



Bangladesh defender Shamsunnahar (R) celebrates with teammates after scoring the team's fourth goal against Bhutan in their SAFF U-18 Women's Championship semifinal at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

Girls set up final against Nepal

Beat hosts Bhutan 4-0 in semifinal; Nepal edge India in other semi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh dispatched Bhutan SAFF U-18 4-0 in the second semifinal of the WOMEN'S SAFF U-18 Women's Championship yesterday to set up a final clash against Nepal.

The girls in green scored two goals in each half at the Changlimithang Stadium, with strikes from Sanjida Akter, Misrat Jahan Mousumi, Krishna Rani Sarker and Shamsunnahar leading to a rather comfortable victory. Although it was not a vintage performance by Golam Rabbani Choton's charges, they did enough to see off the hosts and seal the final berth, following in the footsteps of the under-15 team who had played the final of the

ground two months ago.

SAFF U-15 Women's Championship at this very

tomorrow, with the latter having beaten India in penalty shootout in the first semifinal earlier yesterday. The final will be a rematch of the group stage meeting between the two sides where Bangladesh had registered a 2-1 victory.

Despite playing without injured prolific striker Sirat Jahan Shopna, Bangladesh took only two minutes to open their account as Sanjida scored with a floated delivery from the right edge of the box finding the net over the Bhutan goalkeeper's head.

However, the girls in green struggled to break the opposition defence and were lucky not to concede the equaliser in the 44th minute when they failed to clear a corner with the goalkeeper was completely out of position, but the shot from a Bhutan forward missed the target by a distance.

Bangladesh, though, doubled the lead in the Bangladesh will play the final against Nepal third minute of stoppage time of the first half

with stand-in-skipper Mousumi poking home from a goalmouth melee after the Bhutan goalkeeper only half-cleared a corner.

Krishna made it 3-0 on the hour-mark, with a perfect poacher's goal as she broke the offside trap and slid home past the goalkeeper. The victory was wrapped up by Shamsunnahar in the 86th minute as she confidently converted a spotkick as the hosts struggled to keep up with their opposition's fitness and finesse.

Earlier, Nepal edged favourites India 3-1 in penalty shootout after regulation time ended 1-1. Rashmi Kumari Shising had given Nepal the lead in the 15th minute, but Tudu Jabamani equalised for India 17 minutes after the break. As there were no goals further from either side, the match rolled into tiebreakers where the Nepal goalkeeper became the hero with two saves and a conversion from the spot to stun the regional powerhouse.

Indian bowlers rattled the

West Indies first-innings

reply after Ravindra Jadeja

smashed his maiden interna-

13, were batting at

the Indian

tional century as the hosts got a firm grip over the

The tourists were tottering at 94 for six at stumps,

trailing India by 555 runs in their first innings on day

two in Rajkot. Roston Chase, on 27, and

Domestic games can unlock potential

MAZHAR UDDIN



With an aim to be prepared for the next ICC Under-19 World Cup in South Africa in 2020, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) banked on a fresh batch

of cricketers in the Under-19 Asia Cup at home in a campaign that ended in a nervewracking two-run defeat against India in the semifinal on Thursday.

The lack of experience of playing competitive cricket was evident and despite having plenty of talent, the young cricketers were unable to hold their nerves in a crunch situation.

With the exceptions of leg-spinner Rishad Ahmed and pacer Shoriful Islam, a majority of the remaining members of the side have hardly played any competitive domestic leagues, which told in the difference between those two and the rest.

Rishad got the exposure when he was included in the Bangladesh A team during the four-day games against Sri Lanka A this year. He was previously named in the High Performance squad, which helped him grow in confidence as he is already rated as the next big thing.

Left-arm seamer Shoriful announced himself at the age of 16 when he made his first-class debut last year for Rajshahi Division. The six-feet-three-inch tall bowler gained more experience playing for North Zone in the Bangladesh Cricket League.

