

Shakib shows improvement in FITNESS TEST

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has undergone a fitness test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday and his inclusion for the second and final Test against Pakistan will depend on the report of the test.

Shakib suffered a hamstring injury during Bangladesh's third Super 12 game of the ICC T20 World Cup against the West Indies and was ruled out for the rest of the tournament.

Shakib, who already missed the three-match T20I series against Pakistan due to the injury, was initially named in the Tigers' squad for the first Test. But the all-rounder failed to recover in time.

"Shakib has given a fitness test

today [yesterday]. He has shown a lot of improvement. Now, we will send the report to the team management and they will make the final decision," Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) chief physician Debashish Chowdhury told the media yesterday.

According to selector Habibul Bashar, the team management is still waiting for the final report and added that Shakib's inclusion will certainly boost the Tigers' strength.

"There is no doubt that Shakib will play the second Test, if fit. But we are still waiting for the final reports and will decide only after confirmation," said Bashar.

It was learned that Shakib is expected to join the side in Dhaka for the second Test starting from December 4 in Mirpur.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'I'm sure the players, too, are very frustrated'

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM CHATTOGRAM



Once again batting failure has led Bangladesh to the verge of another Test match defeat following some poor decision making by the Tigers batsman against Pakistan on the fourth day of the first Test in Chattogram yesterday.

From Mushfiqur Rahim's error in judging a Hasan Ali delivery to which he shouldered arms only to lose his stumps in the first over of the day to the brain fade of Nurul Hasan, who came in as a concussion substitute for debutant Yasir Ali, Bangladesh continued to repeat mistakes of the past.

After bundling out Bangladesh for just 157 runs in their second innings with a small target of 202 runs to chase, Pakistan ended the

day on 109 without loss riding on fifties from openers Abid Ali and Abdullah Shafique.

According to Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo, the hosts would require something special on the final day to make a turnaround in the Test.

"It looks all the wickets have fallen in the first session. I am really proud of how the guys have fought in this Test. They showed really good character. Pakistan are well ahead of the game. They need another 93 runs, so it will need something really special. Anything is possible in Test cricket. We have to come tomorrow morning believing we still have a chance. If we can pick up one or two wickets in the first half-an-hour, anything is possible," the South African said during a virtual press conference

yesterday. Mushfiqur started the day with a boundary against Hasan before leaving an angling delivery coming on to the stumps and was bowled out for just 16.

There was, however, a ray of hope when Liton Das and Yasir gave some stability to the innings, adding 47 runs for the fifth wicket with the latter scoring 36 runs before suffering a blow to the back of his helmet, forcing him to retire hurt.

Liton, following a century in the first innings, continued his fine run with the bat and scored a well-deserved half-century but he didn't get much support from the other end. Sohan wasted his opportunity and played an unnecessary shot to get caught at long-on off the bowling of Sajid Khan when Bangladesh needed to build a partnership and extend the lead

further. Bangladesh lost the last three wickets adding just four runs and eventually handed control of the Test to the visitors.

Domingo usually backs his players even in toughest of times, but here he expressed his frustration and said that the players are not able to absorb pressure when it's required.

"We got ourselves in a great position but we were just not able to seal the deal. I am sure the players, too, are very frustrated. We seem to be making improvements in the format but they have been just making silly mistakes at crucial stages: a catch going down, or playing a loose shot, or bowling a bad spell. We just can't seem to sustain for a longer period of time. It is very frustrating," Domingo said.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH

First innings-330 all out and Second innings 157 all out in 56.2 overs (Liton 59, Yasir 36, Saif 18; Afridi 5-32, Sajid 3-33, Hasan 2-52)

PAKISTAN

First innings-286 all out and Second innings-109 for no loss in 33 overs (Abid 56 not out, Shafique 53 not out; Tajjul 0-37, Miraz 0-36)



Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi bagged his fourth five-wicket haul yesterday when he took the wicket of Bangladesh batter Abu Jayed on the fourth day of the first Test in Chattogram. This was his maiden fifer against Bangladesh and he now has 12 wickets against the Tigers at an average of 16.16 in two Tests. Afridi currently has 44 Test wickets this year from only eight games.

PHOTO: STAR

If you ask [Nurul Hasan] Sohan what he would do with that ball, he'd not play the same shot.

He let himself and the team down with that shot, no doubt about that.

BANGLADESH HEAD COACH RUSSELL DOMINGO

Yasir blow hurts Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER FROM CHATTOGRAM



It was not the type of international debut Yasir Ali would have imagined as the right-hander looked impressive and raised hope for a turnaround for Bangladesh but failed to see the game through as he suffered a concussion on the fourth day of their first Test against Pakistan in Chattogram yesterday.

