

SPORT



Bangladesh T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad (2nd from R) has his eyes locked on the ball during fielding practice in Mirpur yesterday as smiling teammates Mustafizur Rahman, Al-Amin Hossain, Rubel Hossain and Ebadat Hossain enjoy the effort on the second day of a three-day training camp for the upcoming T20I tour of Pakistan.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

‘I now believe I can score in T20s’

SPORTS REPORTER



Some youngsters and a few fresh faces have been given opportunities in Bangladesh's squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series in Pakistan and the likes of top-order batsman Nazmul Hossain Shanto will surely look to capitalise on his chance this time around.

The 21-year-old left hander has been highly rated by selectors but is yet to justify his talent on the international stage. Since making his Test debut in 2017 in New Zealand, Nazmul has played just one more Test and also had a disappointing start to his ODI career during the Asia Cup in 2018.

The scenario was much the same in T20Is as Nazmul scored just 11 against Zimbabwe on his T20I debut and managed just five against Afghanistan in the last T20I he played for Bangladesh in September last year.

In the recently concluded Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League too, Nazmul did not have the best of starts for Khulna Tigers. Fortunately for the talented left-hander, he



NAZMUL HOSSAIN SHANTO

finally broke the shackles and smashed a blistering hundred against Dhaka Platoon to become the edition's first local centurion. He continued his fine run and went scored an unbeaten 78 in the first qualifier against Rajshahi Royals.

Nazmul said that BBPL performances helped boost his confidence and that he is looking forward to drawing from that belief in Pakistan.

"I think, after the BPL, I have gained the confidence that I am able to score runs in the

shortest format. Initially I lacked in confidence as I was unable to score runs in the early stages of the tournament. But I kept the belief and that helped me score runs in the latter stages," Nazmul told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The Rajshahi lad also informed that he has learned a lot from past mistakes and that he was looking forward to applying the lessons if he gets the opportunity against Pakistan.

With a total of five openers in the squad, including Nazmul, the cricketer informed that he is ready to bat in any position as per the demands of the team.

Nazmul, who toured the country with the Bangladesh Emerging Team in 2018, informed that there are sporting pitches in Pakistan, which would help both batsmen and bowlers.

The Bangladesh squad will depart for Pakistan on January 22 and will take part in the first of the T20Is on January 24 in Lahore. There are a few fitness concerns with skipper Mahmudullah Riyad suffering from fever while star opener Tamim Iqbal has some pain in his hip. However, both senior members are expected to be fit in time for the first T20I.

BCB aims to host ICC events in next cycle

SPORTS REPORTER



The host nations of International Cricket Council (ICC) events in the next cycle, from 2024 to 2031, will be decided through a bidding process and Bangladesh will bid to become the sole hosts of some of those ICC events, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan informed yesterday.

The newly appointed ICC CEO Manu Sawhney and commercial general manager Campbell Jamieson reached Dhaka on Saturday for a short visit to discuss hosting ICC events for the next cycle. The ICC delegates, accompanied by the BCB president and CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, held a meeting with Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

"This [bidding process] is different from the way ICC events were distributed in the past. They have come with a new proposal. A total of 24 events which includes eight male, eight female and eight under-19 events will be allocated through this system. Previously, those events used to be hosted on a continental basis by member nations

and was decided by the discussions between the boards. Now they have introduced the bidding system similar to the Olympics or FIFA events, where countries bid to host events. They [ICC] now want the countries to bid and it is not only for Test nations... it's open for all. They even spoke to the Malaysian prime minister and are even thinking of meeting with the United States," Hassan told reporters yesterday.

The BCB is hopeful of hosting some ICC events as Bangladesh had hosted events in the past. The most notable of those were the 1998 Mini World Cup, co-hosting the 2011 World Cup and solely hosting the 2014 World Twenty20.

"The new bidding cycle includes the World Cup, Champions Trophy... everything. Bangladesh will obviously bid as we have the advantage which associate nations do not have when it comes to infrastructure. For the men's World Cup, a host needs to have eight stadiums, which many of the associate nations do not have. So, most of the Test playing nations do not require infrastructural development help from the government," Hassan added.

Sawhney and Jamieson were scheduled to depart Dhaka last night.

U-19s face Scotland with qtrs in sight

SPORTS REPORTER



Fresh from an impressive win in the opening match, Bangladesh Under-19s will take on Scotland Under-19s today in their second group match of the ICC Under-19 World Cup at the Witrand Oval in Potchefstroom today.

Bangladesh did not give their Zimbabwean counterparts much chance during an emphatic nine-wicket win in their rain-interrupted opening game. The impressive Bangladesh side will definitely try to continue their good run when they face off against lowly Scotland, who suffered a seven-wicket defeat in their opening game against Pakistan. A victory today will confirm a quarterfinal berth for the young Tigers.

"We have been playing good cricket for the last few months and we always try to win. Our main objective is to maintain the consistency in our performance. Everybody is focused on performing their best," said Bangladesh Under-19s pacer Mirtunjoy Chowdhury yesterday ahead of their second match. "We didn't play against Scotland earlier but we saw their performance against Pakistan," he added.

