

# What to WATCH

**TEN 3**  
Sri Lanka v India  
Fourth ODI  
Live from 3:00pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
US Open  
Round Two  
Live from 9:00pm

**SONY SIX**  
Caribbean Premier League  
Jamaica Tallawahs v St Kitts & Nevis  
Live from 5:00am (Friday)  
**SONY ESPN**  
FIFA WC Qualifiers  
Belgium v Gibraltar  
Live from 12:30am (Friday)

**TEN 1**  
FIFA WC Qualifiers  
Portugal v Faroe Islands  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)  
**TEN 1 HD**  
FIFA WC Qualifiers  
Chile v Paraguay  
Live from 4:30am (Friday)

Brazil v Ecuador  
Live from 7:00am (Friday)  
**TEN 2**  
FIFA WC Qualifiers  
France v Netherlands  
Live from 12:30am (Friday)  
Venezuela v Colombia  
Live from 3:00am (Friday)

Uruguay v Argentina  
Live from 5:30am (Friday)  
Peru v Bolivia  
Live from 8:30am (Friday)



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's passion for cricket is already well documented. It was no surprise when she appeared at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium with the Tigers heading towards victory against Australia yesterday. Here the sports-savvy prime minister congratulates the hero of the match Shakib Al Hasan.

PHOTO: BCB

## The deepening well of the Tigers' belief

SAKEB SUBHAN



There is a query that has come to be associated with Bangladesh's Test wins. It rang out on October 30 last year in

Mirpur, when the team clinched their first ever Test win over England. It was the chorus in Colombo on March 19 this year when, after a Galle thrashing and with turmoil in the ranks, the Tigers squared the series with a nervy and hard-fought win in a Test that also happened to be their 100th. So it was predictable when, after beating Australia for the first time in Test cricket yesterday, the question of whether this Test was their greatest win popped up.

Before the Test, when one of the questions about the noises of a 2-0 win coming from the Bangladesh camp finally got under the skin of Australia skipper Steven Smith, he testily said that it was a brave forecast from a team that have won just nine of their 100 matches. And he was right -- statistically speaking Test wins for Bangladesh are in no way routine occurrences. However, there seems to have been a change in attitudes.

That question of the greatest or most important win has always been answered diplomatically, as if each win is a precious child and favourites cannot be chosen openly, lest feelings are hurt. Yesterday, there was a subtle change as although not naming a favourite, each win was seen in their context and as part of a wider narrative. "The win against England gave us the belief to win -- it helped us believe that we can mount comebacks," said Shakib Al Hasan. "And [the win in] Sri Lanka was also a big achievement. Not many teams, other than India, have had much success in Sri Lanka... it was a big thing for us to know that we can win abroad."

The wins are not just valuable for the history they created -- the England win was the first over a full-strength, higher ranked side and the one in the 100th Test was their first win away over such a team -- but they have intrinsic value for the team because of the belief that can be drawn from them, to be used on occasions such as yesterday.

The confidence from knowing that they can mount comebacks in Tests against more fancied opponents must have been priceless when they resumed yesterday with David Warner and Smith, already having benefited

from missed chances, batting serenely when Smith blasted one through mid on. But even as the duo took the score to within 100 runs of the target with eight wickets still to go, Bangladeshi shoulders did not droop.

They knew they were capable of winning matches they are not supposed to. This transformation has happened in ODIs, a format where not too long ago each win was treated as 'historic' and 'most important'.

That belief has been in evidence even before the series began. As Shakib took pains to explain yesterday, he never said that they will win 2-0, only that a 2-0 victory is possible. Even though it is a watered-down version of the pre-series buzz that the media lapped up, a statement of such boldness against the most successful Test tradition in history spoke of a team



Handshake of contrasting emotions between Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and his vanquished Australian counterpart Steven Smith. PHOTO: STAR

willing to back it up. And now that they have, Shakib reiterated the claim with renewed confidence. "Neither Australia nor we could have said for certain that we will win 2-0. Yes, now we can say that it is possible."

Australia cannot.

The win is of course historic insofar that it is the first against Australia. But there will be at least four more instances (six more if new entrants Afghanistan and Ireland are included) of Bangladesh beating a Test team for the first time. So while they will be historic, the importance will diminish with each passing win. In the wider lens through which Shakib and Co are viewing things now, the importance of this win will hinge on whether they can take the belief and create a unique event in Bangladesh's history in Chittagong.

## Eid comes early for Tigers' fans

MAZHAR UDDIN



The historic Test win over Australia has provided an additional occasion to celebrate the nation before the upcoming Eid festival.