The 25-year-old's blow to the back of his helmet off a Shaheen Shah Afridi bouncer proved to be the defining moment of the day's play.

Following a long spell of warming the bench for nearly three years for the national side, Yasir finally made his debut against Pakistan in the ongoing first Test at his hometown Chattogram.

Although the right-hander missed out in the first innings as he was dismissed for four, Yasir looked solid in the second innings since coming on to bat under pressure with the Tigers reeling at 25 for four in the crucial final hour of the third day's play.

Bangladesh lost experienced Mushfiqur Rahim in the very first over of the fourth day but Yasir, along with Liton Das, weathered the early storm and added 47 runs for the fifth wicket. And it seemed that the Tigers may be able to post a good second innings total against Pakistan.

Yasir remained compact in his shot-making and also displayed the quality of a good batter with his solid defense against both Pakistan's pace and spin attacks.

And just when Bangladesh were eyeing a substantial lead, Yasir faced a nasty blow that eventually saw him being retired hurt after a 72-ball 36, laced with six boundaries.

Although a sturdy Yasir managed to withstand the hit initially, facing another seven deliveries following the conclusion of the ICC-mandated



concussion protocol, the local boy had to be eventually taken to the hospital for further treatment.

Yasir, however, was declared stable following a CT scan. But the batter would still be required to remain under observation for the next 24 hours and is expected to be fit before the second Test.

The Bangladesh team management included wicket-keeper batsman Nurul Hasan as his concussion replacement ahead of another option as the like for like replacement of Yasir in the form of young batsman Mahmudul Hasan Joy.

It was only the second instance of Bangladesh needing concussion substitutes in a Test after Liton and Mehedi Hasan Miraz were replaced by Nayeem Hasan and Tajjul Islam during the pink-ball Test against India in 2019.

Nurul joined Liton with the aim to build up a partnership after lunch

and just when the pair looked to gain some momentum, Nurul threw his wicket away trying to smash spinner Sajid Khan for a six only to be caught at long-on after a 15-run knock.

Nurul's dismissal exposed Bangladesh's tail and Liton's departure soon after only meant that the hosts were bundled out for 157 in their second innings, managing to post a small target of 202 runs just before the tea break.

According to the Tigers' head coach Russell Domingo, Sohan's shot selection at a crucial juncture of the game had led the team down as the Tigers are now on the verge of a Test match defeat with Pakistan needing just 93 runs to win with ten wickets in hand.

"If you ask Sohan what he would do with that ball, he'd not play the same shot. He let himself and the team down with that shot, no doubt about that," said Domingo.



Ravindra stages great escape for New Zealand

REUTERS, New Delhi



Debutant Rachin Ravindra and number 11 batsman Ajaz Patel survived intense pressure to help New Zealand draw the opening Test against India in Kanpur on

Monday.

Chasing a target of 284 for victory on the final day, New Zealand slumped to 155-9 with nearly nine overs to go and an upbeat India was pressing for victory in fading light.

But Ravindra and Patel batted resolutely to deny India and guided New Zealand to 165-9 when bad light stopped play.

Ravindra faced 91 balls for his 18 not out, while Patel survived 23 balls to be unbeaten on two.

Tom Latham top-scored for New Zealand with 52, but



Rachin Ravindra is congratulated by New Zealand captain Kane Williamson after New Zealand drew the Test.

PHOTO: TWITTER

it was New Zealand's unbroken last-wicket partnership which saved the match for them.

"It has been tough and go around this time throughout this Test," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said after the match. "The Indian side is a formidable one, they were on top for the large part, but we hung around. All three results were in play but we fought hard and showed the fight on the last day."

After a wicketless morning session, India claimed three wickets in the second session to take charge, though they eventually had to settle for a draw.

Ravindra Jadeja (4-40) and Ravichandran Ashwin (3-35) took the bulk of the wickets for the hosts.

"Very good game of cricket, they played really well," India captain Ajinkya Rahane said. "I think the way we came back in the second session was very good."

Asked about his chat with the umpires when the light was being checked, Rahane said, "As a fielding team, you want to bowl more overs, as a batting unit you don't want to bat in that situation."

"The chat was about the light, but umpires made the call and I thought they were right."

India batsman Shreyas Iyer was adjudged man-of-the-match for smashing a century and a fifty in his debut test. The second and final Test starts in Mumbai on Friday.