



Mustafizur Rahman completed a brilliant diving catch off his own bowling in his very first over, but had the misfortune of seeing it ruled out when the decision was referred to the third umpire. However, the youngster came back stronger in his next spell, taking two wickets in two balls as the screws were tightened on the UAE batting.

'Batting has not been at its best'

NAIMUL KARIM

What began with a sense of discomfort for the hosts ended as a one-sided affair. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Co will definitely be relieved to have finally gotten some points on the table, but they will remain worried regarding their persistent batting troubles.

Following their 51-run Asia Cup T20 win against UAE yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, the skipper admitted that his batsmen were not 'at their best' and that he hopes that they click when the 'right time' arrives.

"I won't say that we have been batting at our best. Even against India we could have done better. Today we shouldn't have collapsed, especially since we had a good partnership going. We obviously aren't at our best," said Mashrafe.

with the bat before scalping crucial wickets and also putting in a good effort on the field. It was because of his aggression that Bangladesh got 17 runs in the last over and that tilted the odds towards the hosts.

"He is a very important player for us and the best thing is he knows his role very well. He usually bats under pressure because he bats down the order. So when he fails, people tend to complain about him. But today it felt good to see him stand up to the pressure and do well," said Mashrafe.

"We were hoping that Riyadh would stay on strike in the last over because we knew he



"Apart from the last two matches, we managed to score 150-plus in almost all the games that we played recently. So not being able to do that here is unfortunate," he added.

Bangladesh's batting order saw Mushfiqur Rahim get promoted from six to four yesterday. In the previous game Shakib Al Hasan batted at five. When asked whether the team was still experimenting with the middle order Mashrafe said: "Not really. The order that we played in today is our original order. Against India we wanted to keep a left-right combination and that's why we had promoted Shakib."

Mashrafe though was pleased with the way Mahmudullah Riyadh performed. The player was on song, helping Bangladesh recover

would be able to take on the spinner. Thankfully that's exactly what he did," he added.

UAE captain Amjad Javed, on the other hand, blamed his side's inexperience for the loss.

"Definitely 134 is a total that can be chased in T20s. For that you need a good start. But we were playing against Bangladesh and we are not used to playing against top teams. When you are playing these kinds of bowlers for the first time, it's difficult to score," he said.

"We have been practising hard for the last one year in the ICC academy but there is a difference between practice and playing a real match. We need more experience and for that we need to play more matches," he added.

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UAE use their lessons, Tigers not so much

SAKEB SUBHAN

After losing the match against Sri Lanka by 14 runs on Thursday, UAE skipper Amjad Javed was not disheartened and not bothered about playing two days in a row at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Instead, he said he was looking forward to the match against Bangladesh on Friday as he was eager to carry the lessons into the Bangladesh match.

UAE did what any team in their position must do to compete, which is learn their lesson and move forward. They sussed the pitch, which was better for batting than the strip used the previous day, but had some more bounce. As Mohammad Mithun and Soumya Sarkar sped off to a 46-run stand UAE's bowlers did not panic. They held their nerves as Bangladesh made it to 81 for two in the 12th over. Then a nervy Mithun, nearing his maiden half-century, got himself out in bizarre fashion, trying a run after playing the ball down at his feet with the keeper standing up.

The plan, once they had two new batsmen in the crease in Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan, then seemed to be to dry up the runs as best they can and let the batsmen make the mistakes. They also banked on a batting line-up unsure of itself. UAE used their less-than-rich resources to perfection. Rohan Mustafa bowled his off-spinners cannily, mixing up the pace, which led to the confusion that caused Mithun's dismissal. Pacer Mohammad Naveed, on the other hand, played a fantastic hand, extracting pace and lift from the Mirpur surface and dismissing Mushfiqur with a short one outside off -- a combination of injudicious shot selection.

Over the next few overs Javed, Mustafa and Ahmed Reza dried up the boundaries to a point where Shakib missed a juicy full toss to be bowled.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, seemed not to have learnt much from their mediocre batting display against India. There was none of the calm that is needed to rack up the big scores in T20 cricket. Panic, as usual, seemed to infect the entire batting order, except for Mahmudullah Riyadh. Soumya repeated his tendency to get carried away, hitting a towering six and then trying to repeat it, but getting caught at mid-on instead.

