



Onus on batsmen

SPORTS REPORTER



Within the span of five months Bangladesh have the chance to appear in their third Asia Cup final, this time with the youths eyeing their maiden ACC Under-19 Asia Cup final appearance when they take on India in the first semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur

First it was the women's team who clinched the Asia Cup in June, beating India in the final in Malaysia. The men's team also reached the final of the just-concluded Asia Cup in the UAE where they fell short by just three wickets against

Once again the opposition are India, this time however the Bangladesh under-19s will have to face them in the semifinal of a tournament in which Towhid Hridoy and his troops have not been able to display consistent cricket so far.

"We do not feel any mental block but it's the small mistakes we do on the field that have been the reason behind our defeats. Despite playing well, due to some small mistakes we are unable to win matches. There is no such pressure on us before the game as our players are in good rhythm and we are only focussing on our game. We are not thinking about our opponents," said skipper Towhid to reporters at the team hotel yesterday.

He also added that there are no such differences between India and Bangladesh at age level and informed that if they are able to give their best, the young Tigers can beat India in the Asia Cup much like they did in the previous edition.

Despite losing the opening game against Sri Lanka comprehensively by six wickets, Bangladesh came back well by



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TOWHID HRIDOY BANGLADESH U-19 CAPTAIN

beating Pakistan and Hong Kong in the next two games courtesy of some brilliant bowling.

With the likes of leg-spinner Rushed Ahmed and pacer Shoriful Islam, the young Tigers are confident of putting up a good show against India. However Hridoy informed

that they will have to play well in all three departments, especially in batting as they were all out for just 141 against Sri Lanka.

"The bowling department is our strength as we did well in previous games but our aim is to play well in all departments. Our batsmen were unable to perform in the previous games and we have to overcome that as we have big games ahead and we have to prove that we are good batsmen," he added.



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal began his rehabilitation from a left knuckle fracture at the BCB gymnasium in Mirpur yesterday after consulting a doctor in England.

Tigers' injury rundown

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There are some good news and some bad news in the long list of injured cricketers in the Bangladesh camp. To make things worse, the list now contains four among

the five seniors of the Bangladesh team, with Mahmudullah Riyad being the only exception.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury yesterday briefed the media on the latest condition of ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Test and T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan, opener Tamim Iqbal and wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfigur Rahim -- all of whom are suffering from various injuries.

The details of the injuries with explanations from Chowdhury are given below:

MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA Nature of injury: Mashrafe suffered a blow to his left little finger after he took a leaping

catch to dismiss Shoiab Malik during the

Asia Cup game against Pakistan. He also has a minor thigh injury while he also suffered a blow to his right leg which resulted in blood clotting.

Recovery period: It will take three weeks to recover from his finger injury and the doctors are expecting him to be fit over the next two weeks as some time has already passed. The state of the thigh injury will be confirmed over the next two days and that is also expected to take around two weeks to heal. Mashrafe however is not concerned about his finger injury and is confident enough of to recovering soon as he did not face any

problem while bowling with the injury. SHAKIB AL HASAN

Nature of injury: Shakib injured his left little finger In the tri-series final against Sri Lanka in January, when he dove to stop a single which resulted in him dislocating the finger upon impact with the ground. The cricketer went on to play with the injured finger, which caused infection in the affected area. Recovery period: At the moment Shakib is

Shakib is taking antibiotics, which will continue for another week, to control the infection and is expected to fly to Australia on October 5.

taking antibiotics, which will continue for another week, to control the infection and is expected to fly to Australia on October 5. "We are planning for a surgery in Australia as we have two reasons. The first reason is whether he needs surgery considering his current situation and secondly if he does require surgery then what will be the plan. After consulting with a hand doctor in Austria we will be able to know about the next step. In such injuries the final step is surgery. Things became complicated after

the area got infected."

TAMIM IQBAL

Nature of injury: Tamim fractured his left hand index finger knuckle when he suffered a blow from pacer Suranga Lakmal during the opening game of the Asia Cup against Sri Lanka. The left-hander went to England to consult with the doctor.

Recovery period: "After consulting with the hand surgeon we will continue his rehabilitation for another three-four weeks. We will inspect his situation on October 20 or 25 again and if things improve he will start cricketing activities."

MUSHFIQUR RAHIM

Nature of injury: Mushfiqur Rahim suffered a fracture on his rib during the training session ahead of the first game in the Asia Cup.

Recovery period: Normally rib injuries take more time as the area keeps moving. "We have instructed him to take rest as it takes four-five weeks to recover properly. We will inspect his situation after a week."

4 tons, 1 double and a 7-for

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It was an actionpacked third day of the first round of the 20th

National Cricket League with four hundreds, a double hundred and a seven-wicket haul being registered yesterday.

Having been bundled out for just 210 in the first innings, Khulna staged a comeback against hosts Rajshahi in their second innings riding on Tushar Imran's second hundred of the game in the Tier-1 match at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium.

