



INDIA ALL OUT FOR 78

James Anderson roars after inducing the edge off the bat of India skipper Virat Kohli as England bundled out the visitors for 78 on the first day of the third Test at Headingley yesterday. It was India's lowest Test total against England since being dismissed for 42 at Lord's in 1974. India lost their last six wickets for 22 runs having been 56-4 at lunch, and it was home great Anderson who ripped through the visitors' top order while taking three for just six runs in eight overs. Meanwhile, both Sam Curran and Craig Overton took two wickets in two balls after lunch, with Craig Overton finishing with three for 14 in 10.4 overs after being recalled in place of injured fast bowler Mark Wood. England had moved on to 120 for no loss at stumps in response to India's paltry first innings collection.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BCB AGM today after three years

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board's annual general meeting (AGM) will take place at a city hotel today, three years since the last board's last AGM on October 2, 2017.

A total of 166 councilors are expected to attend the meeting, where the approval of the manifest of AGM and EGM alongside the discussion and approval of the CEO's activities for the year 2016-17, 2018-19 and 2019-20 will take place.

There will be a presentation, review, and approval of audit reports on income and expenditure of the three financial years mentioned by the Chief Finance Officer. The approval of BCB's budget for the current financial year is also expected to be decided at the meeting.

"The AGM of the board will take place on August 26. Due to certain limitations, we were unable to hold the AGM and EGM over the past three years. We tried to arrange the AGM in July this year but that didn't happen due to the Covid-19 outbreak. We are prepared for the AGM and the councilors have already arrived to attend the meeting and we are expecting it to complete smoothly," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told the media yesterday.

Rahbar, Tahmid excited with call-up

SPORTS REPORTER



Rahbar Wahed Khan and Tahmid Islam, the two expatriate footballers called up to the 23-member squad for next month's Tri-nation Cup in Kyrgyzstan, have expressed their excitement at getting the opportunity.

Khan, a Toronto-based 25-year-old forward, plays for semi-professional side North Toronto Nitros while 18-year-old midfielder Tahmid Islam plays for French fifth division side USAA Vertou.

In a video message posted by the Bangladesh Football Federation, Rahbar said he was looking forward to joining the camp. "I'm very humbled and excited to join the national team in the Tri-nations Cup. My focus is on getting into the starting eleven and help the team; help whichever way to get more goals and win more games," Khan said.

"I'm feeling really good to be called up. I ask everyone to pray so that I can brighten the image of the nation and take Bangladesh football to a new level," Tahmid said in another video message.

Coach Jamie Day, meanwhile, said that the three matches in Kyrgyzstan is an ideal opportunity to test these players ahead of October's SAFF Championship. "I've seen them

(Rahbar and Tahmid) play. I think it's worth having a look at them at international level to see if they're good enough. It gives me a good opportunity to see if they're good enough to go to the SAFF Championship," Day told reporters on Tuesday. "Both are technically good players. I'm hoping that they would add some quality to the squad."

"They will play at least one of the three matches (in Kyrgyzstan), so they'll get a chance to show us what they are capable of doing. I've seen five or six matches (video footage) of each player. I want to have the strongest squad possible to take to the SAFF Championship," Day added.

Denmark-based Jamal Bhuiyan was the first expatriate to represent Bangladesh before becoming the captain while Finland-based defender Tariq Kazi has followed in his footsteps and has become a valuable member of the team in recent times.

The Bangladesh team will leave for Bishkek on August 28. The team will play against Palestine on September 5 and Kyrgyzstan on September 7 before wrapping up the tour with a game against Kyrgyzstan U-23 team on September 9.



Rahbar Wahed Khan

NEWS IN BRIEF



'Man on a mission'

Shaheen Shah Afridi completed a ten-wicket match haul to bowl Pakistan to a series-levelling 109-run victory over the West Indies in the final session of the second and final Test at Sabina Park on Tuesday. Shaheen's second-innings figures of four for 43 gave him a match haul of ten for 94 and with a series-leading tally of 18 wickets in the two matches at an average of 11.28, it was inevitable that the 21-year-old would be both man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series. A stellar Test series has moved Afridi into the top-ten of the ICC MRF Tyres Test Bowling rankings for the first time. Climbing ten spots to make his entry, Afridi is the highest-ranked Pakistan bowler in the new rankings, eighth on 783 points. "Man on a Mission, 10 wks in a Match, 18 wks in 2 Test match series. #SimplyOutstanding So PROUD of you @ShaheenAfridi, praised former Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis on his twitter page.

Serena Williams withdraws from U.S. Open

Serena Williams has withdrawn from next week's U.S. Open after the American said on Wednesday that her torn hamstring had not completely healed ahead of the final Grand Slam of the year. Williams, a six-times winner at Flushing Meadows, has had an injury-marred season and limped out of her first-round match at Wimbledon in tears due to the leg injury.

'We'll find out if our approach suits these wickets'

SPORTS REPORTER



"The environment here is a lot cleaner and a less noisy than at home," remarked New Zealand pacer Hamish Bennett, who, along with the rest of the Kiwi squad, is currently undergoing a three-day quarantine period at a capital hotel ahead of a five-match T20I series against Bangladesh next month.

That statement from Bennett, who will only step out of his hotel room on August 27 for the first practice session, may have been very far from reality but when it comes to assessing the conditions the Kiwis might face in the upcoming series, the 34-year-old pacer was spot on.

"It was fun and games [against the Australians]. I assume it will be the same. We are thankful for that Australia series because it helped us learn how Bangladesh would approach us," said Bennett.

However, Bennett realises only knowing the conditions would not help their cause. "It is one thing knowing how they will approach us and another thing to play according to those conditions. We have four or five days of training to find out whether our game plans will suit these types of wickets," added Bennett.

Teams touring any nation in the sub-continent are well aware of the challenges posed by playing on spin-friendly tracks and preparing accordingly. Australia seemed caught by surprise regardless as the hosts secured a historic series win after the hosts found it difficult on an extremely slow, low and gripping Mirpur

pitch, which offered a team-high total of 131 across the five T20I matches.

Despite being outplayed the first three games on the trot, the Australians voiced no complaints about conditions or pitch. Instead, they took it as an opportunity to grow and adapt to playing on such trying pitches in the future. Bennet also was impressed at the way the Tigers had found a way to make the most of their home advantage.

"I think we produce bouncy and pacy wickets whenever Bangladesh come to New Zealand. They find those uncomfortable and when we come over here, they produce those turning [pitches], the ones we find uncomfortable. I think it's great," the pacer said.

New Zealand inexperienced squad, which does not feature a single player from their squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup, prepared at the High Performance Center in Lincoln on pitches that were prepared to be simulated to be similar to the pitches in Mirpur.

Both teams will get a five-day practice period before the first T20I on September 1. Although the Kiwis remain optimistic about that being enough to acclimatise and adapt to conditions, Bangladesh should still be the favorites for taking the series.

From the Kiwis' perspective, it is not wrong to show optimism. But the question is how optimistic the Tigers should be about getting the ideal preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup if the team management once again opts for a typically slow Mirpur pitch?



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