

PTV SPORTS

Pakistan vs South Africa
First Test (Day 1)
Live from 11:00 am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Newcastle vs Leeds United
Live from 12:00 am (Wednesday)

West Brom vs Manchester City
Live from 2:15 am (Wednesday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Crystal Palace vs West Ham
Live from 12:00 am (Wednesday)
Southampton vs Arsenal
Live from 2:15 am (Wednesday)



Mahmudullah.....64 (43) not out



Shakib Al Hasan.....51 (81)



Mushfiqur Rahim.....64 (55)



Tamim Iqbal.....64 (80)

Lots of positives in lopsided series

NABID YEASIN from Chattogram



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh were clear favourites to win the three-match ODI series against a depleted West Indies side. And so they did. The Tigers swept the series 3-0, winning all the matches convincingly.

And even though a series sweep was expected and anything otherwise would have been a shock against a side that had 10 of their first-team players opt out due to Covid concerns, there were still a number of positives to take away for Bangladesh.

Tamim Iqbal hardly put a foot wrong in his start as a long-term ODI skipper for the country. And regardless of the opposition's strength -- or the lack of it -- Tamim ensured a smooth start to the Tigers' journey in the ODI Super League -- qualification pathway to the 2023 World Cup -- by bagging all 30 points on offer. And he did it while portraying an aggressive version of captaincy.

Tamim kept constant pressure on the opposition by having a slip in place for the likes of Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed when there was even the slightest hint of swing, impressing many. The left-hander, however, drew most plaudits for the way he batted at the top, especially when there were speculations regarding him performing with the burden of captaincy. The 31-year-old finished as the top scorer of the series with 158 runs in three innings including two fifties.

Shakib Al Hasan's return to form was another auspicious aspect for Bangladesh. The premier all-rounder made his return to the national colours with a man-of-the-match performance in the first game with astounding figures of four for eight from 7.2 overs. His return to form with the bat following poor returns in the domestic matches was also a big relief for everyone involved.

The 33-year-old followed up his unbeaten 43 in the second ODI with an 81-ball 51 in the final game of the series yesterday in Chattogram, and was adjudged the player-of-the-series for his all-round performance.

Mustafizur Rahman also returned to the groove as the left-arm paceman continuously troubled the Windies batsmen, especially bringing the new ball

into the right-handers as well as taking it away, which gave the Tigers breakthrough in each of the three ODIs.

Another pacer Hasan Mahmud, whose exclusion from the starting XI in the final ODI could only have meant giving other pacers an opportunity, made a flying debut by bagging a three-for in the first ODI in Mirpur. The young right-arter certainly lived up to the hype of being the next big thing in the pace department as he troubled the Windies batsmen constantly with his pace and bounce.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz, the first-choice off-spinner, looked like getting back to his



After the first game, I got the confidence that I needed. As the series went on, I grew more in confidence. I think fast bowlers complement the spinners well. At this point, we have a very good ODI setup, and everybody takes it as a challenge. There's a healthy competition and everybody wants to improve. At this moment, my groin doesn't feel alright (he suffered a groin injury when he came in to bowl the fifth delivery of the 30th over and was unable to take the field following injury), but I have to see how I feel tomorrow morning on waking up.

SHAKIB AL HASAN

rhythm after a long time. The 23-year-old was the most successful bowler of the series with seven wickets at an average of 10.28 including a four-wicket haul, which earned him the man-of-the-match award in the second game.

Perhaps the few things that could worry Bangladesh in the upcoming tours and series is the failure of Najmul Hossain Shanto in the new role as the number three batsman and the fact that Soumya Sarkar is yet to adapt to his new position as the left-hander could only bat once at his new position -- at seven and that too in the final ODI yesterday.

Clinical Tigers romp to whitewash

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram



A change in venue could not bring a change in the struggling West Indies side's fortunes as a clinical Bangladesh registered their second whitewash over the Caribbean outfit. The Tigers clinched a comprehensive 120-run win in the third and final ODI at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

The series win, sealed in Friday's second match in Mirpur, marked Bangladesh's third consecutive bilateral series win against the West Indies. Sealing the whitewash yesterday also ensured that Tamim Iqbal's long-term captaincy career has gotten off to a spotless start.

