

SPORT



Soumya Sarkar and Al-Amin Hossain were all smiles when they arrived at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for some light training yesterday, but their eyes will be back on the road from today, when the serious business of fitness training ahead of the Australia and South Africa series gets underway.

Fitness in focus as Tigers start training

SPORTS REPORTER



The Tigers will formally return to business today when the training camp for next month's Test series against Australia, as well as for their tour of South Africa in September-October, gets underway at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur amid uncertainty over Australia's visit. Australia is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on August 18 to play two Tests in Chittagong and Dhaka but the pay dispute between Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers Association has cast doubt over the tour.

The home of cricket in Mirpur however has been buzzing with the presence of some national cricketers well ahead of the official training camp as some cricketers like Mashfiqur Rahim, Imrul Kayes, Tamim Iqbal and many others started their home-work after returning from a long Eid break.

The fitness sessions under the guidance of trainer Mario Villavarayan will be the main focus for the rest of this month. Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha will return to Bangladesh at the end of July and the skill training will start once the Sri Lankan joins the camp.

Hathurusingha will certainly go ahead with a plan for the home series against Australia when he starts work with his charges

but pacer Mustafizur Rahman will require some special attention as well as batsmen Soumya Sarkar and Sabbir Rahman.

The performance of Mustafizur in the ICC Champions Trophy was cause for concern and some local coaches had identified a few technical problems behind his poor showing, so Hathurusingha will need to look deep into the matter. The Sri Lankan has been showing a lot of patience towards Soumya and the left-hander had also regained some form after a prolonged lean patch but still he was not at his best, and many have found some technical problems in his batting and expressed surprised that it is taking such a long time for Hathurusingha to fix the problem. Sabbir has also been struggling with the bat.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) already announced a 29-member preliminary squad for the upcoming two series, but a number of players will be absent for the initial phase. Tamim Iqbal is now in England to play for Essex; Rubel Hossain is yet to recover from the peculiar injury he had sustained after the Tigers' semifinal clash against India in the ICC Champions Trophy in Birmingham.

On the other hand Liton Das, Mohammad Saifuddin, Anamul Haque, Abul Hasan and Tanbir Hayder are now engaged with the BCB High Performance team in Darwin.

Tanbir's four makes it 4-0

SPORTS REPORTER

Tanbir Hayder continued this good form as the leg-spinner picked up four wickets for 22 runs to help BCB High Performance team secure a nine-wicket victory against Northern Territory Invitational XI in the fourth one-day at the Marrara Cricket Ground 1, Darwin yesterday.

The touring side have now made it 4-0 and will play their fifth and last one-day match tomorrow at the same venue.

The local side were all out for 136 runs in 38.2 overs. Tanbir was the wicket-in-chief while Ebadat Hossain claimed two for 18 and Abul Hasan took two for 29.

Captain Liton Das slammed an unbeaten 72 off 69 balls with seven fours and three sixes as BCB High Performance reached the target of 137 losing one wicket in 23.3 overs. Mehedi Maruf added 31 off 36 balls and Yasir Ali was not out on 32.

Shahid's wife complains to BCB boss

SPORTS REPORTER

Farzana Akter, the wife of out-of-favour Bangladesh pace bowler Mohammad Shahid, went to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to deliver a letter of complaint regarding her husband to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan.

Farzana arrived at Mirpur with her two young children at noon, and upon delivery of the letter she was reportedly informed by the BCB that they would call Shahid and solve all their problems.

According to Farzana, her marriage to Shahid eight years ago had gotten off to a good start but had run into trouble after the pace bowler became a member of the national team in 2015. There have also been recent reports that Shahid had mistreated his wife.

Farzana was unwilling to disclose any of the specifics of her complaints, saying that the details were contained in the letter that she handed to the BCB.

This episode is the latest of four instances where national or former national cricketers have been accused of or found guilty of wrongdoing against women or children.

India buried under Lewis avalanche

PTI, Kingston

Evin Lewis once again turned out to be India's nemesis in the shortest format with yet another magnificent hundred in West Indies' comfortable nine wicket victory against India in the one-off T20 yesterday.

