



SPORT



Tamim Iqbal (L) will be looking to set the scores straight after failing to capitalise on decent starts at the 2019 World Cup. Mitchell Starc is at the summit of the top wicket takers' list and Tigers will rely heavily on Tamim to play the anchor role and keep the likes of Starc at bay.



FILE PHOTO: BCB/REUTERS

MR EFFICIENT



When it comes to consistency in the South African batting order, it is Rassie van der Dussen who has stood above the rest in the ongoing World Cup. The South African once again batting department lost its way against New Zealand before Dussen stepped the right-hander remained unbeaten on 67 off 64 balls and helped South Africa post 241 for six in 49 overs. He ensured the Proteas scored 43 runs in the last five overs, proving to be quite efficient.

INFO ZONE

HEAD TO HEAD IN WORLD CUP	
BANGLADESH	AUSTRALIA
0	2
2	LOSS
0	TIE
0	NR

HEAD TO HEAD IN ODIS	
BANGLADESH	AUSTRALIA
1	WIN
18	LOSS
0	TIE
1	NR

LAST MEETING
June 5 2017 at Kennington Oval in London.
No result.

KEY PLAYERS



BANGLADESH		AUSTRALIA	
MUSTAFAZUR RAHMAN	Bat/Bowl Ave	DAVID WARNER	Bat/Bowl Strike Rate
814/23.31	44.46/-	95.08/-	95.08/-
49.13/27.5	50s	10	10
0	100s	15	15
0	HS	179	179
18*	Econ	8.00	8.00
5.06	BBM	-	-
6/43	Runs/Wickets	4624/0	4624/0
57/90	Last Match	26	26
3/59			

Stoinis back in Aussie squad

REUTERS, Nottingham
All-rounder Marcus Stoinis is not guaranteed to play against Bangladesh on Thursday but is being retained in Australia's Cricket World Cup squad after fighting his way back to fitness, coach Justin Langer has confirmed.
Stoinis missed last week's victories over Pakistan and Sri Lanka due to a side strain suffered in their loss to India. Langer prompted Mitchell Marsh to be flown in as cover. Marsh headed off to join the Australia A team in Northampton on Tuesday while Stoinis was back in the nets bowling as he presses for selection against Bangladesh at Trent Bridge.
Langer said he was "a chance" to play against Bangladesh but stopped short of confirming he would take part.
"He's done everything possible to get himself fit," Langer said.
"He wouldn't give up the opportunity for anything, would he?"
"He's determined, so it doesn't surprise me with where he's at now. It's a credit to him, it's a credit to the medical staff that are getting him up. So hopefully he can have a real impact on the tournament."
Langer confirmed that seamer Nathan Coulter-Nile was also ready for a recall after being rested with back soreness for the match against Sri Lanka.

AUSTRALIA PACE ATTACK

The four-man pace attack is key to Australia's strength at this World Cup but even then, the twin threat of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins will hold the most significance for Bangladesh in this game. Starc's sharp inswingers at pace has demolished top-order left-handed batsmen at the tournament and Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar must be on their guard. The left-armed also gets the ball to zip and bounce a little more, traits that see him at the summit of the wicket-takers' list at this World Cup. Meanwhile, Cummins has bowled at a nagging length making it a test of patience. The duo together has scalped 24 wickets in this tournament and most crucially their partnership spells have brought Australia back into the game in key matches.

TWIN SPIN THREAT TO THWART TIGERS?

Glen Maxwell and Aaron Finch have shouldered occasional spin duties for Australia. Against Bangladesh the Aussies might opt for a varied attack and coach Justin Langer hinted of playing two specialist spinners in the line-up in case the wicket is dry. Alongside leg-spinner Adam Zampa, Australia might also play off-spinner Nathan Lyon. Zampa will be key against the likes of right-handers Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad, who are adept at playing spin while the presence of Tamim, Soumya and Shakib might make Lyon's inclusion a significant factor.

