of Rene Koster, Bangladesh suffered a humiliating 6-0 defeat against Iraq in their first match before bouncing back strongly with a 1-0 win over Kuwait. However, a goalless draw against Pakistan saw Bangladesh finish behind Group champions Iraq, and be content with a 17th place finish among 37 teams.

However, those results did help Bangladesh to be in an easier group this time around when Bangladesh hosts the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers next month. Bangladesh

will have Uzbekistan, Bhutan and Sri Lanka as their opponents in Group A, and considering the strength of the opponents, the hosts are optimistic about qualifying for the final round.

"We have set a realistic target of qualifying for the finals because we know our opponents well and we will be playing on our home ground," said head coach Saiful Bari Titu.

The charges of Titu, however, failed to live up to their names during last month's SAFF U-19 Championship, where they beat Bhutan 2-0 and suffered a 1-2 defeat against Nepal in the group phase before being eliminated in the semifinals after losing to India 4-3 in tiebreak.

As part of their preparation for the qualifiers, which start on October 2, the team yesterday played a practice match against the national team, losing to a second-half strike from Shahedul Alam. A 1-0 defeat against

the senior side is not a very disappointing result, however, the coach feels the match would have been more worthwhile had it been played on a dry pitch.

"The objective of this match would have been fulfilled had the pitch not been rain-soaked, but I have seen some improvements compared to our performance in the recent SAFF Championship," said Titu after the match.

The former Mohammedan player was also satisfied with the fitness level of his charges despite the fact that he fielded different elevens in either half of the game.

Having started the second phase of training from September 6, the coaching staff is now working on the speed and strength of the players and is supposed to work on match situations and players' roles in transition periods of the games in the remaining days.



An under-19 player makes a sliding tackle on national team striker Jewel Rana (L) during a practice match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The national team won the match 1-0. PHOTO: STAR



Winners of the Thai-long golf tournament, organised on September 19 to mark the farewell of the Thai ambassador to Bangladesh, pose for photographs at the Kurmitolla Golf Club. PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Corruption can't be eradicated'

AFP, Dubai



The head of worldwide cricket's anti-fraud body has admitted that corruption will never be totally driven out of the game, in an interview published on Wednesday.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption chief, however added that fans should be reassured that administrators are doing "everything humanly possible" to stop illegal practices such as match-fixing.

"I'll give you the honest answer that we will never totally, utterly and

absolutely eradicate corruption from the game," Flanagan told icc-cricket.com.

"But we can make the game a very difficult environment for those who would seek to bring corruption to bear."

Flanagan, who has been at the ICC since 2010, called those who tried to corrupt the game as "most evil".

"These are organised criminals. These are members of organised criminal gangs across the world."

Cricket's reputation has been in the spotlight in recent times, most notably with the jailing of three Pakistan internationals for spot-fixing during the 2010 Test Series in England.

All three -- Mohammad Amir, Salman Butt and Mohammad Asif -- have now been released and are now resuming their cricket careers.

Asked if any should be picked for international duty by Pakistan again, Flanagan said that was a matter for the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"They've been punished, they've met their punishment," he said.

"It's now a matter, I think, for their home board to decide whether they should ever grace an international cricket team again."

He added: "That's not just a question of ability, that's a question of their remorse, their realisation of how