

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
Australia v Sri Lanka  
Second T20I  
Live from 2:10pm

**TEN 1**  
Serie A  
Udinese v Roma  
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

**TEN 2**  
Serie A  
Napoli v Atalanta  
Live from 12:00am (Thursday)  
Juventus v Genoa  
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

## Fresh captains on day of shock

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced a 16-member Test squad and a revised T20 squad for the upcoming India tour during a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh will play a three-match T20 series followed by a two-match Test series against India, starting from November 3.

"The Test captain will be Mominul Haque and Mahmudullah Riyad will be T20 captain for the tour," announced BCB cricket operations chairman Akram Khan before chief selector Minhajul Abedin read out the replacements in the T20 and Test squads to the media.

On October 17, the BCB had announced a 15-member squad for the three T20Is. However, the BCB were forced to make three changes as Mohammad Saifuddin's recurring back injury had ruled the all-rounder out of the tour and opener Tamim Iqbal had pulled himself out from the entire series on personal grounds. Last but not



Bangladesh new Test captain Mominul Haque (L) and T20 captain Mahmudullah Riyad.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

least, the International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday handed out a two-year ban for Shakib, who will be suspended for the first year while he will be on probation for the second.

"We had earlier announced the T20 squad. Now we will be announcing three replacements. Taijul Islam will be replacing Shakib, Abu Hider will be replacing Saifuddin and Mohammad Mithun will go instead of Tamim. The rest are the same," said Minhajul.

The BCB's announcement of Mominul as Test captain raised a few eyebrows during the press briefing, however, Akram justified the reasons behind the decision.

"Mominul has a very good reputation in Tests. And we also need to see who will play more in the future and who can be given the leadership role. He performed really well in our recent India and Sri

Lanka tours. Considering all these things we named him captain of the Test squad," said Akram.

Saif Hassan, who captained Bangladesh A during their tour of India last month, has been in terrific form as of late scoring a century against India A before going on to hit a hundred against Sri Lanka in Colombo earlier this month. He also smashed a double ton for Dhaka Division in the 21st edition of the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) and so, the 20-year old was rewarded with his first ever call to the national squad.

Meanwhile, Mustafizur Rahman got a call back to the team after being dropped from the one-off Test against Afghanistan in early September. Opener Imrul Kayes also made it into the team following a double-ton in the NCL earlier this month while Soumya Sarkar was dropped.

## Champions' mentality Maruful's philosophy

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Chattogram Abahani coach Maruful Haque said that he tried to instil a winning mentality into the team, which he took charge of only a while ago, ahead of tomorrow's final of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup.

The port city outfit beat Gokulam Kerala 3-2 in Monday's first semifinal and will face Terengganu FC in the final.

The coach only got his whole squad at his disposal just two days ahead of the tournament as a number of the national team players were busy with international assignments. It was difficult to turn the team into a cohesive unit.

"When I started working, I knew almost half of the players in training will not even be in the starting eleven. We recruited a few foreigners and then the national team players joined at the last moment," the veteran coach told reporters at the team hotel in Chattogram yesterday.

"I have always believed that if a team has to become champions, it needs to have a champion's mentality. If you do not believe you can be a champion, then you will not be champions," the coach added.

The host team fought back from 2-1 down to beat Young Elephants 4-2 in group stages. They were twice one goal down in the semifinal match, but found a way to fight back.

"We analysed that [Nathaniel] Garcia and [Henry] Kisekka operate in tandem. We tried to block their passing channels. We

also tried to use the gaps in the flanks left by their overlapping wing-backs. And when we were 3-2 up, we put six players in defence to defend our lead," analysed the 50-year-old coach.

The coach has seen ups and downs in his career. He led Sheikh Russel KC to an unprecedented treble in the 2013 season, the highlight of his domestic success, while he also led Sheikh Jamal to the title of



King's Cup in Bhutan in 2014. He has also found domestic success with a young and unfancied Arambagh, where he spent the last two years.

Now one match away from his second international success, the UEFA A licensed coach believes he does not have anything to prove.

"I don't wish to coach foreign teams anymore like before. I know the reality, and I can proudly say I am better than many coaches who are working in South Asian football," Maruful said. "For the moment, our target is to regain the title for Chattogram Abahani. And we are confident of doing it no matter who the opposition is."

### SQUADS

**T20I Squad:** Taijul Islam, Mohammad Mithun, Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Naim Sheikh, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad (Capt), Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Aminul Islam, Arafat Sunny, Abu Hider, Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shaiful Islam.

