

SPORT



It was a tough outing for the Bangladesh pacers on the third day of the first Test, but Kamrul Islam Rabbi still managed to scalp two wickets against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve in Wellington yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

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Mushy injured again?

AL-AMIN from Wellington



Mushfiqur Rahim is now in a spot of bother with all those injuries and niggles. After scoring a superb 159 in a magnificent 359-run fifth-wicket stand with Shakib Al Hasan on Friday, the Bangladesh Test captain did not come out to field on the third day on Saturday due to pain on his left thumb and right index finger. He had an X-ray in the morning but after the day's play it was not confirmed whether he would be available to lead the team for the next two days and more importantly don the wicket-keeping gloves.

Opener Imrul Kayes, who has the experience of doing a bit of keeping in domestic cricket, kept for the whole day and luckily he did not miss anything when it mattered most. After the third day's play, Bangladesh cricket team's media manager Rabeed Imam said that they were yet to get the X-ray report, adding that the captain was still in pain.

However, there is a strong possibility for Mushfiqur to sit out the remaining two days of the opening Test. It was learnt that he had a fracture and his thumb had swelled and he was not in a position to keep for a while. He might come out to bat but that would be in an extreme situation. The best case scenario for Mushfiqur would be to take rest until

another assessment in 48 hours. It will be a big blow if things aggravate. In that case he might even miss the second Test and that will be a huge setback for Bangladesh.

A key player in the batting line-up, Mushfiqur has just recovered from a hamstring injury that he sustained in the opening one-day match against the Black Caps in Christchurch on December 26. His absence was desperately felt in the next five limited-overs games that the Tigers lost and that was highlighted by experienced New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor yesterday.

"The one-day and T20 series were a lot



closer than it looked. They were missing their [Test] skipper [Mushfiqur] and he has showed the class he has in the middle-order. The team rely heavily on him and if he had been batting in some of those situations during those one-dayers and T20s it could have been a different story," observed Taylor yesterday.

Mushfiqur got a few blows on Friday, the most painful one coming from Neil Wagner whose vicious short-pitched delivery struck the diminutive batsman in the gloves.

Roy lands in the red

SPORTS REPORTER from Wellington



The rookie Bangladesh pace attack could not have asked for a better time to express its potential. They bowled knowing that they had a vast store of runs to defend and the first impression was not that bad considering the nature of the wicket and the alien conditions which they faced for the first time.

Of the three pacers, Kamrul Islam Rabbi was most impressive. Not only did he claim two wickets, he also showed his skill of bringing the ball in quite sharply and surprising the batsman with the odd bouncer. He seemed to have understood the value of bowling with the wind.

Taskin Ahmed also bowled well in patches on debut. He bowled with pace but lacked the discipline needed in Tests. Besides, most of the bouncers he bowled were wasted deliveries and a few of them flew over for four.

The most interesting of the trio was the other debutant pacer, Subhashis Roy. Perhaps the oldest Bangladesh pacer, at 28, to make his debut, the right-arm medium pacer was accurate with his line and length and the most economical of the three pacers. He bowled 16 overs and conceded 46 runs at less than three runs an over.

However, his biggest problem was his landing, which was a bit peculiar. He dragged his right foot in his delivery stride which is acceptable, but during the follow-through his right foot awkwardly landed on the danger area. He had done it repeatedly while bowling over the wicket and received an official warning from the on-field umpire.

This is something he had obviously not done to do a favour for his fellow spinners. It looked like he had been bowling with this peculiar landing for a long time and nobody had noticed it. If that is the case then there is a flaw in the system which he has come through. He eventually bowled his last spell round the wicket and understandably had no issues with regards to landing on the danger zone.

Of the two spinners, Shakib Al Hasan did not bowl that much, but young off-spinner Mehedi Hasan bowled a lot of overs. The challenge was for him to bowl against the wind and on a wicket where there was little purchase for spinners. He created a couple of chances, but more refreshingly he stuck to what he knows best -- maintaining a tight line and length.

"I have never bowled against this kind of wind in my life. It was a new experience for me. But I'm happy that I was able to bowl in the right areas most of the time," Mehedi told this reporter after the day's play.



While he was the most economical of the pacers yesterday, debutant Subhashis Roy's landing was a concern on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand. PHOTO: AFP

'Bangladesh have been outstanding'

SPORTS REPORTER



New Zealand's Ross Taylor has described Bangladesh's performance in the first Test so far as 'outstanding' and expects the Tigers to only get better in the longer format in the coming days.

