

SPORT



Bangladesh forward Nabib Newaz Jibon rises high to head the ball into the back of the net against Bhutan during a FIFA friendly at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh won the game 4-1.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Jibon brace sees off Bhutan

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from Nabib Newaj Jibon helped Bangladesh notch up an easy 4-1 win over Bhutan in one of two international tier-1 friendly matches which have been arranged as part of Bangladesh's preparation for Joint Qualifiers of the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Apart from Jibon's brace, Biplu Ahmed and Rabiul Hasan netted one goal apiece to give the national team a morale boost before their home fixture against Qatar on October 10. Tenzin Dorji reduced the margin for the visiting side, who will play a second friendly match against the home side on October 3.

British coach Jamie Day went with

almost the same eleven that started against Afghanistan with the only change being defender Riyadul Hasan replacing the injured Tutul Hossain Badsha.

Day's charges got off to a fine start on the rain-soaked pitch by keeping the Himalayan nation under pressure from the outset.

Jibon was deployed behind lone striker Saad Uddin, who worked hard up front to keep the opposition defenders busy. Meanwhile, constant crosses from both flanks by Mohammad Ibrahim and Biplu Ahmed compounded the misery for the Bhutan defenders.

The home side made a real goal-scoring chance in the 11th minute when Saad whipped in a cross from the right for Ibrahim, who saw his volley deflected narrowly wide of near post.

From the ensuing corner Saad passed to

Jamal, who floated in a well-judged lob for Jibon and the Abahani striker rose high to nod home.

In the 32nd minute, defender Yeasin Khan had a good effort from a diving header following a Jamal free-kick but it was blocked by goalkeeper Ngawang Jampel. Jampel, however, was helpless to stop a fierce volley from Jibon connected to from an Ibrahim cross in the 36th minute.

Bangladesh hardly made any defensive errors in the first half, with Riyadul Hasan making a nice clearance to deny Bhutan mid-way through the half, but the backline made one mistake at the start of the second half and conceded.

Yeasin failed to clear a free-kick, which fell to the unmarked Dorji, who made no mistake in slotting home from close range to reduce the margin in the 56th minute.

Substitute Rabiul Hasan, who replaced Ibrahim, caused problems for the visitors and saw his left-footed shot from inside the box tipped over on the hour mark while Biplu, fed by a defense-splitting pass from Sohel Rana, drove wide in the 70th minute.

The right-winger finally made amends to make it 3-1 in the 74th minute after a daunting dribble from Rana, who danced past two players to enter the box before being parried by defender Dorji. A poor clearance, however, found its way to an unmarked Biplu, who drove home at the near post.

Biplu then provided a nice ball to Rabiul inside the box and the super-sub struck his third international goal to wrap up an easy win over Bhutan, who beat Bangladesh during the 2019 Asian Cup play-off qualifiers.

Shakib's all-round effort in vain

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan played a brilliant all-round knock in his first match for the Barbados Tridents yesterday, but his effort went in vain as his side lost by one run against St Kitts and Nevis Patriots in their crucial Caribbean Premier League encounter in Bridgetown.

Shakib bowled a miserly spell, conceded only 14 runs in his four overs, the first of which was a maiden, while scalping opposition captain Carlos Brathwaite as Tridents restricted Patriots to 149 in their 20 overs. Shamarh Brooks top-scored for Patriots with 53.

In reply, Tridents lost Johnson Charles when the score was 15 before Shakib joined Alex Hales at the crease. The left-hander immediately smashed a four and a six against Mohammad Hafeez to get his innings going.

Shakib kept hitting boundaries and it looked like he would finish the job himself, but an ill-advised shot against Brathwaite saw him depart for a 25-ball 38.

Young Tigers canter to easy win in opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s continued their recent good form with a convincing six-wicket victory against their New Zealand counterparts in the first Youth ODI of a five-match series at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln, New Zealand yesterday.

Akbar Ali led from the front with an unbeaten 65 after left-arm pacers Shoriful Islam and Mrittunjoy Chowdhury set the platform by scalping three wickets each to help dismiss the home team for 176 runs in 48 overs. Akbar's 61-ball 65, which contained 11 boundaries, helped the visitors chase down the target with 68 balls to spare.

It was a perfect start for the Young Tigers, who left the country with the aim of winning the series by a 5-0 margin and also to play some aggressive cricket, which the team management believed is an area they should improve in before the Under-19 World Cup in South Africa in January 2020.

Smarting from a disappointing defeat in the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup in Sri Lanka earlier this month, Bangladesh Under-19s rode on a



AKBAR ALI... 65 n o

spirited team effort to win their first game in New Zealand.

