

SPORT



Mustafizur Rahman lives not far away from the home of cricket in Mirpur. So, he took a rickshaw ride yesterday after attending the ongoing fitness camp at the BCB Academy ground, where he was also working with Tigers' bowling coach Courtney Walsh. He was particularly working on landing on his delivery stride, which is something he needs to align. It has been observed that the young left-arm quick has deviated from bowling close to the stumps after recovering from a shoulder injury and that might be one of the reasons he was not effective in the ICC Champions Trophy, where he took only two wickets and conceded a lot of runs considering the lofty standards he set after making his debut in 2015.

PHOTO: STAR

Riverside stadium on the cards

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

As part of the government's plan to build an international cricket stadium close to the River Padma, a team comprised of experts from the National Sports Council and BUIET visited Dhaturbari, near Patura Ferry Ghat, yesterday.

Dhaturbari, which is located in the Shibapuri upazila of Manikganj district, lies very close to the mighty river.

After visiting the spot, Bangladeshi's first Test captain, Tamim Iqbal, who is also a lawmaker from the district, told reporters that the visit was a part of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's desire that an international cricket stadium be built near the river.

"For this reason, the area adjacent to the Patura Ferry Ghat has been primarily selected. Apart from the Ferry Ghat, there is beautiful natural area around it. If the stadium is built here, the tourism industry will also be developed in this region," said Naimur Rahman.

NSC secretary Ashok Kumar Biswas and engineers Hedayetul Haque Mizzi and Sunil Kumar Saha along with Professor Dr. Badruzzaman, Dr. Ikrumul Haque and Dr. Muzaffarul Haque of the BUIET Engineering Department visited the area.

"We need 25 acres of land for constructing an international standard cricket stadium. The required land is there and the acquisition will be started if the representatives of BUIET give a positive report. The construction of the stadium will start within the tenure of the present government," said Ashok.

'We need stronger bodies'

SPORTS REPORTER



BCB High Performance team coach Simon Helmot was excited about the outcome of the just-concluded tour to Australia. The team won all five of their one-day matches and the lone three-day match. The 16-man team returned home from their tour to Britain on Monday but questions remain about who actually played for the Northern Territory Invitational XI.

"The tour was excellent. There were fantastic facilities and great conditions. We have had some good performances and most importantly, some good learning about where the player and the team need to improve to develop some of these players into national players," responded Helmot when asked how the tour was.

When his attention was drawn to the strength of the opponents and whether it was up to the mark, the Australian

said: "I think their depth wasn't as strong as we had hoped. The first game we should have lost. We put on 20 runs for the last partnership to win the game. So the first three 50-over matches were very competitive. Game 4 and 5 weren't as competitive. They missed a couple of players through injuries.

The three-day game was terrific. Hopefully in England the opposition can be even better. It is what I am looking for, next test."

He also spoke about what kind of improvement he was looking for after the tour.

"I think we can improve our general fitness and skills. I don't think there is a lot in the coming fortnight before we have a week's break in the academy. We need to get some stronger bodies who can bowl for longer periods of time.

We need to get some batsmen who can be strong physically and mentally to bat for long periods of time. We need to make sure that we develop our bodies to be

agile and strong enough and have strong throwing arms to be excellent in the field," he explained.



SIMON HELMOT

'We can beat Australia 2-0'

SPORTS REPORTER



When it is time for the Tigers to gear up for the Test series, one little dynamo's name must come to mind - left-handed batsman Mominul Haque. The 25-year-old southpaw has somehow got the tag of a Test specialist, which is why he has more idle time compared to his teammates who are also considered for limited-overs games.

However, not much time has passed since the batsman from Cox's Bazar played the Galle Test in March this year. Yet, as it happens every time Test cricket comes to the fore, Mominul had to face the recurring question of how it felt to play international cricket after a long break.

"Initially it was difficult but now it's okay. I always try to keep this issue out of my mind and it only comes to mind when you people remind me. If you don't mind it would be nice if you didn't remind me," Mominul, who last played an ODI in February 2015 during the ICC World Cup, told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"The way we have been playing Test cricket for the past few years has given me the confidence that we can win the Test series against Australia. We are even capable of winning it by a 2-0 margin. But it would also not be bad if we can make it 1-1," said a determined Mominul.

He added that the challenge against Australia would be tougher than the last home series against England.

"I think the challenge will be little bit more than England. Australia recently played in India while England went to India after playing against us. If you see the overall scenario then you can understand my point. And most importantly Australia can adjust to any conditions," the veteran of 22 Tests and 26 ODIs opined. "Their pace and spin bowling departments are equally good, so we need to prepare accordingly."

Regarding his personal target, Mominul said: "A score of 50-60 is not enough in Test cricket. Only a hundred or more runs can contribute to the team and I am keeping this in mind while practicing. My main target is to play a big knock."

Like his other teammates, Mominul



With the Test series against Australia around the corner, 'Test specialist' Mominul Haque is back in the national team fray and will be hoping to get in among the runs. PHOTO: STAR

SL edge Zim in record chase

Cremer rues 'tough' reprieve

AFP, Colombo

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"From what I saw, I honestly didn't see any doubt why it should be not out, but it's just one of those things," Cremer, who led his side to victory in the one-day series, told reporters.

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and it clearly shows ... it's tough when those things go against you when you are trying to win a Test match on the last day," said Cremer who took four for 150.

Left-arm spinner Sean Williams finally got Dickwella caught behind but his prolonged stay was key in the hosts' victory.

The decision was "tough," said Cremer, whose spin bowling had the hosts in early trouble on the final day before a 121-run partnership between Dickwella and Asela Gunaratne secured Sri Lanka's best-ever record of 380.

Dickwella rescued Sri Lanka from a precarious 203-5, and the left-handed batsman's gritty 81 needed plenty of luck.

The wicketkeeper-batsman survived a stumping from Sikandar Raza's off-spin on 37 and was then dropped by wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva on 63.

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