

What to WATCH

GAZI TV & STAR SPORTS1
Bangladesh v India
Third ODI (D/N)
Live from 3:00pm

SONY SIX HD
Copa America
FIRST QUARTERFINAL
Chile v Uruguay
Live from 5:30am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v India Third ODI (D/N)
Venue: SBNSC, Mirpur Time: 3:00pm

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Shakib Al Hasan lived up to the billing as an ace all-rounder by showing his skills with both bat and ball so far in this series.

PHOTO: STAR

'Shakib, a true professional'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's never-experienced-before 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series against India has so far been a master-stroke of Mustafizur Rahman. The 19-year-old left-arm pace bowler was the wrecker-in-chief in those two magnificent victories for the Tigers. His debut five-for in the first ODI followed by a six-for in the second were so dominant that they overshadowed any other individual contributions from the Tigers' ranks.

But it will be unwise not to recall the fantastic opening stand between Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar and the two early wickets by Taskin Ahmed in the opening game and most importantly, the back-to-back half centuries from a cool and composed Shakib Al Hasan.

Shakib's efforts might not have gotten that much attention as the country was gripped by 'Mustafizur mania', but Bangladesh captain

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza believes it was no mean achievement.

"It is natural that all the discussions are now focused on Mustafizur. His achievements against a team like India have certainly overshadowed contributions of other players in our team. But some members of our team have silently contributed with big roles in our two wins against India. As a captain I feel very proud of the way Shakib batted in both the games against them", the inspirational Tigers captain told the Daily Star yesterday.

Shakib struck 52 in the first game and was involved in a crucial 83-run fifth wicket stand with Sabbir Rahman. It was an effort that took Bangladesh past the 300-mark from a disturbing 146 for four.

"His two half centuries set a great example of what one can expect from a true professional. He played well in the World Cup, especially against Afghanistan and Scotland. But in our home series against Pakistan he did not get the opportunity to bat due the fantastic performances by our top-order.

And during that time he only batted in the nets. Still, he relived the form that he had in the World Cup which is something unique. think it is only possible for a committed player like Shakib, observed Mashrafe.

Shakib hit an unbeaten 51 in the second match. He was so resolute that it dashed India's ambitions of making a comeback in the match. The champion Bangladesh all-rounder was also very effective with the ball.

"To accommodate four pacers in the team, I was compelled to bowl him later than when he was supposed to bowl. But what an outstanding service I'm getting from him," said Mashrafe.

"I believe he will start from where he has left off so that we can end the India series like the way we finished the Pakistan series. It will also give us a shot in our arm before the South Africa series next month," the captain concluded, while referring to today's final match against India and the upcoming home series against the Proteas.

শরীরে ক্ষতিকারক Cholesterol জমতে বাধা প্রদান করে। উচ্চ রক্তচাপ নিয়ন্ত্রণ করে। ক্যান্সার প্রতিরোধে সহায়তা করে। অকাল বার্ধক্য প্রতিরোধে সহায়তা করে। ওজন নিয়ন্ত্রণে কার্যকরী ভূমিকা পালন করে। ইজনে সহায়তা করে।

Astro-turf all cleared to be laid

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is set to resume installation work of the Astro-turf at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur after the National Board of Revenue exempted over one crore taka in vat, advance income tax and port demurrage for the turf, which is being provided by the FIFA under its Goal Project 4.

Nine containers full of raw materials of the Astro-turf had been confined at the Chittagong port and the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot since February due to failure of the BFF in meeting the vat, tax and port demurrage.

The BFF however was seeking the release of the raw materials without any payment as these materials fall into sport goods category.

Later, the finance minister and the shipping minister came forward and waived the taxes to give all clear for the release of the materials.

"Part of the raw materials will be carried from Chittagong tonight (Tuesday) and the rest of it will be taken to the stadium from Kamalapur ICD from next week," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

The installation work will start soon after a visit by a FIFA consultant on June 1," added Shohag.

Shohag hoped that the installation work should be completed within 35 days of start of its installation.

The basement for the Astro-turf was completed two months ago after initial work started last

Proteas wary of Tigers' threat

SOWETAN, Johannesburg

If South Africa were taking a weakened ODI squad to Bangladesh on the back of host's nominally poor results against big teams, eyebrows would not be raised.

However, Chandika Hathurusingha's charges have suddenly looked unbeatable with subcontinental superpowers India and Pakistan suffering unexpected series defeats with full-strength sides.

Former Proteas paceman Andre Nel said picking an under-strength side for the ODIs will ask serious questions of South Africa's depth.

AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla and Faf du Plessis will make the trip for the three-match ODI series but with no Dale Steyn or Vernon Philander, the bowling looks a little light.

"They have a nice mix of slightly older and younger players who are getting well, which is why it is a bit of a concern that we are taking a slightly weaker team to

Bangladesh. Their senior players have morphed into a dangerous senior core that delivers consistently. They need to be taken more seriously now but I hope our younger guys can stand up and be counted on," Nel said.

"Just because their Champions Trophy qualification is secured doesn't mean they will be less of a threat. After beating Pakistan and India, they will want to continue that momentum. If they can beat South Africa and India in back-to-back series', that'll prove how good they are."

Despite snaring career-best ODI figures of 5-45 against Bangladesh in Guyana during the 2007 World Cup, Nel had to watch on as the army of left-arm spinners tied an inextricable web.