Shoriful conceded 44 in nine overs while Mrittunjoy gave away only 21 runs in his nine. Off-spinner Shamim Hossain took two wickets, while medium-pace Tanzim Hasan Sakib and left-arm spinner Rakibul Hasan chipped in with a wicket apiece.

While there were quite a few middling scores in the New Zealand innings, none of their batsmen managed to score more than wicketkeeper-batsman Ben Pomare's 40.

During the chase, besides Akbar, Shahadat Hossain was not out on 24 while Tanzid Hasan (28), Mahmudul Hasan Joy (28) and Towhid Hridoy (26) also made decent contributions.

The two sides will play the second match at the same venue on October 2.

BD A stumble after strong start

SPORTS REPORTER

After the washout of the first day of the first unofficial Test between Bangladesh A and Sri Lanka A on Saturday reduced the match to a three-day affair, the visitors rode on a steady 90-run opening stand between Jahurul Islam and Shadman Islam to reach stumps on 270 for six in Hambantota yesterday.

After Shadman was dismissed for 53 off 112 balls, Bangladesh lost two quick wickets as Nazmul Hossain Shanto (4) and skipper Mominul Haque (11) departed to leave the visitors on a shaky 116 for three.

But Jahurul and Mohammad Mithun then added 137 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter was run out for 92 after facing 120 balls and hitting 10 fours and three sixes. Jahurul also missed out on a ton as his patient vigil, which lasted 210 deliveries and yielded nine fours, ended Jahurul's patient vigil when he was out for 90. Soumya Sarkar (8 not out) and Mehedi Hasan Miraz (7 not out) will try to add some more runs for the visitors in the third day today.

For Sri Lanka, off-spinner Raesh Mendis was the pick of the bowlers and bagged two wickets.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh batsman Mahmudullah Riyad was hard at work in the nets ahead of the National Cricket League, which is scheduled to start next month.

EMERGING ASIA CUP Fixtures and groupings released

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday released details of the upcoming Emerging Teams Asia Cup Bangladesh 2019, set to begin from November 14.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group B alongside India, Hong Kong and UAE. Group B consists of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Oman.

'Our Pak tour will encourage others'

AGENCIES, Karachi

Sri Lanka's interim head coach Ramesh Ratnayake feels his side's trouble-free limited overs tour of Pakistan will encourage other nations to send their sides to this part of the world.

The Sri Lankan team began their tour of Pakistan on Friday, after 10 of their main players refused to travel citing security concerns. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had initially invited Cricket Sri Lanka to play two Tests of the ICC Test Championship in Karachi and Lahore but the Islanders instead opted to play a limited-overs series of three ODIs and as many Twenty20 matches.

The PCB is now looking at this tour to pass off successfully and have the Tests in December in Pakistan. "This will be a precursor for that (Test) tour (in December). I'm sure this will certainly encourage the others (SL player, who refused to travel) to take decisions, we can't enforce it on them," Ratnayake told a media conference.

"They have taken a decision and we have to respect that, but certainly, if things go well, this series will be a huge thing for the future, not only for them but for all other countries to be here."



ULAB's Nishad Rahman celebrates his goal against Bangladesh Islami University in the Faraaz Gold Cup Football Tournament at the Kamalapur Stadium yesterday. ULAB won the game 3-0.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Climate change threatens the nature of cricket'

AGENCIES, New Delhi

Ever since the World Cup in England, the number of washouts across all formats has been staggering. Former Australia captain Ian Chappell believes that the perils of climate change goes beyond excessive rainfall and abandoned matches.

The 76-year-old, in a piece for ESPNcricinfo, claimed that although the recently concluded Ashes series breathed life into the longer format of the game, it faces serious challenges up ahead. The effects of climate change, he said, should be the first and foremost concern which should be paid attention to by administrators governing the game.

Proving his point that the concern goes beyond downpours delaying matches, he wrote, "...drastic increases in temperature will add to the health dangers for players. If temperatures keep rising, players will need to be protected from heatstroke or more

lasting skin-cancer damage."

He asserted that in order for Test cricket to survive, day-night matches should be considered as its future.

"The destruction of Test match venues is a very real prospect; the picturesque ground in Galle - already partly destroyed and then restored after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami - is a prime case," Chappell wrote, talking about the growing concern of rising sea levels, which might lead to imminent tsunamis.

Stating the damaging effects of reduced rainfall in cities, leading to water shortage, he went on to quote the Game Changer report, published by the Climate Coalition in 2018, which noted that "of all the major pitch sports, cricket will be the hardest hit by climate change".

He concludes his article by calling out to cricketers, administrators and politicians alike to take steps to properly prepare for climate change and secure the future of the game.