

SPORT

Tigers recover before washout

STAR SPORT DESK

There was always a chance that rain would hamper the tri-nation series in Ireland and that was the case yesterday when the opener between Bangladesh and Ireland had to be abandoned as relentless rain lashed the Malahide Cricket Club in Dublin.

Only 31.1 overs of play were possible after Ireland chose to put the opposition in on a lush green pitch, but that was enough time for either side to make a definitive statement and it seemed that Bangladesh were in the ascendancy after early Irish dominance.

Opener Tamim Iqbal was unbeaten on 64 and Mahmudullah Riyad was batting on 43 as the fifth-wicket partnership had swelled to 87 in just 16.2 overs.

Having played three warm-up games on docile pitches, Bangladesh's top-order batsmen were found wanting against the new ball. Among the top five, only Tamim displayed the requisite technique and temperament to survive the moving ball, committing to either foot and playing the ball late throughout his 88-ball innings.

The Irish rarely hit upon a good line and length on a helpful pitch, but when they did the batsmen obliged by playing away from their bodies, except number three Sabbir Rahman who played a horrendous slog to be caught at third man off Peter Chase soon after a lifter from the same bowler had opener Soumya Sarkar edging to the keeper. Sabbir's across-the-line hoick reduced

Bangladesh to nine for two, and brought the side's two most technically proficient batsmen -- Tamim and Mushfiqur Rahim -- together. But after they put on 38, Mushfiqur chased an away-seaming delivery from Barry McCarthy to give Niall O'Brien his second catch behind the wicket.

Stand-in skipper Shakib Al Hasan -- taking over from Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who is serving out a one-match suspension -- hit two consecutive boundaries off Chase in the 15th over, but perished off the very next ball.

That was when Tamim and Mahmudullah arrested the slide and started taking

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Bangladesh towards what looked to be a formidable total. Tamim focused on punishing the loose balls, of which there were plenty. He unfurled some delightful drives and the best of his eight fours was the straight drive he played against Tim Murtagh in the ninth over.

Mahmudullah's 56-ball innings was a welcome one from Bangladesh's perspective, as he seemed to regain some of the late touch that made him so successful against the moving ball during the 2015 World Cup.

With points shared from this match, Bangladesh will look to follow the examples set by Tamim and Mahmudullah on Wednesday when they will face New Zealand.



Bangladesh batsman Tamim Iqbal was anchoring the Bangladesh innings perfectly with an 88-ball 64, (INSET) before rain brought an abrupt halt to the opening match of the tri-series against Ireland at Malahide yesterday. PHOTOS: SPORTSFILE



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BLADESH	R/B	4s/6s		
Tamim not out	64/88	8/0		
Soumya c N O'Brien b Chase	5/7	1/0		
Sabbir c Murtagh b Chase	0/3	0/0		
Mushfiqur c Wilson				
b McCarthy	13/17	3/0		
Shakib c N O'Brien b Chase	14/16	2/0		
Mahmudullah not out	43/56	4/1		
Extras: (lb-3, w-15)		18		
Total: (For 4 wickets in 31.1 overs)		157		
To bat: Mosaddek, Taskin, Mehedi, Mustafizur, Rubel.				
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-9, 3-47, 4-70				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Murtagh	7.1	1	23	0
Chase	6	0	33	0
McCarthy	6	0	43	1
KO'Brien	2	0	12	0
Thompson	4	0	19	0
Dockrell	6	0	24	0

IRELAND: Stirling, Porterfield, N O'Brien, Balbirnie, Wilson, Thompson, K O'Brien, Dockrell, McCarthy, Murtagh, Chase.

Delhi hold nerve in tense win

PTI, New Delhi

Delhi Daredevils defeated the Rising Pune Supergiant by seven runs here yesterday, making the play-off race tougher for the visiting side in the Indian Premier League.

Pune, who came into the match winning seven out of their last eight matches, could only reach 161 for seven in reply to Delhi Daredevils' 168 for eight after the hosts surprisingly decided to bat first.