The Tigers also equalled their second-longest winning streak against an opposition in ODIs -- eight matches against Zimbabwe. Bangladesh's longest winning streak is of 16 matches, also against Zimbabwe.

Shakib Al Hasan made a big splash on his comeback to international cricket after a one-

There was a time when we had to look for fast bowlers, and we couldn't find any. Now we have so many fast bowlers, and some waiting in the wings. We had a great debut from Hasan Mahmud. That's what we have been looking for.

TAMIM IQBAL
BANGLADESH CAPTAIN

It was a bit challenging for us, the spinners were really challenging for us, especially in the first two games. I think that's where we faltered a lot. It's something that can be rectified, with our full-strength team, it's a pretty good batting lineup.

JASON MOHAMMED
WEST INDIES CAPTAIN

year ban as he was adjudged the player of the series. He however had to leave the field while bowling his fifth over after suffering a groin injury.

The four big guns in skipper Tamim, Shakib, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad all scored fifties to post their highest ODI total of 297 for six at the ZACS.

In reply, the West Indies batting once again hurt the visitors, as it had throughout the series, and they were bundled out for 177.

Mustafizur Rahman continued his fine rhythm and provided the early breakthroughs by dismissing both the openers Kjoorn Ottley and Sunil Ambris with balls shaping into the right-hander.

Mohammad Saifuddin, making a comeback to the side, bagged three and Mehedi Hasan Miraz also bowled well and picked up a couple of wickets as West Indies could not put up a fight. Rovman Powell was again the only significant batsman for the visitors, top-scoring with 47.

Earlier, Bangladesh batted first for the first time in the series but Liton Das struggled was squared up by an Alzarri Joseph delivery that held its line to be trapped leg-before for a duck in the first over of the innings.

Nazmul Hossain Shanto too failed to cash in on his promotion to number three and was dismissed for 20 as Bangladesh were 38 for two inside nine overs.

Since then, Shakib and Tamim started cautiously while keeping the scoreboard ticking with singles as the pair added 93 runs for the third wicket. But Tamim, after reaching his 49th ODI fifty, departed after scoring 64 off 80 balls, which included three fours and a six off the bowling of Joseph.

The departure of the skipper did not hamper Bangladesh much as Mushfiqur joined Shakib, who reached his 47th ODI fifty. In the process, Shakib became the only player to score 6000 international runs and take 300-plus wickets for a country.

Shakib was bowled by Raymon Reifer soon after reaching his fifty. It was then Mushfiqur's turn to reach his 39th fifty before departing for 64, becoming Reifer's second victim.

Since then, it was Mahmudullah who once again showed why he is labelled as the finisher. He realised the urgency of scoring quick runs as Bangladesh added 100 runs in the last 10 overs. Mahmudullah remained unbeaten on 64 off just 43 balls, striking three sixes and as many boundaries and ensuring that Bangladesh post a big total.

Pak-SA Test series gets underway today

REUTERS



Pakistan captain Babar Azam is aware that his side have a poor record against South Africa in Tests but he is confident that the past will count for nothing when the two teams meet in the opening test in Karachi from today.

South Africa, led by Quinton de Kock, will play their first test in Pakistan since 2007 and have lost only four out of 26 matches against their opponents.

"We should not think about past, we should focus on what's ahead of us," Babar told reporters. "We have nothing to do with what happened on previous matches."

"It's a fact that we don't have a good record against them, but we have prepared well this time and we hope to give our best against them."

Pakistan named nine uncapped players



in their squad for the two Tests while the visiting side also introduced a number of new faces during a 2-0 home victory over Sri Lanka in their previous series.

Babar, Pakistan's batting mainstay, missed his team's 2-0 blanking in New Zealand and will instead make his test captaincy debut at home although in front of empty stands.

South Africa have had a rethink about their plans for the first Test, coach Mark Boucher has said.

South Africa are playing their first Test in Pakistan since 2007, and it is also the first time they have toured in the cooler month of January and Boucher believes the weather will make for slower wickets taking more turn.

"The conditions aren't as we thought they would be. Before we arrived we believed reverse swing would be a major factor, but now we are not sure how much of a weapon that will be," Boucher told reporters on Monday.