The 17-year-old also gained experience of playing high-pressure cricket during this year's Dhaka Premier League, picking up 17 wickets in eight games for Prime Bank Cricket Club. Both Rishad and Shoriful tapped into

their experience and finished as the highest wicket-takers for Bangladesh in the Asia Cup where they bagged eight wickets each in four games. There has often been a complaint regarding

Bangladesh cricket that national players truly start learning the game only after making it to the highest level, which makes it important for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to groom youngsters in the domestic circuit. Age-level selector Sazzad Ahmed said

members of the current under-19 squad will play the upcoming First Division league. "We have already planned for all members of the U-19 squad, not just the 15-member

team, to play in the upcoming first division

that the board is planning to ensure that all

league. Obviously playing in club cricket will help them absorb the pressure of competitive cricket, so we are making sure that they prepare themselves accordingly. If you have noticed the difference between Rishad, Shoriful and the others it's because of their experience playing domestic cricket," Sazzad told The Daily Star yesterday.

Although the youths shone bright in the bowling department, it is the batting that has appeared to be one of their major weaknesses as the youths were unable to post over 200 runs in any of the four games they played during the Asia Cup.

With the next World Cup in South Africa it will be even more challenging for the likes of Towhid Hridoy, Prantik Nowrose, Shamim Hossain and others to cope with the seam-friendly conditions.

Sazzad however was confident about the quality of the batsmen and said: "They have just played their first major tournament and I am hopeful that the batting department will only get better in the coming days. We are not that concerned about it."



It was perhaps no coincidence that the two Bangladesh Under-19 players with experience of top-flight domestic cricket, Rishad Ahmed (R) and Shoriful Islam, performed on a higher plane during the ongoing Under-19 Asia Cup.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

Tigresses fall to series loss India leave Windies reeling

AFP, Rajkot

first Test on Friday.

Keemo Paul, on

But it was

close of play.

batting that

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh women's cricket team achieved a better score than their ignominious performance in the previous match but it was not good enough to avert a series

defeat against their Pakistan counterparts at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Pakistan clinched the four-match T20I series with one match in hand when they beat the home side by seven wickets in the third match yesterday. The first match was abandoned due to a wet outfield and the home team hit their lowest T20I total of 30 to suffer a heavy defeat in the second game. Bangladesh captain Salma Khatun won

the toss and decided to bat first but her batsmen lacked the firepower to set a challenging target as they managed only 81 for eight in 20 overs.

Pakistan spin duo Nashra Sandhu and Nida Dar proved too much for the home team as they gave away just 32 runs in their combined eight overs.

Nashra removed Fargana Hoque and Nigar Sultana before Nida took the wickets of Sanjida Islam and Fahima Khatun and

Mushy to start

batting today

Mushfiqur Rahim, who had

injury that he sustained dur-

the Asia Cup opener against

The 31-year-old struck a

Sri Lanka, is set to resume

century against Sri Lanka

Mushfiqur, who still has

some pain, will undergo

despite the injury. However

another scan on October 15.

According to Bangladesh

Cricket Board chief physician

Debashish Chowdhury, these

Meanwhile, Mahmudullah

types of injuries usually take

four to six weeks to recover.

Riyad also underwent a scan

for a slight pain in his back

and is expected to get the

results today.

batting from today.

been suffering from a rib

SPORTS REPORTER

Wicketkeeper-batsman



Bangladesh women's team captain Salma Khatun walks off the field in despair during the third T20I against Pakistan in Cox's Bazar yesterday. РНОТО: ВСВ

there were two run-outs as well. Nigar topscored with 19 off 29 balls. Pakistan reached their target in 18.1 overs.

Nahida Khan made 33 off 40 balls while captain Javeria Khan added 31 off 37 balls.

The fourth and final T20I will be held at the same venue today, before the solitary ODI on October 8.

Lankans in final

SPORTS REPORTER



Nuwanidu Fernando hit a fine hundred to take Sri Lanka to the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup as they beat Afghanistan by 31 runs in the second semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National ASIA CUP Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Sri Lanka will meet India, who reached the final with a two-run victory against hosts Bangladesh in the first semifinal, in the final tomorrow at the same venue.

Fernando single-handedly guided Sri Lanka to a fighting total of 209 for seven in 50 overs after losing two openers Navod Paranavithana and Nishan Fernando for nought. During his 129-ball 111, the right-hander smote eight fours and three sixes.

Azmatullah Omarzai and Abdul Rahman initiated the early collapse as Sri Lanka were reduced to 99 for five. Rahman was the most successful bowler with three for 42.

