England v West Indies Third Test, Day 3 Live from 4:00pm

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 Chelsea v Wolves

Live from 9:00pm Star Sports Select 2 Arsenal v Watford Live from 9:00pm

SERIE A TEN 2 Bologna v Lecce Live from 9:15pm Verona v Lazio Live from 11:30pm Juventus v Sampdoria Live from 1:45am (Monday)

TEN 1

AS Roma v Fiorentina Live from 11:30pm

Will Tigers' fate change with Shakib on board?



"I cannot say what the result would have been but had Shakib [bhai] been with us in the tour, he surely would have impacted the

game differently," said a dejected Mominul Haque, the Bangladesh Test skipper, after experiencing a thumping defeat yesterday in the second and final Test against Pakistan in Karachi.

A high flying Bangladesh, coming fresh from their clean series sweep against Zimbabwe last month, were slammed back onto the ground without their top all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who has been serving a twoyear ban -- with one of those years suspended -- imposed by the ICC since October last year.

The above scenario may be fictitious but considering the plight of a Shakib-less Bangladesh, especially in Tests over the years, this sure seems to be a fair assumption. And although it was Shakib under whose leadership Bangladesh were handed the most humiliating Test defeat by Afghanistan last year, still, Bangladesh's Test results have been positively impacted by Shakib in Tests in the last three years.

Since 2017, Bangladesh played a total of 12 Tests without Shakib and could only muster two wins out of those, losing nine and drawing one. In the same timeframe, the Tigers registered four wins and eight defeats having played the same number of Tests with Shakib in the squad.

The coronavirus pandemic has seen Bangladesh face a total of five series postponements, all of which Shakib was originally scheduled to miss. If not for the Pandemic, in these five series, Bangladesh would have played a total of eight Tests -- all of

for the World Test Championship, a performance was once again repeated competition where the Tigers are yet to register a single point -- four ODIs and four T20Is.

And even though Tigers fared somewhat convincingly in the shorter versions -- ODIs and T20Is -- in the past three years without Shakib, they clearly struggled in Tests even with or now the Tigers may have their best without their star all-rounder. Since

in Rawalpindi when Bangladesh were handed yet another innings defeat, this time by Pakistan in February this year.

Surely the enforced halt has spared Bangladesh a very tough challenge in the longer version this year. The challenge will still be tough but at least all-rounder alongside them as all the



one Test win out of the four they played. That win was however an expected one and did not put the Tigers to a stiff test as it was against Zimbabwe, an 11th ranked Test side, that too at home.

The struggles in the longer format were much more evident against higher-ranked opponents in foreign turf. Soon after Shakib's ban, the BCB had appointed Mominul as the Test captain in a rather hasty manner before their tour to India in November last year. The best result that the Tigers achieved in the two Tests in India was an innings and 46-run defeat in which would have been considered the pink-ball Test in Kolkata. Similar to be rescheduled next year.

to be rescheduled before Shakib's ban comes to an end in October this year.

Shakib, currently in the United States with his family, mentioned in an interview with CricInfo on Friday that he plans to return to training next month, giving himself a threemonth period to prepare for a return to cricket. And without a doubt, Shakib's announcement of returning to training comes as an exciting news for the Bangladesh side, who can now also expect their top all-rounder to feature in the coming T20 World Cup that has been deferred to the next year and the Asia Cup which is also likely

Atalanta held by Milan

AFP, Milan

Atalanta's slim hopes of pipping Juventus to the Serie A title dimmed further Friday after a 1-1 draw at AC Milan.

The team from Bergamo stay second in the table, five points behind Juve but have just two games left.

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta had routed Milan 5-0 when the teams met for the first time this season in December.

However, they were a goal down after just 14 minutes on Friday thanks to a well-judged free-kick from Hakan Calhanoglu.

Milan, who were on a run of three successive wins in the league, were indebted to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma for saving a weak 24th-minute penalty from Ruslan Malinovskyi.

However, Duvan Zapata brought the visitors level 10 minutes later.

Matteo Gabbia failed to clear and Colombian forward Zapata pounced to equalise.

Milan stay sixth in the table, one point behind Roma and on course for a Europa League spot next season.

Meanwhile, Crotone became the second club to be promoted to Serie A after Benevento thanks to a 5-1 win over Livorno.

Promotion guaranteed after Spezia could only draw 0-0 at Cremonese.

Crotone will be playing in the Italian top flight for just the third time after the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018



PSG forward Kylian Mbappe limped off in tears following a dreadful tackle by Saint-Etienne captain Loic Perrin during the first half of Friday's French Cup final, but later returned on crutches to join trophy celebrations as the Parisiens won 1-0.

