



BANGLADESH'S HIGHEST TOTALS IN T20IS			
SCORE	OPPOSITION	VENUE	DATE
215/5	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Mar 10, 2018
211/4	West Indies	Dhaka	Dec 20, 2018
193/5	Sri Lanka	Dhaka	Feb 15, 2018
190/5	Ireland	Belfast	Jul 18, 2012
189/9	New Zealand	Dhaka	Nov 6, 2013

Bangladesh opener Liton Das struck a brilliant 60, punctuated by six fours and four sixes, to help the Tigers post 211 runs, their highest ever T20I total on home soil, against West Indies in the second game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh won by 36 runs.

'Let's just keep going like this'

Despite Shakib Al Hasan's all-round performance, including a maiden five-wicket haul in T20Is, that led the Tigers to a series-levelling 36-run win in the second T20I against the West Indies, there was a sense of anger about the champion cricketer yesterday. The first words that the T20I skipper and man-of-the-match said before the start of the post match press conference were: "First of all there is an announcement. I won't be available for press conferences for the next match as promised by the media manager. In fact I won't even interact before the third game." The excerpts of the lively media interaction are given below:

Question (Q): You suffered a blow to your toe before the first T20I and were also ill before the second game. Is it that you want to play despite illness or that the team management urged you to play?
Shakib Al Hasan (SAH): I am still sick. Everyone thinks that Shakib is meant to play. Is there anyone who thinks I won't play?
Q: Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar provided a good start which was followed by you and Mahmudullah. Do you think this should be the template to win a T20 game?
SAH: There are no fixed rules to win a T20 match. I think we had a good day and I think overall we had a very good game. Liton started off well and Soumya continued well followed by Riyad bhai and I. I think our batting did the main job. Our batsman took a lesson from the previous game.
Q: Your take on your own bowling since you just mentioned that the main job was done by the batsmen?
SAH: How would I judge my own bowling? It's your guys who will talk about it. Obviously it was difficult for the spinners but Mehedi also bowled well.
Q: Your feelings on taking five wicket?

SAH: Obviously it feels good if anything happens for the first time. I am happy. I think bowling-wise this performance will be right among the top.
Q: There was a sense of disappointment from you after the defeat in the first game during the post-match presentation. What was your message before the second game?
SAH: There was no message for the team as I did not speak to anyone after that. The thing is I did not blame our batters. There was nothing negative. You guys won't say the whole thing and only focus on the negatives as people like whenever there is any negative news about me. I like it too and I think these things somehow inspire me to play well.
Q: Were you inspired for the same reason today [yesterday] to play well?
SAH: Whenever such situations occur, Allah gifts me something like this... I was told by the media manager that I would be asked only seven questions.
Q: Talking about the negatives. Is that you don't understand us or we don't get you?
SAH: I don't know. I actually don't think in such a way but it has been going on like this for the past 10-12 years. Let's just keep going like this.

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Refined approach pays big dividends

MAZHAR UDDIN

In what was a perfect example of how a stable start from the batsmen could lay the platform for a big total, Bangladesh did almost everything right as they posted their highest-ever T20I total of 211 for five while batting first against the West Indies in the second T20I in Mirpur yesterday.

The Tigers' team management opted to stick with the same eleven that was on the receiving end of an eight-wicket hammering in the first T20I in Sylhet, but the approach was completely different as the hosts banked on their strengths instead of trying to overpower their opponents.

There were no blistering hundreds or fifties as the Tigers sacrificed their overly-aggressive approach, displayed in the previous game, for a collective approach.

Liton Das's scorching 34-ball 60 was highlighted by clever improvised shots instead of raw power and a record unbeaten fifth-wicket 91-run partnership between skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah Riyad ensured the hosts finished their innings with a flourish.

Interestingly, that partnership came on the back of a mini-collapse which saw Bangladesh lose the wickets of Liton, Soumya Sarkar and Mushfiqur Rahim in the

span of just 12 balls.