In reply, Afghanistan Under-19s were 178 all out in 48.3 overs. All the top order batsmen got starts but none could finish the job as Afghanistan lost wickets at regular intervals. Captain Rahmanullah Gurbaz was top scorer with 46 runs and his innings saw one four and four sixes.

Left-arm spinner Parawahara Dulshan picked up four for 24.

In his 38th Test and 10th year of international cricket, India allrounder Ravindra Jadeja celebrated his first international hundred on the second day of the first Test against West Indies in Rajkot

PHOTO: AFP

yesterday.

KOHLI QUICKEST SINCE THE DON

India captain Virat Kohli became the quickest batsman to reach 24 Test centuries after the great Donald Bradman early on Day Two against the West Indies on Friday. Kohli reached his 24th century in his 123rd innings, while Australia's Bradman took just 66 knocks to achieve the same feat. The Indian skipper also surpassed Australia's Steve Smith to go second in the list of centurions among active players, behind South Africa's Hashim Amla on 28.

the world's top side so dominant as they posted their highest total against the West Indies after declaring on 649-9 at tea. Skipper Virat Kohli hit a landmark ton, top-scoring with 139.

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami then struck early to get the two West Indian openers back in the pavilion for seven runs including stand-in-skipper Kraigg Brathwaite for two. But Jadeja remained the star of the day after making an unbeaten 100. The left-handed batsman stuck around with the lower-order to demolish a toothless West Indian attack.

"Obviously after nine years of international cricket I am scoring a hundred, so it is a special moment," Jadeja, who made his international debut in 2009 and played his

> first Test in 2012, said. "Whenever I reached 70-80 in the past I thought about my hundred, but threw my wicket away. I have made big hundreds in the domestic circuit, so I thought I can get hundreds in the international level too."

Jadeja -- playing his 38th Test -- also got a wicket after sending back Sunil Ambris, who had scored 114 not out in his side's only tour game last week, for 12.

> The all-rounder though had a near-miss moment on the field when he playfully waited to run out Shimron Hetmyer who was scampering back to reach the non-striker's end. KOHLI BEHIND **BRADMAN**

> Earlier Kohli became the quickest batsman to reach 24 Test centuries since the

great Donald Bradman in the morning session. Kohli put together 133 runs for the fifth wicket looking at it." with overnight partner

SCORES IN BRRIEF INDIA: 649 for 9 decl (Shaw 134, Pujara 86, Kohli 139, Rahane 41, Pant 92, Jadeja 100 not

Rishabh Pant, who made a quickfire 92.

66 innings to achieve the same feat.

out; Lewis 2-93, Bishoo 4-217)

WEST INDIES: 94 for 6 (Chase 27 not out, Paul 13 not out; Shami 2-11)

Kohli, who started on his overnight score of 72, got

to his hundred in his 123rd innings with a boundary

off leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo. Bradman took just

SACHIN SPOTTED SHAW EARLY

STAR SPORT DESK

Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar predicted that Prithvi Shaw, the 18-year-old who hit a century on debut in the ongoing Test against West Indies, would play for India the first time he saw the youngster.

"Jagdish Chavan, a friend of mine, once asked me to take a look at Prithvi," Tendulkar told the Times of India about his meeting with Test cricket's fourth-youngest debut centurion several years ago. "He said, 'There's this young kid who wants to meet you and it would be nice if you could have a look at him'. Prithvi wanted to discuss his game and he was very young at that time.

"So I had a look at him and, at first glance, I told him [Chavan], this boy will end up playing for India. I remember telling him 'You're looking at a future India cricketer... Mark my words, this guy will end up playing for

Tendulkar said that having scored a century on debut, Shaw will now be free of pressure.

India'."

"I'm sure it must be extremely relieving that he's been able to get a big score in his first outing.

However talented a guy is, a big question mark always is, 'A guy has done well at the domestic level, now will he be able to do the same at the international level?' And a century kind of seals it. As far as I am concerned, the first hurdle that he was going to encounter is out of the way now."

Tendulkar had counselled Shaw -- a fellow Mumbai batting prodigy -- since that first meeting, and reportedly told him that 'if anyone asks you to change your batting grip, you should ask that person to come and speak with me'.

"That was my chat with him," the highest run-scorer in Tests and ODIs said. "All I told him was 'don't change anything till the time you're being bothered by those things'. If you're being dismissed because of one particular thing very regularly, that is when you can start