

Singing the pink blues

SPORTS REPORTER *from Indore*



The Bangladesh team were originally scheduled to play the fourth day of the first Test at the Holkar Stadium in Indore yesterday, but having lost the match by the third evening the Tigers were instead practising with the pink ball yesterday afternoon to prepare for the second Test in Kolkata to be held from November 22.

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman tested the pink ball during the start of the session. Dropped for the first Test due to poor form, Mustafizur will have to come up with new answers to get back into the side, much as the team will need to find ways to thwart India's bowlers from running riot once again. Only this time the challenge of the moving ball is going to be much more acute.

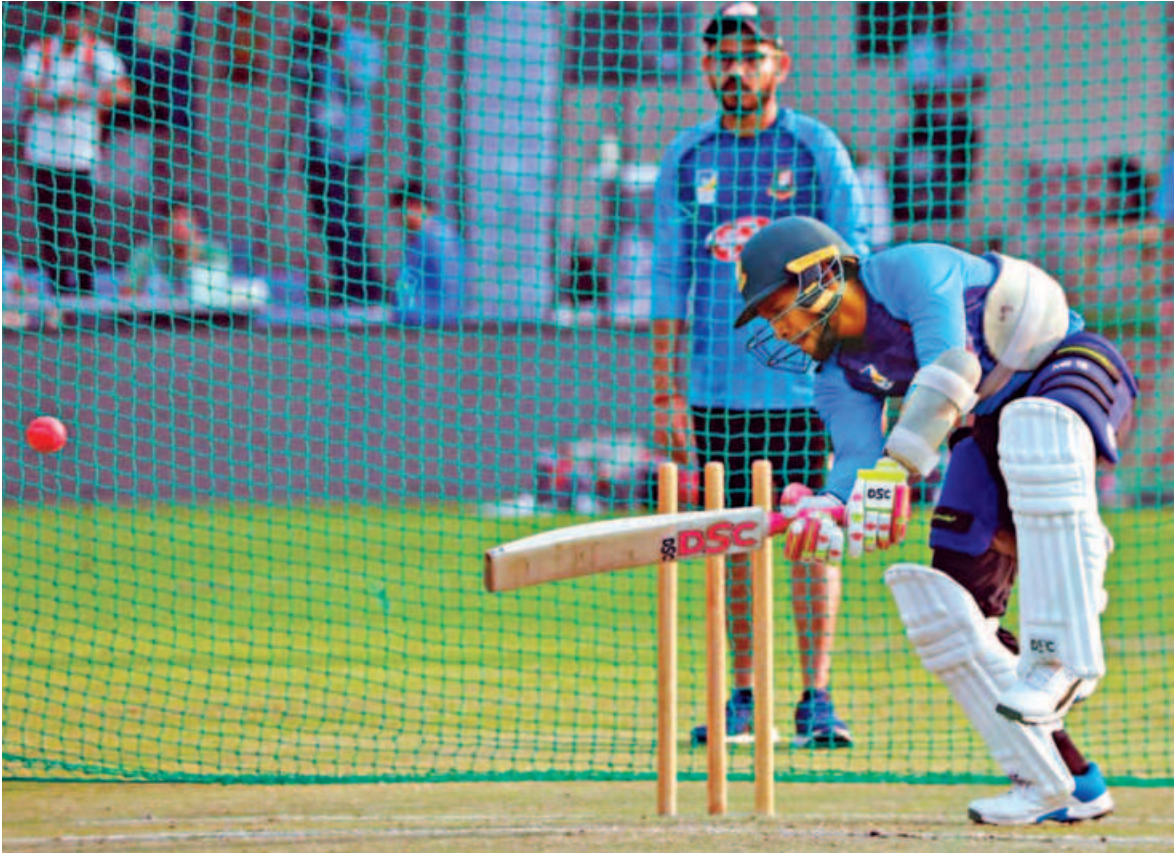
It is being said that the teams -- neither having played a day-night Test -- will start on equal footing when things move to Kolkata following two days' practice. However, India have a lot more experience with the pink ball.

10 of the India side have already played pink-ball matches in domestic cricket, although skipper Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravichandran Ashwin and Umesh Yadav are not among them. Bangladesh's only pink-ball foray in the domestic circuit came in 2013 and none of the current squad members were part of that. India's wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has 17 wickets in pink-ball cricket in the Duleep Trophy. A wrist-spinner could be handy with the day-night match expected to be affected by dew.

Bangladesh's finger-spinners Nayeem Hasan and Taijul Islam went for some huge sixes as the evening wore on yesterday. Liton Das sent one straight onto the glass prison of the press box. With pink on the horizon, things could turn blue in the Kolkata challenge.