Speaking to reporters following the third day at Wellington yesterday, he said: "I think it's outstanding [the way Bangladesh have played so far]. I don't think they have played enough international cricket overseas to get that experience. The more they play overseas the better they are going to get."

"Shakib [Al Hasan] has been a world class for a while and the young spinner [Mehedi Hasan] did well. He went under the run-rate of most of the bowlers. It all bodes well for Bangladesh cricket. Their quick bowlers would have enjoyed these conditions and the more they play outside the better their country will get," he added.

While Bangladesh have batted well, their bowling department was always going to face a sterner test considering its inexperience. Taskin Ahmed, Mehedi Hasan, Kamrul Islam Rabbi and Subhashis Roy had played a total of four Tests before the one at Wellington. However, Taylor believes

that they have bowled quite well. "In terms of games, yes [they are a bit inexperienced], and when they do bowl at home, it's in totally different conditions. When you come to a bouncy wicket, your lengths become very important and teams from the subcontinent can get carried away with the bounce. They bowled enough balls in the right areas and I am sure they will be better for it," said Taylor.

Playing his first Test after an eye surgery, Taylor scored 40 and said he felt good and confident out in the middle, although he conceded he was disappointed to not have scored a bigger knock.

Opener Tom Latham was the player of the day for New Zealand yesterday, scoring an unbeaten century and driving New Zealand. Taylor wants him to continue and score a bigger knock.

"We have a world-class number three in Kane Williamson and we have got a consistent opener in Tom Latham. We need him to carry on and get a big score. I am not sure what his personal best is, but it would be good to get that and carry on," said Taylor.

He also believes the pitch will remain good for batting going into the end of the Test.

"I don't know if that's enough to say it's deteriorating. It's a pretty good batting wicket. At best maybe day five is a better gauge on whether it's breaking up a little bit."

BD-NZ SCOREBOARD

| BANGLADESH: First innings | | R/B | 45/65 | | |
|--|---------|------|-------|---|---|
| (Overnight 542 for 7) | | | | | |
| Tamim lbw b Boult | 56/50 | 11/0 | | | |
| Imrul c Boult b Southee | 1/7 | 0/0 | | | |
| Mominul c Watling b Southee | 64/116 | 10/1 | | | |
| Mahmudullah c Watling | | | | | |
| b Wagner | 26/64 | 4/0 | | | |
| Shakib b Wagner | 217/276 | 31/0 | | | |
| Mushfiqur c Watling b Boult | 159/260 | 23/1 | | | |
| Sabbir not out | 54/86 | 7/0 | | | |
| Mehedi c Southee b Wagner | 0/13 | 0/0 | | | |
| Taskin c Southee b Wagner | 3/20 | 0/0 | | | |
| Rabbi not out | 6/21 | 1/0 | | | |
| Extras (b-2, lb-6, nb-1) | | 9 | | | |
| Total (For 8 wickets decl in 152 overs) | 595 | | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-60, 3-145, 4-160, 5-519, 6-536, 7-542, 8-566. | | | | | |
| BOWLER | | O | M | R | W |
| Boult | 34 | 5 | 131 | 2 | |
| Southee | 34 | 5 | 158 | 2 | |
| De Grandhomme | 20 | 2 | 65 | 0 | |
| Wagner | 44 | 8 | 151 | 4 | |
| Santner | 17 | 2 | 62 | 0 | |
| Williamson | 3 | 0 | 20 | 0 | |
| NEW ZEALAND: First innings | | R/B | 45/65 | | |
| Raval c Imrul b Rabbi | 27/39 | 3/0 | | | |
| Latham not out | 119/222 | 13/0 | | | |
| Williamson c Imrul b Taskin | 53/55 | 8/0 | | | |
| Taylor c Mahmudullah b Rabbi | 40/51 | 6/0 | | | |
| Nicholls not out | 35/96 | 4/0 | | | |
| Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-15, nb-1) | | 18 | | | |
| Total (For 3 wickets in 77 overs) | 292 | | | | |
| To bat: De Grandhomme, Watling, Santner, Southee, Wagner, Boult. | | | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-131, 3-205. | | | | | |
| BOWLER | | O | M | R | W |
| Mehedi | 26 | 4 | 82 | 0 | |
| Subashis | 16 | 4 | 46 | 0 | |

'We need to be patient'

SPORTS REPORTER



Kamrul Islam Rabbi, who was Bangladesh's highest wicket-taker yesterday with two scalps, said that Bangladesh's bowlers needed to exercise patience in order to reap the rewards on a batting-friendly Basin Reserve track.

