



Bangladesh opener Soumya Sarkar whacks one during his 68-run knock in their third and final T20I against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday. PHOTO: TWITTER

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE
193 for 5 in 20 overs
(Marumani 27, Madhevere 54, Chakabva 48, Myers 23, Burl 31 not out, extras 9; Saifuddin 1-50, Shoriful 1-27, Shakib 1-24, Soumya 2-19)

BANGLADESH
194 for 5 in 19.2 overs
(Soumya 68, Shakib 25, Mahmudullah 34, Shamim 31 not out, extras 18; Muzarabani 2-27, Jongwe 2-42)
Result: Bangladesh won by five wickets.
Man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series: Soumya Sarkar

BAKI'S PERFORMANCE leaves a lot to be desired

SPORTS REPORTER



American and Chinese shooters have thoroughly amazed everyone with their improved skilful display by grabbing all three medals in the 10m Air Rifle event of Tokyo Olympics. However, Bangladesh's experienced shooter Abdullah Hel Baki failed to live up to the expectations of the shooting fraternity and ended up finishing 41st among 47 shooters at Asaka Shooting Range yesterday.

20-year-old William Shaner of the United States, who played only seven international tournaments at senior level from 2018 to 2021, bagged the gold with an Olympic record score of 251.6 out of 261.6 in the final round. The silver medal was won by 16-year-old Lihao Sheng of China with a score of 250.9 in his first ever international appearance through the Olympics. Haoran Yang of China secured bronze with a score of 229.4 after breaking the Olympic record in qualification round with a score of 630.2 out of 654.

Interestingly, Yang had underperformed in the Rio Olympic Games with a 31st finish among 50 shooters whereas Baki had stood in 25th position with a score of 621.2 but this time the 31-year-old could not match neither the position nor the score of Rio Olympics.

Before leaving the country, Baki had expressed his desire of displaying his own performance by transforming his practice session scores into the competition as he had been scoring in between 625 to 627 and often going beyond 630-mark.

However, the double silver medalist of Commonwealth Games, who already has the vast experience of playing more than 20 international tournaments, broke down once again at the international stage. When it comes to big occasions, his questionable mental strength has been a recurring theme of his career so far.

"Actually I have nothing to say about his performance in Tokyo because he got off to a fine start in every series but failed to carry the momentum in the latter parts and during which he scored below 10 in



almost twice in every series. So, it was not possible to recover from those low scores in the end," coach Golam Shafiqul Shiplu told The Daily Star from Japan.

"I asked Baki about those shots and he had no explanation after having scored well in yesterday's training to make 52.5 and 52.5 in every five shots," Shiplu added.

"I wanted him to replicate his own performance but it didn't happen. Whatever he scored in the training doesn't matter if he can't carry it into the competition and today's performance showed he hasn't improved."



Gold medalist William Shaner of the United States celebrates with silver medalist Sheng Lihao of China and bronze medalist Yang Haoran of China after the 10m Air Rifle events yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tigers clinch T20I series to stay perfect

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh maintained a stranglehold over Zimbabwe, getting the perfect finish in the T20I series to ensure that they scooped all three trophies on the tour by chasing their second-highest target, a formidable 194 posted by the hosts in third and final T20I in Harare yesterday.

Left-handed opener Soumya Sarkar struck his second fifty of the series and top-scored with 68 off 49 balls with nine fours and a six as Bangladesh won by five wickets. Young left-hander Shamim Hossain also showed his ability as a finisher once again, remaining unbeaten on a 15-ball 31, having smashed six fours.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad played a crucial innings of 34 from 28 balls to keep the Tigers in the hunt after losing a few wickets in the middle. The T20I skipper also believed that the series win in Zimbabwe would help the Tigers ahead of a tough upcoming home

assignment against Australia. "The boys showed character, everybody contributed. In the end, Shamim played a crucial knock and all in all it was a good show by the batting unit. When you chase these big totals, you need partnerships to keep the score ticking over, and



at least a boundary every over," Mahmudullah said after the win.

"I think Soumya is a useful all-rounder. When I gave him the ball, he got me two wickets and when the team needed him to stand up with the bat, he did it," Riyad said, adding with a laugh: "Looking

forward to the next bubble and the next series."

With a win in the T20I series, Bangladesh completed their fine run across the formats, having previously won the lone Test and securing a whitewash in the three-match ODI series.

Earlier, Zimbabwe posted their second-highest total in the shortest format by putting 193 for five on the scoreboard. Openers Tadiwanashe Manumari and Wesseley Madhevere gave the hosts a flying start, adding 63 runs in the first six overs. Marumari was

dismissed on 27 off 20 balls after hitting two sixes and two fours but Madhevere was in terrific touch, striking five consecutive boundaries off pacer Taskin Ahmed to take 20 runs in the fourth over.

The right-hander, who struck his fourth T20I fifty off 31 balls, was eventually dismissed by Shakib Al Hasan after scoring 54 off 36 balls with six fours.

Regis Chakabva then took charge, striking three sixes in an over off left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed which cost 21 runs. Nasum gave away 37 runs from his three overs and remained wicketless on comeback.

Soumya Sarkar provided the breakthrough with the ball in the form of a double-blow, first dismissing Chakabva for 48, which saw Naim Sheikh and Shamim take a brilliant relay catch at the boundary line. Zimbabwean skipper Sikandar Raza was then bowled for a duck as Bangladesh made inroads.

Left-hander Ryan Burl also played a part, remaining unbeaten on a 15-ball 31 while Dion Myers added 23.

