

SPORT



Mushfiqur Rahim's 66-ball 55 -- one of three half-century knocks in the Bangladesh innings -- came to no avail as New Zealand chased down Bangladesh's 257 for nine with four wickets in hand and 15 balls to spare.

An innings that failed to take off

AL-AMIN



Bangladesh failed to cash in on an incredibly sloppy fielding display from New Zealand as they finished their innings at 257 for nine in the third one-day of the tri-series at the Clontarf Cricket Club ground in Dublin yesterday.

They were in a position to take score past 270 mark, what could have been a fighting total on a slow wicket, when the first innings entered into the final few overs with two set batsmen -- Mahmudullah Riyad and Mosaddek Hossain -- at the crease. But this was a game where Bangladesh failed to flourish after building four partnerships of substance. And unfortunately when Mahmudullah was out off the second ball of the 48th over for a 56-ball 51, which was the third half century of the innings after Soumya Sarker's 62 and Mushfiqur Rahim's 55, the Tigers lacked the necessary firepower to finish on a high. Painfully, they could score only 12 runs off the last three overs, losing four wickets. This is something Bangladesh are yet to overcome in the absence of a hard-hitting batsman lower down the order.

It was certainly not a match of high standards where the Black Caps fielders conceded 20-odd extra runs and Bangladesh, despite getting a good start after being asked to bat, lost the momentum in a stop-start innings.

Openers Tamin Iqbal and Soumya put on 72 runs in 15.2 overs, but when it was time for Tamin to play catch up after a 42-ball 23, the left-hander deposited a simple catch at deep cover off James Neesham. It was a wide and rising delivery meant to be hit, but Tamin picked up Colin Munro -- the lone fielder in the deep.

Sabbir Rahman arrived at the crease and departed. This time however he did not play a rash shot like he did in the washed out game against Ireland. He was outfoxed by a Mitchell Santner length ball and was clean bowled for one.

However, Soumya was playing superbly. The left-hander was timing everything perfectly and appeared to have managed to negotiate those short deliveries targeting his rib-cage. His first fifty after seven innings reminded of the form he was in while playing against South Africa at home in July 2015 when he scored 88 and 90 to lead the Tigers to a 2-1 series win. But the biggest problem he is still facing is his inability to occupy the crease.

In the 25 ODI innings he has played so far, he has only once played till the 40th over, an innings when he scored a magnificent 127 not out against Pakistan in 2015.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the young batsman to play a big innings yesterday. And the stage was also set for him to carry his bat for a long time, but the compulsive stroke-maker paid the penalty for forcing Kiwi leg-spinner Ish Sodhi. On 61 off 67 balls, a knock which contained five boundaries, Soumya ballooned a forceful sweep straight up in the air for Tom Latham to take a simple catch at short mid-wicket.

With the score at 117 for three after 25 overs, in swaggered Shakib Al Hasan to rebuild the innings with his long time associate Mushfiqur. Shakib did not stay at the wicket for even a while and if someone is interested to know how he got out -- better recall one of his many self-destructive shots.

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Abahani ride on Liton show

Doleshwar crush Khelaghar; Victoria win at last

SPORTS REPORTER



Liton Das slammed his second hundred of the season as second-placed Abahani posted a 49-run victory over Legends of Rugganj in the 10th-round match of the Dhaka Premier League at BKSP yesterday.

Rugganj captain Naem Islam challenged Abahani with a hundred of his own but the earlier efforts of Liton and his opening partner Shadman Islam proved too much to overcome. A 207-run partnership, the highest opening stand this season, between Liton and Shadman helped Abahani put up 333 runs on the board -- the defending champions' fourth 300-plus score this season.

Dewan Sabbir broke the mammoth partnership by removing Shadman but by that time the batsman had hit seven fours and five sixes in his 85. Liton scored 136 off 101 balls that contained 20 fours and three sixes. Now the leading scorer of the league with 578 runs in nine matches, Liton reached the hundred in 78 balls, one fewer than the last one he made against Mohammedan at BKSP.

It was not an ideal start for Rugganj in chase of such a big total as they lost four wickets for 74 runs. Mosharraf Hossain joined his captain Naem to repair the damage and shared 101 runs for the fifth wicket but they failed to keep up with the asking run rate.

Naem, who is following Liton in

the run-scorers' list, made 123 off 119 balls with 11 fours and three sixes while Mosharraf added 67 off 75 balls but their efforts went in vain Rugganj finished their 50-over quota on 284 for six to suffer their fifth defeat, thus reducing their chances of qualifying for the super league.

On the other hand Abahani narrowed the gap with leaders Gazi Group by winning their eighth match.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, Imtiaz Hossain hit

Doleshwar to dismiss their opponents for 178 despite Amit Majumdar's 86-ball 73 that featured six fours and two sixes.