**Test Squad:** Shadman Islam, Imrul Kayes, Saif Hassan, Mominul Haque (Capt), Liton Das, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mohammad Mithun, Mosaddek Hossain, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Al-Amin Hossain, Abu Jayed, Ebadot Hossain.

## BCB agree to day-night Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo informed the media that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have agreed to the Board of Control for Cricket in India's request to play the first-ever day-night Test between the two countries. The Test match, the second in a two-match series, is set to be played at Eden Gardens and will be first day-night Test for both Bangladesh and India.

"We have discussed the matter and it's a good opportunity for us. We don't have too much preparation but neither does India. Since both teams do not have the experience, we would like to seize the opportunity," head coach Russell Domingo told reporters yesterday.

## BD Games to be held next year

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) have decided to hold the ninth edition of the Bangladesh Games in April next year, about seven years since the last edition was held in late April, 2013.

"We are going to hold the ninth edition of the Bangladesh Games from April 1 to 10, 2020, which will see the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

That is why we will name the Games after Bangabandhu," BOA secretary general Syed Shaheed Reza said yesterday. "We want to hold the Games in a large scale with athletes from all over the country participating."

Reza also informed that they had initially planned to hold the tournament's ninth edition in 2017 but backtracked their decision to hold the inaugural Youth Bangladesh Games in early 2018.

The BOA secretary went on to say that they would soon has out the finer details of the Games after the next executive committee meeting, set to be held on November 2. Reza added that they do plan on having a colourful opening and closing ceremony though.

## Lee's emphatic hatrick takes Terengganu into final

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Chattogram



Andrew Lee Tuck scored his second successive hatrick as Terengganu FC romped into the final of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup with a 4-2 victory over Mohun Bagan at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

The English striker, who scored a hatrick in their last group match against Bashundhara Kings, twice gave the Malaysian side the lead with two brilliant free-kicks, only for Mohun Bagan's Spanish forward Francisco Munoz to hit back. But Syafik Bin Ismail regained Terengganu's lead before Lee Tuck completed his treble, ensuring a comprehensive victory for the Malaysian outfit.

Terengganu will face hosts Chattogram Abahani in the final tomorrow.

The hatrick took the Englishman to the top of the scorer's chart with six goals. Terengganu had shown impressive

form in the group stages, scoring nine goals against five, but it was Kibu Vicuna's Mohun Bagan who looked the better side in the first half, dominating possession and attacks.

However, after a few wasted opportunities from the Mohun Bagan forwards, Lee Tuck broke the deadlock in the 39th minute with a grounded free-kick past the wall.

**Terengganu 4 - 2 Mohun Bagan**  
(Lee Tuck 39', 59', 79'; Syafik 74')

The Malaysians took the lead into the break, but the Kolkata giants continued to impress, with Munoz getting them back on level terms two minutes after restart with a clinical spot-kick following a foul on Britto Pankras Metilda inside the box.

Terengganu were looking under pressure against a more physical

Mohun Bagan side and were in search for inspiration, which came from their skipper Lee Tuck 12 minutes later.

The Englishman once again found the back of the net from a free-kick, this time a powerful 25-yarder curled right into the top right corner over the wall. Munoz though, hit the target two minutes later with a towering header on another free-kick to get the Green and Maroons back into the game.

It looked like anybody's game at that stage but Syafik, the shortest man on the pitch and one of the most technically gifted ones, found a way past the Mohun Bagan defence to make it 3-2 with an angular shot on 74 minutes.

And then Lee Tuck completed a well-deserved hatrick from a spot-kick four minutes later, his sixth goal of the tournament and fifth goal from a set-piece in a match, to confirm Terengganu's place in the final.



Terengganu FC striker Lee Tuck (bottom C) scored his second successive hatrick to fire his team past Mohun Bagan in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup semifinal at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Rajshahi, Chattogram win as third round ends with entertainment

SPORTS REPORTER



The third round of the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) had an eventful final day yesterday as two batsmen scored unbeaten centuries while three bowlers bagged a fiver each.

One of the centuries of the day was Khulna Division's Anamul Haque, who followed his first innings ton with yet another unbeaten 225-ball 151 in the second innings against Dhaka Division in Cox's Bazar.

Resuming the day on 145 for two, Khulna declared on 301 for three in 77 overs. Anamul, who started the day on 61, smashed nine boundaries and eight maximums during his unbeaten innings.

After the exchange, in chase of a 357-run target Dhaka were reduced to 119 for seven in 57 overs -- courtesy of right-arm spinner Mahedi Hasan's five for 46 in 25 overs -- before stumps as the match ended in a draw.