Tushar scored 104 in the first innings and went on to smash an unbeaten century while Anamul Haque was not out on 72 as Khulna ended the third day on 182 for two. But saving the match will be a daunting task as they still trail by 160 after Rajshahi posted a mammoth 552 in their first innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA V RAJSHAHI

Khulna: First Innings 210 all out in 52.3 overs Rajshahi: First innings 552 all out in 147 overs (Mizanur 115, Forhad 83, Jahurul 163 not out, Sanjamul 64; Afif 7-66)

Khulna: Second innings 183 for 2 in 53 overs (Anamul 72, Tushar 100) **RANGPURV BARISHAL**

Rangpur: First Innings 502 all out in 145.2 overs Barishal: First innings 384 for 5 in Rafsan 59, Fazle Mahmud 130, Shohag Gazi 128) Dhaka Division v Chattogram

Dhaka: First innings 238 all out in 81 overs Chattogram: 142 all out in 53.4 overs Dhaka: Second innings 385 for 1 dec. in 92 overs (Abdul 132, Talukdar 228 not out)

Tasamul 33 not out) **DHAKA METRO V SYLHET** Dhaka Metro: First innings 426 all out in 122.4

Chattogram: 135 for 3 in 39 overs (Mominul 62,

Sylhet: First innings 215 all out in 82 overs (Enamul 91; Arafat 4-62)

Sylhet: Second innings 149 for 4 in 61 overs (Jaker 72, Saleh 53 not out)



Khulna's Tushar Imran celebrates his second consecutive centuries against Rajshahi in the first round of the National Cricket League in Rajshahi yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Earlier, resuming the third day on 446 for six, skipper Jahurul Islam struck his 14th first-class hundred and remained unbeaten on 163 off 290 balls with 20 fours, helping build a first-innings lead of 342 runs.

Young Afif Hossain ended up with figures of seven for 66 from 21 overs for Khulna -- the 19-year-old off-spinner's maiden first-class fivewicket haul.

At the Shaheed Chandu stadium in Bogura, Barishal replied to Rangpur's first innings 502 by reaching 384 for five at stumps in the other Tier-1 game, after resuming the day on 91 for one.

Overnight batsman Fazle Rabbi struck his seventh first-class ton and was unbeaten on 130 while Sohag Gazi also struck a hundred and was dismissed on 128. The high-scoring

game is surely headed for a draw. In the second tier in Fatullah,

Dhaka Division were in a commanding position against Chattogram after Rony Talukdar struck his third firstclass double hundred while opening partner Abdul Mazid also struck his eighth ton to post 385 for one and lead by 481 runs at stumps. Earlier, Chattogram were all out for 142.

Resuming the day on 176 without loss, Rony already reached his hundred and went on to smash the double, staying unbeaten on 228 off 252 balls with 18 fours and seven sixes. Rony and Mazid added a record 350run opening stand before the latter was dismissed for 132.

Sylhet are in a spot of bother in the other Tier-2 encounter against Dhaka Metropolis as they ended the third day on 149 for four in their second innings after being enforced to follow on. Sylhet were all out for 215 after resuming the day on 132 for six.

Tigresses bundled out for lowest T20I score

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The Bangladesh women's cricket team hit their lowest score in Twenty20 Internationals to suffer a 58run defeat against their Pakistani counterparts in the

second game of the four-match series at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The home side were bundled out for 30 runs to hit a new low after the 44 runs they made against the same opponents in Bangkok in November 2016. It was the fourth-lowest total in women's T20Is as not a single batsman could reach double figures. The Mozambique women's cricket

team are owners of the ignominious record for the lowest total of 25 all out against Namibia in August this year.

Pakistan are now leading the series 1-0 as the first game was abandoned due to a wet outfield. The third match will take place at the same venue tomorrow.

The match was reduced to 14 overs a side due to a wet outfield and Pakistan scored 88 for five. In reply, Bangladesh were all out for 30 in 12.5 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 88-5 in 14 overs ((Javeira 25, Nahida 18, Aliya 10 not out; Nahida 2-19, Lata 1-13, Jahanara 1-19)

BANGLADESH: 30 all out in 12.5 overs (Rumana 9; Anam 3-0, Nida 2-4, Nashra 2-7) Result: Pakistan won by 58 runs.

'Top order

India will have skipper

Virat Kohli back when

in focus'

STAR SPORT DESK

they take on West

INDIA - WEST INDIES 1ST TEST

skipper Virat Kohli (top) was

the first of a two-Test series in

Rajkot today, where 18-year-old

opener Prithvi Shaw (Inset) is set

to make his debut.

preparing to take on West Indies in



Indies in the first of two Test matches in Rajkot today. Opener Shikhar Dhawan gets the sack and will be replaced by After sitting out the Asia Cup, India 18-year-old opener

Prithvi Shaw. "I think the top order that's what we are looking

getting cemented with these two Test matches, рното: AFP at," Kohli told reporters.

HIGHLIGHTS

 Tushar Imran, the only Bangladeshi batsman to score 10,000 first-class runs, struck hundreds in both innings in the first round of the National Cricket League, hitting his second ton of the match yesterday. It was the 13th occasion in Bangladesh's domestic circuit that a batsman struck hundreds in both innings of a match and Tushar became the only one to achieve the feat twice. He also holds the record for most first-class hundreds by a Bangladeshi with 30.

O Young Afif Hossain caught the eye when he became the youngest bowler to pick a T20 fivefor for Rajshahi Kings in the Bangladesh Premier league at the age of 17. However the off-spinner was yet to bag a five-wicket haul in

first-class cricket until he picked up seven wickets in the first round of the NCL.

 Rony Talukdar became the fourth Bangladeshi batsman to strike three double hundreds in first-class cricket after the righthander scored an unbeaten 228. Rony, along with opener Abdul Mazid, added 350 in the opening stand -- the highest in Bangladesh's first-class completions.

 Rajshahi skipper Jahurul Islam led from the front and carried his bat to post a huge total against Khulna to take the driving seat in the ongoing NCL. The right-handed opener smashed his 14th first-class ton and remained unbeaten on 163 as he ran short of partners at the other end.