



With the one-off Test against Afghanistan set to begin on Thursday, the Bangladesh team reached their team hotel in Chattogram yesterday. Here, captain Shakib Al Hasan (L) can be seen entering the premises while on the right Shadman Islam is being received by hotel staff.



PHOTO: BCB

Al-Amin pegs Afghans back

SPORTS REPORTER



Afghanistan XI posted 246 for six at the end of the first day of the two-day practice match with off-spinner Al-Amin bagging four wickets for Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Having won the toss, the visitors went into bat and openers Ihsanullah and Ibrahim Zadran got them off to a solid start each hitting half-centuries. However, both openers opted to retire hurt to provide the other members of the team some match practice ahead of the one-off Test against Bangladesh starting from September 5.

Medium-pace Sumon Khan then picked up the first of his two wickets before Al-Amin struck four times to peg Afghanistan back to 187 for 5.

Sumon then took the wicket of the reliable Mohammad Nabi two overs prior to stumps as Afsar Zazai and skipper Rashid Khan took the visitors to the end of the day without any further loss.

Promising leg-spinner Jubair Hossain went wicketless in 19 overs, conceding 68 runs while Naem Hasan did not bowl in the match. All-rounder Al Amin ended up with figures of four for 51 from 18 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AFGHANISTAN XI: 242/6 (Ihsanullah 62 ret'd, Zadran 52 ret'd, Nabi 33, Zazai 20 not out; Al-Amin 4-51, Sumon 2-21)

Tigresses start with big win

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team registered a commanding eight-wicket win over the USA women's side to start their ICC World T20 qualifier campaign at the Arbroath Sports Club ground in Scotland yesterday.

Electing to bat first, USA were bundled out for 46. SK Chandrasekar was the only USA batter to reach double figures, with 15 runs. Left-arm spinner Shahida Akhter scalped three wickets while pacer Jahanara Alam and off-spinner Khadija Tul Kubra bagged two each.

In reply, Sanjida Islam top-scored with 30 and Bangladesh reached the target for the loss of two wickets and with 17.2 overs to spare. The Tigresses take on the hosts tomorrow.

Malinga gets T20 record in NZ loss

AFP, Kandy

Sri Lanka pacer Lasith Malinga Sunday became the highest wicket-taker in Twenty20 internationals with his 99th scalp in the first match against New Zealand, surpassing Pakistan's Shahid Afridi.

Malinga, who retired from Test cricket in 2011 and played his farewell ODI in July, bowled Colin Munro in the first over of the New Zealand chase to equal Afridi's record of 98 wickets. The 36-year-old then cleaned up Colin de Grandhomme, for 44, to achieve the feat in his 74th T20 match.

Afridi, a leg-spinner who also captained Pakistan, played 99 T20 matches.

But Malinga's effort was not enough as Ross Taylor struck 48 off 29 deliveries to help New Zealand win by five wickets and lead the three-match series 1-0.

Malinga returned figures of 2-23 from his four overs.

The veteran speedster gave away just eight runs from his first three overs but his fourth and the 19th of the innings cost 15 runs to let the Black Caps slip away with the game.

Malinga made his T20 debut against England in 2006. He has 101 wickets from 30 Tests and 338 scalps in 226 ODI games.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 174 for four (K Mendis 79, Dickwell 33; Southee 2-20)

NEW ZEALAND: 175 for five in 19.3 overs (de Grandhomme 44, Taylor 48; Malinga 2-23, Hasaranga 2-21)

Result: New Zealand won by five wickets and lead the three-match series 1-0.

Journey to begin for women's hockey team

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh is set to start its journey in women's hockey through the Women's (U-21) Junior AHF Cup, scheduled for September 9 to 15 in Singapore, with the hope of producing good results.

The team will leave for Singapore on Wednesday morning.

This will be the first international tournament for Bangladesh women, who just started playing the game during the 2018 Bangladesh Youth Games. The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), in association with the Sports Directorate, brought these girls under a three-month training programme ahead of the Women's Junior AHF Cup.

The game's local governing body also appointed veteran Indian coach Ajay Kumar Bansal as advisory coach for two weeks while arranging six preparation matches against the academy side of Sports Authority of India last month. The home side suffered heavy defeats in all six matches, conceding 32 goals while

scoring only. The 18-member final squad was announced yesterday.

"When I came here, I thought these girls would be novice but I see different stuff they put against the Indian side. They have really learned a lot of new things in the last three months and I

FIXTURE	
September 9	Bangladesh vs Singapore
September 10	Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
September 12	Bangladesh vs Hong Kong
September 14	Bangladesh vs Uzbekistan
September 15	Bangladesh vs Chines Taipei

hope they will play well in the Junior AHF Cup," Bansal said at a press conference at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

"I believe the team will play well after the six preparation matches against the Indian academy side because now they know how to play against

a good side," said Bansal, a former head coach of Indian women's team.

"Even though we've never played against them, we believe all the opponents are strong. However, we believe we can show some good performance and return home with at least one win," captain Ritu Khanom said.

BHF general secretary Mominul Haque Shaheed termed the start of women's hockey team's journey as a milestone for hockey federation.

"It is a memorable day for Bangladesh hockey because the official journey starts today. One day we will succeed with these girls as the country's sports is going forward in the presence of female athletes," said Shaheed.

