

SPORT

What to WATCH

BTV
Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
Live from 7:15 am, 8:25 am, 10:35 am, 12:20 pm & 4:05 pm

TEN 1, TEN 2, TEN 3 & SONY SIX
Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
Live from 8:00 pm & 4:00 am (Tuesday)
T SPORTS

THE HUNDRED
Women's Oval vs Welsh
Live from 8:00 pm
Men's Oval vs Welsh
Live from 11:30 pm



All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, pacer Shoriful Islam and opener Mohammad Naim were in a jovial mood during practice session as both Bangladesh and Australia began training yesterday following three days' strict quarantine at team hotel. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Aussies set foot at the 'home of cricket'

SPORTS REPORTER

After a lot of talks over the health protocols, strict bio-bubble rules amidst uncertainty ahead of the five-match T20I series starting from Tomorrow, hosts Bangladesh and the visitors Australia have finally set foot at the 'home of cricket' in Mirpur to resume action on the field yesterday.

Bangladesh team was the first to enter the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at around 10 am in the morning and took part in their first training session since returning from a successful Zimbabwe tour.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) left no stone unturned when it came to fulfilling all sorts of demands from Cricket Australia on their visit to Bangladesh this time during the huge challenge of Covid-19 pandemic.

Whether it is regarding the facility for the visitors to go straight to the team hotel from landing without the immigration formalities at the airport, or to ensure a strict bio-secure bubble in the team hotel, BCB's management has gone smoothly so far.

Even the BCB directors will not be



Australia on the other hand, was scheduled to practise from 4 pm after completing their three-day room quarantine. As further part of protocols, an Aussie inspection team had inspected the training facilities and health arrangements beforehand.

"We have been in isolation on our first three days in Dhaka and have a session planned in the afternoon. Some guys have been to the ground before in the previous tours so I am looking forward to having a look at conditions and training accordingly to prepare before the game on Tuesday," Aussie off spinner Ashton Turner told the media ahead of the training session yesterday.

allowed to enter the ground through the usual passages that are used by the teams. After Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das missed out the series from violating the ten-day quarantine protocol, BCB's chief curator Gamini de Silva, who arrived in Dhaka on July 28, will be giving instructions virtually from outside the ground, given that he has not been part of the bio-bubble.

No production crew or cameras will be allowed in the field of play, and DRS [Decision Review System] technician cannot sit with the match referee during matches. Moreover, keeping the hotel in Dhaka reserved solely to the two teams and match officials is also among the measures set for the series as part of the 'new normal'.

DOMINGO PLEADS for positivity towards Tigers

MAZHAR UDDIN

The confidence after the successful tour in Zimbabwe was clearly emitting in the words of the Bangladesh team's head coach Russell Domingo during his interaction with the media as both Bangladesh and visitors Australia began their training ahead of the upcoming five-match T20I series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

However, ever since his appointment as the Tigers head coach back in August 2019, Domingo's confidence has always been the same before every series, when it comes to his interaction with the media.

Despite the high confidence from Domingo towards his game plan, it didn't usually reflect a great deal when it came to the execution

on the field and more importantly in the results.

Although it will be interesting to see whether and how the confidence boost obtained from recent success will manifest in the upcoming series against the Aussies. If the Tigers can replicate as per Domingo's plans, it will certainly help Bangladesh cricket to go further as a team.

"Trying to find out our best combination by playing against Australia will give us that opportunity. There are two ways to look at it. Trying to find out our best combination and keep developing some of the younger players. Secondly, Bangladesh doesn't play Australia too often so this is a big series for us and we are really determined to do well," said Domingo to the media during a virtual press conference yesterday.

With the series being likely to become a stern test for the South African as the Tigers will

be up against the mighty Aussies, Domingo even pleaded to the media to be more positive towards the Tigers in a seemingly frustrated manner.

"It's very frustrating to continuously read about the negative articles about Bangladesh cricket team and why you guys say we are not a very good T20 team is beyond me. I think we have got wonderful players and I am sure there is room for improvement but I think we have got the ingredients to be a good T20 team. I know we don't have the physical attributes like the West Indies but we have got some skilled batsmen on our side."

"I am pleading to the media for a bit more positivity towards the team because the existing negativity is draining sometimes. I disagree with you totally as I don't think we are a bad T20 team at all. If our wonderful T20 players are backed and supported with positive

feedback, they can surely be a force to be reckoned with. We know we have to improve but that's obvious as this is always a process. Besides, we haven't played many T20s over the last year," he said.

The Tigers head coach also expressed his frustration over the strict quarantine protocol set by Australia which forced Mushfiqur Rahim to eventually miss the series. However, Domingo added that it presents a great opportunity for the fringe cricketers to step up on big occasions.

He also downplayed engaging in any psychological warfare against the Aussies but Domingo did mention that there will be some added pressure on the Australian players who will play as the replacements of some of the key players, the likes of -- Steve Smith, David Warner, Aaron Finch and Glenn Maxwell -- and therefore, Bangladesh could look to utilise that in their favour.