People will face a lot of difficulties on their way back home through bumpy roads by bus or sitting on the roof of a train to celebrate Eid. But perhaps all the difficulties and struggles will be eased by the Tigers' maiden Test win over Australia which will certainly remain the centre of all discussion.

But those cricketers who gifted the nation something to be proud of and the reason to celebrate the holy

festival with a historic win, will however not have the opportunity to spend Eid with their families.

When the whole nation will be busy to return to their hometowns, and to their families to observe Eid on September 2, both Bangladesh and Australia will travel to Chittagong tomorrow a day before Eid for the second and final match of the Test series.

"I will miss my parents on Eid. Not only myself, all members of the team will miss their families because of the game. If we can give something to the nation by this sacrifice I think it's a huge thing," said Bangladesh Test captain Mushfiqur Rahim after the win against Australia at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

However, it was a sleepless night for the Bangladesh skipper after the third day [Tuesday] when the visitors were dominating the game with Aussie captain Steve Smith and David Warner in the midst of a good partnership that took them to 109 for two at stumps chasing 265.

It was the tireless encouragement from seniors, especially Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, that kept spirits high in the dressing room even when, on Tuesday, a nervous evening led to a restless night.

"To be honest, I had a sleepless night yesterday [Tuesday]. I kept thinking of what to do and how we can break the partnership, but thanks to the Almighty, we have managed to make a comeback brilliantly," Mushfiqur told The Daily Star after the stirring victory. "I

can sleep peacefully tonight."

The Bangladesh cricketers did celebrate the victory after the match in the dressing room where the cricketers sang the team song 'Amra korbo joy' in a unique fashion, with Mushfiqur leading all the other players and coaching staff in the act of banging their bats on the massage table. The video went viral after pacer Taskin Ahmed posted it on social media yesterday.

It was learned that Shakib Al Hasan has introduced the celebration, which he was first a part of during his stay at the Big Bash League in Australia.

But there was not much of a celebration after the team returned to the hotel yesterday; perhaps the Tigers are gearing up for a bigger one in Chittagong.

### QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

#### Clarke greets Mushy in Tweet message

Former Australia Test captain Michael Clarke personally greeted Bangladesh Test skipper Mushfiqur Rahim over today's victory against Australia.



**Nadal shines in rainy US Open**  
Rafael Nadal took his US Open first-round record to 13-0 but Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka stole the headlines by knocking out defending champion Angelique Kerber as torrential rain caused more than 50 matches to be shelved Tuesday.



**'My wife is my biggest inspiration'**  
Shakib Al Hasan, one of the more guarded Bangladesh players, revealed an added inspiration, one much closer to home, as he pointed to his wife as his biggest inspiration after the conclusion of the first Test against Australia.



**Argentina, Uruguay battle in qualifiers**  
Luis Suarez could yet line up against Barcelona team-mate Lionel Messi on Thursday as South America's battle for 2018 World Cup places resumes with Argentina's trip to Uruguay the pick of the fixtures.



## Abahani toil for victory

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Abahani were made to sweat against lightweight Arambagh before notching up a 2-1 win in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Striker Nabib Newaj Jibon and winger Saad Uddin struck a goal each for Abahani, before Nigeria's Alamu Bukola reduced the margin as Arambagh gave their superior opponents a run for their money before going down.

Since clinching the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup, five-team profession league champions Abahani have been going through ups and downs and had dropped seven points before taking on a spirited Arambagh in the seventh round of matches. Arambagh came into the game on the back of a goalless draw against league leaders Chittagong Abahani.

However, despite recent troubles the holders looked confident from the outset and dominated Arambagh in the first half, taking a deserved lead on the half-hour mark after twice coming close to breaking the deadlock only to be denied by Arambagh goalkeeper Mahfuz Hasan Pritom.

Pritom parried a Jibon shot in the 23rd minute and did well to hold on to a close-range header from Rubel Mia in the 28th minute but he could not thwart Jibon, who struck from inside the six-yard box in the 31st minute when a corner came his way.

Six minutes later Abahani doubled their lead with winger Saad mustering a brilliant dipping shot from 30 yards out that gave Pritom no chance as it crashed into the Arambagh net.

After going two down, Arambagh put their foot on the gas and pulled one back as Bukola converted from the spot in stoppage time after winger Mohammad Jewel was felled by Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel.

If the first half belonged to Abahani, Arambagh dominated the second and made their might opponents toil till the last seconds of the game. Arambagh's shouts for a penalty in the 57th minute were ignored after Bukola was supposedly pushed from behind by defender Samad Yussif. Replays showed that Bukola himself had inexplicably tumbled inside the box with only the goalkeeper to beat.

