



After working themselves into a winning position in the Under-19 Asia Cup semifinal against India, a procession of four Bangladesh batsmen in 7.2 overs saw the hosts lose the match by two runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

U-19s snatch semi defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

The equation to enter their first Under-19 Asia Cup final was 28 runs required from 11 overs with four wickets in hand and a specialist batsman at the crease on 45. That seeming cakewalk turned into a nightmare for Bangladesh Under-19 as they could bat just 7.2 of those overs and were all out two runs short of India Under-19's score of 172 in the semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

In those 7.2 overs Mrittunjoy Chowdhury was caught and bowled by left-arm spinner Harsh Tyagi before Shamim Hossain -- who top-scored with 59 off 81 balls -- needlessly slogged an Ajay Gangapuram slower ball to be caught at midwicket. Bangladesh were still 12 runs adrift then, and without adding a single run Shoriful Islam hopped out to square leg off left-arm pacer Mohit Jangra. Rakibul Hasan and Minhazur Rahman then inched the total to 170 in the 47th over, when the final bit of panic led to the latter's run out after Rakibul had played the ball straight to short third man and a tragicomic mixup found Minhazur stranded in the middle and eventually well short of his crease.

Even before that debacle, Bangladesh's batting problems were on full display as they lost half their side within the first 20 overs with 65 runs on the board. Jangra asked all the right questions, with the ball swinging into right-handed opener Sajid Hossain who was first to depart in the third over, overbalancing as he flicked an inswinger straight to short midwicket.

Jangra accounted for the other opener, Prantik Nawroz Nabil, in the sixth over. Mahmudul Hasan Joy provided the early impetus with a 38-ball 25, but failed to capitalise as he was caught off left-arm spinner Siddharth Desai. Skipper Towhid Hridoy took 31 balls to score eight before he too fell to Desai in the 18th over, and the spinner came back to dismiss Rishad Hossain in his next over.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Akbar Ali then resurrected the innings with Shamim, hitting crisp sweep shots against India's spinners in a 74-run sixth-wicket stand that should have settled the issue. However, after Akbar fell to a soft dismissal, the youth side showed that losing the plot against India was not the sole preserve of the senior team.

Earlier, Bangladesh left-arm pacer Shoriful Islam picked up three wickets to move to the top of the tournament wicket-takers' charts with eight to help bundle out India for their lowest total in this edition.

Shoriful started by having opener Devdutt Padikkal caught behind in the third over. Yashasvi Jaiswal and Anuj Rawat then put on a 66-run second-wicket stand, but the latter's dismissal to the off-spin of Hridoy set off a collapse of four wickets for eight runs as India stumbled to 77 for five. Leg-spinner Rishad and Hridoy combined to take two wickets apiece in the collapse before another partnership – a 59-run fifth-wicket stand between Ayosh Badoni and Sameer Choudhary.

Minhazur Rahman broke the stand by dismissing Badoni, before Shoriful came back to bowl Sameer. In his next over, the 47th, he bowled number nine batsman Tyagi, and Mrittunjoy got rid of Ajay Gangapuram and Jangra to end the innings with three balls left to be played.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA U-19S: 172 all out in 49.2 overs (Jiswal 37, Sameer 36, Badoni 28, Rawat 35; Shoriful 3-16, Towhid 2-4, Mrittunjoy 2-27, Rishad 2-36)

BANGLADESH U-19S: 170 all out in 46.2 overs (Mahmudul 25, Shamim 59, Akbar 45; Jangra 3-25, Desai 3-35, Harsh 2-29)

Result: India U-19s won by 2 runs.

I tried my best, but we could not finish it. We are a new team; in that sense we did well.

I cannot express the pain in words.

