



Tigers defeated in warm-up

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh were on the receiving end of a comprehensive 88-run defeat to the Ireland Wolves in a practise game at the Hills Cricket Club Ground in Dublin yesterday ahead of the Tigers' opening game of the tri-nation series tomorrow.

Chasing a challenging target of 308, the visitors were bowled out for 219 in 42.2 overs. Shakib Al Hasan shone both with bat and ball, top-scoring with 54 but none of the other batsmen were able to offer much resistance.

Openers Tamim and Liton were dismissed in the twenties but Shakib, in aggressive mood, scored a quick fifty before being dismissed after 43 balls that featured seven fours and a six. Mushfiqur Rahim (11) and Mohammad Mithun (13) departed cheaply before Mahmudullah

Riyad tried to dig in. However, he was caught after a 48-ball 37.

Earlier, Ireland Wolves had set a challenging total of 307 for 8 overs riding on James McCollum's century.

Rubel once again provided the breakthrough for the Tigers by removing the centurion after his valiant 109-ball 102, which included 15 fours and a six. Another pacer, Taskin Ahmed, then removed Simi Singh, who scored 91 off 95 balls with six fours and a six.

Taskin ended up scalping three wickets for 66 runs from his ten overs while Rubel gave away 63 runs from his nine overs and picked two wickets.

Shakib remained the pick of the bowlers for the Tigers, giving away 30 runs for a wicket in his ten overs, which included a maiden.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's troop will begin the tri-series when they take on the West Indies at the Castle Avenue in Dublin.



McCOLLUM... 102

BCB turns to pipeline

SPORTS REPORTER

With the Bangladesh team engaged in an ODI tri-series in Ireland ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup in the United Kingdom, the Bangladesh Cricket Board plan to tune up the national pipeline in the coming days.

"Afghanistan are scheduled to visit while we are also going for a tour in Sri Lanka. We are going to play two four-day games and a three-match one-day series at home against Afghanistan, who are expected to arrive in August. Following the Afghanistan series, the Bangladesh A team will travel to Sri Lanka," BCB Cricket Operations committee chairman Akram Khan told reporters yesterday.

A three-week long training camp for the Bangladesh A team will begin on May 11 while the Under-19 team have already begun training ahead of their upcoming tour of England. Meanwhile, the BCB has also announced the 23-member High Performance core squad comprising specialist batsmen, spinners, wicket-keepers and fast bowlers will begin their training camp from May 18.



We see Shannon as an impact player: Holder

ICC

Jason Holder, the West Indies captain, views the upcoming tri-nation series, against the hosts Ireland and Bangladesh, as a means to fine-tune the team ahead of the ICC World Cup 2019, which begins on May 30 in England and Wales.

Eight of West Indies' 15-member squad will gain some valuable match



practice in the tri-series, which gets underway May 5. "Once we hit all three departments in terms of batting, bowling and fielding well, we'll definitely be a good side at the end of it," said the 27-year-old. "We see this as an opportunity to get into

some match practice and start our preparations into the World Cup."

With a number of Windies players, including the likes of Chris Gayle and Andre Russell, still playing in the Indian Premier League 2019, there is an opportunity for others to display their skill.

One of the surprise inclusions in the Windies squad was of the experienced fast bowler Shannon Gabriel, who last played an ODI in 2017. Holder, however, expects Gabriel to play the role of an enforcer on what are expected to be batting-friendly pitches in England and Wales.

The tri-series is an opportunity for Gabriel to acclimatise as well. "Coming to England, you tend to be gifted with some really good conditions in terms of batting," observed Holder. "There tend to be a lot of high-scoring games and you basically have to outscore the opposition. Most of the times when you do bowl well, you take wickets at the front."

"Shannon is one we see as an impact player. His role is to come in and make inroads into the middle order. There's been an area of concern in the past where we've struggled to get wickets in the middle period. So having a guy like Shannon who has pace and experience, it's good to have him there and push things for us."

'Not focusing on WC spot'

AFP, Dublin

Jofra Archer insisted he had received a warm welcome into the England set-up but stressed he would have no complaints if he failed in a late bid to make it into the tournament hosts' World Cup squad.