Bangladesh will play their last Group C match against Pakistan on January 24 at the JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom.

Windies rout Ireland, level T20 series

AFP, Baseterre

Opening batsman Lendl Simmons blasted 10 sixes in an undefeated 91 as West Indies routed Ireland by nine wickets in the third and final T20I on Sunday.

The three-match series ended 1-1 after Ireland edged a first-game thriller by four runs in Grenada before Saturday's match at Warner Park was abandoned due to rain.

SCORES IN BRIEF

IRELAND: 138 all out in 19.1 overs (K. O'Brien 36; Pollard 3-17, Bravo 3-19)
WEST INDIES: 140 for 1 in 11 overs (Simmons 91 not out, Lewis 46)

Result: West Indies won by nine wickets.

England lead series 2-1

AFP, Port Elizabeth



England completed a comprehensive win by an innings and 53 runs on the fifth day of the third Test against South Africa at St George's Park on Monday, taking an unbeatable 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

England were held up by a last wicket stand of 99 between Keshav Maharaj (71) and Dane Paterson (39 not out) and it needed a direct-hit run-out by Sam Curran from mid-on to clinch the result shortly before lunch. South Africa were bowled out for 237.

The partnership between Maharaj and Paterson was easily South Africa's best of the match and showed up an otherwise poor batting performance by the hosts.

South Africa added 135 runs in losing their last four wickets, which seemed unlikely when Vernon Philander chipped a catch to midwicket off Stuart Broad three balls into the day.

Mark Wood and Dom Bess also

It was a very disappointing batting performance. Ultimately I have to take responsibility for the performance and I now have to mentally and physically upskill these guys in a short space of time to make them better players.

MARK BOUCHER
SOUTH AFRICA COACH

It was a brilliant template for us moving forward as a team. It's exactly what we are after in terms of our development. It fills the whole group with a massive amount of confidence.

JOE ROOT
ENGLAND CAPTAIN

took wickets but England captain Joe Root could not add to his four wickets taken on Sunday, conceding 56 runs in 10 overs on Monday to finish with four for 87.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 499 for 9 declared.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 209 and second innings 237 (Du Plessis 36, Maharaj 71, Paterson 39 not out; Wood 3-32, Root 4-87)

Result: England won by an innings and 53 runs and lead the 4-match series 2-1.
Player-of-the-match: Ollie Pope.



The England cricketers leave the ground after their victory over South Africa on the fifth day of the third Test in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

(L-R) Humaira Akter Antara, Ety Khatun, Ruman Sana, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Mabia Akter Simanta and Marzan Akter Priya were among the 13th South Asian Games medal winners, each of whom were given cash rewards by the Bangladesh Olympic Association at a ceremony at the Kurmitola Golf Club auditorium yesterday.

Zimbabwe post 358

REUTERS, Harare



Left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya took five wickets as Sri Lanka bowled out hosts Zimbabwe out for 358 on day two of the first Test at the Harare Sports Club on Monday, but the home side will be pleased with their batting efforts on their return to Test cricket.

The tourists reached the close at 42 for one in their reply, a deficit of 316 runs that they will seek to wipe out on a slow pitch on day three in the first match of a two-Test series.

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne (12 not out) and Kusal Mendis (6 not out) are at the crease after Sri Lanka lost opener Oshada Fernando for 21, bowled by Donald Tiripano with the seamer's first ball in the match.

Zimbabwe had resumed on the second morning on 189 for two, but lost Brendan

Taylor (21) early when he was trapped leg before by seamer Suranga Lakmal (3-53), who also accounted for top scorer Craig Ervine (85).

Embuldeniya (5-115) then ate into the middle order, removing captain Sean Williams (18), the dangerous Sikandar Raza (41) and Regis Chakabva (8). He claimed his second five-wicket haul in tests when he bowled Kyle Jarvis for one.

Zimbabwe batted for 148 overs for their 358, showing great patience at the crease as they made Sri Lanka toil for their wickets.

The tour was hastily arranged, having only been announced on Jan. 8. Zimbabwe, returning to Test cricket for the first time since their tour of Bangladesh in 2018, were briefly suspended by the International Cricket Council last year because of government interference in the sport, but were reinstated in October.

The second Test will also be played at the Harare Sports Club, starting on Jan. 27.

Four called up to bolster SA

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Beleaguered South Africa signalled the possibility of wholesale changes to their team for the last Test against England after recalling four players on Monday.

Batsmen Temba Bavuma and Keegan Petersen, left-arm seam bowler Beuran Hendricks, and all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo will join the team in Johannesburg.

Squad: Faf du Plessis (C), Temba Bavuma, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, Beuran Hendricks, Keshav Maharaj, Pieter Malan, Anrich Nortje, Dane Paterson, Keegan Petersen, Andile Phehlukwayo, Vernon Philander, Dwaine Pretorius, Rassie van der Dussen.