SHAMIM HOSSAIN
BANGLADESH UNDER-19 BATSMAN

Dhakas win big, stalemates in Tier-1

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA V RAJSHAHI

KHULNA: First Innings 210 all out in 52.3 overs & Second Innings 467 for 7 in 128.5 overs (Anamul 113, Tushar 159, Soumya 103 not out)

RAJSHAHI: First Innings 552 all out in 147 overs

Result: Match drawn.

RANGPUR V BARISHAL

RANGPUR: First Innings 502 all out in 145.2 overs & Second Innings 164 for 2 in 54.2 overs (Mahmudul 53 not out, Naeem 100 not out)

BARISHAL: First Innings 458 all out in 145.2 overs (Rafsan 59, Fazle Mahmud 195, Shohor Gazi 128; Mahmudul 4-71)

Result: Match drawn.

CHATTOGRAM V RAKSHAHI

CHATTOGRAM: First Innings 142 all out in 53.4 overs & Second Innings 267 all out in 85.1 overs (Mominul 62, Saifuddin 60; Nazmul 5-75, Shahadat 4-46)

Result: Dhaka Division won by 214 runs.

DHAKA METRO V SYLHET

DHAKA METRO: First Innings 426 all out in 92 overs

SYLHET: First Innings 215 all out in 82 overs & Second Innings 170 all out in 72.4 overs (Zakir 72, Saleh 60; Asif 5-44, Arafat 3-63)

Result: Dhaka Metro won by an innings and 41 runs.

Rangpur made a disastrous start in their second

innings as they lost two wickets for 12 runs but Mahmudul Hasan (53) and Naeem Islam (100) took the opportunity for some batting practice before the match ended in a draw with Rangpur making 164 for two.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam Apu spun Dhaka Division to a huge win. His five for 75 helped Dhaka wrap up Chattogram's second innings for 267 runs. Chattogram were all out for 142 runs in the first innings and faced a daunting winning target of 481.

Pacer Shahadat Hossain was the other successful Dhaka Division bowler, picking up four wickets for 46 runs.

In Sylhet, resuming the day on 149 for four, the hosts lost their remaining wickets for 21 runs to suffer the massive innings defeat against Dhaka Metro. Asif Hossain was the most successful bowler with five for 44 and Arafat Sunny took three for 63 runs.


Soumya Sarkar's second first-class century for Khulna will be a source of relief for the national team management.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

HIGHLIGHTS

- Run-riot in the true sense: 11 centuries and two double hundreds paints a picture of batsmen making merry in the first round of the National Cricket League. But there was also cause for the bowlers to cheer as six — Jubair Hossain, Enamul Haque Jr, Asif Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Asif Hossain and Nazmul Islam — returned with five-wicket hauls.
- When batsmen like Tushar Imran, Mizanur Rahman and Rony Talukdar score big in the domestic circuit, it is seen as business as usual from domestic cricket's regular performers but Soumya Sarkar's unbeaten hundred on the last day has special meaning as it will bring some relief for the national team management. Soumya's hundred however was only his second in 101 innings after his maiden first-class (127) in the Bangladesh Cricket League in May 2015 at Chattogram.
- Nazmul Islam Apu has already become a well-known figure among the country's cricket lovers not only for his effective slow left-arm spin but also his snake dance celebration. Although the 27-year old spinner is considered a good option for limited-overs cricket, his first-class record is not that bad. Since making his debut in 2010, Nazmul has claimed 142 wickets in 53 matches and yesterday's five-for was the third in his career.

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Prithvi takes world by storm

AFP, Rajkot



Teenager Prithvi Shaw became the youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut as the hosts took opening day honours in the first match against the West Indies on Thursday.

Shaw, 18, also became India's second-youngest century maker after Sachin Tendulkar as he blasted his way to a century in 99 deliveries in Rajkot.

India were 364 for four at stumps after electing to bat first in Rajkot. Skipper Virat Kohli, on 72, and wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, on 17, were batting at close of play.

But the day belonged to Shaw, a diminutive right-handed opener and Indian Premier League star for the Delhi Daredevils, as he and Cheteshwar Pujara put on a 206-run second wicket partnership.

