

CHANNEL 9
Federation Cup
Semifinal
Sk Russel v Bashundhara Kings
Live from 5:00pm

SONY ESPN
FIFA International Friendly
France v Uruguay
Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

TEN 1
FIFA International Friendly

Italy v USA
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 2
FIFA International Friendly
Turkey v Ukraine
Live from 11:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Federation Cup
Semifinal
Sheikh Russel v Bashundhara Kings
Time: 5:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

'Have found my own way of living'

Sixteen years ago, during a game between Bangladesh Under-15 and the Cricket Association of Bengal at BKSP, a young boy went straight to the washroom after he got out, locked himself in and cried his heart out for at least 30 minutes. That young boy, disappointed at not being able to take his side across the line, was Mushfiqur Rahim. Such heightened emotions and the strict adherence to discipline it demanded have been features of Mushfiqur's personality over the past decade as he became one of Bangladesh's most reliable cricketers. Known as an introvert, there have been a few misconceptions about Mushfiqur. During an exclusive interview, The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin tried to uncover more about Mushfiqur the person.

The Daily Star (TDS): You seem to have changed over the past few years and are more relaxed.

Mushfiqur Rahim (MR): To be honest, since my wife came into my life I am able to control my emotions and even if I am not able to play well, I get over it. Also, I am more relaxed after becoming a father. I spend quality time with my family. She inspires me in various ways as she has seen me very closely. She always said that "if you work hard and honestly, the Almighty will surely give you the results. Maybe you won't get it now but surely Allah will gift you in the near future".

TDS: In which areas do you think you have changed?

MR: Previously, when I did not score I tended to stay alone and did not want to interact with anyone. But since getting married I always try to spend that time with family. After performing the Umrah I realised that a person does not have very long to live. So as long as I am alive I always think that whatever Allah has given me, Alhamdulillah I am happy. When you think of your next life it helps you think how to become a good person, which has helped me

overcome my previous mindset.

TDS: What annoyed Mushfiqur in the past?

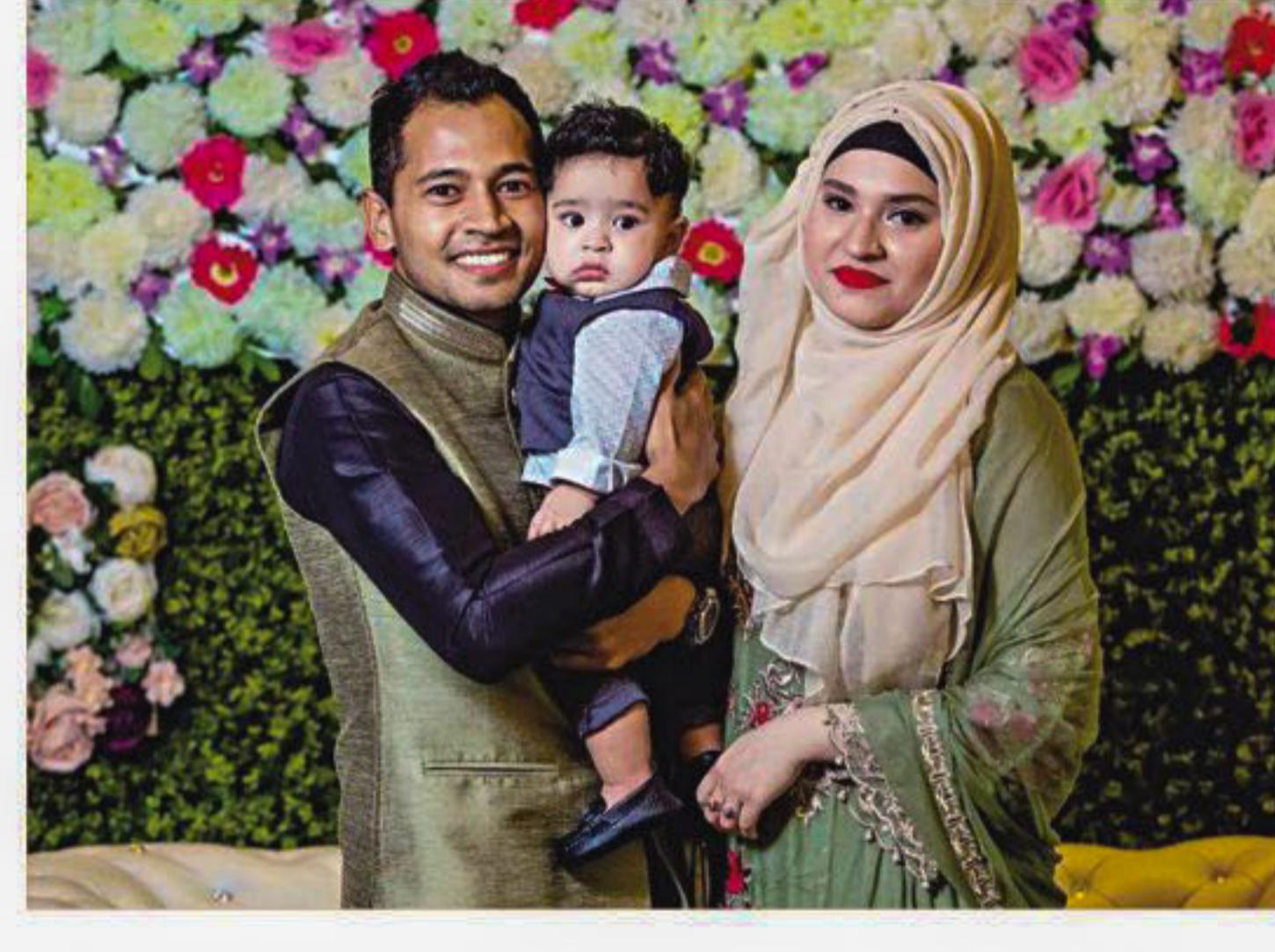
MR: Obviously it felt bad when I was unable to play well but nothing annoyed me. There were some