Karun Nair starred with the bat for Delhi with 64 off 45 balls while a fighting 60 off 45 balls from Manoj Tiwary did not prove to be enough for Pune.

Needing 25 off the last over, Tiwary made things interesting with sixes off the first two balls before being bowled by Pat Cummins.

Earlier, Karun Nair struck his first half-century of the season to help Daredevils set up a competitive total.

Nair (64 off 45) and Rishabh Pant (36 off 22) set the platform for Delhi before regular fall of wickets pushed them back.

SCORES IN BRIEF
DELHI: 168 for 8 (Nair 64, Pant 36, Samuels 27; Unadkat 2-29, Stokes 2-31)
PUNE: 161 for 7 (Tiwary 60, Smith 38, Stokes 33; Khan 2-25, Shami 2-37)
Result: Delhi Daredevils won by 7 runs

Player-of-the-match: Karun Nair

Incisive Yasir puts Pakistan on top

AFP, Roseau



Azhar Ali's part-time leg-spin broke a stubborn fourth-wicket partnership as the West Indies reached 152 for four in reply to Pakistan's first innings

376 at tea on the third day of the third and final Test on Friday.

Having batted gritily for almost three hours at Windsor Park in Dominica, Shai Hope mistimed a drive off the very last ball of the afternoon session to be caught for 29, ending a 55-run partnership with Roston Chase.

Chase will resume in the final session on 41 with Vishal Singh expected to partner him in the middle.

On a pitch offering little encouragement for the faster bowlers, leg-spinner Yasir Shah posed the greatest threat to the batsmen after he had taken all three wickets to fall in the morning session, lifting his tally in the series to 20.

Hope was a model of correctness and discipline until his critical error of judgment. Chase was more positive in contrast.

Earlier, Shah raised Pakistan's hopes of dismissing the West Indies cheaply

despite the placid pitch.

The premier spinner broke a 43-run opening partnership between Kraigg Brathwaite and Kieran Powell.

Attempting to heave a delivery over the midwicket fence, Powell's miscued shot was well caught by Azhar Ali running in off the boundary to send the left-hander back to the pavilion for 31.

New batsman Shimron Hetmyer sought to seize the initiative from the bowlers as he hoisted Shah for the only six of the innings so far.

But the bowler exacted swift revenge as an original "not out" verdict to an appeal for a leg-side catch by wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed was overturned on review.

There was no doubt though to Ahmed's second dismissal of the morning as Brathwaite pushed forward to Shah in the last over before the interval and edged a catch high to the wicketkeeper's right.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 376 (Azhar 127, Babar 55, Misbah 59, Sarfraz 51; Chase 4-103, Holder 3-71, Bishoo 2-61)
WEST INDIES: First innings 152 for 4 (Chase 41 not out, Powell 31, Brathwaite 29, Hope 29; Yasir 3-81)



Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah continued his hold over West Indies by taking three of the four wickets to fall in the first two sessions on the third day of the third Test in Dominica yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Taijul delivers narrow win

Abahani thrash Victoria; Doleshwar edge past Rupganj

SPORTS REPORTER



Taijul Islam contributed with the ball first and then took charge with the bat as the number eight batsman to help Mohammedan secure a two-wicket victory over Partex Sporting Club while their traditional rivals Abahani narrowed the gap with league leaders Gazi Group by winning the ninth-round match against Victoria Sporting Club during Thursday's Dhaka Premier League clashes.

Taijul came in to bat when Mohammedan were stuttering at 145 for six in chase of 230 and he added 76 runs with number nine batsman Sajedul Islam in 13.4 overs to secure



TAIJUL ... 57 not out

victory with 10 balls to spare at the BKSP. During his 51-ball 57, Taijul smote four boundaries and two sixes.

Earlier, Taijul and Charith Asalanka scalped two wickets each while Kamrul Islam Rabbi claimed three to dismiss Partex for 229 runs in 49.3 overs.

It was however an easy sail for Abahani at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium as they posted a comfortable eight-wicket win over Victoria. Abahani increased their tally to 14 points to trail Gazi Group, who have 16 points from eight matches.

