



Bangladesh women's team batter Fargana Hoque scored a 97-ball 67 to see her side over the line in the second ODI against their Pakistani counterparts at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. The thrilling one-wicket win was also the maiden victory for the Tigresses against Pakistan on their home turf.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Tigresses seal maiden win in Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER



Following in the footsteps of the men's team, who clinched their first-ever T20I win over India on Sunday, the Bangladesh national women's team registered their maiden victory over Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

The Tigresses sealed a nail-biting one-wicket win with just one ball to spare in the second of a two match ODI series, which the sides drew 1-1. The first ODI saw the hosts pull off a 29-run win against Bangladesh.

In chase of a challenging 211-run target, Bangladesh needed three runs to win off the last over with just one wicket in hand but Jahanara Alam and Nahida Akter stayed strong to ensure a memorable victory over their Pakistani counterparts.

Bangladesh made a steady start to their innings with Sharmin Sultana being the first to depart on 27. Fargana Hoque and opener Murshida Khatun then added a valuable 82-run stand for the third wicket before the latter departed on 44 runs of 67 balls, which featured six fours.

Player-of-the-match and also the series, Fargana, strung together another valuable 57-run partnership with skipper Rumana Ahmed for the fourth wicket. Rumana was eventually forced to return to the dressing room with 31 runs.

However, after Fargana's departure, who scored a team high 97-ball 67 featuring six boundaries, Bangladesh went on to lose their next five wickets for just 18 runs as the match took a bleak turn for the visitors. Eventually though, Jahanara and Nahida held their nerves and secured a dramatic

We were actually very hungry for a win after losing four games on the trot here in Pakistan. It really felt great to finally register a win in Pakistan since Bangladesh had never won a game here. We were also very inspired by our brothers, the men's national team, who beat India on their home turf for the first time on Sunday.

RUMANA AHMED
BANGLADESH ODI CAPTAIN

win for Bangladesh.

Earlier, after electing to bat, Pakistan were all-out on 210 in 48.4 overs with Nahida Khan top scoring for the side with a 79-ball 63, including eight fours.

Bangladesh then pressed their attack as Rumana picked up three wickets while Salma Khatun took two. A fine fielding display from the Tigresses also claimed the wicket of four other Pakistani batters.

Earlier on their tour, the Tigresses succumbed to a 3-0 whitewash at the hands of Pakistan in the T20I series. In contrast to the men's team, who have never beaten Pakistan on their home soil, this was quite the landmark victory for Bangladesh. The Tigresses had also clinched the 2018 Asia Cup title, a feat their male counterparts have yet to achieve.

Under the clear skies in Rajkot

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh T20I squad reached their next destination, Rajkot, on the tour of India yesterday afternoon, and their good spirits were not just down to having notched their first T20I win over India in New Delhi the previous day. Some players remarked upon how nice it was to see the sky for the first time since getting off the plane in Delhi on October 31. Pollution in the Indian capital only intensified in the lead-up to Sunday's first T20I, which India and Bangladesh contested in conditions that were well past hazardous levels.

But atmospheric hazards seem to be following the Tigers as the Indian Meteorological Department announced yesterday that Cyclone Maha will make landfall in Gujarat on the night of November 6 and the early morning of November 7, the day of the second T20I in Rajkot. While that may be seen as good news by Bangladesh supporters as an abandonment would mean that the Tigers will not lose the three-match series, the players themselves were eager to play the match to keep the focus on cricket after unsavoury off-field issues like Shakib Al Hasan's ban and the players' strike before the tour.

They may get their wish as the cyclone is forecast to reduce in intensity after November 5, so Mahmudullah Riyad's troops will be making sure they are prepared for India's reply in sleepy Rajkot.

A different kind of fearlessness

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from New Delhi

Bangladesh's first ever T20I win over India showcased a different brand of thinking by the team's think tank with the motto being fearless cricket, as Mushfiqur Rahim had declared during the press conference following the game. That essence was prevalent in all departments, from bowling to electric fielding potency and then the maturity of playing reserved T20 knocks on what was a very difficult surface to score runs.

While it may be too early to talk about a certain thinking process behind the win, how a certain motif appeared throughout the game is some sort of justification. Mahmudullah Riyad led from the front and his presence on the field and calm energy transmitted through to his players. If this was the first show of intent about how Bangladesh could carry forward successful captaincy stints by Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in ODIs and Shakib Al Hasan -- who is to stay out of all cricket following a two-year ban, with one year of that suspended -- Mahmudullah passed his first test with flying colours.