honest with myself. Yes, I expressed my belief in some players during their bad patches. There was even a period when people wanted to drop Tamim Iqbal. I said that we are not going to get a

comeback. But hearing that I backed Riyad bhai because he is my relative really hurt me. Nowadays I don't think or listen to such things as I have found my own way of living.

TDS: As a family man how do you prepare yourself before an international series?

MR: Obviously it's a different challenge as during my early days I only used to play and study. But when I started playing for the national team I had a responsibility to do something for my country. Whatever I am today is because of my discipline both on and off the field. I also have a few more responsibilities now that I am a father and a husband. But it's important to keep your personal and professional lives separate. I am a huge believer in preparation, be it with my game or my studies. Just before coming to Chattogram for the series I went to my university with permission from the coach [Steve Rhodes] for my MPhil classes on November 18 and returned again. So this is also a part of your preparations and if you mentally feel prepared, then you are truly prepared.



questions against me in the past -- there was talk that I backed [Mahmudullah] Riyad bhai when I was the captain to get him into the team, which is absurd. No one can do that when you are playing for your country. I always try to be

player like Tamim in decades and he too will admit what I did for him. You won't have alternatives for players like Tamim or Riyad bhai. As a captain I did my part and it's because of their hard work that they were able to make a

SHORT GOODBYE SET FOR CAHILL

Tim Cahill's farewell appearance for Australia will be limited to the last five minutes as the Socceroos look ahead to life without their record scorer -- and wonder how to replace his goals. Cahill, 38, will earn his 108th and final cap in Tuesday's friendly against Lebanon in Sydney, but coach Graham Arnold has thornier matters at hand ahead of Australia's Asian Cup defence in January in the United Arab Emirates. Arnold said on Monday that Cahill, the former Everton forward, would be restricted to a five-minute cameo as the Socceroos aim to make the most of valuable match practice. "The first 85 minutes is all about our performance," Arnold told Fox Sports, ahead of Australia's final outing before regrouping in late December for their Asian Cup preparations. "There (are) no friendly games -- the last five minutes can be for Timmy."

— AFP



Switzerland forward Haris Seferovic scores the first of his three goals against Belgium during their UEFA Nations League clash in Lucerne on Sunday. Switzerland won the match 5-2 to qualify for the final round as Group A2 winners.

PHOTO: AFP

Swiss stun Belgium

AGENCIES



Haris Seferovic starred with a hattrick as Switzerland staged a sensational comeback to thrash Belgium 5-2 in Lucerne on Sunday and qualify for the Nations League finals in dramatic fashion.

Thorgan Hazard's early double left Switzerland needing to win by two goals to qualify from Group A2 but the hosts quickly fought back, with Ricardo Rodriguez's penalty and Seferovic's first two goals seeing them into a 3-2 half-time lead.

Nico Elvedi nodded home a Xherdan Shaqiri cross in the 62nd minute, and Vladimir Petkovic's men sealed a stunning win when Seferovic completed his treble late on.

"I want to congratulate each player,

there was a big mental reaction, the players never gave up, they always believed," said Swiss coach Petkovic. "They played with will, intelligence and with their heads."

After a thrilling match that continued a trend of goal-filled encounters in the inaugural edition of the Nations League, Switzerland will play at the finals in June next year, alongside European champions Portugal and England, with the final spot going to either France or the Netherlands on Monday.

Meanwhile, Spain responded to their Nations League disappointment by beating Bosnia 1-0 on Sunday but an unconvincing victory will have done little to lift the mood.

Luis Enrique's side needed 21-year-old debutant Brais Mendez, on as a substitute, to score the only goal of a scrappy game at Estadio Gran Canaria.

Tigresses end winless

SPORTS REPORTER



Bowlers doing their part but batters failing miserably -- this has been the scenario Bangladesh throughout the ICC Women's World T20 tournament. It was the same

old story again in Bangladesh's final outing of the tournament against South Africa as the Tigresses lost by 30 runs and ended the tournament without a single win under their belt at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium at Gros Islet, St Lucia, yesterday.

