



Best finds Mat Inns Wkts BBI Ave



THE LEADER Mashrafe Bin Mortaza

With 21 scalps he was the third highest wicket-taker in ODIs for Bangladesh this year. However, Mashrafe's speciality goes beyond the numbers. The way he has marshalled his troops this year, ever since the World Cup, has itself been a mesmerising sight. While there were many special finds for Bangladesh this year, the overall achievement would have been incomplete without the inspirational man at the helm.

BPL PREVIEW: RANGPUR RIDERS A team of all-rounders

SPORTS REPORTER

The player-by-choice system, wherein every franchisee got turns to pick their desired player, didn't leave much of a difference between the teams ability wise. However, ask the analysts as to whom they reckon are a little ahead of the rest, in terms of the names on paper, and most of them will point towards the Rangpur Riders.

An extremely lucky franchisee, the Riders got to pick first not only in round one but also got to choose the first icon player during the draft programme and as everybody expected they chose Shakib Al Hasan.

The most experienced and arguably the most sought-after T20 player in Bangladesh, Shakib will no doubt be the key player for the Riders. The good news for the team is that the left-hander will be in town by November 21 and will be available right from the start of the tournament when the Riders take on Chittagong Vikings in the opening match of the competition on November 22.

As has already been stated by the likes of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and a number of other Bangladeshi players, with Shakib in the side, it gets easier to form a balanced team.

What's even better for Rangpur is that they have got a host of other all-rounders in the team. Amongst the foreign players they have got the hard hitting duo of Darren Sammy and Thisara Perera, both of whom can be quite handfull down the game. The other all-Mukhtar Ali, who isn't far

They have covered the department as well with in the team. Apart from Sunny and Saqlain Sajib, after left-arm spinners in domestic cricket. Sri Lanka off-spinner Sachitra Senayanake can bring in a bit of variety into the attack.

The only department that they seem to be weak in pace. After the draft, they only had two pace bowlers in the team: Bangladesh's youngster Abu Jayed Chowdhury and Pakistan's Wahab Riaz. As a result, they are reportedly in talks with a couple of other Bangladeshi pacers.

At the batting front they have Bangladesh's most consistent ODI performer this year, Soumya Sarkar. They will however be concerned as the left-armed is yet to recover completely from his side-strain, which he suffered before the Zimbabwe series.



SQUAD

Shakib Al Hasan, Soumya Sarkar, Arafat Sunny, Mithun Ali, Muktar Ali, Saqlain Sajib, Jahurul Islam, Abu Jayed Chowdhury, Murad Khan, Russel Al Mamun.

Foreign players: Lendl Simmons, Darren Sammy, Thisara Perera, Sachitra Senayanake, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Nabi, Misbahul Haq.

While Soumya told the media yesterday that he expects to start playing from day one, he still isn't certain to play. However, over the long run the left-hander is bound to be a handfull.

Also in the side are Lendl Simmons and Misbahul Haq both of whom are expected to play a major responsibility in the top order.



ODIs Inns Runs Avg

TEAM RECORD				
Format	M	W	L	D
ODI	18	13	5	
T20I	5	2	3	
	M	W	L	D

BEST EVER YEAR

The Tigers may have ended the year with a loss but none can deny the immense progress that the men in red and green have made. Of all the formats it has been the ODIs that the players have shined in the most. With a 72 percent win-rate in the ODIs this year, Bangladesh remain second only to the mighty Australians. From qualifying to the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time to achieving the previously unthinkable—wins against Pakistan, India and South Africa—there's no doubt that the year 2015 has arguably been Bangladesh's best ever in cricket history.



Mr Consistent ODI Inns Runs Avg

HIGHLIGHTS

Mustafizur Rahman has the best ODI bowling average this year among those with at least 20 wickets. He took eleven wickets in his first two ODIs, the first ever player to do so.

Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes shared a 312-run opening stand against Pakistan, the highest ever posted by a pair in the second innings.

Tamim became the second Bangladeshi to score a double hundred in Tests and also broke Habibul Bashar's long standing record to become the highest run-getter in Test cricket for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh have won five consecutive ODI series for the first time beating Pakistan (3-0), India (2-1), South Africa (2-1) and Zimbabwe (3-0) this year.

Shakib Al Hasan scalped his first five-wicket haul in ODIs this year.

