

Tigers' pace test begins today

First Test in charge for captain Shakib and coach Rhodes

SPORTS REPORTER

There will be quite a few firsts when Bangladesh take on the West Indies in the first of a two-match Test series, which begins at 8:00pm Bangladesh standard time at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua today.

It will be Shakib Al Hasan's first assignment since being reappointed as Test skipper in place of Mushfiqur Rahim in December last year as he missed out on the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka at home, where Mahmudullah Riyad lead the side, due to an injury earlier this year.

This will also be the first campaign for Steve Rhodes with the Tigers following his appointment as the team's head coach last month. In addition, it will be Bangladesh's first Test series in the Caribbean after four years. During their last visit Bangladesh were beaten comprehensively in both the Tests.

Lastly, the Tigers will don the white uniform after over four months as the preceding Test, against Sri Lanka, was back in February this year. The team's main challenge however, will be to overcome their lackings in the longest format of the game, especially when it comes to playing overseas.

Bangladesh already took part in a two-day warm up game against CWI President's XI after reaching the island nation on June 23. In that encounter, Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah struck hundreds and skipper Shakib also had a good

TEST HEAD-TO-HEAD

PLAYED: 12

WEST INDIES: 8 BANGLADESH: 2

Bangladesh won their first away match and series on the 2009 tour of West Indies, when they swept the series 2-0 under new captain Shakib Al Hasan. This will be the Tigers' fourth tour of the Caribbean, having previously visited in 2004, 2009 and 2014.

In 2014 Bangladesh lost all their matches -- two Tests, three ODIs and one T20I



Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim and his teammates will have to be prepared for a trial by pace when they take on West Indies in the first of two Tests in Antigua today.

outing with the bat. However, Bangladesh will surely miss the services of fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman in the Tests as the left-arm seamer was ruled out of the squad at the last moment due to

a toe injury. In his stead, experienced pacer Rubel Hossain will have to lead the pace bowling department alongside Abu Jayed, Shafiqul Islam and Kamrul Islam.

All four of the pacers picked up wickets in the warm up game but it will be of paramount importance for the relatively inexperienced Bangladesh fast bowling department to utilise the Caribbean's seaming friendly conditions.

Shakib will have to lead the spin bowling attack with Taijul Islam and Mehedi Hasan Miraz but it is very unlikely for the spinners to get the most out of the bouncy tracks.

However, the responsibility once again falls on the seniors such as Shakib, Muhsiqur Rahim, Tamim and Mahmudullah to step up and take charge but it will also be crucial for Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Liton Das and the others to contribute as well.

On the other hand, West Indies will look to utilise the home condition to their advantage, just as they had against Sri Lanka in a recently concluded three-match Test series, where fast bowler Shanon Gabriel inspired the side, who showed signs of their previous prowess, with fiery spells of fast bowling.

Despite a relatively inexperienced batting line up, the likes of Kieran Powell, Shane Dowrich, Devon Smith and skipper Jason Holder will hope to inspire the hosts.

Bangladesh have won only two Tests out of 12 against the Caribbean side but those wins came back in 2009 under Shakib, who will now be looking to rewrite his past as Test captain.

Four new faces in ODI squad



ABU HIDER NAZMUL HOSSAIN ABU JAYED NAZMUL ISLAM

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazmul Hossain Shanto and Abu Jayed, who were named in Bangladesh's Test squad for the tour of West Indies, were among the four new faces in the one day side along with Abu Hider and Nazmul Islam. Selectors announced the 16-member squad, which includes injured pacer Mustafizur Rahman, for the three-match ODI series in the Caribbean yesterday.

Mosaddek Hossain, who played his last ODI during the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017, was also named in the side alongside wicketkeeper-batsman Liton Das.

Anamul Haque, another wicketkeeper-batsman who was part of the previous one day squad for the tri-nation series at home earlier this year, was retained.

Imrul Kayes, Sunzamul Islam, Abul Hasan, Mohammad Mithun and injured cricketers Nasir Hossain and Mohammad Saifuddin, all part of the previous one day squad, were excluded this time around.

According to chief selector Minhajul Abedin, the recent performances of the newcomers prompted the changes. "Nazmul Hossain has been a prolific run-scorer in the domestic circuit recently so

we decided to include him in the one day side after picking him in the Test squad. We have also included left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam along with pacers Abu Hider and Abu Jayed who were part of our plan after their performances in the T20I format," Minhajul told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Those that were dropped were mostly because of performance. We have also included Mustafizur in the one day side. However we are still not sure whether he will be able to play from the first ODI which is the reason we have named a 16 member squad," Minhajul added.

The first two ODI matches will be played in Guyana on July 22 and 25 while the third and final game is scheduled at Saint Kitts for July 28.

The members of the ODI side who are not part of the Test side are scheduled to fly to the Caribbean alongside skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza on July 14.

SQUAD: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (captain), Shakib Al Hasan (vice captain), Tamim Iqbal, Anamul Haque, Liton Das, Mushfiqur Rahim, Sabbir Rahman, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mosaddek Hossain, Nazmul Hossain, Mehedi Hassan Miraz, Nazmul Islam Apu, Rubel Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Abu Hider Roni, Abu Jayed.