After winning the toss, Bangladesh sent South Africa in to bat and the Proteas got off to a flying start as opener Lizelle Lee struck a quick-fire 21 runs off 13 balls before being run out. The Tigresses however, bounced back with a disciplined spin attack in the middle overs after having conceded 48 runs in the Powerplay.

Skipper Salma Khatun bagged three wickets in her four-over spell while Khadija Tul Kubra struck twice as the Tigresses restricted South Africa to 109 for 9 in their 20 overs.

Coming in to bat, Bangladesh had the chance to ensure direct qualification to the

next edition of the tournament, if they could finish off the chase in 13 overs. However, this seemed far-fetched as the Tigresses could only manage 13 runs for one wicket by the end of their Powerplay. Also the Tigresses had to wait till the eighth over to pick up their first boundary.

Bangladesh failed to stretch their score past 80 for the fourth time in the tournament, ending their innings with just 79 for five on the board.

"I think we did not bat well today but in every match we bowled really well. Hopefully, if we can improve the batting then we can get a good result" said a disappointed Salma during the post-match interview.

Despite the disappointing batting display, skipper Salma reached a personal milestone of 50 wickets in T20 internationals -- the sole take-away from this match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 109 for 9 in 20 overs (Lee 21, Van Niekerk 17, Kapp 25, Tryon 18; Salma 3-20, Khadija 2-18)

BANGLADESH: 79 for 5 in 20 overs (Fargana 19, Rumana 34 not out; Daniels 6, Klaas 1-13, Sekhukhune 1-12)

Result: South Africa won by 30 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Marizanne Kapp.

Patel stars in NZ's thrilling win

APP, Abu Dhabi



Debutant spinner Ajaz Patel took five wickets to lead a never-say-die approach from New Zealand bowlers as they pulled

off a thrilling four-run win over an undisciplined Pakistan in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

Defending a modest 176-run target, New Zealand bowlers led by Patel (5-59), fast bowler Neil Wagner (2-27) and Ish Sodhi (2-37) bowled out Pakistan for 171.

It is the fifth smallest win in terms of runs in Test cricket history and gives New Zealand a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

"I think at the end of the day it was a great advertisement for Test cricket," said New Zealand captain Kane Williamson.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 153

PAKISTAN: First innings 227

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 249

PAKISTAN: Second innings 171 (Imamul 27, Azhar 65, Shafiq 45, Patel 5-59, Sodhi 2-37, Wagner 2-27)

Result: New Zealand won by 4 runs and lead the series 1-0.

Player-of-the-match: Ajaz Patel



PATEL... 5 for 59

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Little more than a tune-up Shadman gets maiden Test call-up

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

A two-day practice match before a Test series does not promise a lot in the way of preparation, but the touring West Indians and what turned into four Bangladesh Test squad members in the BCB XI got some value out of the match that ended in a draw at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

It was an auspicious day for Shadman Islam, the highest scorer in the recently concluded National Cricket League (NCL), as his innings of 73 off 169 balls earned him a maiden call-up to the Test squad.

Soumya Sarkar, back in the Test squad for the first time since Bangladesh's tour of South Africa in October 2017, continued the hot form he showed in the NCL and in the third ODI against Zimbabwe last month with a brisk 78 off 102 balls in BCB XI's 232 for five on the second day. On the first day West Indians had scored 303 for seven before declaring their innings overnight, with Shai Hope top-scoring with 88 off 112 balls.

Young off-spinner Nayem Hasan took two for 105 off 27 overs. Mohammad Mithun, the other Bangladesh player featuring in the BCB XI, played out 70 balls for his unbroken 27 before both captains -- Rubel Hossain and Kraigg Brathwaite --



BCB XI's Shadman Islam scored a patient 73 runs against the West Indians in the two-day practice match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday, earning himself a maiden call-up to the Test squad.

PHOTO: STAR

agreed to call it a day about half an hour before the scheduled close. The foundation for BCB XI's strong reply was a 126-run opening stand between Soumya and Shadman. Soumya, who hit 10 fours and a six, was caught behind off left-arm spinner Jomel Warriac after lunch, and then Test discard Nazmul Hossain was bowled by a Kemar Roach delivery. Mithun then ran out Shadman, and another Test discard in Liton Kumar also disappointed when he was bowled by Shannon Gabriel.

West Indians used eight bowlers, giving them as much match practice as

possible. However, practice is all the match provided as the slow and low wicket did not give Bangladesh a taste of West Indian pace, nor did it provide the tourists a glimpse of conditions they might encounter when the Test starts at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium on November 22.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIANS: First innings 303 for 7 decl.

BCB XI: First innings 232 for 5 (Shadman 73, Soumya 78, Najmul 21, Mithun 27 not out, Zakir 18; Roach 18, Gabriel 2-24)

Result: Match drawn.



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