Ban bouncers in junior cricket, says a specialist

REUTERS

Cricket authorities should consider banning bouncers in the junior game to limit the risk of concussion, Michael Turner, a head injury specialist, told The Telegraph.

Cricket's lawmakers, the MCC, have begun a consultation process to discuss whether changes are needed for the short ball or bouncer, which rears up from the pitch towards the batsman's head.

"You want to avoid concussion the adolescent brain while it's still evolving," Turner, medical director of the International Concussion and Head Injury Research Foundation, told the newspaper.

"If stopping concussion means changing the rules to ensure that there are no short deliveries in junior cricket, this should be a serious consideration."



PHOTO: TWITTER

'Success in Sri Lanka a boost for India next'

AGENCIES



England's performances in sweeping the Test series in Sri Lanka gives the team a major lift for their four test series in India, said victorious captain Joe Root after Monday's second Test win.

England won by six wickets at the Galle International Stadium to add to last week's seven wicket success over Sri Lanka but face a much more daunting task in India, where the first test in Chennai begins early next month.

"We've got a huge amount of confidence coming out of these games. We've had to manage different situations and all of that will stand us in good stead," Root told a virtual news conference.

"The challenge now is to look to replicate this over and over as a team. We can look at this as a platform, as a starting position."

England overcame some nervy moments to reach their 164-run target to win the final test, getting the better of a difficult and deteriorating wicket with Dom Sibley and Joss Buttler putting together an unbeaten 75-run partnership.

"Those two guys saw us home in impressive style," the captain added. "These wins are most important for us

and the most pleasing thing for me is that for large portions, we were chasing the game.

"But for us to dig in and not allow them to get away from us was very impressive. But more anything the way we dealt with the pressure, both in the field and with the bat.

"We lost the toss in both games but managed to find a way to win in very difficult conditions, with very little lead up to the series as well. In the past, we've been guilty of being slow starters, be it home or away, so for us to start as well as this is really pleasing."

Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal said they must learn to bat like Joe Root if they are to return to winning ways on home soil.

England captain Root was the man of the series after scoring 228 in the first Test and 186 in the second.

"We were outplayed today," admitted Chandimal, who was stand-in captain after Dimuth Karunaratne broke his thumb earlier this month in the 2-0 series loss in South Africa.

"We have to learn how to bat like Root. He was outstanding and we have to also learn to play with patience. That's the key when it comes to batting. We did all the hard work over the last three days but as a batting unit we then made the same mistakes as we did on the opening day of the first Test."

Chelsea sack Lampard

AGENCIES

Chelsea dismissed manager Frank Lampard after 18 months in charge on Monday after the man at the heart of much of their greatest success as a player failed to deliver as coach despite spending over 200 million pounds in the summer transfer window.

Former Paris St Germain manager Thomas Tuchel is the favourite to replace Lampard, British media reported.

Lampard, who led the club to a top-four finish and the FA Cup final in his managerial debut 2019-20 campaign, leaves with Chelsea ninth in the Premier League after a run of five defeats in eight league games.



When club great Frank Lampard returned to Stamford Bridge to replace the unpopular Maurizio Sarri in the summer of 2019 it felt like the perfect fit for a club seemingly moving in a refreshingly new direction.

It proved nothing more than illusion, however, with Lampard on Monday being jettisoned in the same ruthless fashion as 11 other managers in the reign of Russian owner Roman Abramovich.

"This was a very difficult decision for the Club, not least because I have an excellent personal relationship with Frank and I have the utmost respect for him," Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich said in a statement on the club's website.

'CAVANI TOLD ME WHERE TO AIM'

Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes celebrates after his pinpoint free kick, which earned his side a 3-2 win in a blockbuster FA Cup fourth-round clash at Old Trafford on Sunday. The Portuguese, who came off the bench after 66 minutes, stepped up to bend a right-footed strike beyond Liverpool keeper Alisson in the 78th minute to book a last-16 tie for his side against West Ham United. Fernandes later revealed that his teammate Edinson Cavani told him where to aim his winning free-kick. "Edi before the free-kick told me: 'try a hard one on the side of the keeper'. I tried it and it went in well," Fernandes said.



PHOTO: REUTERS