The 67-run reverse remains South Africa's sole defeat against Bangladesh in all formats, with Mashrafe Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Shakib-Al-Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim all fresh faces. They are now the leaders of a side whose youngsters are now the aggressors.

Their newfound, in-your-face brand

of cricket has been encapsulated in the performances of 19-year-old left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman, who's taken 11 wickets in his first two games.

Pace bowling has been one of their long-standing weaknesses but the muscle of Taskin Ahmed and Rubel Hossain has added teeth to their penetrative spin bowling. It is an improvement that has impressed Nel even though he expected AB de Villiers' side to rise to the challenge.

"Their bowlers under Heath Streak and Hathurusingha have been very good. The biggest thing that has come from them are their improved skill levels as you need skill to thrive on those pitches. That is one department where they have become really good," Nel said.

"Since senior players are persistently taking responsibility, the younger players are also realising that they need to contribute in their way. They've learnt the art of establishing and building partnerships. They also play for each other now and they are getting smarter in the way they play their cricket, which is why they are far more effective now."

CONSTRUCTION OF STAFF BUILDING Swimmers protest

SPORTS REPORTER

The officials of Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF), swimming organisers and former swimmers yesterday formed human chains in front of national press club and the Ivy Rahman Swimming Pool in protest of construction work at the National Swimming Complex premises in Mirpur.

The National Sports Council (NSC) is constructing a five-storied staff building at the premises of the national swimming complex to accommodate its fourth-class employees, which caused resentment and strong protest from swimmers, organisers and the BSF officials.

"We urge the authority concerned to keep the masterplan of the national swimming complex intact by stopping the construction work," demanded former BSF general secretary Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Current general secretary Rofiz Uddin said, "If the staff building is constructed inside the swimming complex, the environment will be destroyed due to the presence of outsiders and it will affect swimming badly in future."

Former swimmer SM Israfil threatened to go on hunger strike until authorities stops constructing the building while former swimmer and coach Laila Noor said that they would go to the Prime Minister to place a memorandum with signatures of former and current swimmers.

Valencia limps out of Copa

AFP, Santiago

Colombia's Edwin Valencia is injured and will miss the Copa America quarterfinal against Argentina in Vina del Mar on Friday.

The defensive midfielder suffered a serious knee injury against Peru in their closing first round pool match and is out of the competition, his team announced on Monday.

"We are sad for Edwin," said Colombia's star striker James Rodriguez.

"It's a serious injury, he'll have to be strong to overcome it, but we've got in our squad players who can get over everything," the Real Madrid forward added.

Confirming the Santos player's absence, Colombia's media officer Mauricio Correa said: "Results of tests carried out this morning confirm a torn right cruciate knee ligament."

Tough route to trophy

AFP, Santiago

If Brazil are to win their fifth Copa America in seven editions, they are going to have to do it the hard way.

The South American super-power decided Monday not to appeal a four-game ban handed to star striker and captain Neymar for violent conduct, meaning they will have to do without him for the knock-out stages.

What's more, they are in a loaded draw that conspiracy theorists might be tempted to suggest had been fixed to help hosts Chile reach the final.

Argentina, Colombia and Brazil, the teams ranked third to fifth in the FIFA World rankings are all in the same side of the draw, while on the other side you find the likes of 61st ranked Peru up against

89th placed Bolivia.

In fairness, Chile (19th) are actually drawn in their quarterfinal against the highest ranked team in their half, Uruguay, the defending champions ranked eighth by FIFA.

And it is Argentina and Colombia who have been hardest hit, as the two highest ranked sides face each other in the last eight.

Whichever negotiates that clash of the titans, they will expect to find Brazil in the semis as the Seleccion are up against Paraguay.

Paraguay may have reached the final four years ago, just a year after making it to the World Cup quarterfinals, but they have been in freefall since, failing to reach last year's World Cup and dropping to 85th in the world.

Ranked 15th after their World Cup 2010 exploits, Paraguay won only four out of 19 international matches from the beginning

FIXTURES

Wednesday (2330 GMT): Chile v Uruguay
Thursday (2330 GMT): Bolivia v Peru
Friday (2330 GMT): Argentina v Colombia
Saturday (2130 GMT): Brazil v Paraguay

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Catania rocked by fixing scandal

AFP, Milan

Italian police have arrested seven people in connection with a match-fixing affair aimed at helping Serie B club Catania beat relegation to the country's third division.

Catania club President Antonino Pulvirenti, sporting director Pablo Consentino and ex-sporting director Daniele Delli Carri were all placed under house arrest along with two agents and two managers of online betting sites.

Reports in Italy said the seven are being held on charges of sports fraud after being accused of fixing the results of at least five of Catania's league matches last season.

Among the matches in question are Catania-Livorno, Catania-Avellino, Catania-Trapani, Catania-Latina and, in

relation to another probe, Messina-Ischia.

Dubbed "the Goal Train", the scandal is just the latest in a series of affairs to hit Italian football. Previously rocked in the past by the Calciopoli (2006) and Calciopoli (2006) scandals, the most recent affairs in Italy have been far less significant but have shown that match-fixing remains a problem in the lower leagues.

Last month an investigation dubbed "Dirty Soccer" by the Italian media led to 50 arrests in connection with illegal match-fixing in 31 matches, mainly in Italy's lower professional leagues.

"At least five games, maybe six were fixed and sums of money given to players," said Catania's public prosecutor Giovanni Salvi.

"Other individuals are being investigated but they will remain unnamed."

Catania, based in Sicily, were relegated from Serie A in 2014.

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