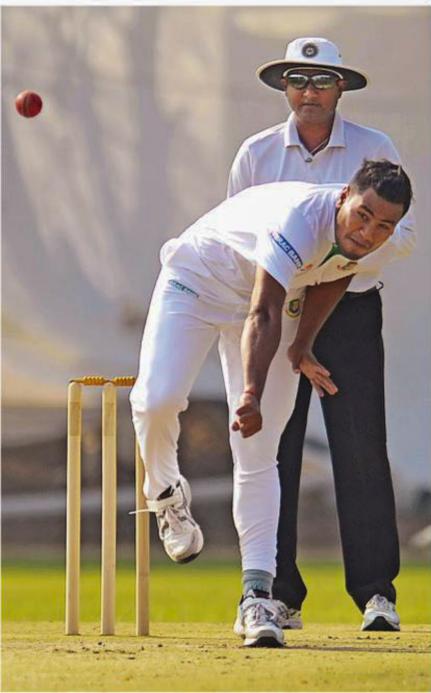


SPORT



Pace bowler Subhashis Roy (L) turned in one of the few creditable performances for Bangladesh on a punishing second day of the two-day warm-up against India A in Hyderabad yesterday as three home batsmen, including Shreyas Iyer (R), hit centuries.



PHOTOS: AFP

Sunzamul bags record haul

SPORTS REPORTER



Sunzamul Islam broke a domestic first-class record to propel BCB North Zone to an innings victory while one of the men he left in the shade, fellow left-armer Abdur Razzak, fired Prime Bank South Zone to a similar victory margin on the third day of the second round of the Bangladesh Cricket League yesterday.

Sunzamul achieved the best bowling figures in an innings -- behind Saqlain Sajib and Razzak -- as he picked up nine wickets for 80 runs in the second innings after taking three for 64 first time around to help North Zone win by an innings and 50 runs against Walton Central Zone at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

Central Zone resumed their first innings yesterday on 120 for three and were then bowled out for 233 to concede the follow-on. Forhad Reza was the most successful bowler for North in the first innings with four for 38.

In the second innings Central Zone, who are yet to get on the league points board, made a disaster start as they lost four wickets for 29 runs. Marhsall Ayub and Nurul Hasan repaired the damage, putting on 53 runs for the fifth wicket, but Sunzamul continued his hunt which made sure that Nurul Hasan's 113-run innings would not be enough to avoid the innings defeat.

Sunzamul was the wrecker-in-chief and it might have been a 10-wicket haul had opener Abdul Mazid not been victim of a run-out.

At the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, Prime Bank South Zone managed an innings and 44-run victory against Islami Bank East Zone thanks to captain Razzak who picked up six wickets for 44 runs to destroy East Zone's second innings.

Resuming the third day at 74 for five, East Zone were bundled out from two matches points and East Zone has six points.



North Zone left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam bagged nine wickets for 80 runs, a domestic first-class record haul, to demolish Central Zone on the third day of their BCL match in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: BCB

BEST INNINGS FIGURES IN DOMESTIC FIRST-CLASS CRICKET

PLAYER	FIGURES	TEAM	OPPOSITION	VENUE	SEASON
Sunzamul Islam	9-80	North Zone	Central Zone	Chittagong	2016/17
Saqlain Sajib	9-82	Bangladesh A	Zimbabwe A	Cox's Bazar	2014/15
Abdur Razzak	9-84	Khulna Div	Chittagong Div	Bogra	2012/13
Abdur Razzak	9-91	Khulna Div	Dhaka Metro	Cox's Bazar	2013/14
Mosharraf Hossain	9-105	Barisal Div	Chittagong Div	Barisal	2004/05

Tigers punished to the tune of three tons

SPORTS REPORTER



what is to follow, then Bangladesh are set for a thrashing by India in the one-off Test that starts at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in three days' time.