FIVE-STAR DRESSSEL JOINS ELITE OLYMPIC CLUB

Caeleb Dressel powered to his fifth swimming gold medal of the Tokyo Olympics on Sunday as the United States won their duel in the pool with Australia. Dressel dominated the men's 50m freestyle final, setting a new Olympic record of 21.07sec, and then returned to help his team smash the world mark in the men's 4x100m medley relay. Dressel, 24, didn't get close to matching Michael Phelps' eight-gold haul at Beijing 2008 but he joins just four other swimmers with at least five wins at a single Games. "I'm proud of myself," said the American, who also won two relay golds at the 2016 Rio Games.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs celebrates his men's 100 metres gold with compatriot Gianmarco Tamberi, who shed tears of joy after winning gold medal in men's high jump event earlier. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Gimbo fired me up a lot'

REUTERS, TOKYO

Lamont Marcell Jacobs claimed a stunning upset victory in the Olympic men's 100 metres final on Sunday, becoming the first Italian to take the most coveted title in athletics and doing it in a European record time of 9.80 seconds.

"I've won an Olympic gold after Usain Bolt, it's unbelievable. Tonight, staring at the ceiling perhaps I will realise," said Jacobs.

"It's been my dream since I was a child," said Jacobs, who was born in the United States but moved to Europe with his Italian mother when he was a month old.

"I need a week or so to understand what has happened. Seeing (compatriot) Gimbo (Tamberi) win the high jump gold (10 minutes earlier) fired me up a lot."

The 29-year-old Gianmarco Tamberi shared the gold with Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim after both had cleared 2.37 metres, only for both to fail at 2.39m. An Olympic official offered them a "jump-off" to decide the matter, but the two athletes decided to share the gold. Maksim Nedasekau of Belarus also cleared the 2.37 mark but he had more failed attempts, resulting in him taking the bronze medal.



ROJAS JUMPS 15.67M TO BREAK WORLD RECORD

Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela jumped 15.67 metres on Sunday to break the world record in the women's triple jump, with her last attempt of the event, having already secured the gold medal. The previous record of 15.50m was set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets in 1995 in Sweden. The win made Rojas Venezuela's first woman Olympic champion. Patricia Mamona of Portugal won silver with 15.01m, a national record. The bronze went to Spain's Ana Peleteiro, who also broke the national record with 14.87.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Olympics glory remains Bangladesh's distant dream

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh completed yet another disappointing campaign in the Olympics with sprinter Jahir Rayhan producing a lackluster performance to finish 44th among 47 athletes in the 400m run of Tokyo Olympics yesterday.

Having been his nation's sole representative in the track and field event as a wildcard entry, Jahir had wanted to raise his world ranking by displaying an improved performance but the 20-year-old sprinter stood eighth out of eight competitors in Heat-3 with a timing of 48.29 seconds.

Jahir took some 2.75 seconds more than the Swiss sprinter Ricky Petruccianni who secured the 25th spot and managed to qualify for the semifinals of the 400m event as the last athlete with a time of 45.54 seconds.

The frustrating performance of Jahir, who could not even touch his personal best of 46.86 seconds which he had clocked at the National Athletics Championships in 2019, raised a question regarding the justification of Bangladesh Athletic Federation to select the Navy sprinter.

With the elimination of the last of the six athletes from Tokyo Olympics, Bangladesh's participation in "The biggest show on earth" has still remained a symbolic, token one even after the 10th Olympics appearance.

Only archers Ruman Sana and Diya Siddique had given glimpses of hope for the future while rest of the Olympians from shooting, swimming and athletics have been far away from the world class standard and light years from the Olympic medals.



ZVEREV WINS FIRST MEN'S SINGLES GOLD FOR GERMANY

Alexander Zverev became the first German man to win an Olympic singles gold medal on Sunday, with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Karen Khachanov of the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC). Zverev, who secured a rare win over world number one Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals, became only the second German to win Olympic singles gold by matching Steffi Graf's achievement at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

PHOTO: REUTERS



MCKEON TAKES PLACE AMONG ALL-TIME GREATS

Emma McKeon was the undisputed sprint queen in Tokyo after completing the sprint double with victory in the 50m freestyle and then winning another gold in the women's 4x100 medley relay. Swimming great Ian Thorpe says Emma McKeon has "flown under the radar" in Australia but now she is firmly on the map after her stunning performances at the Tokyo Olympics. McKeon has joined the greats of Australian sport, winning her 11th Olympic medal -- and fifth gold -- on Sunday to become the country's most decorated Olympian. McKeon's haul eclipses the nine medals won by Thorpe and fellow swimmer Leisel Jones, putting her two clear at the top of Australia's all-time list. "It's very surreal," McKeon said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

OLYMPICS MEDALS TABLE (TOP FIVE)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
China	24	14	13	51
USA	20	23	16	59
Japan	17	5	9	31
Australia	14	3	14	31
ROC	12	19	13	44