Chasing a competitive target of 191, Lewis smashed his way to an unbeaten 125 off 62 balls with 12 sixes and six fours as the reigning World T20 champions knocked off the runs in only 18.3 overs.

It turned out to be a forgettable day for the bowling unit after a sub-par total on a batting belter as Lewis notched up the highest individual score by a West Indies batsman surpassing Chris Gayle.

Lewis had earlier tormented the Indian bowlers with a 49-ball-100 during a T20 International in Florida last year.

In fact, Lewis turned Gayle into spectator with his power-hitting as he cleared the front-leg to hit in the arc between long-off and long-on. Gayle's contribution in the opening stand of 82 was a mere 18 off 19 balls.

On a true pitch, the Trinidad left-hander just hit through the line clearing the ropes at will. He got a couple of reprieves with Mohammed Shami and Dinesh Karthik being the offenders but one cannot take anything away from Lewis.

The experienced spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin conceded nine sixes between them while Mohammed Shami was hit for six boundaries and two sixes.

Experienced Marlon Samuels played second fiddle during the 112 run stand as Lewis fittingly finished the match with a six off Jadeja.

Earlier, Indian batsmen faltered badly after a rolicking start provided by their openers scoring 190 for 6 after being put into bat.

Skipper Kohli (39 off 22 balls) and Shikhar Dhawan (23 off 12 balls) added 64 in a whirlwind opening stand using the Powerplay overs to the fullest.

However Dinesh Karthik and Rishabh Pant could not keep the momentum despite an 86-run stand in 9.5 overs.

As a result, India could manage only 97 runs in the their back 10 after scoring 93 in the first due to positive intent shown by the Dhawan-Kohli duo. The total was atleast 20 runs short of par-score on a good batting surface.

Kohli was in regal form as he punished each and every bowler hitting seven boundaries and a six during his short stay. A back-foot cover drive off Carlos Brathwaite and a six over long-on off Kesrick Williams stood out among the rest. Anything on his pads was treated with disdain.

Dhawan was also in imperious form hitting Samuel Badree for a couple of boundaries in his opening over. He hit three more boundaries as India looked set for a big total.

However Kohli trying to repeat a shot off Williams couldn't clear mid-on. New man Pant was responsible for a poor call running Dhawan out.

However once Pant and Karthik joined forces, the run-rate dipped badly. Especially young Pant, touted as the 'Next Big Thing' in Indian cricket was completely out of sorts.

The only shot he timed well was a six over long-on off Marlon Samuels followed by a boundary over extra cover.

Karthik, getting a lucky chance after seven long years due to Hardik Pandya's injury, did hit some cheeky shots en route his career-best score.

He started with a square cut off Sunil Narine followed by a slog swept six off Samuels and couple of sixes off Brathwaite.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 190 for 6 (Kohli 39, Pant 38, Karthik 48; Taylor 2-31, Williams 2-42)

WEST INDIES: 194 for 1 in 18.3 overs (Lewis 125 not out, Samuels 36 not out; Yadav 1-34)

Result: West Indies won the match by 9 wickets and the series 1-0.

Player-of-the-match: Evin Lewis.

No backing down on pay: Smith

AFP, Sydney

Australia captain Steve Smith said Sunday players would not back down in their bitter pay dispute with Cricket Australia.

Days after the players boycotted an Australia A tour to South Africa, Smith said the cricketers were resolute in wanting to keep the revenue-sharing pay deal.

"I'll say what we as players have been saying for some time now: we are not giving up the revenue-sharing model for all players," Smith said in an Instagram post.

"But, through the ACA (Australian Cricketers' Association) we are willing to make important changes to modernise the existing model for the good of the game.

"We are and have always been willing to make those changes. Changes for how the model can be adapted for the even greater benefit of grassroots cricket, which is after all where we all started."

Smith said players were resisting CA attempts to adopt changes to the revenue-sharing model which was introduced 20 years ago.

"We are determined to keep revenue sharing for all because we must take care of domestic players in Australia," Smith said.

