



Bangladesh T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad 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.

England lead series 2-1

APP, 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

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.

JOE ROOT
ENGLAND CAPTAIN

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.

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: 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 bowler Beuran Hendricks, and all-rounder Andile Phelukwayo will join the team in Johannesburg.

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