

SPORT



Batting errors in draw match

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day practice match between the Tigers and South Africa Invitation XI ended in a draw soon after Bangladesh declared their second innings at 235 for nine more than two hours of play left on the final day at the Willowmoore Park in Benoni yesterday.

Chief selector Minhajul Abedin, who is touring with the team in South Africa, informed over phone that they were not interested in sending their bowlers back on the field again due to their workload on the second day, which is why the hosts did not come out to bat in the second innings.

In the end the question was whether Bangladesh could take full advantage of the lone practice match before the first Test starts at the Senwes Park in Potchefstroom from September 28. "We are satisfied as almost all the batsmen got runs. I think our purposes were served as our batsmen and bowlers did some work before the Test series," said Minhajul.

However the batting errors, especially the sudden collapses in both innings against green opponents, cannot be ignored. The Bangladesh team management must look into why their batsmen succumbed to left-arm pacer Michael Cohen (four wickets) in the first innings, leg-spinner Shaun van Berg (four wickets) and left-arm spinner Leus du Plooy (two wickets) in the second innings.

Losing four wickets for nine runs in the first innings and the two wickets of Mushfiqur Rahim and Mominul Haque for five runs in the second innings were not signs of a good Test match. It was especially disappointing to see Mominul fail to



Chief selector Minhajul Abedin (L) shares a light moment with opening batsman Soumya Sarkar during the third day of Bangladesh's practice match against South Africa Invitation XI yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

capitalise on good starts in both innings. Sabir Rahman, who notched up his second fifty of the game on the third day after Imrul Kayes' half century and saved his side from any debacle in the practice game, admitted that there were lapses in batting. "Overall we had a good practice game and we got an idea about the pitch. We played well as it was a good take. Maybe a few of our batsmen were dismissed in soft fashion but I think we won't repeat that in the first Test. I was very good

preparation for us," said Sabir, who struck eight fifties during his 98-ball 67 which came after his side had slipped to 96 for 4 inside the final day's first session.

However Sabir added that they had a good practice before the Test series. "The weather is fine and similar to Bangladesh although it's a bit colder here. But I think we had enough practice to adjust our preparation well. Hopefully we will play good cricket. We are expecting a good result."

BD-CSA INVITATION XI

BANGLADESH: First innings 306 for 7 decl. (Mominul 68, Mushfiqur 63, Sabir 58 not out, Cohen 4-23)

CSA INVITATION XI: First innings: 313 for 6 decl. (Berg 62 not out, Zubair 60, Coetzee 55, Sidaqi 4-41)

BANGLADESH: 2nd Innings: R/R 46/6
Litton Chakrabarti 2/24 0/0
Imrul Kayes 51/54 7/1
Mominul Haque 33/38 6/0
Mushfiqur Valli 31/36 0/0
Mahmudullah (Pretoria) 15/24 0/1
Sabir Iqbal 67/98 8/0
Mehedi Hasan 14/21 0/1
Tajul Islam 14/39 1/0
Shafiqur Islam 0/8 0/0
b/Pretoria 15/42 0/0
Tasnim not out 3/14 0/0
Extras: (b-9, w-6, n-3) 18
Total: (for wickets in 30 mins) 235
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-20, 3-51, 4-96, 5-146, 6-178, 7-200, 8-201, 9-223.
Did not bat: Tamim, Soumya, Mustafizur, Rubel.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pretoria	11.0	2	35	1
Bokale	6.0	0	19	1
Cohen	16.0	1	38	1
Vuysieb	25.0	3	77	4
du Plooy	11.0	1	51	2

Result: Match drawn

Monir's 7-for not enough

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Division were in the driving seat at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium yesterday despite being bundled out after adding just 96 runs to their overnight total courtesy of Barisal left-arm spinner Monir Hossain's seven-wicket haul on their second day of their second round match of the 19th National Cricket League yesterday.

Overnight batsman Mahedi Hasan, who was 35 runs away from a maiden double ton, added just 12 runs before Monir joined the party and trapped the right-hander to initiate the collapse.

The session campaigner went on and scalped all of Khulna's remaining six wickets to bundle the hosts out for 444 runs in their first innings.