It might have ended in a draw but Bangladesh could well have ended as losers against the second-string Indian team if the game at the Gymkhana Ground stretched for another couple of days.

Resuming the day on 91 for one, India A scored an imposing 461 for eight in their allotted 90 overs -- 237 more runs than Bangladesh had managed in their first innings on the opening day. Bangladesh however fared slightly better in their second innings when they scored 73 for two in 15

overs with opener Tamim Iqbal hitting an unbeaten 42.

Soumya Sarkar, who is set to open the innings with Tamim in the one-off Test following the injury of regular opener Imrul Kayes, scored 25 in an opening stand of 71 and the two wickets that fell at the fag end had little significance apart from a first-ball duck for Mominul Haque.

The key one-down batsman actually had a forgettable practice game, scoring only five runs in the first innings.

Although the bounce had subsided on the second day, the way the second-string Indian team batted was a treat to watch. Three batsmen have scored centuries and the most telling was an unbeaten 103 by Vijay Shankar.

Coming in to bat at number eight with his side reduced to 287 for seven Vijay, who is actually a middle-order batsman with a first-class average of almost 50, showed the batting depth of India. He shared 114 runs

for the eighth wicket with wicketkeeper Nitin Saini, who hit 66.

Earlier, opener Priyank Kirit Panchal (103) and exciting young batsman Shreyas Iyer (100) scored fluent centuries before allowing other teammates to have a crack against an unimpressive Bangladesh attack.

Iyer took only 91 deliveries to complete his century with 12 fours and four sixes. But even an aggressive Iyer did the simple thing -- played with a straight bat, used his feet against the spinners. It was actually the hallmark of the India A batting and this is something Bangladesh can take note of going into the Test match starting on Thursday.

For Bangladesh, pace bowler Subhashis Roy and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam evenly shared the six wickets that fell in the India A innings.

But it was a demoralising day for young off-spinner Mehedi Hasan, who bowled 16 overs and conceded 92 runs without any success.

Mosaddek to replace injured Imrul

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh opener Imrul Kayes will be sent home from India after reinjuring his left thigh, and batsman Mosaddek Hossain will fly out today to replace him in the squad for the one-off Test against India starting in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Imrul, who suffered a slight tear in his left thigh muscle during the first Test in New Zealand in mid-January, injured himself in the same area again while fielding during the second day of the two-day warm-up match against India A at the Gymkhana Ground in Hyderabad yesterday.

After India A declared their first innings, Imrul did not come out to bat with Tamim Iqbal and not even after two wickets had fallen. He was out for four in the first innings on Sunday.

Mosaddek, currently in Sylhet where his team South Zone bagged an innings victory over East Zone in the Bangladesh Cricket League yesterday, has not yet played a Test for Bangladesh but is expected to fly out today to join the rest of the team in the lead-up to the one-off Test, Bangladesh's first in India.

Tigresses primed for PNG in today's opener

SPORTS REPORTER



"We are confident of making a good start. We had a good warm-up game against Ireland where our batsmen batted according to the plan and we are hopeful that things will be better when we take on Papua New Guinea in the opening match," Rumana told The Daily Star over phone from Colombo yesterday.

Bangladesh beat Ireland by 39 runs on Sunday in the opening match, scoring 235 for eight in 50 overs before spinner Khadija Tul Kubra picked up four wickets to restrict Ireland to 196.

"Here, the temperature is high; otherwise everything is okay. The wicket is also good and we are confident that our batters will be able to show a good performance. Batting is our main concern but we are improving," Rumana said.

"We know about PNG [Papua New Guinea] as we played against them in Thailand in the T20 World Cup and they are an improving side," she continued.

Bangladesh women's team has been placed in group B along with Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, South Africa and Scotland.

BANGLADESH'S GROUP MATCHES

February 7: Bangladesh vs Papua New Guinea (CCC)
February 8: Bangladesh vs Pakistan (P Sara)
February 10: Bangladesh vs Scotland (CCC)
February 11: Bangladesh vs South Africa (P Sara)

Mathews out of Aus T20 series

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews was Monday ruled out of this month's three-match Twenty20 series in Australia with a hamstring injury.