Speaking to reporters after the third day of the first Test yesterday, he said: "I think this wicket is sporting. If one can bowl consistently in the right areas, the batsmen will be in trouble. If you bowl a little outside or if you bowl badly, you won't get any respite."

"You need to be patient on these kinds of wickets. We have been getting chances, we just need to be patient."

"We bowled in the right areas and that's why they lost three wickets and why we got several opportunities. The wicket in Dhaka in my last Test was spin-friendly, here it's sporting. The three of us [Taskin Ahmed, Subhashis Roy and Kamrul] haven't played a lot of Test cricket. We are going through a learning process. If we can stay patient, we can do well," he added.

As Kamrul put it, Bangladesh did get a few opportunities and a couple of half-chances yesterday and had they managed to grab them, the scenario at the end of the day could have been a lot different. While they managed to bowl many dot balls, the problem was that they leaked too many boundaries.

innings, the New Zealand players too batted with a high tempo throughout the day and amassed 292 runs in 77 overs.

It was colder than the previous days at Wellington yesterday and the Bangladesh players had some difficulty adjusting to that as well.

"After getting the ball in hand, a pacer generally doesn't think about whether it's hot or cold. But yes, it was quite cold today, towards the end especially. The body wasn't getting warm and we haven't played too many Tests in this kind of weather."

"So, whenever the captain wanted to give us the ball, he would inform us a couple of overs in advance so that we could warm up. But, despite the problems, we are trying our best to do well," said Kamrul.

Personally for Kamrul, his experience in his third Test seemed to be a lot better than his first two in Bangladesh. On the turning tracks of Chittagong and Dhaka, Kamrul bowled a grand total of 19 overs in two Tests and scalped just one wicket. Yesterday, he bowled 13 and took two. He looked good as well, moving the ball into the batsmen quite often.

"My experience in my first two Tests wasn't that good. After those two Tests I worked on my problems and managed to move away from them. I didn't get a chance to play in the New Zealand tour initially, but after I got a call in the Tests, I really wanted to do my best."

"During the Dhaka Test I remember telling myself, 'oh! When will I get that one wicket?' Here, I already want more," said Kamrul.

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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

TOM LATHAM

After Bangladesh had piled on a massive total before declaring their innings, hosts New Zealand needed something special to set the tone for a gruelling task. That something special came in the form of Tom Latham's as yet unbeaten knock of 119 off 222 balls. Latham took a page out of the Tigers' book, opting to play himself in on a pitch that took some getting used to, but once he had settled in he began to open up a bit more. That earned him 13 boundaries but the finest part of his innings was the fact that he converted his start into a big score when players like skipper Kane

Williamson and, to a lesser extent, Ross Taylor failed to do so. Latham will hope to continue today as the Kiwis seek to get even.



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF BANGLADESH (ICAB)
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Commerce, GoB)

SAFA BPA Award Ceremony and SAFA International Conference 2017

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize SAFA Best Presented Annual Report (BPA) Award & SAARC Anniversary for Corporate Governance Disclosures Ceremony, 2015 and SAFA Regional CFO Conference 2017 "Navigating Through Digital Transformation Towards Better Accountability" on 27-28 January 2017 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka.

H.E. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh will inaugurate the Conference as the Chief Guest at 10:00 am on 28 January 2017 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal, MP, Hon'ble Planning Minister, GoB will be present as Special Guest.

and

Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance, GoB is expected to grace the SAFA BPA Award Ceremony as the Chief Guest on 27 January 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka.

Registration fees for participation in the programs have been fixed as under:

BPA Award Ceremony (27 January 2017): Tk. 3,000/- for individual and Tk. 5,000/- with spouse.

SAFA Regional CFO Conference (28 January 2017): Tk. 5,000/- for each participant.

The hon'ble ICAB members are requested to kindly register their names with Accounts Section-ICAB (6th Floor, CA Bhaban), Mobile: 019 78 128 464 latest by 24 January 2017 for ensuring their participation in the programs. The invitation card can be collected from ICAB during office hours.

Note: Please note that 10 CPD credit hours will be given for participating in all sessions of the SAFA Regional CFO Conference.

AKM Rahmat Ullah FCA
Secretary-ICAB