The skipper had radiated confidence during the press conference ahead of the game, talking about how he enjoys the captaincy role and reiterating that he saw the emergency situation of him being thrust into the hot seat as an opportunity and not a burden. His parting words during that press conference was that the Tigers had 'nothing to lose'. Let that be construed as a stray soundbite, Mahmudullah added: 'But we have something to gain and we are focusing only on that.'

That addition was vital and must have been an important part of the message communicated to the dressing room. A sort of 'do not go full tilt and break the windmill'. It showed when the Tigers took the field at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday. There was

aggression but there was also control, a delicate mixture that was always sought but often too hard to harness and execute.

When Bangladesh took the field, the fielders ran themselves to the ground trying to save runs and keep up the pressure on the India batsmen. Mahmudullah set a field which asked difficult questions of the batsmen, forcing them to come up with shots that went against the match scenario.

"We are inspired to put on a good performance," Riyad had said prior to the match and it was evident on the field with the captain leading the way with his body language and agility on the field.

Think for one moment what this team has achieved. A players' strike called before the preparation camp for the India series had seen focus shift from cricket. Then, after the issues were resolved with BCB higher-ups saying plenty but eventually agreeing to meet

the cricketers' demands, Bangladesh cricket was rocked by Shakib's ban. Tamim Iqbal too would miss the series to be with his pregnant wife. A tough tour in the best of times, the Tigers' India trek was made all the more difficult by these aspects.

Then India scored 148 on a pitch where the ball did not come on to the bat. That is when the experience of Mushfiqur shone through, but Soumya Sarkar also played a pivotal role in the win. The duo could have easily succumbed to pressure but they showed guts by deciding to grind things out. They decided to take the game deep, showing immense faith in their own abilities despite Bangladesh's record of losing close encounters against India. The spur of the moment could have made them try to finish things early but they decisively kept calm with Soumya almost playing an uncharacteristic knock. All for the team, a collective approach.



Bangladesh T20 captain Mahmudullah Riyad (R) and Co. yesterday arrived in Rajkot, where the Tigers will face India in the second of a three-match T20I series on Thursday. (Top) Earlier, the team snapped selfies with Indian actor Arbaaz Khan at the Delhi airport. PHOTO: BCB/COLLECTED



Mushfiqur's brilliance embodied the 'fearless cricket' he talked about following the game. But it was fearlessness of a different kind, one not associated with Bangladesh cricket. There was control and then there was deliverance when needed. Just action according to moment. This fearlessness was best showcased by this young Bangladesh side with the likes of Afif Hossain and Aminul Islam playing important roles with the ball. Their youthful passion along with leadership from Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur galvanised the side. Their faith in what they could achieve together was reflected in young leggie Aminul's words yesterday.

"I was adapting according to the batsman who was facing me, [trying] to bowl in the right areas. That was the plan and we all believed we could do it," he said yesterday in front of the team hotel before the Tigers left the Delhi smog with Rajkot their next destination, where the second T20 is to be played on November 7.

Dhaka Metro and Sylhet Division win big

SPORTS REPORTER



Sylhet Division and Dhaka Metropolis registered comprehensive wins over Barishal Division and Chattogram Division respectively in the Tier 2 games on the third day of the fourth round of the National Cricket League yesterday.

Barishal had a mountain to climb after Sylhet took a 160-run first-innings lead on the second day at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar. Having been bundled out for 162 in the first innings, Barishal's batting failed in the second innings too as they lost by an innings and 32 runs after being shot out for 128.

Resuming on 12 for one, Barishal did not put up a fight, with Sohag Gazi top-scoring with 37. Sylhet's left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed bagged four while pacer Ebadot Hossain backed his fifer in the first innings with three scalps in the second, which netted him the player-of-the-match award. With two wins from four games Sylhet lead the Tier 2 points table with 22.54 points while Barishal are in last place with 15.62 points.

Batting was also the biggest concern for Chattogram as they too were unable to stage a comeback after being forced to follow on and eventually lost by an innings and 64 runs to Dhaka Metropolis in Chattogram.

Trailing by 216 runs with seven wickets in hand at the start of the day, Chattogram

aimed to put up a better show than the 91 all out in their first innings but apart from fifties by Yasir Ali and Pinak Ghosh, it was a rather sorry scorecard for the hosts.