The Barbados-born fast bowler made his much talked about England debut in a tense four-wicket win away to Ireland in a lone one-day international in Dublin on Friday.

Before this match, several England bowlers -- David Willey, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood -- whose places in the World Cup squad could be threatened by Archer's inclusion were somewhat reticent when asked about his imminent promotion to the international scene.

"It's been very welcoming," said Archer, who could also play in Sunday's Twenty20 against Pakistan in Cardiff.

"Anyone would think about it (the World Cup) but I'll just try to play well and hope, I guess," said Archer. "I'll try not to set my heart on it."

"Obviously the guys have been together a long time and they probably do deserve it so I won't feel too bad if I'm left out."

"If I do well here it will probably put my case forward but I'm not focusing on the World Cup spot."

Hope, Campbell blitz Irish with record stand

AFP, Dublin



West Indies openers John Campbell and Shai Hope shattered the record for the highest first-wicket partnership in a one-day international with a stand of 365 as their side thrashed Ireland by 196 runs in Dublin on Sunday.

Campbell made 179 and Hope 170 in an eventual total of 381 for three after the visitors were sent in to bat by Ireland captain William Porterfield at Clontarf.

The Caribbean duo were only seven runs shy of the record partnership for any wicket in a men's ODI, with their fellow West Indians Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels smashing 372 for the second wicket against Zimbabwe in Canberra during the 2015 World Cup.

Campbell and Hope did, however, comfortably exceeded the previous opening best at this level of 304 set by Pakistan's Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo in July last year.

Hope was first to his century while Campbell quickly followed to him to a hundred -- his first in international cricket.

They were both dismissed in the 48th over, Campbell top-edging Barry McCarthy

to mid-off with Hope falling three balls later when he holed out to deep square-leg.

McCarthy's figures of two for 76 in a maximum 10 overs were almost respectable amid the torrent of runs.

Campbell faced 137 balls, including 15 fours and six sixes, with Hope's 152-ball knock featuring 22 fours and two sixes.

Ireland's attack had sparked an England top-order collapse at nearby Malahide on Friday but had no answer as the West Indies ran riot in the opening match of a triangular series also featuring Bangladesh.

Faced with a mammoth chase, Ireland promptly collapsed to 21 for three before Kevin O'Brien's 68 at least gave the West Indies bowlers something to think about.

But the West Indies were always in control with off-spinner Ashley Nurse taking four for 51 in Ireland's 185 all out.

West Indies take on Bangladesh on 7 May in the next match of the Tri-Series, while Ireland also play Bangladesh in their next game on May 9.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 381 for 3 in 50 overs (Campbell 179, Hope 170; McCarthy 2-76)
IRELAND: 185 all out in 34.4 overs (Balbirnie 29, O'Brien 68, Wilson 30; Roach 2-28, Gabriel 3-44, Nurse 4-51)
Result: West Indies won by 196 runs.

TOP FIVE HIGHEST ODI PARTNERSHIPS

Players	Country	Opponent	Partnership	Year
John Campbell & Shai Hope	West Indies	Ireland	365	2019
Imamul Haq & Fakhar Zaman	Pakistan	Zimbabwe	304	2018
Upul Tharanga & Sanath Jayasuriya	Sri Lanka	England	286	2006
David Warner & Travis Head	Australia	Pakistan	284	2017
Quinton de Kock & Hashim Amla	South Africa	Bangladesh	282	2017

Monika promises to mesmerise

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh U-19 women's team midfielder Monika Chakma promised that she will try to score more stellar goals in the future after her stunning strike against Mongolia was selected for FIFA's five fan favourite moments of the week on Saturday.

"I'm really feeling very happy after hearing that my goal was adjudged one of FIFA's fan favourites and it is a big recognition for me because FIFA is the highest body of world football," Monika told reporters at the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

During the Bangmata U-19 Women's International Gold Cup semifinal encounter with Mongolia last Tuesday which Bangladesh won 3-0, the girls in red and green struggled to damage Mongolia's backline until Monika controlled a chip from Sajeda Akther on the edge of the danger zone before unleashing a dipping left-footer to give Bangladesh the lead just before the break.

