



WI-BD ODIs IN NUMBERS

Mushfiquir Rahim has scored **505** runs, the most by a Bangladeshi batsman against West Indies in ODIs. Last time Bangladesh won an ODI against West Indies it was by two wickets back in 2012 in Dhaka. The two sides met **28** times, with Bangladesh winning **7** times. Bangladesh are ranked 7th in ODIs.



Chris Gayle has scored **519** runs against Bangladesh in ODIs. Marlon Samuels is the highest run-getter, **523** in ODIs between the two sides. West Indies won the last ODI they played against Bangladesh in 2014 at St. Kitts by **91** runs. West Indies have won 19 times against Bangladesh. West Indies are ranked 9th in ODIs.



'Unaware of Shakib's intentions'

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board [BCB] Cricket Operations Committee chairman Akram Khan yesterday claimed that he was unaware of the issue regarding the unwillingness of a few senior cricketers to continue playing Test cricket as claimed by the board's president Nazmul Hassan on the previous day.

Hassan had said that skipper Shakib Al Hasan and pacer Mustafizur Rahman were not interested to play Test cricket while he also said that it is getting difficult for pacer Rubel Hossain to continue to play Test cricket.

The Cricket Operations Committee is responsible for making players' contracts and overseeing other issues of the national cricketers.

"He [Shakib] is playing Test cricket and he is also the Test captain. Did he himself say that he does not want to play Test Cricket?" questioned Akram.

When he was informed that the BCB president commented over the issue, Akram said he was not aware of the matter.

"I am not fully aware of the issue as Shakib is one of the most important players of the team and, at the moment, I think he is important for us in all three formats. We want to get our best players in the right areas," he said.

The former Bangladesh captain also expressed his disappointment when reminded of the claim that most of the senior players are not interested in playing Test cricket.

"This should not have happened and I am disappointed to hear this," Akram said.

Hassan had also stated that the board is willing to form different Test and T20I teams in the future. However, according to Akram, it will be difficult to form a separate team for the longer version.

"We are not yet in a position to form a separate Test team as we have very few alternatives. You can see that almost 80 per cent of the cricketers are playing all three formats for us, which is not the case for other countries. First you need to have the option, and then you will be able to form a separate team," he said.

The four senior members of the Bangladesh team -- Shakib, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiquir Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad -- have played more than 200 Tests combined.

Shakib took a break from the Test series against South Africa last year before being reappointed as the Test skipper later in the year.

Will colour change Tigers' fortunes?

SPORTS REPORTER

A lot will depend on the mental strength of the visiting Bangladesh team following their disastrous Test series defeat as the Tigers will look to gain some confidence in their favourite format when they take on West Indies in the first of a three-match ODI series in Guyana today.

The match will get underway at 7:30pm Bangladesh time.

This will be the second series in the fifty-over format this year for both teams. Bangladesh lost in the final of the tri-nation, also involving Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, at home in January while West Indies managed to finish runners-up in the ICC World

Cup qualifiers in Zimbabwe in March.

It will be important for inspirational skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to regroup his teammates after the Test debacle, but the onus will also be on seniors like Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiquir Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad to step up.

Some good news for the visitors is the inclusion of pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who missed the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan and the Test series against the West Indies due to a toe injury.

Mashrafe will spearhead the pace bowling department, with Mustafizur and Rubel Hossain likely to be the next two options. The team management will, however, have to decide between Abu Hider and Abu Jayed,

with the latter proving impressive in the Test series, if there is a case for a fourth seamer.

"The West Indies top order can go hard from the start but we have to be positive and do what we can as well as obviously bowl at the right areas and according to their weaknesses. Hopefully if we can remove their top order early it will be fun. I played here a long time back in 2007 but I think 260-280 can be a good score," said Mashrafe yesterday.

Shakib will take charge of the spin bowling department alongside another left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam, who has been able to keep things tight in the T20 format recently. The man famous for his 'Nagin Dance' celebration, is expected make his ODI debut.

However, it will be important for the likes of Liton Das, Sabbir Rahman and Mosaddek Hossain to stand up and be counted in their specific roles.

West Indies, on the other hand, will be beaming with confidence after the Test series, even though they have made a few changes from the previous ODI side which played the ICC qualifiers.

Big-hitter Chris Gayle will be partnered up front by the young Evin Lewis to start the fireworks while Russell and Rovman Powell can bludgeon the bowling down the order.

However, the weather in Guyana can play its part as rain is the forecast for today while the pitch is expected to be on the slower side.

A team series decider today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A will take on Sri Lanka A in the third and final one-day game, which will decide the fate of the series, at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium today.

The home team registered a close two-run win in the first fixture but the visitors bounced back in the second encounter, riding on Thisara Perera's blistering hundred, to seal a 67-run victory and level the series.

Handball league gets underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Quantum Foundation, Prime Sporting Club and Dhaka Mariner Young's Club notched victories on the opening day of the Cute Premier Handball League at the Shaheed (Captain) M Mansoor Ali National Handball Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

First up, Quantum had a difficult outing as they overcame a spirited Narinda Progoti Boys' Club 34-33 in the opening match of the competition.

The second game was a very straight-forward affair as Prime Sports Club outplayed Old Ideals 34-15 before Mariner Young's thrashed Victoria Sporting Club by 50-12 goals in the last match of the day.

Earlier, the league was inaugurated by Awami League's secretary for Youth And Sports Harun-or-Rashid while Mousumi Industries Limited chairman Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed was also present among others.