Mbappe injury scare for PSG

AFP, Paris



Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel said "everyone is worried" after Kylian Mbappe hobbled off in the first half of Friday's French Cup final

with an ankle injury after a dreadful tackle by Saint-Etienne captain Loic Perrin.

Mbappe received lengthy treatment but was eventually substituted after his right ankle was caught by a clumsy Perrin challenge that resulted in a red card for the centre-back in likely his final game for

"Everyone is worried. Everyone who saw the foul is worried. Of course I'm worried," said Tuchel after his team's 1-0

"We have to be patient because we don't have any news. I think he will undergo

tests tonight."

will be the severity of his injury ahead of next month's Champions League quarterfinal against Atalanta in Lisbon.

He reemerged from the Stade de France tunnel later in the second half on crutches. "It's the third game against Saint-Etienne and it's a third red card, each time

in the first 30 minutes," added Tuchel.

"It's not all good news for us." PSG face Lyon in the French League Cup final next Friday before resuming their European campaign in a unique straight knockout tournament at the

Estadio da Luz on August 12. "I hope Kylian is going to recover as quickly as possible because he's a vital player for us," said PSG captain Thiago

Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said he was "sorry" to hear of Mbappe's injury and hoped it was "nothing serious" ahead of next month's European clash.

Saint-Etienne boss Claude Puel A tearful Mbappe was replaced by Pablo admitted the forward was simply too Sarabia but the greater concern for PSG quick for the 34-year-old Perrin.

Shannon Gabriel celebrates the dismissal of Ollie Pope after providing an early breakthrough for the West Indies on the second day of the final Test against England at Manchester yesterday. England ended on 369 thanks to a 45-ball 62 from Stuart Broad after Pope and Jos Buttler had fallen early in the first session.

Only Botham quicker than Broad

REUTERS, Manchester



West Indies claimed early wickets against England on Saturday but then allowed Stuart Broad to smash a quick-fire half century

before the hosts were dismissed for 369 at lunch on the second day of the third and final Test at Old Trafford.

Broad hit the joint-third fastest Test half century for England off just 33 balls as he bludgeoned the West Indies attack and put the skids on their early breakthrough after Shannon Gabriel and Kemar Roach, who passed 200 Test wickets, had both made good use of the second new ball.

Only Ian Botham (twice) has got to a Test 50 for England quicker than Broad, who equals past exploits by Allan Lamb and Andrew Flintoff.

Broad was eventually out for 62 off 45 balls as gave a reminder of his batting at Old Trafford

ability in a 76-run partnership with Dom Bess, who was 18 not out.

England started poorly as Ollie Pope failed to add to his overnight 91 and was left agonisingly short of a maiden home test hundred as England resumed on 258-4 but within an hour's play had slumped to 280-8.

Pope was clean bowled by Gabriel and Chris Woakes became Roach's 200th Test victim as was bowled for one.

Jos Buttler, who was 56 not out overnight, became the third wicket in just 17 balls as he was taken at second slip by Jason Holder off Gabriel.

The West Indies skipper then repeated the feat as Jofra Archer edged Roach and departed for three runs. The tourists were then expected to finish off the England innings but Broad turned the pressure back on West Indies.

The Test series is level at 1-1 after West Indies won by four wickets at Southampton but England replied with a 113-run victory

An unwelcoming gentleman's club Mazhar Uddin



perhaps by that virtue, it is also expensive

sport when it comes to buying modern-day equipment.

Not only is equipment expensive, it is also hard to get quality products in Bangladesh as there are no manufacturers in the country that produce top quality products.

However, there are a few distributors for various cricketing good manufacturers such as SS, SG. CA and DSC in India and Pakistan such, which have a huge demand among cricketers in Bangladesh.

But despite the huge demand there is only a single authorised distributor for each brand in Bangladesh which, along with heavy import duties, is the reason prices of products are comparatively higher.

There are few local importers who buy products directly from India, Pakistan, England, Australia and the United States and sell those in local markets at a relatively

lower price. Among cricket lovers, there is a huge curiosity to know the prices of bats used by stars like Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim and one be surprised when they get to know

the price tag for their equipment. Tamim is sponsored by Pakistani brand CA and each bat that the left-hander uses costs between Tk 40,000 to 60,000 and at times even more. Luckily, being the superstart that he is, Tamim get sponsored by the company and gets all the equipment from CA round the year and also gets a healthy sponsorship money.

Manufactures generally sponsor national team cricketers along with a few aspiring players and they can be seen using stickers of specific brands on their bat, pads, gloves and even in the helmet.

