

**BD A win one at last**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A got their first win of their West Indies tour when they beat the High Performance Squad by six wickets in the first Twenty20 at the Kensington Oval yesterday. Chasing a target of 152, Imrul Kayes's 50 off 21 balls helped the visitors get off to a flier and put on 71 runs by the sixth over. Imrul hammered four sixes and five fours. Following his departure in the sixth over Shuvagata Hom, who scored 27 off 24, and Sabbir Rahman's 34-ball 51 guided the second string side to their first win of the tour with 20 balls remaining.

Bangladesh A had earlier rode on Shafiu Islam's three for 22 to restrict the West Indies to 152. The High Performance side lost five wickets in the first ten overs and were in danger of posting a lower total. However, Andre Russell's 26-ball 48 and Andre Fletcher's 57 off 43 -- the pair shared 75 runs for the sixth wicket -- helped them post a fighting total.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
WEST INDIES HPS: 151 for 7 (Fletcher 57, Russel 48; Shafiu 3-22)  
BANGLADESH A: 152 for 4 (Kayes 50, Sabbir 41; Nurse 2-21)

Result: BD A won by 6 wkts.

**Federer takes Halle title**

AFP, Halle Westfalen

Roger Federer of Switzerland won the Halle grasscourt tournament for the seventh time on Sunday with a 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/3) victory over Colombia's Alejandro Falla in the final.

Federer was too powerful for the world number 69 on his way to his second success of the season following victory in Dubai in February.



If the size of a flag has something to do with winning anything then Argentina has got the brightest prospect in the on-going World Cup in Brazil. Here Argentina fans in the capital's Nikunja area yesterday display their beloved team's flag, which is 2000 feet long.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Tigers still on the ropes**

NAIMUL KARIM



A full-strength Bangladesh side could not take advantage of an under-strength Indian opposition as the visitors drew the first blood in the three-ODI series. Instead of the hosts, India fought the hour-long Pohela Ashar outpour yesterday evening at Mirpur to reach their revised target of 151, required to be completed in 26 overs, with seven wickets and seven balls remaining.

Chasing a target of 273, India's progress was halted by a burst of rainfall which left them stranded at a 100 for 1 after 16.4 overs.

The Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium however, lived up to its reputation of having one of the best drainage systems in the world and the game restarted two-and-a-half hours later. Shakib Al Hasan removed Cheteshwar Pujara in the second ball after resumption but a responsible knock from Ajinkya Rahane, who scored 64 before being caught sharply by Ziaur Rahman at short third man, helped India reach home.

Before the rains, the show was dominated by India's new opening pair -- Robin Uthappa and Rahane -- who scored 99 runs in just 16 overs before Uthappa was adjudged LBW by his Kolkata Knight Riders colleague Shakib Al Hasan.

The defeat against the second-string Indian side yesterday hinted that Bangladesh are yet to come out of the bad patch that they have been enduring since the start of this year.

Tamim Iqbal, who was playing his first ODI this year, failed to open his account as he was dismissed for an 11-ball duck. While the batsman might have been a bit unlucky with the caught-behind decision, the 18

minutes he spent at the crease literally spell out the batsman's troubles. The first over, which saw him fail to merely tuck one of the six deliveries which landed around the middle and leg to the on side, perhaps best described the kind of rut he is in. Mominul Haque scored six before wafting at an away going Umesh Yadav delivery to give the quick his second wicket.

Mushfiqur Rahim, Bangladesh's highest run-scorer this year, came to the rescue once again and together with the in-form Shakib attempted to raise the hosts from a struggling 87 for 3.

While both batsmen scored half-centuries, they failed to stay their till the end. Mushfiqur was held at mid-off while attempting an ambitious shot off Parvez Rasool in the 31st over despite having hit a six just two balls earlier. He hit three fours and three sixes in his 63-ball 59.

Shakib was caught against the run-of-play in the 42nd over while attempting to pull Raina. A few late hits from Mahmudullah Riyad, who scored 42, Nasir Hossain and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza helped Bangladesh cross the 270-mark.

However, it was quite clear that the inability of the batsmen to continue till the end had hurt the hosts.

It was a contrary beginning at the other end as newly paired openers Uthappa and Rahane started slowly but settled down into a rhythm with regular singles.

Once that phase was over, they unleashed a series of shots which displayed the true character of the wicket. They were however helped by some below-par bowling.

Abdur Razzak, who had found life difficult during the World Twenty20, struggled to find the right line yet again and was punished by the openers. He gave away 26 runs in his first three overs.

