

Bangladesh's Shakib in doubt for New Zealand tour



Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan reacts after being injured

AFP | Dhaka

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is a major doubt for Bangladesh's tour of New Zealand next month because of injury and personal reasons.

Shakib returned to international cricket, after a one-year ban for failing to report corruption approaches, with the one-day series against West Indies that ended Monday.

He scored 113 runs and claimed six wickets to win the player of the series award.

But Shakib limped off the field during Monday's 120-run win with a groin problem. He was unable to complete his bowling spell.

Shakib said he would wait at least a day before making an assessment but admitted "it doesn't look very good at the moment".

Media reported that he might also skip the New Zealand series to be with his wife, who is expecting a child, in the



Bangladesh had been counting on Shakib for the tour in February and March as they have never beaten the Kiwis in New Zealand

United States.

Bangladesh had been counting on Shakib for the tour in February and March as they have never beaten the Kiwis in New Zealand.

They will play three one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals during the series.

Shakib said he would make an announcement after Bangladesh's two Tests against the West Indies. The first starts in Chittagong on February 3.

Bogatov warns future BRAVE CF opponents

Roman Bogatov says first-round finish would be a less painful option for opponents

● **Roman Bogatov: Get finished in Round 1 or suffer**

TDT | Manama

After his BRAVE CF debut win, Roman Bogatov is riding high in confidence. He certainly proved his caliber with his win at BRAVE CF 46, surviving some tough spots against Nurzhan Akishev to eventually take over and get a unanimous decision nod in his favor. Following the victory, he dished out a scathing warning to his future opponents, telling them that a first-round finish would be a less painful option for them compared to going the full course of a fight with him.

Roman Bogatov has molded himself into a complete MMA fighter, evolving from the pure wrestler he once was. With submission threats and knockout power added to his arsenal, he is more than capable of ending a bout at any moment.

The Russian phenom has seven out of 11 professional wins coming by way of stoppage. According to the 30-year-old Featherweight, his future opponents should hope to get finished in the first round because



Roman Bogatov reacts before a bout (file photo)

the longer the fight goes the uglier it will get for them.

"For my future opponents, I want to say that it is better that they get finished in the first round or I will beat them for the remainder of the fight" he said. Ultimately it is the vacant Featherweight world title that he is after, "I want to thank BRAVE CF. I like this organization, it is one of the best promotions. I want to tell Mohammed Shahid (BRAVE CF president) that I am going for

“For my future opponents, I want to say that it is better that they get finished in the first round or I will beat them for the remainder of the fight”

ROMAN BOGATOV

the title. I came to BRAVE CF for the title." he said.

Bogatov will face fierce competition in the featherweight division, as he joins the likes of Dumar Roa, Gabriel Fly, Anzor Abdulkhozhayev, and Mochamed Machaev, who are also in the hunt for the vacant Featherweight World Title. He has also announced himself as a future title contender, making sure to call out his entire division for a title shot.

'Dy Incredible' stays with Brave CF

TDT | Manila

Mixed martial arts warrior Rolando Dy, son of Filipino boxing legend Rolando Navarette, is staying with Brave Combat Federation (CF) and is eager to achieve more this year.

The reigning Brave Fighter of the Year, known as "Dy Incredible", sealed a fresh and exclusive three-year contract that also guarantees him five bouts under the Bahrain-based promotion.

Fresh from a strong showing in 2020, despite the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic, the 29-year-old Dy (14-9) said he expected the confidence that Brave has given him and that he is looking forward to progressing this year and beyond.

"This organization took care of me when I was at the lowest point of my career as a professional fighter," said Dy in a release announcing his stay with Brave.

"Without hesitations, they gave me the opportunity to write a new chapter in my story as a combat sports competitor. Here I am today, one of the best fighters on their roster and in the world.

"It's an honour to represent this organization on the global stage of this sport. I will surely do my best to give the fans and my supporters a performance to remember every time I step inside the cage."

Considered one of the title



Dy is looking for a title shot this year

“It's an honour to represent this organization on the global stage of this sport. I will surely do my best to give the fans and my supporters a performance to remember every time I step inside the cage”

ROLANDO DY

contenders in the lightweight division, Dy finished 2020 strong after months of limited activity because of the restrictions forced by the pandemic.

He had two straight victories in September and November en route to willing himself as one of the noteworthy fighters in Brave.

Dy first beat Polish knockout

artist Maciej Gierszewski via a split decision then dominated John Brewin of New Zealand en route to a unanimous decision victory. His efforts did not go to waste as he was named Brave Fighter of the Year.

Dy made his Brave debut in 2017 and did the rounds of different promotions after.

In 2020, he moved up to the lightweight division, from featherweight, and it is paying dividends for him so far.

This year, Dy said one of the goals for him is to get a shot at the lightweight title currently held by Amin Ayoub of France just as he expressed readiness to whomever the promotion lines him up with.

"I want that title shot in 2021. But if Brave CF thinks I have to prove it again, then so be it. I really don't mind. Line them up and I will keep knocking them down."

Pakistan in trouble as Rabada leads South Africa fightback

AFP | Karachi

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada took two wickets for just eight runs as he led a South African fightback against Pakistan in their first Test in Karachi yesterday.

Pakistan were in trouble at 33 for four at the close of play, having bowled out the visitors for 220 -- their second-lowest total in the country.

Fourteen wickets fell on the brownish National Stadium pitch, which had been expected to take spin from day one.

South Africa were well placed at 108-2 soon after lunch, but lost their last eight wickets for just 112 runs -- barely managing to overhaul their lowest total in Pakistan, the 214 made at Faisalabad in 1997.

Spinners Yasir Shah (3-54), debutant Nauman Ali (2-38) and pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi (2-49) did the damage.

But then Rabada paid back the hosts with interest, bowling Abid Ali (four) in his third over and then getting debutant Imran Butt (nine) caught at leg-slip off a rising delivery.

He now has 199 wickets from 44 Tests.

Babar Azam, leading Pakistan for the first time in a Test, fell lbw to spinner Keshav Maharaj for seven before night watchman Shaheen was bowled by



The stump flies as Pakistan's Abid Ali is bowled by South Africa's Kagiso Rabada

199 wickets have been taken by South Africa's Kagiso Rabada from 44 Tests

Anrich Nortje without scoring.

At the close, Azhar Ali and Fawad Alam were unbeaten on five each - with Pakistan trailing by 187 runs with six wickets intact.

Earlier, opener Dean Elgar top-scored for South Africa

with 58, while George Linde (35) and Rabada (21 not out) were other notable contributors.

While lamenting his side's poor batting, Elgar said South Africa now had the upper hand. "I would not have said that after our batting, but then we fought back by taking wickets," he said.

"Knowing that this pitch will get tougher, and knowing that we have good spinners, I am confident that we can get further ahead."

Elgar struck his 16th Test half-century -- laced with nine boundaries -- before he edged Nauman into the hands of Azam at slip.