There are generally two types of contracts that companies use to associate with cricketers. One is an annual contract and the other is on a match-by-match basis.

Established top cricketers are the ones who are being contracted annually and they not get the gears from the company but also a good amount of money for endorsing products.

Suppose a top Bangladeshi on quality. player like Tamim or Mushfiqur A pair of a pro-quality pads used to 7500.

On the other hand, mid-level national cricketers like Soumya Sarkar or Liton Das receive equipment, but the quality of the products vary from the ones given to a Shakib. They also receive 500 to 1000 US dollars per match. While newcomers and their agents at times get desperate to land

endorsement, those range from

As they say, has an annual contract from which cricket is a they receive around 60,000 to cricketers' costs around Tk 4000 ball manufacturers such as SG or SS gentleman's 80,000 US dollars per year. to 5000, a pair of batting gloves that would cost a bit less, around range from Tk 3000 to 4500 and Tk 700 to 900, but those are not a top-quality helmet costs around 15,000 to 20,000 depending on the brand and quality.

A thigh pad will cost around 2500 and a top-quality carbon abdominal guard can take around Tk 2500.

For bowlers, a pair of topquality Adidas or Nike brand

same brand costs around Tk 6500

the ones that are used in first-class or Premier League matches.

National discard Shamsur Rahman, who used to have sponsors during his stint in the Bangladesh team now has to pay for his equipment as he remains a prominent name in the domestic circuit.

"Cricket equipment is not cheap. Each bat could cost you around twenty thousand taka and as a batsman you need to have at least four bats. You never know when the bat gets broken and generally a bat does not last for more than two years. There are other goods such as pads, gloves and boots which we need to have in stock. Many may think that cricketers earn a lot but the fact is that we also need to invest heavily on our equipment from the main source of our income," Shamsur told The Daily Star.

While professional cricket equipment remains expensive, things are not that cheap for beginners or lower level cricketers either.

A complete set of gear including a bat for kids and age-level cricketers could cost around Tk 12,000 to 15000. For mid-level players in the second division or third division, equipment ranges from Tk 15,000 to 20,000.

There are a few shops in the capital from which you could buy cricketing goods and the sports market in Gulistan remains one of the biggest and most popular places to buy equipment for amateurs and professionals.

According to Rahat Hasan, owner of Good Buy Inc, a retailer of cricketing goods, informed that the lack of expert labour and shortage of raw materials is the main reason Bangladesh does not have manufacturers.

"It's a huge market and we are getting a good response from professional cricketers and beginners. There are no manufacturers of top-quality cricketing goods in Bangladesh. We have to rely on importing from India, Pakistan, England and Australia. Expert labour and raw materials are not easily available in Bangladesh which is the main reason we have to rely on

PRICE LIST

THIGH PAD:

Tk 1000 to Tk 2500

Tk 4200 to Tk 12000

BOWLING SHOES:

Tk 6000 to Tk 10,000

PRACTICE BALL:

WICKET KEEPING GLOVES:

KEEPING PADS: Tk 2500 to Tk 3500

Top Quality - Tk 12,000 to Tk 15,000

BATTING AND FIELDING SHOES:

KOOKABURRA MATCH BALL:

Top Quality - Tk 7500 to Tk 11,000

Top Quality - Tk 6500 to Tk 7500

Top Quality - Tk 40,000 to Tk 60,000, Mid-Range - Tk 20,000 to Tk 30,000, Lowest - Tk 5000 to Tk 15,000

Top Quality - Tk 4200 **BATTING GLOVES:** Top quality - Tk 3200 to tk 5000

BATTING PADS:

Top Quality - Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000,

Mid-Range - Tk 12,000 to Tk 15,000, Lower Range - Tk 5000 to Tk 8000

BOX/ ABDOMINAL GUARD: Top Quality - Tk 2000 to Tk 2500

100 to 150 US dollars per match.

Going back to the high price of the cricketing goods, although many national cricketers do not need to spend their money, the scenario is different for firstclass and domestic cricketers of SS, SG, CA or DSC, which first-class or top domestic cricketers prefer, costs around Tk 20,000 to 30,000 each and can be higher depending

bowling boot range from Tk 12000 to 15000 while boots for batsmen and fielders can cost between Tk 6000 to 10,000.

If you are wondering if a cricket ball might be less expensive compared to batting equipment, Bangladesh. A top-quality bat from then you have a surprise. A topquality Kookaburra match ball, mainly manufactured in Australia, costs around Tk 9000 to 11,000 each while a practice ball from the importing," said Rahat.