The 31-year-old bagged his ninth five-wicket haul in first class cricket and ended up with career-best figures of 7 for 85 from his 34.3 overs, surpassing his previous best figures of six for 27.

Wicket-keeper batsman Nurul Hasan was the only notable performer for Khulna, scoring 33, as Khulna's innings ended at lunch.

However Barisal were put in a spot of bother and were

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA VS BARISAL Khulna: 444 all out (Mahedi 177, Tushar 132, Monir 85) Barisal: 177 for six in 55 overs (Rahat 58 not out, Chatterjee 52 not out, Ali Amin 23, Razak 2-50)	CHITTAGONG: 419 for 8 in 139 overs (Yasir 94, Sazzadul 68, Shukkur 65; Nazam 2-41, Saqlin 2-76)
RAJSHAHI VS CHITTAGONG Rajshahi: 444 all out (Mahedi 177, Tushar 132, Monir 85) Chittagong: 177 for six in 55 overs (Rahat 58 not out, Chatterjee 52 not out, Ali Amin 23, Razak 2-50)	DHAKA DIVISION VS RANGPUR Day 2 abandoned due to wet outfield

No worries over Tamim, Soumya

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangladesh suffered multiple injury scares during their three day practice match against South Africa Invitation XI as openers Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar were forced off the field, but Tigers' physio Thibaut Chandromahon said that both batsmen were doing well and are expected to train over the next few days.

Tamim walked off on the first day after scoring five in the first innings as he pulled a thigh muscle while Soumya jerked his shoulder while fielding on the second day and did not return to bat in Bangladesh's second innings.

"Tamim suffered a minor muscle injury while batting and he looks pretty good and will train normally this week and should be available for the Test match. Soumya just jerked his shoulder so we just kept him off the field today as a precaution. He will train normally this week and he should be fine," Chandromahon told media yesterday.

The physio added that all the players were in good shape and also informed that they were acclimatising to the high altitude. "The boys are in really good shape as we have just come out of a series against Australia and they had a good training camp before that. And obviously we are getting used to the conditions in South Africa which are a bit different from Bangladesh.

"The boys look in a pretty good shape as we had a good tour match. The altitude is different the boys have got to get used to that. Other than that it's business as usual and they are ready to go," he added.

Yasir boost for Pak

AFP, Lahore



Pakistan's prolific leg-spinner Yasir Shah passed a late fitness test Saturday to join the 16-man squad for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka starting next week.

The 31-year-old has been the team's leading wicket-taker since making his debut in 2014, with a tally of 149 scalps in 26 Tests.

Shah's 24 wickets in three Tests helped Pakistan beat Sri Lanka away in 2015 but the stocky spinner has struggled for fitness in the past few months.

Chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq said Shah was told in clear terms that he would not be selected if he didn't pass the final fitness test.

"Yasir has been our main bowler for the way he has taken wickets consistently, but he needed to maintain a fitness standard and was told he had to pass the test and he did to get a place in the squad," said Inzamam.

The first Test starts in Abu Dhabi from Thursday. The second Test - a day-night affair - will be played in Dubai from October 6.

The two teams will also play five one-day internationals and two Twenty20s, the last of which will

be in Lahore on October 29 - subject to security clearance.

The series will be Pakistan's first without stalwarts Younis Khan and former skipper Misbah-ul-Haq, who both retired following the team's last series in the West Indies in May.

Sarfraz Ahmed, already leading Pakistan in one-day and Twenty20 internationals, will lead the Test side for the first time, with youngsters



Usman Salahuddin and Babar Azam likely to fill in for the two greats.

"I am sure youngsters will try their best to fill the places left by Misbah and Younis and do their best," said Inzamam.

SQUAD
Sarfraz Ahmed (C), Azhar Ali, Shan Masood, Sami Aslam, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Usman Salahuddin, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Asghar, Bilal Asif, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Amir, Hassan Ali, Mohammad Abbas, Wahab Riaz

U-16s take on Qatar today

SPORTS REPORTER



Buoyed by their spirited fight against a powerful Yemen side, the Bangladesh team will be looking to wrap up their campaign on a high when they take on hosts Qatar in the last match of Group E today.

The match will kick off at 10:45pm Bangladesh time at the Grand Hamad Stadium in Doha.

