

Much to do to keep series alive

SPORTS REPORTER

A lot will depend on Bangladesh's approach and adaptability after losing the first T20I as the Tigers attempt to keep the series alive when they take on West Indies in the second game of the three-match series in their first international game in the United States of America tomorrow.

The night game at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium in Florida is scheduled to begin from 6:00am Bangladesh time on Sunday.

Bangladesh fell to a comprehensive seven wicket defeat in the first game through the Duckworth-Lewis method in a rain-shortened encounter at St Kitts on Tuesday.

After the game, skipper Shakib Al Hasan said that they needed someone like Andre Russell, who hit three fours and as many sixes in a blistering 21-ball 35 to take West Indies to revised target of 91 from 11 overs with 11 balls to spare.

However, the Bangladesh batsman displayed a lack of situational awareness as they lost the first four wickets for just 43 runs in the Powerplay with in-form opener Tamim Iqbal coming down the track in the very first ball of the innings and Soumya Sarkar totally misjudging the line and length as both openers were dismissed for first-ball ducks in the very first over.

And once again the question was raised over the approach in the shortest format of the game. Bangladesh, despite at one stage being 100 for five in 11 overs, were unable to launch an offensive in the death overs and eventually posted a modest total of 143 for nine.

It will be imperative that Bangladesh take calculated risks rather than going for an all-out attack without any specific plan. Another vital aspect would be to provide a good start from the top order to set the platform for the latter stages of the innings.

If the visitors want to make a comeback in the series, the seniors like Shakib, Tamim, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad will once again have to take the responsibility after the continued dismal performances from the juniors.

West Indies on the other hand will be much more confi-



Bangladesh openers Soumya Sarkar (L) and Tamim Iqbal will want a drastic improvement from their golden ducks in the first T20I when they take on West Indies in the second match in Florida tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

dent not only due the victory in the first game in their favoured format, but also because of their unbeaten record in Florida where the Caribbean team won all their three completed matches at this ground.

The T20I world champions will once again bank on their power cricket as Even Lewis, who is yet to fire in the ODI and

T20I series, will be gearing up for his turn while Russell and Marlon Samuels have already proved what they are capable of in the first game.

It will be a new challenge for the Bangladesh cricketers to cope with the new atmosphere at a new ground and put up a better show.

'Can score big if we bat first'

SPORTS REPORTER



It will be a totally new experience for the Bangladesh cricketers when they take part in their maiden international game in the United States of America against the West Indies in the tour-closing second and third T20Is against the West Indies at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium in Lauderhill, Florida.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan is the only Bangladesh cricketer who has played at the venue during his stint in the Caribbean Premier League [CPL].

The Central Broward Regional Park Stadium has witnessed some high-scoring contests with India almost chasing down 245 and eventually losing by just one run last time an international T20 was played at the venue. The pitch did produce some low-scoring matches in the CPL last year, but Shakib thought that it looked a better wicket.

"It's tough to say as the pitch looks different now, compared to a CPL game which I played here last year. We will get to know about the wicket after the training session," Shakib said on Thursday.

"We had a chance to score more [in the first T20I]; we couldn't for a few reasons. But if we can improve in those areas and if the pitch plays like it did in the first game, we can score big if we bat first."

The captain said that the experience will be interesting for his charges.

"It should be exciting for all the cricketers as there will be a big crowd here with many Bangladeshis, so I think it will be fun."



SHAKIB AL HASAN

BD A off to winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Bangladesh A team registered a comfortable 87-run win over Ireland Wolves in the second match of the five-match one-day series at the Oak Hill Cricket Club yesterday.

Zakir Hasan top-scored with a run-a-ball 92 with eight fours and three sixes and along with Saif Hassan (37), added 139 runs for the opening wicket after being sent in to bat.

Skipper Mominul Haque was dismissed for 23 but Fazle Rabbi struck a quickfire 53 off 41 balls and Al Amin Jr added 47 at the end to post a challenging total of 289 for six in 50 overs.

In reply Ireland Wolves kept losing wickets at regular intervals and were eventually all out for 202 in 46.3 overs. Shoriful Islam bagged three while Khaled Ahmed and Sunzamul islam took two wickets each.

England need five, India need Kohli

AFP, BIRMINGHAM



India captain Virat Kohli once more kept England at bay after Sam Curran's maiden Test fifty gave the hosts hope of an improbable win in the series opener at Edgbaston on Friday.

India were 110 for five in their second innings at stumps on the third day, still needing a further 84 runs to reach a victory target of 194 that would put them 1-0 up in a five-match series.

Kohli, whose superb first-innings 149 was the star batsman's maiden Test century in England, was 43 not out and Dinesh Karthik unbeaten on 18. England's 1,000th Test had threatened to end in an embarrassing defeat with more than two days remaining as they collapsed to 87 for seven in their second innings.

But Curran, in just his second match at this level, struck a dashing 63 to take England to 180 all out. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin ran through England's top order before fast bowler Ishant Sharma took three wickets in an over en route to five for 51 in 13 overs.

England desperately required early wickets and Stuart Broad obliged by removing openers Murali Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan to leave India 22 for two. India needed someone to stay

with Kohli but after Ajinkya Rahane and Ashwin both fell cheaply, they were 78 for five.

