

SPORT



Fizz rested for first NZ Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pace sensation Mustafizur Rahman has been rested for the first Test

Also the absence of Mustafizur -- who is still recovering from shoulder surgery in August and was rested from the second ODI as well -- means that Taskin Ahmed is almost a certainty to make his Test debut.

Soumya Sarkar, who played an innings of some substance after a prolonged run of bad form by scoring 39 in the second T20I yesterday, has reportedly been preferred over Mosaddek Hossain.

SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (Captain), Tamim Iqbal (Vice Captain), Imrul Kayes, Mominul Hoque, Sabbir Rahman, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shakib Al Hasan, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Rubel Hossain, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Soumya Sarkar, Taskin Ahmed, Nurul Hasan Sohan and Subashis Roy.

against New Zealand starting on January 12 in Wellington. While Mustafizur's absence is a blow for a pace attack low on experience and wicket-taking pedigree, there was good news elsewhere in the 15-man squad named by the Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday.

Test skipper Mushfiqur Rahim has been named as captain which indicates that he has recovered from the hamstring injury sustained in the first ODI in Christchurch that resulted in him missing the rest of the limited-overs leg of the tour.

The changes from the last Test squad -- for the second Test against England at home in late October -- are Taskin and Rubel Hossain taking the place of Shuvagata Hom and Mosaddek.

The other Bangladesh cricketers on tour in New Zealand outside of the squad are Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Ebadat Hossain and Tanbir Hayder.

After enduring a long-lasting lean patch, Soumya Sarkar finally found some form in the second T20I against New Zealand yesterday, hitting a 26-ball 39 and smashing three fours and two sixes at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui.

PHOTO: BCB

দেয়ালে ড্যাম্প-এর কারণে প্রেস্টিজ পাংকচার আর নয়

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A farmer and pilot

AL-AMIN from Tauranga

Asaduzzaman is a farmer. The 37-year-old is actually a successful Bangladeshi farmer in New Zealand. He grows kiwifruit, which is very famous all over the world. So, when he wanted to show us his farm it was too tempting for us to decline. He picked us from our hotel in the city centre at around 11:30 am and drove us to his proud property, which now covers a land of about 65 hectares. It was a 45-minute drive to Te Puke from Tauranga city centre and when we arrived there our first curiosity was what he grows and how he grows that dull greenish-brown skinned and bright green or golden flesh with rows of tiny, black, edible seeds.

As we entered one of many blocks of his kiwifruit garden, he showed one tree and according to Asaduzzaman it was 57 years old. That eight-foot tall tree had its many branches just hanging over our heads and of course those greenish fruits with a soft texture and a sweet but unique flavor. He has got 50 workers who take care of his three units called Asad 1-3. He harvests his kiwifruits once a year in May-June.

When asked how much a kilogram of kiwifruit costs in the kitchen market he said: "Its eight dollars (NZ) and you can have

about 20 pieces in a one-kilo karat. But those are Grade C fruits and the top grades are actually being exported to western countries."

Asad is a spectacular story of rags to riches. A bachelor degree holder from University

started his own kiwifruit garden seven years ago when he bought a five hectare garden from a native. He however was very reluctant to provide the financial breakdown.

"I have bought it for 1.5 lakh dollars and I had to take a loan from the bank. The property is

commercially viable one.

Asad, who uses his own nameplate in his Toyota SUV (something anyone can do in New Zealand for an extra charge), not only made his years of hard work count but perhaps became the only grower.

"It feels proud that I'm a Bangladeshi grower in New Zealand. But to come this far I had to work really hard. I'm still working very hard and I have never forgotten the hardship many of us had to endure when we first came here," said Asad, who also has a Cessna plane.

"I'm also a commercial pilot and it took me two-and-a-half years to obtain that license (propeller-driven small plane)," said a proud father of a son and a daughter.

An ambitious man, he also showed off his new project -- a new garden of gold kiwifruit (the inside of which is more golden than conventional greenish ones). The trees are only a few feet tall at the moment.

"This breed is expensive and more popular. Besides, the green one takes seven years for your first harvesting but this one will take me three years for first harvest. I needed a separate license for this. But I'm hopeful of a good prospect," said the millionaire farmer.