"Captain Angelo Mathews will not be part of the squad as he has been ruled out due to a hamstring injury," said a statement from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), who will announce the squad on Tuesday.

Mathews returned home last month halfway through the South African tour after twisting his ankle.

'We'll stick to the same thing'

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from New Delhi



The Indian cricket team reached Hyderabad yesterday for the one-off Test against Bangladesh to be played from February 9 and batsman Cheteshwar Pujara said that while the visiting team

cannot be taken lightly the home team would like to maintain its number one ranking in the world.

Having taken a short break after their emphatic win against England in all three formats of the game, the 15-member Indian squad led by Virat Kohli and under coach Anil Kumble assembled in Hyderabad yesterday afternoon and had a three-hour training session at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, the venue for the Test.

Taking a brief break from net practice, Pujara told media that Bangladesh and India have been playing well in the sub-continent. "So, probably, that is one team [Bangladesh] that have done well against England. We cannot take them lightly. "But at the same time, we played very good cricket in 2016. So we will stick to the same thing. We are the number one team in the world at the moment. We would like to maintain that. The way we played in 2016, we would like to repeat the same in

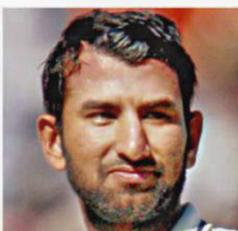
2017," he said.

Pujara declined to reveal India's strategy against Bangladesh in the Test. "We will have a chat about it later on. But I think if we play good cricket, we can definitely beat them."

"Given the soil, neither team has an advantage or disadvantage; I think it will be a fair contest. Because when we tour Bangladesh, we get similar conditions. I don't think conditions will matter a lot for them. Whoever plays good cricket, I think they will have an opportunity to win this game."

However, Pujara believes India will have an upper hand in the Test. "Probably, we will have the upper hand because the way we played last year in 2016 -- fast bowlers bowled well, lower order continues to hit and batsmen have been batting well. I believe that if we play as a team and we play to our potential, we will have the upper hand in this game," he said.

On young Bangladeshi spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz who did so well against England at home, Pujara said: "I have seen him bowl a little bit against England. Looks like a good bowler. But, when I play, I will be able to know more about him. He bowled well against England and that was a different wicket altogether. There was a lot of turn... that particular wicket. Both the Test matches, he bowled well."



CHETESHWAR PUJARA

Have work to do: Taijul

STAR SPORT DESK



Test match in India, much of the fear of playing the top-ranked team revolved around the suffering the home batsmen can inflict upon the bowlers of the youngest Test nation.

Considerable fuel was poured on that particular fire when, in the two-day warm-up match that ended in a draw yesterday, India A hammered the Bangladesh bowlers for 461 runs in just 90 overs -- a run-rate of over five an over.

Bangladesh's bowlers managed just six wickets, shared evenly by pacer Subhashis Roy and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam. It would be tempting to predict an even worse outcome in the Test beginning on February 9, but Taijul did not seem too worried after the match yesterday. "Of course it will be an extra

challenge and they [India] always play well in their conditions," he said when asked about whether the warm-up made the real thing more challenging. "The aim was to come here and acclimatise to the weather and play a practice match to see how the wickets are, and what kind of shots the Indian batsmen play on these wickets. Whether it is batting or bowling, we will look to adopt what we have done well and use that in the Test."

The aggression of the batsmen -- with three India A players making quickfire centuries -- was a cause for worry, but Taijul was eager to emphasise on the context of a practice game.

"That is why we played the practice match. We now have to work on those very things, and work out what we have to do. India have batsmen who are even better, so they may be even more attacking. We have two days before the match and we will work on these things and how we bowl to their batsmen."