Anwar Parvez's charges fought neck and neck against their Yemeni counterparts on Friday night, but conceded two goals from defensive errors to lose the match 2-0.

The boys in red and green had their fair share of chances and should have at least left the field with a point, but for those mistakes and some brilliant saves from the opposition goalkeeper they were denied.

The coach nudged those mistakes, but was proud of the performance produced by his players. "We tried to play our game throughout. We played very well, especially in the beginning but two defensive mistakes cost us the game. We will try to do our best against Qatar. Every game is a new experience for our boys," Anwar Parvez said after the match.

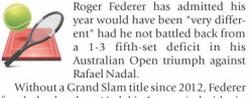
Despite the defeat, Bangladesh are in second position in the three-team group, on goal-difference, as Yemen had thrashed Qatar 6-1 in the opening game. So a win against Qatar tonight will still keep Bangladesh's chances of moving into the 16-team final round alive.

The Bangladesh coach will be banking on his two prodigious forwards Faisal Ahmed Fahim and Miraz Molla to deliver the goods upfront while he will be hoping that the defenders iron out mistakes against Qatar.

The ten group winners and five best runners-up teams will join hosts Malaysia in next year's final round.

'Nadal win changed my mindset'

AFP, London



Roger Federer has admitted his year would have been "very different" had he not battled back from a 1-3 fifth-set deficit in his Australian Open triumph against Rafael Nadal.

Without a Grand Slam title since 2012, Federer fought back to beat Nadal in January's decider in Melbourne, setting himself up for a stunning return to form.

He followed it up with back-to-back Masters victories at Indian Wells and Miami before win-

ning his 19th Grand Slam title at Wimbledon and has risen to number two in the ATP ranking.

"I don't think I would have won both Indian Wells and Miami," said Federer, 36, in an interview published in Saturday's edition of the Times newspaper. "Maybe I would have won one. I would have played on the day maybe. The season would have been very different."

"My plan was to play maybe the quarters at best at the Aussie and then take it from there."

"By winning all those big three events at the beginning of the year, it allowed me to sit there in the top eight of the world already after a few months of the season and not worry about being

ranked number 35 if I had lost early in the Australian Open because of the points I had to defend. It changed the entire mindset. Thank God it happened like this."

Federer and Nadal's resurgence coincided in difficult seasons for Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic, both of whom saw their years curtailed by injury.

Stan Wawrinka, Kei Nishikori and Milos Raonic are also currently sidelined, but Federer does not believe players are put under too much strain on the tour.

"I think that all of the guys had to take a break because either they are carrying an injury for a while or they are really not doing well. Some have had surgery," Federer said.

"I think this is just a freak moment in time that it hit a lot of the guys at the same time. The US Open wasn't quite the same."

"It was still a successful event - Rafa played phenomenal and four of the women in the semis were American, so the tournament was a success. But you did miss those guys. It's normal."

While Federer is resisting the ravages of time thanks in part to his fast, aggressive game, he does not think Djokovic or Murray would necessarily benefit from adopting similar tactics.

"Andy or Novak, we are talking about big champions and future hall of famers," said the Swiss, who was speaking at the inaugural Laner Cup team event in Prague, which he has launched.

"These guys are so good, they can play different ways. That's what sets them apart from pretty much the rest."



Australia captain Steven Smith (R) and his men desperately need to up their game if they are to stay alive in the five-match ODI series against India. The Aussies are trailing the series 2-0 going into the third ODI at Indore today.

Gayle raring to return

AFP, Bristol



Chris Gayle is "good to go" for Sunday's third one-day international against England, according to West Indies captain

up in this five-match series. But the big-hitting Jamaica left-hander opener is now set to be available as West Indies look to draw level in Bristol this weekend.

"I think Chris is good to go. I think the last one-day international against England, according to me, it seems to be raring to go," Holdcroft told reporters before West Indies' training session at the County Ground on Saturday.

"It's good to have him back. We hope we can have him for the duration of the series. Gayle has scored over 9,000 runs in 265 ODI innings, including 22 hundreds, at an average of more than 37 and with a strike rate in excess of 85.



Roger Federer (R) believes that his gruelling five-set win over Rafael Nadal in the Australia Open final instilled the belief for the wonderful year he had.

PHOTO: REUTERS