AUSTRALIA BATTING THREAT

Aaron Finch will be key man at the top. With a top-order which has not flourished with their scoring-rate, Finch can ignite the engine at the top. Glen Maxwell is one who has not got going in this World Cup but will be massive threat if given loose deliveries. Wickets will be key early to put any meaningful pressure on the Australia batting line-up with the middle-order not clicking as required.

BAT OR BOWL FIRST?

Trent Bridge is known to produce high-scoring matches



THE KEY FACTORS IN TODAY'S MATCH



and will reportedly feature a track that favours batsmen. The obvious choice for the Tigers will be to bat first and put runs on the board and then let the bowlers keep the Aussies under pressure. However, Bangladesh will have to keep in mind that Windies bounced Pakistan out for just 105 in this ground in this very World Cup.

WHO TO TARGET FROM THE AUSSIE ATTACK?

Zampa's experience coupled with the presence of experienced middle-order batsmen in the Bangladesh side means that he is a bowler Bangladesh can look to target. Coulter-Nile and Jason Behrendorff do not have express pace and will rely on seam movement to trouble the Tigers. Kane Richardson, if picked, will look to do a containment job.

OPENERS' ROLE

It is needless to point out that the Australia pace duo -- Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins -- will be coming at the Bangladesh opening pair of Tamim and Soumya all guns blazing. While it is a no-brainer that Bangladesh need to survive through the tough phase with minimum damage, it also needs to be ensured that the Tigers do not create undue pressure by being too cautious initially. Tamim needs to do what he has been doing for almost the past few years -- playing the anchor role. Much is expected of Tamim in this game as the left-hander has scored 281 runs -- the highest by any player in the two sides' current World Cup squad -- in the eight matches he played against Australia. And Soumya needs to play the aggressor's role and put the pressure back on the Aussies -- just as he has been doing in recent times.

MIRAZ TO OPEN THE BOWLING?

Bangladesh may be forced into making a change with Saifuddin's chances of playing taking a hit after he injured his back.

That would likely mean that Rubel Hossain will come into the team but the Tigers would still take the field with three frontline pacers -- Rubel, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Muzaffar Rahman. However, the main weapon of the Tigers can still be

considered the spinners. Shakib and Mehedi, alongside part timer Mosaddek, will be banked upon to keep Australia at bay. Mehedi has already opened twice in the World Cup -- against South Africa and New Zealand. Both South Africa and New Zealand had a left-handed opener with Quinton de Kock opening for the Proteas and Collin Munro for the Kiwis and it would not be surprising to see Miraz in action early against Australia in order to put left-hander David Warner in trouble. There is no doubt that the only way to keep Warner quiet is to get his wicket early and while Miraz seems the best bet to do that, Shakib and Mosaddek will be relied upon in the middle overs to keep the scoring rate in check on a track that will likely favour batsmen.

FIZZ TO FINALLY GET GOING?

Although Mustafizur Rahman is yet to deliver to his full potential so far, the left-arm quick who scalped seven wickets in four matches will have a key role to play today. On a presumably dry track, the 23-year-old's cutter could be effective. Mustafizur could be called upon once again to put the brakes on the Aussie game. However, the Tigers need to handle his over quota more smartly.

SHAKIB CONTINGENCY

Shakib Al Hasan has been the standout performer for Bangladesh in the mega-event so far. Having already smashed two tons and as many fifties in the World Cup, Shakib remains atop the run-getters' list with 384 runs in four matches. Shakib will be relied upon heavily once again. However, the Tigers are yet to tackle a situation where the ace all-rounder has failed to deliver. Liton Das's 94 off 69 deliveries in his debut World Cup match gives Tigers some belief but against Australia the rest of the middle-order need to contribute if Shakib does not come up with the goods. Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad -- who have been far from their best in the tournament -- could step up and be aided by the likes of Mosaddek, Hossain and Mehedi. Hasan Miraz added with some firepower from Mohammad Saifuddin at the death.