Tajjul Islam with eleven wickets was Bangladesh's highest Test wicket-taker this year.



The record 312-run opening stand

'Argentina need to win'

AFP, Montevideo

Argentina coach Gerardo Martino says Tuesday's 2018 World Cup qualifier at Colombia is a must-win for his injury-ravaged side after they were left frustrated by 10-man Brazil.

The result Friday in Buenos Aires -- where arch rivals Brazil came from behind to snatch a 1-1 draw -- meant Argentina are winless after three games of South America's marathon qualifying campaign, with only two points from a possible nine.

"We have to win in Colombia," Martino said after watching his side -- shorn of a glut of injured stars including Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero -- turn in a dominant performance against Brazil but fail to come away with maximum points.

"We do not need to look at the table to know that we need to win," he said. "Colombia away is not going to be same game as Brazil," he added. "We need to try to take control of the game but I believe we will face a team that is going to attack more."

Colombia, sixth in the 10-team South American table, will be without Atletico Madrid

d striker Jackson Martinez, who injured an ankle in the 1-1 draw at Copa America champions Chile last week.

Carlos Sanchez and Santiago Arias will also be unavailable due to an accumulation of yellow cards.

Midfielder Edwin Cardona said the Colombians are well aware of the threat posed by Argentina, even without Messi.

"They have great players," he told reporters. "Even with several absentees they have quality players to replace them."

"Argentina are going to have the ball and will be a little more offensive... Ezequiel Lavezzi and Angel Di Maria are quite explosive. The key will be to keep the ball."

Brazil -- whose campaign also got off to a rocky start with defeat at Chile -- will be trying to solidify their grasp on fourth place in the table when they host Peru at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador.

Ecuador, who top the table with a maximum nine points, will seek to add another victory before qualifying breaks until March when they visit

Venezuela, who have yet to win a point.

Chile, second in the standings with seven points, can expect a feisty challenge when they visit Uruguay, who have six points from their first three matches.

Both opened qualifying with back-to-back victories before Chile were held to a 1-1 draw by Colombia on Thursday as Uruguay fell 2-1 to Ecuador.

Australia build lead

AFP, Perth

Bat continued to dominate ball as Australia built a second-innings lead over New Zealand on day four of the second Test at the WACA Ground in Perth on Monday.

After Ross Taylor hit a career-best 290, the highest score ever by a visiting batsman in Australia, to steer New Zealand to a first innings lead, Steve Smith and Adam Voges posted twin centuries to help the home side recover after a shakily start.

At the close, Australia were 258 for two in their second innings

with Smith on 131 and Voges on 101, for an overall lead of 193.

It was Smith's 12th century and fifth this year, but his first in a second innings, while for 36-year-old Voges it was just his second hundred and came in his first Test on his home ground.

Voges reached his century from the penultimate over of the day.

Although the match appeared set to be a draw on a lifeless wicket which has offered little assistance to the bowlers over the first four days, Australia will hope to declare on the final day and dismiss the Kiwis cheaply.

Australia already lead the three-Test series 1-0 after beating New Zealand by 208 runs at the Gabba.

In reply to Australia's imposing 559 for nine declared after winning the toss, the Kiwis were dismissed for 624 just before lunch, their highest total against their trans-Tasman rivals on the back of Taylor's mammoth knock and 166 from Kane Williamson.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 559 for 9 declared

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 624 (Latham 36, Williamson 166, Taylor 290, McCullum 27, Boult 23 not out; Starc 4-119, Lyon 3-107)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 258 for 2 (Warner 24, Smith 131 not out, Voges

BD Under-19s sweep series

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s completed a 4-0 series sweep over their Zimbabwean counterparts when they thrashed the visitors by 125 runs in the fourth and final one-day match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Batting first Bangladesh rode on Nazmul Hossain Shanto's 96 to post a defiant 243 in 49.4 overs. Shanto's 113-ball knock included eight fours. Saif Hassan also contributed at the top of the order with a 67-ball 40. For the Zimbabweans, pacer Kundai Matigimu was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4 for 45 in 7.4 overs.

After the exchange, Sanjit Saha spun the home side to a massive victory by taking six wickets, which helped bowl out the opposition for just 118. Saeed Sarkar started the carnage by taking two wickets first and then Sanjit.

Zimbabwe's Shaun Snyder resisted with a 65-ball 31.

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