Mithun's 47 may look good on paper, but every shot he played in the latter stages of his innings seemed to be pre-meditated when he should have been looking to dig in for the long haul. Nurul Hasan, coming in at number seven at a crucial stage, tried to hit his first ball for six and ended up with a golden duck.

In the end, the Tigers' superior bowling skill and the fact that UAE's batting lags far behind their bowling prowess saved them, but the same story cannot be expected against their other Asia Cup opponents.

BD-UAE SCOREBOARD

| BLANDESH | R/B | 4/6 |
|--|-------|-----|
| Mithun run out | 47/41 | 4/2 |
| Soumya c Javed b Shahzad | 21/14 | 2/1 |
| Sabbir c Tariq b Mustafa | 6/12 | 0/0 |
| Mushfiqur c Patil b Naveed | 4/8 | 0/0 |
| Shakib b Javed | 13/13 | 1/0 |
| Mahmudullah not out | 36/27 | 1/2 |
| Nurul c Tariq b Javed | 0/1 | 0/0 |
| Mashrafe c Tariq b Naveed | 0/3 | 0/0 |
| Taskin run out | 1/2 | 0/0 |
| Extras: (lb-2, w-2, nb-1) | 5 | |
| Total: (For 8 wks in 20 overs) | 133 | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-72, 3-81, 4-83, 5-112, 6-112, 7-114, 8-133. | | |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|---------|---|---|----|---|
| Naveed | 4 | 1 | 12 | 2 |
| Javed | 4 | 0 | 34 | 2 |
| Shahzad | 4 | 0 | 38 | 1 |
| Raza | 4 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Mustafa | 4 | 0 | 30 | 1 |

| UAE | R/B | 4/6 |
|---|-------|-----|
| Mustafa c Mustafizur b Mashrafe | 18/17 | 2/1 |
| Kaleem c Mashrafe | | |
| Al-Amin Hossain | 0/5 | 0/0 |
| Shahzad c & b Mustafizur | 12/12 | 1/1 |
| Anwar c Mahmudullah b Mashrafe | 1/4 | 0/0 |
| Usman b Taskin | 30/30 | 2/2 |
| Patil c Mashrafe b Mustafizur | 0/1 | 0/0 |
| Javed hit wicket b Mahmudullah | 3/10 | 0/0 |
| Tariq st Nurul b Shakib | 0/2 | 0/0 |
| Haider c Mashrafe b Mahmudullah | 2/4 | 0/0 |
| Raza st Nurul b Shakib | 5/14 | 0/0 |
| Naveed not out | 8/7 | 2/0 |
| Extras: (w-3) | 3 | |
| Total: (All out in 17.4 overs) | 82 | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-25, 3-33, 4-34, 5-34, 6-45, 7-46, 8-55, 9-71. | | |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|-------------|-----|---|----|---|
| Taskin | 3 | 0 | 24 | 1 |
| Al-Amin | 2 | 0 | 8 | 1 |
| Mustafizur | 4 | 0 | 13 | 2 |
| Mashrafe | 3 | 0 | 12 | 2 |
| Shakib | 3.4 | 0 | 20 | 2 |
| Mahmudullah | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 |

Result: Bangladesh won by 51 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Mahmudullah.

Zakir ton puts East in charge

SPORTS REPORTER

Islamic Bank East Zone's youngster Zakir Hasan had a field day in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The 19-year-old not only managed to complete his second first-class century but was also involved in all of the dismissals that took place after the exchange on the third day of their third-round Bangladesh Cricket League match against Prime Bank South Zone. The wicketkeeper affected two stumpings and took two



ZAKIR HASAN ... 128 not out

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH ZONE: 262 and 204 for 4 (Anamul 84 not out, Taibur 52 not out; Iftekhar 2-76) v **East Zone:** 407 all out in 119.3 overs (Zakir 128 not out, Mominul 112; Razzak 5-161, Gazi 3-109)

CENTRAL ZONE: 260 and 329 for 7 dec (Marshall 141, Zabid 91; Farhad 5-49 v **NORTH ZONE:** 168 and 22 for 2 (Jahurul 12; Shahid 1-10, Sharif 1-12)

catches and in the process helped East Zone take a firm grip on the game.