Chattogram were eventually bundled out for 248 with Dhaka Metro seamer Shahidul Islam bagging four wickets while pacer Taskin Ahmed and off-spinner Sharifulah took two each. With the win, Dhaka Metro moved into second place in Tier 2.

Meanwhile, in Tier 1, the action will move



NASUM... 4 for 5

into today's fourth and final day. At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Tier 1 leaders Khulna ended the third day needing 73 runs to win with five wickets in hand against Rangpur.

Veteran left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak once again took charge with the ball for Khulna as he bagged his second five-wicket haul of the game to bundle out Rangpur for

just 211 runs. Rangpur resumed the third day on 67 for four and Nasir Hossain top-scored with 76 to help his side get past 200 and set a 203-run target.

Razzak registered his 11th 10-wicket match haul and 40th fifer in first-class cricket, ending up with figures of five for 71 from 27.5 overs while off-spinner Mahedi Hasan took three wickets.

Khulna, however, were in a spot of bother during the chase courtesy of Rangpur's left-arm spinner Sohrwardi Shuvo, who picked four wickets as Khulna ended the day on 130 for five. Mahedi Hasan and Ziaur Rahman were each on 30 and will hope to deliver the win today.

Riding on centuries from Taibur Parvez, Shuvagata Hom and Nadif Chowdhury, Dhaka Division declared their first innings on 475 for seven -- securing a 245-run first-innings lead -- and in reply Rajshahi Division ended the day on 77 for three, still trailing by 168 runs in Cox's Bazar.

Resuming the day on 284 for four, both Taibur and Shuvagata -- who were in their nineties -- reached their centuries before being dismissed on 102 and 104 respectively. It was then Nadif who jumped on the century bandwagon as Dhaka managed secured the huge lead.

For Rajshahi, Junaid Siddique was not out on 41 and will be key if his side are to pull off an escape today.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RANGPUR V KHULNA
RANGPUR: First innings 224 and second innings 211 all out (Maruf 23, Suhrawardi 24, Nasir 76, Ariful 58; Razzak 5-71, Mahedi 3-30)
KHULNA: First innings 233 and second innings 130 for 5 (Imran 25, Anamul 30, Mahedi 30 not out, Ziaur 30 not out; Suhrawardi 4-27)

RAJSHAH V DHAKA DIVISION
RAJSHAH: First innings 230 and second innings 77 for 3 (Junaid 41 not out, Najmul 17 not out; Nazmul 2-17)
DHAKA DIV: First innings 475 for 7 declared (Saif 28, Raqibul 29, Taibur 102, Shuvagata 104, Nadif 101 not out, Sumon 50 not out; Sunzamul 4-162, Reza 2-41)

BARISHAL V SYLHET
BARISHAL: First innings 162 and second innings 128 all out (Nafees 32, Nuruzzaman 25, Sohag 37; Ebadot 3-28, Shahanur 2-25, Nasum 4-5)
SYLHET: First innings 322.
Result: Sylhet won by an innings and 32 runs.

DHAKA METROPOLIS V CHATTOGRAM
DHAKA METRO: First innings 403
CHATTOGRAM: First innings 91 and second innings 248 all out (Pinak 57, Tasamul 39, Yasir 66, Nayeem 28; Taskin 2-49, Sharifulah 2-59, Shahidul 4-29)
Result: Dhaka Metro won by an innings and 64 runs.

BD U-19s in command

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh under-19 team took a commanding position in the second unofficial youth Test against their Sri Lankan counterparts, who led by 17 runs with five wickets in hand by the end of the third day, at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Bangladesh resumed the third day on 321 for eight before being bundled out on 354 with Mehran Hasan remaining not out on 33.

In reply, Sri Lanka lost wickets at regular intervals, courtesy of medium pacer Mahedi Hasan, who picked up three wickets, and eventually ended the day on 187 for five. Sonal Dinusha top scored for the visitors with 55 runs.

Bangladesh will look to bundle out Sri Lanka quickly when they resume play on the fourth day in hopes of sealing the two-match series as the first match ended in a draw.



I was adapting according to the batsman who was facing me, [trying] to bowl in the right areas. That was the plan and we all believed we could do it.

AMINUL ISLAM
BANGLADESH
LEG-SPINNER