Manan Sharma ended with figures of four for 21 in six overs, while Saifuddin Ahmed, Ariful Hasan and Saqlain Sajib took two wickets apiece to dismiss Victoria for 130.

Liton Das and Shadman Islam scored half-centuries as Abahani reached the target with eight wickets and 29.1 overs to spare.

In the other match at BKSP, Sharifullah hit 82 and scalped three wickets to help Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club secure a 29-run victory against Legends of Rupganj.

Despite left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain's five-wicket haul, Doleshwar scored 276 thanks to Sharifullah, who anchored his side's innings, and Marshal Ayub's 60.

In reply, Rupganj started strongly but some tight bowling from Prime Doleshwar bowlers in the last 10 overs reduced Rupganj's run-flow as they were finally finished at 247 for six in 50 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PARTEX V MOHAMMEDAN

PARTEX: 229-10 in 49.3 overs (Rakin 46 not out, Irfana 40, Sajjad 36; Kamrul 3-54, Taijul 2-36, Asalanka 2-53)

MOHAMMEDAN: 234-8 in 48.2 overs (Taijul 57 not out, Asalanka 47, Rakibul 34; Jatin 2-36, Imran 2-36)
Result: Mohammedan Sporting Club won by 2 wickets.

PRIME DOLESHWAR V RUPGANJ

PRIME DOLESHWAR: 276-10 in 49.5 overs (Sharifullah 82, Marshal 60, Nafees 31; Mosharraf 5-

57, Raza 2-46, Sharif 2-69)

RUPGANJ: 247-6 in 50 overs (Naeem 78, Hasanuzzaman 50, Yasir 44; Sharifullah 3-32)
Result: Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club won by 29 runs.

VICTORIA V ABAHANI

VICTORIA: 130-10 in 42.4 overs (Arifat. 47, Mehdi 37; Manan 4-21, Saifuddin 2-18, Anful 2-18)

ABAHANI: 134-2 in 20.5 overs (Saddam 58 not out, Liton 50)
Result: Abahani won by 8 wickets.

3 arrested over IPL betting

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police have arrested three men suspected of illegal betting on lucrative Indian Premier League matches, the cricket board said.

The trio were arrested Thursday at a hotel where the Gujarat Lions and Delhi Daredevils teams were staying after their match in the northern city of Kanpur.

India's cricket board said the arrests led police to "foil the alleged betting attempts of the accused".

Nearly all gambling is illegal in India but is a huge underground industry.

The money-spinning IPL, the world's most popular domestic cricket league, has been plagued by controversies since its inception in 2008. Corruption and match-fixing have often taken centre-stage.

A spot-fixing scandal in 2013 led to the Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals being suspended in 2015 for two seasons.

Plenty of time to wreak havoc: Starc

AFP, Sydney



Pace spearhead Mitchell Starc said Thursday Australia's fast bowling quartet is ready to "wreak havoc" at next month's Champions Trophy one-day tournament in England.

Starc, who has recovered from a foot injury that cut short his India Test tour in March, said he is excited by the prospect of combining with his fellow speedsters at the Champions Trophy.

"We've had our issues with injury but Patty's (James Pattinson) only just turned 24 - I'm 27 and I'm the oldest - so we've still got plenty of time to wreak havoc on batsmen around the world," Starc told reporters.

"Hopefully that starts with the Champions Trophy and then onwards to the Ashes later in the year."

In March, Pat Cummins made an impressive return to Test cricket in India after a five-year absence.

Pattinson returned from shin and back injuries to take 24 wickets last southern summer for Sheffield Shield champions Victoria.

Josh Hazlewood has been a consistent presence in the Australian team while left-armed Starc has been the spearhead.

"We've sort of grown up and come through the ranks together, but haven't had the chance to be in the same squad together," Starc said.

"I think it's an exciting time for the four of us and for Australian cricket too."

Squeezing all four into the same Test team next summer against England could be a possibility at pace-friendly wickets like the Gabba and the WACA, and Starc believes their accomplished lower-order batting gives selectors that option.

"I think the fact that we can all bat presents a stronger case for that," said Starc, who has made nine Test half-centuries.