By stumps South Zone, buoyed by half-centuries from Anamul Haque and Taibur Rahman, finished on 204 for four. While they may seem to be in a good position, the fact remains that they are only 59 runs ahead at the moment.

They will need to put on at least another 150 runs on the final day today in order to save this game. It is a task that is still possible considering that they have two set batsmen at the crease.

Anamul finished unbeaten on 84, while

Taibur scored three boundaries in the last over of the day to reach 52.

Anamul, who hit four fours and four sixes, will be key to South Zone's survival today.

Earlier, East Zone added 59 more runs to their total before they were bundled out in 119.3 overs. Considering that they began the day on 359 for 5, it was a disappointing performance. Spinners Shohag Gazi and Abdur Razzak ran through East Zone's lower order. Razzak finished with a five-wicket haul while Gazi recorded figures of 3 for 109.

Zakir was the only batsman who managed to survive the spin onslaught and remained unbeaten on 128. He scored four sixes and 10 fours during the 188-ball innings.

It was also a good day for Marshall Ayub, who scored a patient 141 to put Central Zone in control of their game against North Zone, also at Cox's Bazar. He was well supported by Zabid Hossain's 91. The duo took Central to 329 for 7, at which score they declared. Before stumps Mohammad Shahid and Mohammad Sharif took a wicket each to reduce North Zone to 22 for 2. North Zone require 422 runs to win this game, a task that seems highly unlikely.

Arambagh KS set to be renamed

SPORTS REPORTER

The high-ups of the Arambagh Krira Sangha are mulling a change in its name by incorporating the name of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League's founder Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni to the existing name.

"Moni Bhai [Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni] was the founder patron of the club and Dada Bhai [Ilyias Ahmed], brother-in-law of Moni, was the president of the club for 16 years. Arambagh club was established by them [family of Sheikh Moni]. So we, the inhabitants of Arambagh, are going to recognise them by renaming the club as sheikh Moni Arambagh Krira Sangha," said club president Mominul Haque Sayeed yesterday.

Arambagh KS, established in 1958, was initially a football club, but later it expanded its activities into handball, basketball, volleyball, etc. The football team played in top-tier for a long time before being relegated in the 2012-13 season. However, after emerging runners-up in Bangladesh Championship League last year, Arambagh are set to return to Bangladesh Premier League this season and are planning to form a strong squad with some quality foreign footballers.

"We are going to announce everything within a short period and you will see surprises," said Sayeed, hoping that the renaming of the club would have a positive impact on the field.

"We want to enthral spectators through our performance like Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel have been doing and those two clubs are also building their own fan base," said Sayeed, who is also a ward commissioner from the ruling Awami League.

IMPACT MAN

REASSURING RIYAD

Mahmudullah Riyad has always brought a sense of calm with him to the batting crease. Coming in at four for 83, he immediately set about making sure that Bangladesh reached a defensible target. The focus was on singles, along with the one four and two sixes he hit. Taking Bangladesh to 133 was only half the job done. He came back and bowled two overs for five runs, taking the wickets of Amjad Javed and Saqlain Haider and leaving UAE in the dire straits of 55 for eight.

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| M | W | L | N/R | M | W | L | N/R |
|----|---|---|-----|----|---|---|-----|
| 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 |

IN ALL T20IS

| M | W | L | Tied | M | W | L | Tied |
|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

Last meeting: Dhaka, March 21, 2014, India won by 7 wickets.

KEY PLAYERS

| RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN | MOHAMMAD AMIR |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 35 | 21 |
| 43 | 24 |
| 21.65 | 23.2 |
| 6.89 | 7.32 |
| 4/8 | 3/23 |
| 2 | 0 |
| Inns | |
| Wkts | |
| Avg | |
| Econ | |
| Best | |
| 4w | |