Monika also scored similarly stunning goals at age-group international tournaments. She once scored a goal directly from the corner kick and is a proven scorer even long range, therefore,

that goal against Mongolia was not truly a miracle for Monika, who has honed her skills through individual practice.

"After the national team's regular practice session, we are given 10 extra minutes for individual practice where we hone our individual skills by mustering freekicks, corner-kicks and long range shots and that's the way we have been learning to score," said Monika, who started playing competitive football in 2011 through the Bangmata Primary School Gold Cup before being picked for the U-14 women's national team in 2015.

"Although I scored some goals this way before, I don't think those are better than this goal. From now, I will keep trying to score such goals in the future if I get opportunity," promised Monika, adding that so far she scored 10 goals at the international level.

The girl from Khagrachari is also happy to play in the midfield despite having good goal scoring skills but also enjoys playing as a forward.

"I am playing in midfield and with exchanging positions with Maria Manda. When Maria goes up, I stay back in midfield. It is vice versa. When I go up, Maria takes my position. So I can't always get opportunity to score the goal," Monika said. "Anything is good for me, sirs [coaches] select my playing position. I don't have any grief over not playing as a forward. Rather I am happy with my current position."



Morgan powers Eng to big win

AFP, Cardiff

England captain Eoin Morgan led his side to a seven-wicket win over Pakistan in a lone Twenty20 international in Cardiff on Sunday with an unbeaten innings of 57.

Test skipper Joe Root made 47 and James Vince 36 as England overhauled Pakistan's total of 173 for six with four balls to spare at Sophia Gardens.

This was England's second victory in three days after their one-day international success away to Morgan's native Ireland in Dublin on Friday as they continued an encouraging start to a season that sees them staging both the 50-over World Cup and the Ashes.

England fast bowler Jofra Archer also continued his push for a World Cup call-up by taking two for 29 in Pakistan's innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PAKISTAN: 173 for 6 in 20 overs (Babar 65, Haris 50, Imad 18 not out, Faheem 17; Archer 2-29)
ENGLAND: 175 for 3 in 19.2 overs (Vince 36, Root 47, Morgan 57 not out; Imad 1-24)
Result: England won by 7 wickets.

Smith, Warner back in Aussie colours

AFP, Brisbane



Steve Smith and David Warner are set to don the Australian colours this week for the first time since their ball-tampering bans despite struggling with illness.

The pair were welcomed back into the national fold last week for a pre-World Cup camp in Brisbane after serving year-long suspensions for their part in the "sandpapergate" scandal in Cape Town that rocked the sport.

Both have been hampered by viruses since returning from the

Indian Premier League but took part in net sessions on Sunday ahead of the first of three practice games against New Zealand beginning on Monday.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell said he was confident they will be fit to play.

"I assume so. They have been sick the last couple of days so, hopefully, they are up and running," he told reporters.

"But I am pretty sure most of the guys will be ready to go."

The duo have enjoyed a solid comeback in the Twenty20 IPL, with Warner in blistering form, topping the competition batting rankings with 692 runs from 12 innings.

Coach Justin Langer on Friday insisted there was "no tension" between the pair and the rest of the squad, adding: "They're back in the team now. They've been selected, which is brilliant."

Maxwell also denied any awkward moments, saying it had been "business as usual."

"The way they came in (to the dressing room), we wanted to hear how they had enjoyed the IPL; wanted to hear how Davey enjoyed his time opening the batting with (England's Jonny) Bairstow (for Sunrisers Hyderabad)," he said.

"And they are both superstars. I watched both of them go about it (in IPL) and they were both absolutely brilliant over there."

"There will be no worries about them coming back into the team."

With Australia's defence of their World Cup crown less than a month away, Langer will use the three warm-up games to fine-tune his plans.

The team has been in red-hot form, winning eight one-day internationals on the trot, against India and Pakistan, built on a flourishing opening partnership between Aaron Finch and Usman Khawaja.

A key decision for Langer is whether to retain that combination or move one of them down to make way for Warner, who traditionally opens the batting, with the line-up for Monday's game potentially answering that question.