PINK-BALL SESSION: (Anti-clockwise from R) The challenge of playing against the pink ball for the first time can be understood by how Bangladesh's best batsman, Mushfiqur Rahim, seemed to be tied up in knots by it during practice in Indore yesterday. The new challenge in the second Test seemed to be the topic of discussion as bowling coach Charl Langeveldt and head coach Russell Domingo seemed to be telling Al-Amin Hossain and Liton Das of its intricacies. PHOTO: **BCB**



Jayed looking to emulate Shami

ABDULLAH AH MEHDI *from Indore*



Bangladesh pacer Abu Jayed, who impressed with his ability to swing the ball during the first Test against India, insisted that he kept a discerning eye on India pacer Mohammad Shami during the match to learn key aspects of swing bowling.

"It is something educational and obviously we [Bangladesh pace attack] tried to learn. They have played a lot of Tests and are very senior bowlers. I talked to Shami bhai yesterday because there are similarities between him and me," Jayed informed while talking to reporters ahead of Bangladesh's practice session in Indore yesterday.

Shami ran rampant, picking up seven wickets during the match as Bangladesh were bowled out for 150 and 213 in their two innings. Jayed was looking at him closely to find cues on how to use the seam and the pitch like a bowler renowned for his ability to swing the ball.

"There are some similarities between him and me since we both use the seam. I have seen him bowl a lot of times and I paid extra attention on how he was bowling. I have compared his height to mine to find out if he is taller than me or of equal height. Then I figured maybe I could bowl like him," Jayed said.

The right-arm quick was the only bowler in the Bangladesh team to get anything out of the wicket. He used the seam position to extract some extra bounce and movement from the pitch at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. With the pink-ball Test coming up, the Tigers will be

It was a good feeling. They are like world's number 1 and 2 batsmen. Since Virat Kohli is the world's best batsman, getting his wicket was a dream. Kohli's wicket is the dream wicket of my life.

ABU JAYED
BANGLADESH PACER



looking to him to lead the way.

"I haven't tried the pink ball yet but I think for me, swing is the key. In Tests, line and length are key since batsmen can make mistakes when you are able to maintain it [line and length]."

Jayed's pace partner Ebadot Hossain did not get movement but while bowling in tandem, the pacer was able to keep the pressure on the India top-order. Jayed said that Ebadot is in good rhythm and said that given their experience, they have done well.

"Ebadot is very new; I am too. He played in three Tests and I played in six. He bowled well that day. We have been talking during the national league. He improved his line and length and has good rhythm."

The India pacers had maintained impeccable line and length and, along with the swing they extracted, troubled Bangladesh's batsmen. The pacers will have to make the best use of the pink ball without giving away loose deliveries. Essentially, Jayed wanted more control. He informed that pace-bowling coach Charles Langeveldt has been telling them to focus on bowling in the right areas instead of looking to bowl fast.

"Langeveldt's theory is that he isn't concerned with pace and he didn't tell us to increase pace. He told us to look at how the India pacers were bowling since they were bowling in the 130-140 kmph range as well.

"He told us 'you have to bowl in these areas but don't overlook what line they are bowling since they are all bowling the same line'. So I am not concerned about pace."

Red-hot Towhid seals series for U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER



Towhid Hridoy continued in his rich vein of form as the right-hander slammed a second consecutive hundred to confirm Bangladesh Under-19's series victory over their Sri Lankan counterparts at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

The home side rode on Towhid's 120-ball 115 to win the fourth one-day by five wickets and take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Towhid's run spree started in the second game, after the first match was washed out, when he hit an unbeaten 82 in Khulna and then scored an unbeaten 123 in the third game before reaching his fourth youth hundred, the most by any Bangladeshi batsman.

Towhid smote nine fours and three sixes during his fine knock, while captain Akbar Ali clobbered four boundaries and two sixes during an unbeaten 60-ball 66 as the home side overtook the visitors' 260 for seven with 16 balls to spare.

Amshi De Silva claimed two wickets for 55 runs in eight overs.

Earlier, Sri Lanka Under-19s posted 260 for seven in 50 overs after electing to bat first. Number six batsman Gamage Dinusha top-scored 43. All the Sri Lanka



TOWHID... 115

batsmen got starts but failed to convert those into substantial innings.

Pacer Tanzim Hasan was the most successful bowler, taking three wickets for 54 runs in his 10-over spell.

The final game will be take place at the same venue tomorrow.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA U-19S: 260-7in 50 overs (Paranavithana 31, Samaaz 34, Kahaduwaarachchi 37, Rasantha 25, Dananjaya 27, Dinusha 43, Piyumal 29; Tanzim 3-54, Shamim 1-59, Rakibul 1-43)

BANGLADESH U-19: 265-5 in 47.2 overs (Tanzid 26, Towhid 115, Shahadat 23, Akbar 66 not out, de Silva 2-55)

Result: Bangladesh U-19s won by five wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Towhid Hridoy.

Mash made to wait in draft

SPORTS REPORTER



There were dramatic scenes in the players' draft of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League yesterday as Bangladesh ODI skipper and the tournament's most successful captain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, was not picked by any team till the second spell of the fourth round of picks when Dhaka Platoon finally roped in the charismatic cricketer.