However, it was the momentum that was set right at the top which helped both experienced campaigners ensure a large total as they added 71 runs in the last five overs.

Liton adjusted to the pace of the pitch before opening up and starting to attack. The stylish right-hander struck three boundaries off Sheldon Cottrell, the hero of the previous game, with some proper cricketing strokes.

From a scoop to waiting till the last moment to smash a good length delivery through point, Liton took on the Caribbean bowling attack, even striking back-to-back sixes off West Indies skipper Carlos Brathwaite. The first was a gorgeous flick towards the fine leg boundary which was followed by a perfectly executed pull off a length delivery.

After Tamim departed with the score on 41, Liton, on a roll, cleared his front leg and perfectly timed a straight six to pacer Oshane Thomas, producing what was arguably the shot of the day. He hit another six off the next delivery, a scoop through fine leg.

Liton, who looked like he could well register the fastest fifty by a Bangladeshi when he was on 41 off just 16 deliveries, reached his fifty off just 26 balls, setting the stage for Bangladesh to compensate for their mistakes from the previous game.

BD-WI SCOREBOARD				
BANGLADESH R/B 4s/6s				
Tamim c Cottrell b Allen	15/16	1/0		
Liton b Cottrell	60/34	6/4		
Soumya c Brathwaite b Cottrell	32/22	3/1		
Shakib not out	42/26	5/1		
Mushfiqur c Allen b Thomas	1/3	0/0		
Mahmudullah not out	43/21	7/0		
Extras: (lb-4, nb-2, w-12)	18			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 20 overs)	211			
Did not bat: Ariful, Saifuddin, Mehedi, Hider, Mustafizur.				
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-110, 3-113, 4-120.				
Bowler O M R W				
Cottrell	4	0	38	2
Thomas	4	0	43	1
Brathwaite	4	0	43	0
Allen	4	0	29	1
Paul	4	0	54	0
WEST INDIES R/B 4s/6s				
Lewis c Liton b Hider	1/6	0/0		
Hope c Liton b Mehedi	36/19	6/0		
Pooran c Tamim b Shakib	14/6	2/1		
Hetmyer c Saifuddin b Shakib	19/17	1/1		
Powell c Tamim b Mustafizur	50/34	5/1		
Bravo c Mustafizur b Shakib	2/3	0/0		
Brathwaite st Mushfiqur b Shakib	8/3	0/1		
Allen b Shakib	0/3	0/0		
Paul c Ariful b Mustafizur	29/16	1/2		
Cottrell not out	3/7	0/0		
Thomas b Mahmudullah	0/2	0/0		
Extras: (lb-5, w-8)	13			
Total: (All out in 19.2 overs)	175			
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-59, 3-62, 4-98, 5-101, 6-118, 7-138, 8-150, 9-173, 10-175.				
Bowler O M R W				
Hider	4	0	33	1
Saifuddin	4	0	42	0
Mustafizur	4	0	50	2
Shakib	4	0	21	5
Mehedi	3	0	23	1
Mahmudullah	0.2	0	1	1
Result: Bangladesh won by 36 runs and 3-match series level 1-1.				
Player-of-the-match: Shakib Al Hasan.				

PERFORMER OF THE DAY

RUNS 26 balls
42* 5x4 6x1

WICKETS For 21 runs
5 4 overs

SUPER SHAKIB

An all-round performance from Bangladesh's Test and T20I captain Shakib Al Hasan saw the Tigers level the three-match T20I series with a 36-run victory over the West Indies -- the current champions of the format -- at the Sher-e Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Shakib led from the front as his unbeaten 26-ball 42-run knock, laced with five boundaries and one six, helped the Tigers post their highest ever total on home soil in T20Is. With the ball in hand, Shakib registered his first ever five-wicket haul in T20Is, ending with a figure of 5 for just 21 runs.

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Ad over ball-tampering draws criticism at home

REUTERS, Melbourne

Disgraced former Australia captain Steve Smith has tied up with the local arm of Britain's Vodafone Group in an advertising campaign that leverages the nation's ball-tampering shame for marketing purposes.