However, things took a turn for the worse as Abahani lost control of the midfield after Imtiaz Sultan Jitu replaced Emon Babu and Abahani goalkeeper Shoel rebuffed two good efforts from Bukola and Mahmudul Hasan Kiron in the 63rd and 88th minutes to keep their lead intact.

Finally, Abahani left with a fourth win which helped them hold onto fourth position with 14 points, while Arambagh stayed glued to second from bottom with four points.

In the day's other match, Chittagong Abahani returned to winning ways with a single-goal win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad. Nigerian defender Udoka Alison separated both sides five minutes from time to help the port city outfit tighten their lead -- they now have 19 points. Meanwhile Muktiyoddha Sangsad slipped to ninth with six points.

ABAHANI (JIBON 31, SAAD 37)	2 - 1	ARAMBAGH (BUKOLA 45+2)
CTG ABAHANI 1 - 0 MUKTIJODDHA (ALISON 85)		



Swiss maestro Roger Federer battled past his back injuries and 19-year-old Frances Tiafoe in the first round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

## Svitolina, Federer battle thru'

AFP, New York



Ukraine's fourth-seeded Elna Svitolina, fighting to become world number one, and Austrian sixth seed Dominic Thiem captured rain-interrupted matches Wednesday to reach the second round of the US Open.

Svitolina, seeking her sixth title of the year and first Grand Slam crown, held off 42nd-ranked Czech Katerina Siniakova 6-0, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 while Thiem finished off Australian Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 under sunny skies.

There were 87 matches scheduled Wednesday in the year's final Grand Slam event after rain washed out most of Tuesday's agenda, 11 of them halted first-round affairs.

Former world number one Maria Sharapova was set to face Hungary's 59th-ranked Tímea Babos in a later second-round match at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Svitolina, who dropped six of nine tie-breaker points when her match resumed, survived a third set, break-

ing for a 4-2 edge and serving out for the victory.

"It was a little bit unlucky to stop because I was playing good," Svitolina said. "Today was a little bit of a mess in my head. It was tough to keep my focus. I'm happy I could win the third set and play really good tennis."

"I was just trying to fight for every ball. You can't win if you're not mentally strong."

Thiem, a semi-finalist at the past two French Opens, was working to adapt his skill on the Paris red clay to maximum impact on the New York hardcourts.

"I'm pretty pleased with the performance," Thiem said.

"I'm trying to improve my hardcourt game. I cannot play my clay game here. I can't stay close to the baseline."

Canadian 18-year-old Denis Shapovalov, who faces French eighth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga later, can become the youngest man in the third round of a Grand Slam since Australia's Bernard Tomic at the 2011 Australian Open and in the US Open since

American Donald Young in 2007.

Earlier on Tuesday, Roger Federer made a narrow escape in a tense five-set thriller, sorting out worries about a back injury and poor preparation to reach the second round.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion outlasted 70th-ranked US 19-year-old Frances Tiafoe 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 in a shockingly tough battle that boosted his hopes of a deep run on the New York hardcourts.

"I think this is going to give me a lot of confidence," Federer said. "It's important to go through all of these emotional roller coasters early. That pressure is not fun but it's what you have to go through."

The match was Federer's first since losing the Montreal final to Alexander Zverev nearly three weeks ago. He withdrew from Cincinnati with a sore back the following week.

"I was worried in the beginning from my back issue from a couple weeks ago but I loosened up," Federer said, calling his back "extremely well" and adding "it's only going to get better from here."

## Bangladesh unchanged for Ctg Test

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh team management has opted to stick to the same squad which defeated Australia by 20 runs in Dhaka for the second Test in Chittagong, set to begin on September 4.

However, Australia will be forced into making at least one change after Josh Hazlewood sustained an injury in Dhaka. Steve O'Keefe has been flown in as his replacement, but it is yet to be seen whether he or someone else will take the field at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

**SQUAD:** Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Imrul Kayes, Sabbir Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (capt), Nasir Hossain, Mehedi Hasan, Taijul Islam, Shafiqul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman.

## Juve snapping up Howedes?

AFP, Berlin

Germany's World Cup winner Benedikt Hoewedes is set to join Italian champions Juventus on Wednesday in a hastily arranged transfer after being stripped of the captaincy at Schalke.

Juventus confirmed via the club's official Twitter account that Hoewedes was in Turin for a medical check.

According to German media reports, the 29-year-old centre back is set to sign a one-year loan deal, which will cost Juventus four million euros, with an option to buy for 14 million euros.

Having been Schalke's club skipper since 2011, Hoewedes was suddenly stripped of the captaincy by new coach Domenico Tedesco and left on the bench for the Royal Blues' first two league games this season.