Following a disagreement between the franchises and the BPL governing council, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) board decided to hold the next edition of the BPL as a special edition to mark the 100th birth anniversary of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,

which the BCB will organise on their own.

From the Tk 50-lakh A-plus category, apart from Mashrafe, Mushfiqur Rahim was the first to be called by Khulna Tigers and Tamim Iqbal was then picked by Dhaka. Rajshahi picked Liton Das in the third call while Chattogram Challengers and Rangpur Rangers picked Mahmudullah Riyad and Mustafizur Rahman in the fifth and sixth calls respectively.

Among the foreigners' A-plus category, priced at 1 lakh US dollars, Chattogram roped in the biggest name in T20s, Chris Gayle, in the first call while Rajshahi Royals picked Ravi Bopara.

The opening ceremony will take place on December 8 before the tournament kicks off on December 11.

Rampant Ruyel rocks Ctg in 2 days

SPORTS REPORTER



18-year-old left-arm pacer Ruyel Miyah made the most of conditions

in Bogura to win Sylhet Division their National Cricket League match against Chattogram Division inside two days at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium yesterday.

The teenager from Sreemangal followed up his record eight-wicket haul in the first innings with a splendid fifer in the second as Sylhet registered an emphatic nine-wicket victory to become Tier 2 champions and gain promotion to Tier 1.

The national players' helplessness against the Indian pace trio on a favourable track was still fresh in the minds of many cricket fans and while it would be unfair to compare Indore's pace-bowling exhibition to that in Bogura, Bangladeshi batsmen's weakness against pacers on sporting wickets was exposed here as well.

"The wicket was fantastic. It was essential for batsmen to apply themselves properly to survive but they were really helpless; much like our national batsmen at Indore. Ruyel used the conditions fantastically," match referee Debabrata Paul told The Daily Star over phone.

"It was not that easy to pick up wickets on this pitch because there were also good bounce but I maintained a good line and length to find success," said Ruyel.

On an action-packed second day of the sixth and final round game, a total of 16 wickets fell.

Chattogram's right-arm seamer Irfan Hossain also took advantage

of the conditions and picked up six wickets, but it was Ruyel who hogged the limelight with a performance instrumental to Sylhet's success.

Resuming the second day on 186 for five, Sylhet were bowled out for 230 to take a 124-run first innings lead.

However, Chattogram once again failed against the young paceman from Sylhet and were eventually bundled out for just 165 in their second essay to set a 42-run target, which Sylhet chased down for the loss of only one wicket.

Sadikur Rahman and Irfan



Players of Sylhet Division celebrate after beating Chattogram Division by nine wickets in the National Cricket League at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura yesterday. Sylhet emerged champions of Tier 2. PHOTO: **BCB**

Shukkur scored sixties and were among only three batsmen in the eleven that got into double figures in the face of some fiery bowling from Ruyel, who ended with the figures of five for 39 from 15.1 overs.

With three wins from six games, Sylhet finished on top of the table in Tier 2 with 36.05 points.

In the other Tier 2 game, Dhaka Metropolis gave a good reply to Barishal's 414 runs and were 225 for two at stumps. Resuming the day on 338 for 6, Barisal were bowled out for 414.

Dhaka's innings was built around an unbeaten 157-run third-wicket partnership between Shamsur Rahman (90) and skipper Marshall Ayub (85).

In Tier 1, table-toppers Khulna ended the second day on a happy note as they reached 253 for three at stumps courtesy of an unbeaten 121-run fourth wicket partnership

BPL DRAFT: WHO WENT WHERE	
Jamuna Bank Dhaka Platoon: Tamim Iqbal, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Anamul Haque, Momtazul Haque (local), Thisara Perera, Laurie Evans (foreign)	Sylhet Thunder: Mosaddek Hossain, Mohammad Mithun (local), Sherfane Rutherford, Shafiqullah Shafaq (foreign)
Premier Bank Khulna Tigers: Mushfiqur Rahim, Shafiqul Islam, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Aminul Islam (local), Rilee Rossouw, Robbie Frylinck (foreign)	Cumilla Warriors: Soumya Sarkar, Al Amin Hossain, Sabbir Rahman (local) Kusal Perera, Mujeeb Ur Rahman (foreign)
Rajshahi Royals: Liton Das, Afif Hossain, Abu Jayed, Taijul Islam (local), Ravi Bopara, Hazratullah zazai (foreign)	Chattogram Challengers: Mahmudullah, Imrul Kayes, Nasir Hossain, Rubel Hossain (local), Chris Gayle, Keshrick Williams (foreign)
Rangpur Rangers: Mustafizur Rahman, Naim Sheikh, Jahurul Islam, Taskin Ahmed (local), Mohammad Nabi,	



(L-R) Grant Flower, Ottis Gibson, Owais Shah and Kabir Ali attended the BBPL draft at a hotel in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**