Laboratory School, he came to New Zealand in 2000. He usually worked in kiwifruit gardens or in apple gardens when he first arrived here. A hard worker, Asad

now worth more than three times that," said the successful farmer. The secret behind his success is very simple. He worked 16 hours a day to make his venture a

BD-NZ SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND	R/B	4s/6s		
Ronchi c Mosaddek b Mashrafe	0/1	0/0		
Williamson c Tamim b Shakib	12/13	2/0		
Munro c Nurul b Rubel	101/54	7/7		
Anderson b Mosaddek	4/3	1/0		
Bruce not out	59/39	5/1		
de Grandhomme b Rubel	2/2	0/0		
Neesham b Rubel	5/5	0/0		
Santner run out	4/4	0/0		
Wheeler not out	0/0	0/0		
Extras: (lb-4, w-3, nb-1)		8		
Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs)		195		
Did not bat: Sodhi, Boult.				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-42, 3-46, 4-169, 5-171, 6-190, 7-194.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	4	0	38	1
Rubel	4	0	37	3
Mustafizur	4	0	30	0
Shakib	4	0	32	1
Mosaddek	2	0	22	1
Mahmudullah	2	0	32	0
BANGLADESH	R/B	4s/6s		
Tamim run out	13/7	2/0		
Imrul c Bruce b Santner	0/3	0/0		
Sabbir c Boult b Sodhi	48/32	3/3		
Shakib c Neesham b Wheeler	1/2	0/0		
Soumya c Munro b Boult	39/26	3/2		
Mahmudullah				
c de Grandhomme b Sodhi	19/15	0/1		
Mosaddek c Santner				
b Williamson	1/7	0/0		
Nurul c Boult b Williamson	10/9	0/0		
Mashrafe c Boult b Sodhi	1/2	0/0		
Rubel c Bruce b Wheeler	1/2	0/0		
Mustafizur not out	0/4	0/0		
Extras: (lb-5, w-10)		15		
Total: (All out in 18.1 overs)		148		
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-34, 3-36, 4-104, 5-118, 6-121, 7-144, 8-147, 9-147, 10-148.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Santner	3	0	14	1
Boult	3	0	28	1
Wheeler	2	1	16	2
de Grandhomme	2	0	33	0
Sodhi	4	0	36	3
Williamson	4	0	16	2
Result: New Zealand won by 47 runs and lead the 3-match series 2-0.				
Player-of-the-match: Colin Munro.				

Mash rues lack of discipline

AL-AMIN from Tauranga

Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is closing in on something he has not been familiar with for the last two years. He is only a game away from facing the embarrassment of six straight defeats, three ODIs and as many T20Is, after leading the Tigers to home dominance in the shorter formats of the game. His first bilateral challenge away from home has so far turned bad to worse and after the 47-run defeat against New Zealand at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui, the most successful Bangladesh captain apparently gave a resigned shrug of shoulders while attending a post-match briefing.

"We have again created chances but could not grab them. We have one more left and let's see what we can do in that game," said Mashrafe after the defeat.

When asked how crucial those two overs were where



Mahmudullah Riyad and Shakib conceded 43 runs, he said: "I have not expected so many runs from this end. I won't say that was the turning point of the game. This is a ground where 180 is a par score. They have scored 15 runs more which actually have been leaked also in other ways. The two set batsmen were there at that time and they were playing very well."

He also said that they were not as disciplined as they should have been after claiming those early wickets.

"We have created chances in both bowling and batting. We got three early wickets. We could have been more disciplined after that. Maybe we could have exploited the wind assistance more than their batsmen have done against us," added the Bangladesh captain.

He was however very happy to see Soumya Sarkar hitting some sort of form.

"I liked the way he batted today. It was as if he was batting like he did when he was in form. I would have loved him to carry on. Had he stayed there for a long period of time we could have won the game. He was batting very well with Sabbir [Rahman]. I think it will help him to regain his confidence. It is also a positive sign for us," remarked Mashrafe about the young left-handed batsman.

"We were batting positively despite losing early wickets and we have scored 50 runs in the first Powerplay overs. We have created a change when Rumman [Sabbir] and Soumya were batting. But unfortunately they could not finish that"

'Knew it would be a good day'

SPORTS REPORTER

At the end of the second T20I

against Bangladesh, it was New Zealand batsman Colin Munro's century that made all the difference. While the wicket at Mount Maunganui was a belter yesterday, even on tracks like these a team needs at least one of their batsmen to bat throughout the innings to take advantage of these conditions.