**BD-INDIA SCOREBOARD**

BANGLADESH	R	B	4s	6s
Tamim c Saha b Yadav	0	11	0	0
Anamul c Rayudu b Rasool	44	60	7	0
Mominul c Saha b Yadav	6	17	0	0
Mushfiqur c Rahane b Rasool	59	63	3	3
Shakib c & b Raina	52	58	4	1
Mahmudullah b Mishra	41	44	6	0
Nasir c Rahane b Mishra	22	20	4	0
Ziaur c Raina b Yadav	2	3	0	0
Mashrafe b Patel	18	10	2	1
Razzak not out	16	12	2	0
Al-Amin not out	1	2	0	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-8)	11			
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 272				
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-35, 3-87, 4-134, 5-199, 6-229, 7-234, 8-235, 9-267.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sharma	5.4	1	23	0
Yadav	9	0	48	3
Uthappa	0.2	0	0	0
Patel	10	0	59	1
Mishra	10	0	55	2
Rasool	10	0	60	2
Raina	5	0	24	1
India	R	B	4s	6s
Uthappa lbw b Shakib	50	44	3	3
Rahane c Ziaur b Mashrafe	64	70	5	2
Pujara lbw b Shakib	0	5	0	0
Rayudu not out	16	19	2	0
Raina not out	15	11	3	0
Extras: (w-8)	8			
Total: (For 3 wkts in 24.5 overs) 153				
Did not bat: Saha, Patel, Rasool, Mishra, Yadav, Sharma.				
Fall of wickets: 1-99, 2-100, 3-135.				

**Tiki-taka is dead: Maradona**

GOAL.COM



Diego Maradona believes Spain's tiki-taka approach is dead and says its style has been exposed on the back of a 5-1 thrashing at the hands of the Netherlands.

Spain was undone by the Dutch counterattack in Salvador, with Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie both scoring twice and Stefan De Vrij adding another as Louis van Gaal's side recovered from falling behind to Xabi Alonso's first-half penalty. And Maradona believes Vicente del Bosque has been guilty of failing to heed the warnings of Barcelona's struggles this season, resulting in Friday's capitulation.

"That the Spanish team has been ageing became evident when they lined up for their opening Group B clash against The Netherlands," the 53-year-Argentina legend wrote in his column for the Time of India. "Spain have been playing tiki-taka for quite some time now. It's a wonderful way of playing football, and fans and experts from all over the world have wholeheartedly

shown their affection for this brand of game. It won them three consecutive big tournaments from 2008 to 2012.

"But [Vicente del Bosque] should have kept in mind that clubs in Europe have found an answer to Barcelona's style, which is very similar to what their national team plays. A fast-paced policy based on counter-attacks has worked well against them. Spain have refused to change despite critics repeatedly pointing out that their style has been exposed."

Maradona praised the Netherlands for the way it went about the match.

"The Oranje once again revolutionized modern football," the 1986 World Cup winner said. "Robin van Persie and Arjen Robben were in great rhythm and their brilliance was too much for the reigning champions."

"The Spanish defense had no clue. Neither was Iker Casillas at his best under the bar. Louis van Gaal did a fantastic job with a relatively young Dutch side that gave their all against the world champions and earned an astounding victory. It should help them avoid Brazil in the second round."

**5-star Mithun powers Russel**

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan SC began their third-phase campaign of the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-3 defeat to hosts Muktiyoddha Sangsad in Gopalganj while five goals from Mithun Chowdhury powered struggling Sheikh Russel KC to a massive 7-1 win over newcomers Uttar Baridhara Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Later at the BNS, second-placed Abahani thrashed Brothers Union 3-0, thanks to a goal each from Osei Morrison, Atiqur Rahman Meshu and Jamal Hossain.

It was a combined show from Mithun and midfielder Sabuj Kumar Biswas who shared seven goals between them while Kenyan striker Collins Tiegoo scored a consolation goal for Baridhara Club.

Sheikh Russel's goal-fest started with Mithun in the very fourth minute before and the rout completed in the 80th, with Mithun scoring five while Sabuj bagging a brace and assisting Mithun three times amid heavy downpour.

The win raised sixth-placed Sheikh Russel's tally to 27 points from 19 matches while Baridhara remained at eighth position with 12 points from 19 outings.

Away in Gopalganj, Sunday Chizoba scored twice and Nkowcha Kingsley score one to ensure Muktiyoddha Sangsad's eighth win, which helped them leapfrog to fourth position with 30 minutes from 19 matches, just two behind third-placed Mohammedan.

Wahed Ahmed struck a brace for the Black and Whites.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED  
Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal walks off the field dejectedly after getting dismissed for naught by India pacer Umesh Yadav having consumed 11 deliveries while Abdur Razzak (INSET) bowled five overs for 34 runs during the first ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



**Gary hits hundred**

AFP, London



Gary Ballance came to England's rescue with a maiden Test hundred after Sri Lanka threatened to seize control at Lord's on Sunday. England were 267 for eight in their second innings at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test, a lead of 389 runs.

The 24-year-old Ballance, entrusted with the key number three position in only his second Test, was 104 not out after going through his century in the last over of the day with a six off spinner Rangana Herath.

Left-hander Ballance had earlier added 78 for the seventh wicket with debutant Chris Jordan after a top-order collapse. Things looked very different for England as they slumped to 121 for six after Shaminda Eranga took three quick wickets and left-arm Herath followed up with a quick double strike of his own on the way to figures of four for 95 in 23 overs.

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