In another match at BKSP, Victoria Sporting Club registered their first win by winning a high-scoring match against Partex Sporting Club.

Irfan Sukkur (95) and Sazzadul Haque (75) added 155 runs for the fourth wicket as Partex posted 298 runs.

In reply, opener Nasiruddin Faruque returned to the pavilion for a first-ball duck but a 144-run second-

SCORES IN BRIEF	
ABAHANI: 333 all out in 49.5 overs (Liton 136, Shadman 85, Nazmul 35; Sharif 3-61, Mosharraf 3-30, Mahmudul 2-60)	out, Mazid 64 not out
LEGEND OF RUGGANJ: 284-6 in 50 overs (Naem 123, Mosharraf 67, Hamidul 37 not out; Jayed 3-44)	Result: Prime Doleshwar won by 10 wickets
Result: Abahani won by 49 runs	Player-of-the-match: Imtiaz Hossain
Player-of-the-match: Liton Das	PARTEX: 298-9 in 50 overs (Irfan 95, Sazzadul 75, Rakin 31; Mahbulul 4-65, Monir 3-49)
KHELAGHAR: 178 all out in 45.3 overs (Amit 73, Randiv 41; Reza 2-37, Sunny 3-14, de Silva 3-29)	VICTORIA: 299-8 in 49.3 overs (Rubel 73, Arun Karthik 89, Moinal 33; Mehdi 27, Monir 27 not out; Zakaria 2-58, Imran 4-55)
PRIME DOLESHWAR: 181-0 in 33.1 overs (Imtiaz 107 not	

his first hundred this season as Prime Doleshwar outclassed Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity by 10 wickets. Imtiaz smashed 10 fours and three sixes during his 99-ball 107 and Abdul Mazid contributed 64 off 101 balls with four boundaries and one six as Doleshwar overtook 178 runs in 33.1 overs to secure their seventh win in 10 matches.

Earlier left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny continued his good form as he conceded only 14 runs in 8 overs which helped

wicket stand between Rubel Mia, who scored 73 off 68 balls before he retired hurt, and Arun Karthik, who scored 89 off 76 balls with seven fours and two sixes guided Victoria to chase past the big total with three balls to spare.

The late order contributed some valuable runs and Monir Hossain deserves special credit as his unbeaten 15-ball 27 with three fours and a six made it possible for Victoria to taste their first win.



Prime Doleshwar's Imtiaz Hossain (L) and Abahani's Liton Das hit superb hundreds to lead their teams to wins in the 10th round matches of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.



PHOTOS: STAR

BD-NZ SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH		R/B	4s/6s		
Tamin c Munro b Neesham	23/42	3/0			
Soumya c Latham b Sodhi	62/67	5/0			
Sabbir b Santner	1/4	0/0			
Mushfiqur c Ronchi b Neesham	55/66	4/1			
Shakib c Neesham b Sodhi	6/14	1/0			
Mahmudullah c Rance b Bennett	51/56	6/0			
Mosaddek c Rance b Bennett	41/41	4/0			
Mehedi c Rance b Bennett	6/6	1/0			
Mashrafe run out	1/3	0/0			
Rubel not out	0/0	0/0			
Mustafizur not out	0/1	0/0			
Extras: (b-1, w-10)	11				
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	257				
Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-79, 3-117, 4-132, 5-181, 6-242, 7-253, 8-255, 9-256.					
NEW ZEALAND		R/B	4s/6s		
Latham c Mushfiqur b Rubel	54/64	3/1			
Ronchi c Mahmudullah b Mustafizur	27/27	4/1			
Worker run out	17/24	0/1			
Taylor lbw b Mustafizur	25/40	1/0			
Broom lbw b Rubel	48/65	4/0			
Neesham c Mosaddek b Mortaza	52/48	5/1			
Munro not out	16/14	2/0			
Santner not out	5/3	1/0			
Extras: (b-4, w-10)	14				
Total (For 6 wks in 47.3 overs)	258				
Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-80, 3-110, 4-147, 5-227, 6-241					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Rance	9	0	66	0	
Bennett	10	1	31	3	
Santner	10	1	37	1	
Neesham	9	0	68	2	
Sodhi	10	1	40	2	
Munro	2	0	14	0	
NEW ZEALAND		O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	6.3	0	58	1	
Shakib	10	1	50	0	
Mustafizur	9	1	33	2	
Mehedi	8	0	45	0	
Mahmudullah	1	0	8	0	
Mosaddek	3	0	7	0	
Rubel	10	0	53	2	
Result: New Zealand won by four wickets					

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BFF picks Ord for nat'l team

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is set to give charge of the national football team to Andrew Ord, an English-born Australian coach who has worked with A-League side Perth Glory as an assistant coach for the past four years after brief spells in Thailand and Myanmar.