England resumed on nine for one after Ashwin had bowled Alastair Cook for a duck on Thursday and it was not long on Friday before the spinner had Keaton Jennings, the hosts' other left-handed opener, taken at second slip. Ashwin struck again when England captain Joe Root was well caught low down at leg-slip by Rahul off a genuine glance. Ashwin took three for 59 to follow his first-innings four for 62.

Left-hander Dawid Malan fell for 20 when, squared up by Sharma's superb outswinger from around the wicket, he was caught in the gully. Sharma then had Bairstow taken at first slip and two balls later dismissed Stokes (six) via a fine low catch by Kohli at third slip off what became the last ball before lunch.

Two balls after lunch, Sharma had Jos Buttler caught behind and England were 87 for seven.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First Innings 287 and second innings 180 (Malan 20, Bairstow 28, Curran 63; Ashwin 3-59, Sharma 5-51, Yadav 2-20)

INDIA: First innings 274 (Kohli 149; Curran 4-74) and second innings 110 for 5 (Kohli 43 not out, Karthik 18 not out; Broad 2-29, Curran 1-17, Stokes 1-25)



Pacer Ishant Sharma produced a high-quality spell of seam and swing bowling on the third day as his five wickets brought India roaring back into the first Test against England in Edgbaston yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Shakib asks students to go home

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh Test and T20I captain Shakib Al Hasan urged students to abandon their movement for safer streets and go home to their studies in a Facebook message posted on his verified page at around 7:00pm yesterday.

After two students, 17-year-old Dia Khanam Mim and 18-year-old Abdul Karim of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College, were killed on the footpath by an errant bus racing with another on the Airport Road on July 29, thousands of school and college students have taken to the streets to protest against dangerous driving and lax traffic laws, while also performing the role of the traffic police by directing traffic and asking to check the licenses of drivers.

"I am currently in Florida. In this important moment I have a message for my young fans. On 29th July, I was very saddened by the deaths of two students Dia and Abdul Karim after a bus ran over them at the Airport road. When I saw that their classmates went on protest to bring to justice those who were responsible and called for safer roads, I was filled with pride as a citizen of Bangladesh," Shakib wrote yesterday around 7:00pm Bangladesh time. He added that the Prime Minister already provided financial help to the families of the deceased students and urged the

protesters to return to their studies.

"If I was in the country, I would have come myself to collect your autographs. I want to thank you for your efforts and want to let you know that your demands are being met. The route permit of the accused transport company has been annulled and five have been arrested. At this moment, it is my earnest request that you go back to classes and focus on your studies. The movement will be successful through you going back to your studies. You will find me beside you if your demands are not fulfilled," the message added.

That status was met by an overwhelmingly negative deluge of comments, with around 1,500 pouring in within the first half hour. The thrust of most of those was for Shakib to concentrate on cricket and to not make his mind up about whether the demands were met after just five days.

At around 10:30pm last night, that status was removed and a video message posted by Shakib's page, in which he said: "Some of you seem to have misunderstood my message to you all. Please know that I'm with you all and let's try to give your movement shape by allowing our government to meet your demands asap. Please remember I have a young daughter, a sister, a wife and parents like many of you."

Stanikzai is now Asghar Afghan

AGENCIES, Dubai

Afghanistan captain Asghar Stanikzai has changed his name to Asghar Afghan in 'honour of protecting the national identity of Afghan citizens'.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board confirmed the name change on their Twitter account on Thursday after the batsman had registered for the new Electronic National Identity Card.

Stanikzai has been an instrumental figure for the national team, scoring more than 2,000 international runs since making his debut in 2009.

Asghar has played one Test, 86 ODIs and 54 T20Is for Afghanistan.

Their Test debut against India in April did not have a conspicuous outcome as they lost the match inside two days against the top-ranked Test side. However, Stanikzai has presided over a much more successful team in the shorter formats, the most recent being a 3-0 whitewash of Bangladesh.

'WC '19 is the goal'

AFP, New Delhi



Veteran West Indies batsman Chris Gayle is confident he will still be hitting sixes at the World Cup next year and insists his explosive style has changed the one-day game.

Gayle is a well-known mercenary, appearing in T20 events around the world and has scored more than 3,000 runs in the Indian Premier League -- including hundreds of boundaries. He hit 142 runs in a recent one-day international series against Bangladesh that the West Indies lost 2-1.

The explosive left-hander will be 39 in September however and his often rocky relationship with the West Indies Cricket Board has led critics to predict the end of his international career. He disagrees.

"Leading up to the 2019 World Cup and play in England, that is the objective to meet," Gayle told reporters in New Delhi on Friday.

"We are going to have a discussion with the selectors, captain and coach and see how we go about it," the batsman added.

Gayle equalled former Pakistan batsman Shahid Afridi's record of 476 sixes in all formats during his 73-run knock in the third match against Bangladesh this week.

"I think you want to thank Mr. Gayle for doing that. He is the man who made those things possible," said Gayle -- the self-proclaimed 'Universe-Boss' on Twitter.

"Overall everything has changed, Test cricket has changed. It's more entertaining for people who come to watch the game."

But his run-scoring antics have not necessarily helped West Indies in recent times.

West Indies dominated world cricket in the 1970s and 80s but are now ranked seventh in T20s, ninth in ODI and eighth in Test matches.



CHRIS GAYLE

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