Following the withdrawal of Nepal and Kazakhstan, two pools were merged into one group featuring Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan and Bangladesh. The champion and runners-up teams will join China, Japan, Korea, India, Malaysia and Thailand for Women's Junior Asia Cup 2020.



(L to R) Tutul Hossain Badshah, Jamal Bhuiyan, Nabib Newaz Jibon and Mamunul Islam pose for a photograph during the Bangladesh national team's transit at the Dubai Airport yesterday. The team left Dhaka earlier in the morning and is scheduled to reach Dushanbe, Tajikistan today where they will play their first World Cup qualifying match against Afghanistan on September 10.

PHOTO: BFF

Smith's return brings selection headache

REUTERS, London



The return of Steve Smith in Australia's tour match victory over Derbyshire has made life difficult for selectors ahead of the fourth Ashes Test against England, chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns has said.

Smith was ruled out of the third Test due to concussion and Hohns said the form of his replacement, Marnus Labuschagne, would be a factor in finalising the batting order. Labuschagne, who became Test cricket's first concussion replacement when he went in for Smith in the second Test, has scored 213 runs at 71 in his three innings.

"He has been terrific with the opportunity he was given in Lord's, unfortunate opportunity of course," Hohns said of Labuschagne. "He has certainly made every post a winner, and made the most of every opportunity he has been given.

"He's a prime contender. It's very hard for me to say just where, but he's an option everywhere as we have seen."

Labuschagne has played just seven Tests but batted in five different positions, and a partnership with Smith could help provide some stability in Australia's top order.

Hohns said the dominance of the new ball had been a telling factor in the series, which is tied at 1-1, but recognised that a left-handed heavy lineup was struggling against Jofra Archer and Stuart Broad.

Right handers Smith (126) and Labuschagne (71) head the Australian averages, while left-handers Travis Head (32.00), Usman Khawaja (20.33) and David Warner (13.16) have all struggled.

Matthew Wade, a specialist batsman at number six, is averaging 25.16 but a high score of 110 has skewed that number. Opening batting would also be an issue with Australia's first wicket partnership averaging just 10.16.

'I owe hat-trick to my captain'

ESPNCRINF



The conviction in Virat Kohli's cry, "It's struck the pad first" from third slip when there was only a muffled appeal from the bowler Jasprit Bumrah himself stood vindicated as the Indian captain's review fetched Bumrah Roston Chase's wicket, and a maiden Test hat-trick on Saturday. Bumrah, having become only the third Indian to the distinction, attributed the feat squarely to Kohli.

"Actually I didn't know. I was not very sure of the appeal," Bumrah told Kohli in an interview to bcci.tv. "I thought it was bat [first], so I didn't appeal so much. But it was a good review in the end (laughs), and I think I owe the hat-trick to the captain."

A visibly ebullient Kohli elaborated on the sequence of events that led to the review. "Yeah, we had a discussion," Kohli said. "I asked him what he [Bumrah] thinks; whether he thought the guy has hit it. So the only question was is the ball in line,

DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Jasprit Bumrah became the third Indian bowler to take a Test hat-trick, after Harbhajan Singh against Australia in 2001 and Irfan Pathan against Pakistan in 2006. He dismissed Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase off consecutive deliveries in the ninth over.

The fast bowler finished with figures of six for 27 as the West Indies folded for 117 in their first innings.

India did not enforce the follow-on and had reached 73 for four at tea, extending their lead to 372 runs.

India batsman Hanuma Vihari scored his first Test century in his sixth Test to swell India's total after they resumed the second day on 264 for five.

and he said, 'Everything is in front of the wickets; it's just that I think it's bat.' So we all discussed; Jinx [Ajinkya

Rahane] both thought he [Chase] is late on the ball, so we went for the review and it happened to be on the right side."

Bumrah's sensational 6 for 27, including the wickets of Darren Bravo and Shamarh Brooks in that hat-trick, reduced West Indies to 87 for 7 at stumps on the second day, and Kohli underlined how "amazing [it had been] to watch" his fast bowlers when they are on song. The captain said India's pace battery - mostly comprising Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, and Bumrah - had been "outstanding" for the team over the last two years.

"There's a lot of communication that goes on the field as well," Bumrah said when asked to explain the fast bowlers' success. "When I'm getting wickets, it's somebody else's job to create pressure, and when somebody else is getting wickets, [it's] my job is to create pressure. There's a lot of communication [even] when there is no help [from the surface about] what we can do.



India pacer Jasprit Bumrah picked up six wickets for a measly 16 runs to decimate the West Indies batting order, restricting the side to 94 for seven on the second day of the second Test in Kingston on Saturday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



I didn't imagine I would live to see Indian fast bowlers ruling the world.
- VIV RICHARDS on commentary

What a bowler, man! What a bowler!
- India captain VIRAT KOHLI heard on the stump microphone after Bumrah's first wicket

Welcome to the #Hatrick club @Jaspritumrah93.
- IRFAN PATHAN

Sensational @Jaspritumrah93 well done on your great spell... welcome in the hatrick club so so proud of you. Keep it going brother.
- HARBHAJAN SINGH

Jasprit Bumrah is a once in a lifetime talent
- IAN BISHOP