What to WATCH

- ALL TIMES BST
- GTV & CHANNEL 9 West Indies v Bangladesh First Test, Day-1 Live from 8:00pm
 - STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 Wimbledon Men's Round-2 Live from 4:30pm
 - STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 Wimbledon Women's Round-2 Live from 4:30pm
 - SONY SIX T20I Tri-Series Zimbabwe v Pakistan Live from 2:00pm

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

- UEFA reopens case against PSG
- ICC gets tougher on sledging and tampering
- Neymar can make you cry or laugh: Maradona

Records tumble as Aussies crush Zim

AFP, Harare

A slew of records tumbled as Australia destroyed Zimbabwe by 100 runs in the Twenty20 tri-series at Harare Sports Club on Tuesday. Australian captain Aaron Finch powered his way to 172, a new world record high score in T20 internationals, and his opening partnership with D'Arcy Short put up 223, another world record. Australia reached 229 for 2, the highest total ever scored against Zimbabwe in a T20I.

Finch cracked his first six in the fourth over of the morning, and with his third he brought up a 22-ball half century. That was his fastest in Twenty20 internationals. Australia took 75 from the Powerplay, with Finch doing the bulk of the scoring while Short was content to turn the strike over to his big-hitting partner. When the team hundred came up halfway through the 10th over, Finch had 74 runs to his name, while Short had managed just 19 from the 24 balls he had faced. Short soon began to find the middle of his own bat, though, and took a brace of sixes off Ryan Burl's legspin to take his strike rate to over a run a ball. Finch, meanwhile, brought up his second T20I hundred at the end of the 14th over, taking just 50 deliveries.



Australia captain Aaron Finch hit the highest T20I score of 172 and also put on a record opening stand with D'arcy Short in a 100-run thrashing of Zimbabwe in Harare yesterday.

Neer rises to the top

SPORTS REPORTER

Candidate Master Manon Reja Neer became the unbeaten champion in Open Under-8 Group of the Commonwealth Chess Championships at the close of the seventh and final round in New Delhi yesterday.

Neer drew with Indian Akash in the seventh round to share joint top position with Rosh Jain, with six points each. Later, a tie-break was held and Neer overcame Jani to become champion.

It was Neer's first gold medal in Commonwealth Chess, having won silver in last year's edition. A total of 67 players from five countries took part in the event.

BD keep losing

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national hockey team suffered a fourth straight defeat in India after conceding a massive 0-7 defeat against Indian A in their fourth practice match in Bengaluru yesterday.

Bangladesh, who have been touring India as part of their Asian Games preparation, had earlier been beaten 6-0 by the same opponent in their second practice match. They also lost to Indian Junior team 0-4 and 3-6 in the first and third matches respectively. The visitors will also play two more matches against India A.

India A took a lead in the first quarter before adding four more goals in the second, but the boys in red and green produced some resistance in the third quarter to keep the sheet clean but they failed to keep the momentum in the fourth and final quarter, where the home side added two more goals to complete a 7-0 rout.



2004 champion Maria Sharapova suffered her first opening round exit at Wimbledon at the hands of fellow Russian Vitalia Diatchenko yesterday.

Sharapova crashes Nadal, Djokovic through; Thiem pulls out

AFP, London

World number one Rafael Nadal breezed into the Wimbledon second round yesterday but fellow two-time champion Petra Kvitova and 2004 champion Maria Sharapova crashed out. It was Sharapova's first ever defeat in the opening round at the All England Club and it came as she made her return to the tournament after a three-year absence. She went down 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 having led by a set and 5-2 against world number 132 and fellow Russian Vitalia Diatchenko.

Three-time champion Novak Djokovic came through his first-round battle 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 against Tennyson Sandgren of the United States. Nadal cruised to a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 win over Israel's Dudi Sela as the Spaniard returned to action for the first time since claiming his 11th French Open title.

Eighth seed Kvitova was stunned 6-4, 4-6, 6-0 by unheralded Belarusian Aliaksandra Sasnovich. Number four Sloane Stephens and fifth seeded Elina Svitolina were eliminated on Monday.

In the men's draw, it was the turn of Roland Garros runner-up Dominic Thiem and Belgium's David Goffin to pack their bags. Austrian seventh seed Thiem retired with a back injury against Cypriot veteran Marcos Baghdatis, trailing 6-4, 7-5, 2-0. Goffin, the 10th seed, slumped to a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 loss to Australia's Matthew Ebden.

Argentine fifth seed Juan Martin del Potro made it nine first round wins in nine appearances at the tournament, easing past Germany's Peter Gojowczyk 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Del Potro, who made the semi-finals in 2013, next faces Feliciano Lopez of Spain who on Tuesday set a record of playing 66 consecutive Grand Slams when he eased past Federico Delbonis of Argentina 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

নতুন ঠিকানা

গুলাশান কর্পোরেট শাখা
সিটিকেন্দ্র টাওয়ার (৪র্থ ও ৫ম তলা)
৫০, গুলাশান এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২১২

নতুন ঠিকানায়
ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক

গুলাশান কর্পোরেট শাখা

পুরাতন ঠিকানা
গুলাশান কর্পোরেট শাখা
১১০, গুলাশান এভিনিউ, ঢাকা- ১২১২

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