IPL to resume on Sept 19

REUTERS

The remaining matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which was suspended in May due to COVID-19, will resume from September 19 in the United Arab Emirates, the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) said on Sunday.

The IPL was suspended on May 4 with 31 matches left to play after several players and backroom staff tested positive for the coronavirus amid a devastating second wave of COVID-19 in India.

The BCCI announced in May that the remaining matches of the popular Twenty20 tournament would be held in the UAE in September and October.

The IPL will resume with the Chennai Super Kings playing the Mumbai Indians on Sept. 19 in Dubai, before the Kolkata Knight Riders face Royal Challengers Bangalore in Abu Dhabi the following day.

Sharjah will host its first game on Sept. 24 when Bangalore face Chennai.

The first qualifier is scheduled for Oct. 10 in Dubai, while the eliminator (Oct. 11) and second qualifier (Oct. 13) will be played in Sharjah.

Dubai will also host the final, which is due to be played on Oct. 15.

The eight-team IPL, with an estimated brand value of \$6.8 billion, is the richest Twenty20 league and attracts many of the best players from around the world to cricket-crazy India.



Austrian Anna Kiesenhofer caused one of the biggest shocks in Olympic road racing history with an audacious solo victory in the women's race as a quartet of Dutch champions paid for an apparent communications meltdown on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

A claimed a as the host rush on a day on Sunday. The saw 18 gold medals up for grabs, including the first ever in skateboarding, one of several new sports introduced in Tokyo as part of an International Olympic Committee drive to attract younger fans. A perfectly scripted final saw Japanese world champion Yuta Horigome strike gold in a tense street competition. The 22-year-old, who grew up just a stone's throw from the Olympic venue, landed three huge tricks in a row to eclipse American favourite Njah Huston, who finished seventh

No matter how many times Olympic athletes are told they should be proud of their silver medals, for many of them, second best can never be good enough. American Chase Kalisz knew he could do better than his silver in the 400m medley at Rio but he had to wait five years for the chance to prove it. On Sunday, he did just that. The 27-year-old took the gold on the opening day of the medal events at the Tokyo Aquatic Centre with a swim of 4:09.42, leading an American one-two with Jay Litherland collecting silver.

Australia won the 4x100 women's freestyle relay Olympic gold for the third time in a row, beating their

own world record and helping take the sting out of a disappointing first day of finals in the pool. The quartet of sisters Bronte and Cate Campbell, Meg Harris and Emma McKeon took 0.36 seconds off their previous best of 3:30.05 set in April 2018, with a world record of 3:29.69. Canada took silver, 3:09 seconds behind the winners while the United States came in third for the bronze medal.

South Korea won a ninth consecutive gold medal in the women's team archery event at the Tokyo Olympics on Sunday, tying the record for the longest gold medal streak in Olympic history.

Singapore was eliminated from the equestrian dressage qualifiers on Sunday after Caroline Chew's horse Tribiani was found to be bleeding from the mouth, bringing an abrupt end to the country's first foray into the sport at the Olympics.

Japan's Naomi Osaka powered through her opening match at the Tokyo Games on Sunday as world number one Ash Barty stumbled out of the tournament after a lacklustre, error-strewn performance.

Japanese judoka Uta Abe triumphed in the women's 52kg category in Tokyo on Sunday, hours before her brother Hifumi took gold in the men's 66kg final, making history as the first siblings to win gold medals on the same day.

TOKYO WINDOW

'It's a dream and it became true'

AGENCIES

Tunisia's Ahmed Hafnaoui was so shocked to see his name in the gold medal position for the 400m freestyle on Sunday he did not believe his eyes but after letting his stunning win at the Tokyo Olympics sink in he said he hoped to have made his family proud.

The 18-year-old, who finished ahead of Australia's Jack McLoughlin and U.S. swimmer Kieran Smith, said he was surprised even to be in the final, where he swam in the outside lane after being the slowest in qualifying.

Michael Phelps hailed Ahmed Hafnaoui for his "unbelievable swim", saying the 18-year-old Tunisian's shock victory was a great example of how swimming at the Tokyo Games is likely to have a series of wide open races.

Hafnaoui was the slowest qualifier but, from lane eight, held off fancied Australian Jack McLoughlin and American Kieran Smith for a huge upset.

"Unbelievable swim. I think he knocked almost five seconds off his pb (personal best), Phelps told reporters in Tokyo. "The difference between



these Olympics and the past, in my opinion, is that every single person in the final has a chance of winning gold - it doesn't matter if you are in lane one, eight or four, everyone is close." "I believe it when I touched the wall ... I was so surprised I didn't accept that," Hafnaoui told a news conference. "I dedicate (the gold) to all my family, my mum, my dad, my sisters, I wish they are proud of me."

His gold medal is only the fifth won by a Tunisian athlete at the Olympics, but their third in swimming.

Letting out a scream when he realised he had won, he pumped his first and pointed at the electronic score board. "I just can't believe it. It's a dream and it became true. It was great. It was my best race ever," he said.

Hafnaoui will race in the 800m freestyle on Tuesday.



France staged a remarkable comeback and got their Olympic campaign back on track as Teji Savanier netted a stoppage-time winner in their 4-3 victory over South Africa. Meanwhile, hosts Japan moved within touching distance of qualifying for the men's soccer knockout stages with a 2-1 win over Mexico while defending champions Brazil were held to a goalless draw by Ivory Coast. Argentina responded to a shock 2-0 loss to Australia in their opener with a 1-0 victory over Egypt.

PHOTO: REUTERS