There are five matches scheduled to be held today at the same venue.

Warner sets sights on WC return

AFP, Darwin



Banished opening batsman David Warner says he is looking to be part of Australia's World Cup defence in England next year after his first hit-out at home on Saturday.

The pugnacious Warner smacked 36 runs off 32 balls in the Northern Territory Strike League in Darwin as he searches for match practice to gear for his return to top-level cricket early next year.

Warner, 31, was handed a one-year ban from international and state cricket by Cricket Australia for his role in helping to devise a plan to rub sandpaper on the ball during a Test match against South Africa in March.

He had pledged to play in the cricket outpost while he was involved in community coaching work earlier this year as part of the terms of his ban, and made good his offer in his side City Cyclones' comfortable win against Northern Tide in a 50-over fixture.

"I'm pretty good when I'm fresh," Warner told reporters.

"If you look at the last 12 months, I played basically every game (for Australia) and didn't get a rest.

"I had a five-day turnaround before the first Test in South Africa and I led the team in (the T20 tri-series in Australia and) New Zealand when some of the other guys had a rest.

"So I know that the breaks do me (good), and you don't lose form overnight."

Warner said he would have the opportunity of warm-up games before the World Cup in May-July next year.

"You've got plenty of warm-up games before the World Cup, and I'll be playing the IPL (Indian Premier League T20 competition) as well leading into that," he said.

"So there's plenty of cricket and plenty of world-class players to play against, as well to get my preparation on song."

Warner confirmed his intention to continue at international level once his suspension is completed, and for some time into the future.

"I wouldn't be here today and working my backside off to keep scoring as many runs as I can for each team that I play for if I didn't love it -- I'd probably retire," he said.

"But I've still got plenty of fuel in the tank and I'm excited.

"(I have) the next eight months to reflect upon what's happened and then moving forward to be a better person and a better cricketer.

"I'm just ticking along to make sure I'm preparing well for this and the CPL coming up."

Warner will play for the St Lucia Stars in next month's Caribbean Premier League.



Neymar defends his diving

AGENCIES, Undated

Neymar was widely ridiculed for his theatrics at the World Cup with Brazil. The Brazilian was maligned for over-reacting to challenges and his desire for simulation with social media completely destroying the PSG man with viral memes and videos.

However, Neymar feels it is no laughing matter, considering the kind of rough treatment he gets.

"Do you think I want to suffer tackles all of the time? No, it is painful, it hurts," he said.

"After the games, I stay back for four or five hours putting on ice, it's complicated but if you haven't experienced that you will never understand. I saw [the jokes], but I took them with a humour.

"Even yesterday I posted on Instagram a joke with the children about it. My football is to dribble, to face the opponent, I can't stand in front of the opponent and say 'my dear, excuse me I want to score a goal', I can't do that.

"I have to dribble past him, I have to try to do something and he will not allow me to go past and he will try to foul me. A lot of time I'm faster and lighter than other players and they tackle me, and the referee is there for that."

To be fair to Neymar, he was the most-fouled player at Russia and became the most-fouled player in the history of the competition since Diego Maradona back in 1986.

Even with his club sides, the Brazilian has come under rough treatment by the opposition players and is hacked down repeatedly in the league and cup games.



Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya celebrates one of his five wickets against South Africa on the second day of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday. (Inset) On a wicket which heavily favoured the slow bowlers, South Africa's left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj also took nine for 129.

Lankan spinners tighten the noose on Proteas

AFP, Colombo



Sri Lanka surged to 151 for 3 in their second innings on Saturday -- a 365-run overall lead -- as they sought a whitewash triumph over South Africa in their two-Test series.

After their spinners had skittled out South Africa for just 124 in their first innings, Sri Lankan openers Danushka Gunathilaka and Dimuth Karunaratne put on a quickfire 91 to set the foundation for another strong score on the Colombo pitch.

Gunathilaka was Sri Lanka's primary aggressor, hitting six fours and two sixes in his 61 off 68 balls after tea on the second day.

Keshav Maharaj struck twice to remove Gunathilaka and Dhananjaya da Silva, for a duck, but Karunaratne

progressed smoothly at the other end to reach 59 while Angelo Mathews had 12.

The hosts built up their domineering lead at the end of a day in which their 10th wicket pair added valuable runs to build a first innings of 338. South Africa were then routed by Sri Lanka's spinners with Akila Dananjaya taking five for 52.

Dananjaya and Rangana Herath frustrated South Africa through the morning session as they added 61 runs to the overnight total.

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj eventually dismissed Herath to end the innings, and complete a haul of nine for 129 -- the second-best for a South Africa bowler and the best since the country made a post-apartheid return to Tests in 1991. Maharaj's 9-129 is the second best behind only Hugh Tayfield's 9-113 against England in 1957, but his success

brought little cheer to a side battling their own spin vulnerabilities.

Sri Lanka's 338 was always going to be a challenge and Dananjaya, Herath and Dilruwan Perera then tore through the South African batting, already exposed by their defeat in the first Test in Galle.

Dananjaya took his second five-wicket haul in Tests while Herath and Perera shared the remaining five South African wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka: First innings 338 (De Silva 60, Gunathilaka 57, Karunaratne 53, Dananjaya 43 not out; Maharaj 9-129) and Second innings 151 for 3 (Gunathilaka 61, Karunaratne 59 not out, Mathews 12 not out; Maharaj 2-90)

South Africa: First innings 124 (Du Plessis 48, De Kock 32; Dananjaya 5-52, Perera 4-40)