The other game in Cox's Bazar however did see a winner -- with Rajshahi Division registering a thrilling six-run victory over Rangpur Division. Starting the day on 129 for six in the second innings, Rajshahi were bundled out for 190 runs in 102.1 overs, setting a 118-run target for Rangpur. Two left-arm spinners -- Sunzamul Islam and Saqlain Sajib -- did the trick for Rajshahi. Sunzamul returned figures of five for 48 while Saqlain picked five for 35.

Meanwhile in Bogura, Mohammad Ashrafu shone for Barishal Division as he too scored an unbeaten 204-ball 150 during their drawn game against Dhaka Metropolis. After the first three days of play were called off due to rain, the final day saw Barishal score 312 for five in 72.4 overs before declaring. The match ended in a draw after



ANAMUL ... 151 not out

Dhaka Metropolis reached 34 for no loss in 12 overs at stumps.

In Rajshahi, Chattogram Division registered a thumping nine-wicket victory over Sylhet Division. Chattogram declared their first innings on 229 for nine in 43.2 overs before bundling Sylhet out for a paltry 109, courtesy of a five-wicket haul from left-arm pacer Mehedi Hasan Rana, who conceded just 30 runs -- in 39 overs. Following the exchange, Chattogram romped to the win as they chased down the 44-run target in 6.4 overs.

## Reza hopeful for good results at SA Games

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Syed Shahed Reza believes that Bangladesh will produce better results in the upcoming South Asian (SA) Games in Nepal that they had in the last edition of the multi-sports event. Bangladesh won only four gold medals in the previous edition with two coming from swimming events while the remainder came from shooting and weightlifting events.

Reza expressed these sentiments after attending a meeting with the higher-ups of 25 national federations at the Olympic Bhaban yesterday. At the meeting, they also discussed about finalizing the Bangladesh contingent for December's 1-10 Games in Kathmandu.

Reza expressed his expectation after having a meeting with the high-ups of 25 national federation at Olympic Bhaban yesterday where they also discussed about the finalizing Bangladesh contingent for the SA Games, to be held from December 1 to 10 in Kathmandu.

"I believe that Bangladesh will produce better results this time than they had in the previous edition. I am saying this on the basis of the athlete's performances in the ongoing training camp. Besides, we have also analysed some data on the athletes," said Reza.

The BOA began the training camp for 23 of 25 disciplines in July and is currently ongoing under the supervision of the BOA, which also looked into why Bangladesh could only secure a single gold medal in 2016 despite having won 18 gold medals in the 2010 edition in Dhaka.

"This time, we have given importance to those disciplines which have good potential in upcoming games and we are also watching the progress of athletes of those disciplines in training. Those things are helping us believe we can produce good results," said Reza, who is also the chairman of the training and development committee.

Training and development committee member secretary AK Sarkar informed that hired foreign coaches for 10 disciplines -- Kabaddi, taekwondo, basketball, swimming, karate, volleyball, fencing, judo, archery and shooting.

"I am satisfied with the training as we have been trying to provide support as much as we can with our limited resources. We have even sent three teams -- kabaddi to India, karate to Malaysia and boxing to Thailand -- aboard for better training," said Sarkar, who believes that Bangladesh could do well in disciplines such as shooting, archery, football and cricket.

"If you look back, we had success in those disciplines in the SA Games in the past. Besides, the athletes of those disciplines are also doing well in the training though it is always difficult to win the gold fighting against mighty India," said Sarkar.

In response to a query, Sarkar said, "There is the possibility of producing good results at demonstration events in martial-arts disciplines like judo, karate and others because of the absence of Afghanistan, who quit from the sub-continent multi-sports extravaganza."

## 1st Youth Test ends in draw

SPORTS REPORTER

The first of a two-match Youth Test between the Bangladesh under-19 team and their visiting Sri Lankan counterparts ended in a draw at the Barishal Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Sri Lanka scored 155 for three on day three and then stretched their score to 331 for seven declared in 84.3 yesterday.

Skipper Nipun Dananjaya scored 112-ball 67 while right-arm spinner Ashrafu Islam was the pick of the bowlers for Bangladesh, scalping three wickets for 83 runs.

Following the exchange, the Bangladesh were reduced to 145 for six in 48 overs before stumps. Alvi Haque scored a team high of 100-ball 54 as the match ended in a draw.

## PHIFT to begin on Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

The 2019 Pledge Harbor Interscholar Football Tournament (PHIFT), an annual competition hosted by Pledge Harbor International School is set to take place over the weekend on 1st and 2nd November.

37 teams from 28 schools across the country will vie for the title in the under-14 and 19 categories. In an effort to make the event more inclusive, the tournament will now feature a Girls category.