The 37-year-old, who played semi-professional football with non-league clubs in England before turning his hands to coaching, is expected to join the national team at the start of the next month, BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag confirmed last night.

"The National Teams' Committee (NTC), in its meeting today [Wednesday], decided to appoint Andrew Ord as the head coach of the national team, considering everything including the coach's experience of working in Asian countries as well as his time as a scout for the Australian Football Federation. The decision has been

finalised and the contract will be signed within the next week or ten days. We expect Ord to join the team early next month," Shohag said over phone.

While the senior national team has no immediate assignment, with the Bangabandhu Gold Cup likely to be played in December and the SAFF Championship no sooner than March or April next year, the Australian coach is expected to guide the under-23 and under-19 teams in their AFC assignments this year. It has been learnt that the contract could be for a one-year term.

Ord was reportedly one of three coaches -- the other two being Italian and Spanish -- shortlisted by the NTC for the head coach's position recently. The appointment of Ord is going to be another U-turn on the part of the local game's governing body from their stance of choosing high-profile coaches.

The Bangladesh team's head coach's position has been vacant since the team's defeat against Bhutan in the second leg of their Asian Cup qualifiers in October last year, ending the three-month reign of high-profile Belgian coach Tom Saintfiets.



ANDREW ORD

Woakes raring to resume

REUTERS, London

All-rounder Chris Woakes is fit and raring to resume his England commitments after an enriching maiden stint in this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 tournament, the 28-year-old has said.

Woakes claimed 17 victims in 13 matches with his pace bowling to emerge as Kolkata Knight Riders' leading wicket-taker before flying out to join his England teammates in Spain ahead of three one-dayers against South Africa beginning next week.

The all-rounder said the IPL experience would stand him in good stead at the eight-team Champions Trophy as England bid for a first global 50-overs title on home soil.

"T20 cricket is a good experience to have behind you going into an ODI (one-day international) tournament because you still have to bowl death overs in ODI cricket,"

Woakes told ESPNcricinfo.

"And it is almost just an extended version of T20. So clearly it would keep me in good stead going into an ODI tournament."

Woakes, who was picked by Kolkata at more than double his base price of 20 million Indian rupees (\$312,329), said he thought a lot before taking the IPL plunge.

"I had to weigh that up: either come to the IPL or take the time off. So I had put myself at a high price for it to be really worthwhile coming here. I didn't expect to even get picked up. The fact that I did was quite a shock."

England coach Trevor Bayliss, who guided Kolkata to IPL titles in 2012 and 2014, encouraged his players to play in the world's most lucrative Twenty20 league.

"He was very keen for us to go and experience it and come out here and try and develop our game. It is good that both Trevor and (England's director of cricket Andrew) Strauss are backing us," Woakes said.



BCB more hopeful after Carroll's visit

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was more optimistic about the Australia cricket team's visit to Bangladesh in August this year after the visit of Sean Carroll, the anti-corruption and security manager of Cricket Australia (CA).

"We are hopeful enough, more than we were in the initial stage. We are now more optimistic after Carroll's arrival that Australia will tour Bangladesh in due time," said BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury while talking to reporters yesterday during Carroll's visit at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

He also said that they have decided that the first Test of the two-match series will be played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, which is now undergoing massive renovation, while the second match will be played in Chittagong.



Cricket Australia's anti-corruption and security manager Sean Carroll visited the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium before leaving the country yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

"At this moment, we did not get any new proposal from them. We have provided our security plan. Carroll held talks with the Home Minister and IGP and today he also held discussions with our law-enforcement agencies. He has been assured that the level of security that will be provided to the Australian

Cricket team will be similar to that given to the England cricket team [in October 2016]. He is happy with the commitment," said Chowdhury. Carroll said: "I'm very happy with the security plan that has been put before us. It would be unfair of me to comment or go into details about the plan."

Kolkata knock Hyderabad out

STAR SPORT DESK

Kolkata Knight Riders knocked Sunrisers Hyderabad out with a seven-wicket win in the IPL eliminator in Bangalore yesterday.

After having restricted Hyderabad to 128 for seven in twenty overs, with Nathan Coulter-Nile taking three wickets and Umesh Yadav taking two, Goutam Gambhir's Kolkata were set a revised victory target of 48 runs in six overs, thanks to heavy rainfall at the innings break.

Despite losing three early wickets, Gambhir's unbeaten 32 made sure Kolkata reached the victory target with seven wickets in hand and four balls to spare.

Kolkata will take on Mumbai Indians in the second qualifier tomorrow.