Vodafone Australia's "Gutsy is calling" commercial starts with a voice overlay of Smith's tearful apology when he fronted the media upon his return home from South Africa before cutting to scenes of him playing for local club Sutherland and conducting a coaching clinic.

"Everything I dreamed of, everything I was a part of was just falling to pieces," Smith says in the commercial.

"I was in a pretty dark space. It was just about being upfront and honest and taking responsibility.

"I've certainly had some difficult days. But it's OK to be vulnerable. Everyone makes mistakes. It's about the way you respond to it that's really important."

It concludes with Smith saying: "I want to come



STEVE SMITH

back better than I was."

Smith has shunned interviews since returning home from South Africa in disgrace but is set to front the media on Friday before training with Sydney Sixers, a local team in Australia's 'Big Bash' Twenty20 tournament.

Smith is also banned from playing in the Big Bash, which is sponsored by Vodafone Australia.

Local media reported Smith was donating his fee for the advertisement to a local charity for men's mental health.

The advertisement -- and Smith's participation in it -- was quick to draw criticism from local media pundits and drew mixed responses on social media.

"Don't use mental illness to try and flog off some phones," 3AW radio host Justin Smith said on the Melbourne station.

"Looking at this tacky rubbish, I wonder if he's learnt anything at all."

Vodafone Australia responded to criticism from one Twitter user, saying the company was supporting Smith "in his mission to spread awareness about mental health for young Australians."

Smith denied BPL debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Australia captain Steve Smith is not eligible to participate in the upcoming sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have decided that letting him play would go against the by-laws.

The objection issued by the franchises was based the BPL by-laws which state that a replacement player can only be selected from the players' draft list.

"The matter of taking players from outside the draft was not in the BPL by-laws. We allowed it owing to the greater interest of the franchises. Since the franchises objected, we had to take the decision [to not allow him to play]," said BCB media committee chairman and chairman of the BPL technical committee, Jalal Younus, yesterday.

The Australian cricketer, currently serving a year-long ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal which occurred during the Test between Australia and South Africa last March, was expected to join the Comilla Victorians from the fifth game of the tournament.

Saif and Nazmul put Central in command

SPORTS REPORTER

Central Zone opens Saif Hassan and Nazmul Hossain Shanto strung together a blistering 116-run partnership on the third day to put the side on top of their Bangladesh Cricket League fifth round match against North Zone at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

It was the same old story for North as their struggles with the bat continued as they lost their remaining five wickets after adding just 54 runs to be bundled out on a paltry 146-run total.

Coming in to bat, Central's Saif and Nazmul did justice to their bowlers efforts, adding over 100 runs together before the latter fell prey to a Naaem Islam delivery on 67 runs off 95 balls. Saif remained unbeaten on 66 to see his side take a three-run lead with nine wickets remaining going into the final day.

In the day's other match between East Zone and South Zone at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura, East batsman Yasir Ali was dismissed on the very first ball

SCORES IN BRIEF	
EAST ZONE V SOUTH ZONE	EAST ZONE: First innings 262 for 8 decl (Yasir 70, Rony 40; Al-Amin 3-26)
	SOUTH ZONE: First innings 136 for 3 (Fazle 57 not out; Reza 1-15)
NORTH ZONE V CENTRAL ZONE	NORTH ZONE: First innings 146 (Junaid 35, Naaem 30; Sunny 3-38)
	CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 149 for 1 (Saif 66 not out, Nazmul 67; Naaem 1-45)

of the day, failing to add to his 70-run knock from the previous day. After that, East kept on losing wickets at regular intervals before eventually declaring on 262 runs for the loss of eight wickets.

In reply South suffered an early blow, losing opener Anamul Haque within the first five overs after adding just seven runs. However, Fazle Mahmud remained unbeaten with his 137-ball 57-run knock as South finished the day on 136 runs for three wickets on the board.