"As leaders that's what David [Warner], Meg [Lanning], Alex [Blackwell] and I have been fighting for: a fair share for state players who are also partners in cricket."

Moeen scripts easy win

AFP, London

Moeen Ali took six wickets as England beat South Africa by 211 runs to win the first Test at Lord's with more than a day to spare on Sunday.

The Proteas, set 331 to win, collapsed to 119 all out inside 37 overs. The result meant Joe Root enjoyed a resounding victory in his first Test as England captain, with his side now 1-0 up in this four-match series.

Off-spinner Ali, the man-of-the-match, finished with Test-best figures of six for 53 in 15 overs -- including a burst of five for 20 in 25 balls -- on a pitch offering sharp turn.

No South Africa batsman made more in the innings than Temba Bavuma's 21.

The day started well for South Africa as England, who resumed on 119 for one in their second innings, lost seven wickets before lunch in a dramatic collapse. But Vernon Philander dropped a routine catch when Jonny Bairstow was on seven.

Bairstow punished the Proteas by making 51 before he was last man out in a total of 233.

The scale of South Africa's task could be seen from the fact that only once, when the

West Indies posted 344 for one against England in 1984, had a side made more than 300 in the fourth innings to win a Lord's Test.

Bairstow held a brilliant one-handed catch to give England their first wicket Sunday when Heino Kuhn glanced James Anderson.

South Africa's 12 for one became 12 for two when stand-in skipper Dean Elgar drilled a return catch to Ali.

JP Duminy was then caught by Ali to leave South Africa 25 for three on the stroke of tea and Hashim Amla fell after the break.

After a brief pause, Ali transformed South Africa's 61 for four into 82 for eight. De Kock and Bavuma were both bowled with Theunis de Bruyn, Keshav Maharaj and Kagiso Rabada also falling to Ali.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First Innings 458

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 361

ENGLAND: Second Innings 233 all out (Cook 69, Bairstow 51, Jennings 33, Ballance 34; Morkel 3-64; Rabada 3-50; Maharaj 4-85)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second Innings 119 all out (de Kock 18, Bavuma 21; Ali 6-53)

Result: England won by 211 runs and lead the four-match series 1-0.

Player of the match: MM Ali.



England bowler Moeen Ali made quick work of South Africa in the visitors' second innings, taking six wickets -- which brought up his match haul to 10 -- as England won the first Test at Lord's by 211 runs.

PHOTOS: REUTERS

Six spells Tamim's end

STAR SPORT DESK



Tamim Iqbal had an ordinary start to his stint with Essex Eagles in the NatWest T20 Blast yesterday as he could score just seven runs before being sent back in his side's match against the Kent Spitfires.

The left-handed opener lined up alongside Varun Chopra after his side won the toss and elected to bat first. He nudged a single off the first ball of the innings and went scoreless for four deliveries, before he unleashed a huge six off New Zealand international Adam Milne's bowling.

However, Milne got his revenge off the next ball, cleaning up Tamim's stumps to send the Bangladeshi back for a run-a-ball seven.

It was uncertain if the southpaw would play this match because he had only reached England on Saturday due to his flight being delayed. He was originally scheduled to fly out of Dhaka on Friday, but the delay caused him to depart on Saturday morning.

Although he has not made the best of starts to his stint with Essex, he is still expected to play seven more matches which should be plenty of time to get back to his best.

SL to tour India later this year

AGENCIES, Colombo

Sri Lanka will travel to India to play three Tests, three one-day internationals and two T20 in their first series involving all three formats of the game since 2009. Sri Lanka Cricket confirmed.

"We are yet to confirm the scheduled but the tour is confirmed," board Secretary Mohan de Silva said.

Though the tour schedule is yet to be finalized, a board official says, it will probably be after Sri Lanka's tour of UAE to play Pakistan starting from October 17.

A according to Mumbaimir, the BCCI has lined up Sri Lanka and New Zealand for November and December.



West Indies opener Evin Lewis was unstoppable as he blazed his way to the highest score in a T20I chase, scoring an unbeaten 125 with six fours and an astonishing 12 sixes against India in the lone T20I in Jamaica yesterday. PHOTOS: REUTERS