Munro did that for the Black Caps with his 54-ball 101 whereas none of the batsmen from Bangladesh's ranks managed to go even close to Munro's feat.

Speaking to reporters after the game, Munro said he knew that yesterday was going to be a special day for him right after he middled the first ball he faced.

"The way I played, I tried to be aggressive early. When you hit a couple in the middle and you have a good strike, you know that it's going to be a good day. Today was one of those days when the first ball came out of the middle and I took it from there," he said. Munro became the third Kiwi to score a century in T20Is yesterday

and his emphatic celebration suggested that the feat meant a lot to him.

"When I was at 95 or 96, I thought I don't know when I will get an opportunity to get a T20 century again. All those emotions came out in the end [after reaching the century]. When I saw it again, it did look a bit silly, but at that time all the emotions were coming out," said Munro.

Despite having dominated Bangladesh throughout the series, Munro feels that the series cannot be described as an easy tour which the Black Caps were always expected to ease through.

"The credit should go to the way we have played. They are a good team. They have shown us what they can do. They have beaten some good oppositions and we can't take them lightly. Credit to our bowlers for the way they bowled."

"They needed partnerships. I think they need to take it a bit deeper. Sabbir and Soumya were playing very well. If that partnership went for another three or four overs, we would have been on the other side today," said Munro.



New Zealand batsman Colin Munro blazed his way to 101 off just 54 balls against the Tigers yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Rangpur promoted as Dhaka Metro go down

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Metro have been demoted to Tier Two, while Nasir

Hossain's Rangpur were promoted to Tier One at the end of the National Cricket League (NCL), one of the two four-day domestic competitions in Bangladesh, yesterday.

Rangpur drew their last game against Rajshahi at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday, thereby taking their points tally to 72 from six games. Second-placed Rajshahi needed to win the game in order to secure promotion, but the loss saw them finish on 65 points.

Led by Myshukur Rahman's 160 and Jahurul Islam's unbeaten 73, Rajshahi ended their second innings on 403 for 7 and set Rangpur a target of 244. Rangpur had around 44 overs in the day to get those runs, but a win was not compulsory as they

only required a draw for promotion.

However, they did seem keen on winning the game, and finished the day on 196 for 2 in 44.2 overs with opener Jahid Javed top-scoring with a 105-ball 70.

Meanwhile, Dhaka thumped Barisal by an innings and 78 runs to finish second in the top tier. Khulna had successfully defended their championship the day before when they had thrashed Dhaka Metro within three days and so the second spot was all that Dhaka could play for.

Barisal were bundled out for 321 in the second innings and ended up losing the game in the morning session. Dhaka finished second with 54 points, four short of champions Khulna.

Meanwhile, Sylhet drew with Chittagong at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday to avoid finishing at the bottom of the second tier. Chittagong ended up as the worst team of the NCL this season.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI V RANGPUR RAJSHAHI: 103 and 403 for 7 Dec (Myshukur 160, Jahurul 73; Saddam 2-47, Baby 2-87) RANGPUR: 351 and 196 for 2 (Jahid 70, Mahmudul 54; Mamun 1-23, Farhad 1-49) Result: Match Drawn Player of the match: Myshukur Rahman	DHAKA V BARISAL DHAKA: 588 for 6 Dec BARISAL: 189 and 321 (f/o) all out (Shahriar 104; Dewan 3-25, Nazmul 3-93) Result: Dhaka won by an innings and 78 runs. Player of the match: Talbur Rahman	SYLHET V CHITTAGONG SYLHET: 555 for 7 dec and 165 for 7 dec (Ruman 68; Ifekhar 3-53) CHITTAGONG: 320 and 261 for 7 (Sazzadul 54, Yasir 41, Saifuddin 41; Rahatul 3-71, Jayed 2-18) Result: Match drawn. Player of the match: Alok Kapali
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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

COLIN MUNRO



Colin Munro boasted a T20I strike rate of around 145 before yesterday's match. After the match the figure reads 150.62. A wicket in the first over brought him to the crease early and the Bangladesh bowlers were put to the sword for the next hour, a shellacking the tourists could not recover from. Munro brought up his maiden T20I ton in 52 balls and played just two more. His 54-ball 101 contained seven fours and seven sixes, including three sixes and two fours in a 28-run Mahmudullah Riyad over. It was only his dismissal in the 17th over that allowed Bangladesh to keep New Zealand below 200, or the margin of defeat might have been more.