He led India's fightback after they lost opener Lokesh Rahul for nought in the very first over off Shannon Gabriel.

Shaw was finally caught and bowled by leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo for 134 in the last over before tea. His knock came in 154 balls with 19 boundaries.

The now-retired Tendulkar, India's most successful batsman, was aged 17 when he scored 119 not out against England in 1990, but that was in his ninth Test match.

Shaw reached the landmark with two runs off paceman Keemo Paul, punching his fist in the air as the home crowd gave him a standing ovation.

Shaw is the seventh-youngest international batsman to score his first Test century. He is also the third batsman after Shikhar Dhawan (85 balls) and Dwayne Smith (93) to hit his debut ton in under 100 balls.

Pujara also played an uncharacteristically quick knock as he brought up fifty off 67 deliveries, but missed out on his hundred after being caught behind off debutant paceman Sherman Lewis.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 364 for 4 (Shaw 134, Pujara 86, Kohli 72 not out, Rahane 41, Pant 17 not out; Gabriel 1-66, Lewis 1-56, Bishoo 1-113, Chase 1-67)



Bhutan under-18 women's football players train at the practice ground in Thimphu yesterday ahead of today's SAFF U-18 Women's Championship semifinal against hosts Bhutan.

PHOTO: BFF

'We'll go for a victory'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will hope to replicate the under-15 team's feat when they take on hosts Bhutan in the inaugural SAFF U-18 Women's Championship's second semifinal at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu tonight.

India will play the first semifinal against Nepal at the same ground.

Bangladesh stormed their way into the semifinal of the six-team tournament with a straight-win record. Bangladesh inflicted a massive 17-0 loss on Pakistan before defeating the mighty Nepal 2-1 to ensure a semifinal fixture against Bhutan, who have

never beaten the Bangladeshi girls at any level before.

However, Bhutan have improved vastly as evinced by their massive 12-0 thrashing of Maldives and so, they could pose a threat to the girls in red and green.

Bangladesh can however take inspiration from the achievements of their juniors, who handed a massive 5-0 defeat to Bhutan in the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship semifinal in August last year.

Interestingly, the current Bangladesh squad features about 10 players from that U-15 team among them.

Although doubts remain, Bangladesh Coach Golam Rabban Choton will likely bank

on forward Misrat Jahan Swapna for the strike position in the game against Bhutan as she scored seven goals against Pakistan and netted another against Nepal.

Swapna sustained a small injury under the knee portion but we will wait for her. If she is not available, we have good replacements like Sanjida Akter or Marzia, Choton said over the phone. "No doubt, we will go there for victory."

"As the seniors of this team haven't had an international match since September last year, they have been getting the rhythm match by match," added Choton, who admitted later that the hosts will be a tough nut to crack.



India debutant Prithvi Shaw acknowledges the applause after scoring a century on the first day of the first Test against West Indies in Rajkot yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

YOUNGEST DEBUT CENTURIONS

BATSMAN	AGE	OPPOSITION	VENUE	DATE
Mohammad Ashraful (Ban)	17 years, 61 days	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Sept 2001
Hamilton Masakadza (Zim)	17 years, 352 days	West Indies	Harare	July 2001
Saleem Malik (Pak)	18 years, 323 days	Sri Lanka	Karachi	March 1982
Prithvi Shaw (Ind)	18 years, 329 days	West Indies	Rajkot	Oct 2018
Mohammad Wasim (Pak)	19 years, 105 days	New Zealand	Lahore	Nov 1996

FASTEST DEBUT CENTURIONS

BATSMAN	BALLS	OPPOSITION	VENUE	DATE
Shikhar Dhawan (Ind)	85	Australia	Mohali	Mar 2013
Dwayne Smith (WI)	93	South Africa	Cape Town	Jan 2004
Prithvi Shaw (Ind)	99	West Indies	Rajkot	Oct 2018