

Mahmudullah helps Tigers to a challenging total

SPORTS REPORTER



Mahmudullah Riyad's fifty gave Bangladesh the platform to put up a challenging total of 127 for 9 with the tigers having struggled early on after electing to bat first in the third T20I of the five-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Australian debutant pacer Nathan Ellis became the first player to pick up a hat trick in debut and ended up with figures of 34 for 3 in four overs. The Aussies had a different approach to the game, with three changes in the playing eleven.

Once again Bangladesh had a tough start where the hosts lost both the openers Soumya Sarkar and Naim Sheikh upfront and were reeling on three for two inside three overs.

Naim was the first to depart on one at the bowling of Josh Hazlewood while Soumya continued his poor run of form and was dismissed for two at the bowling of Adam Zampa.

Since then, the two of the most experienced campaigners Mahmudullah Riyad and Shakib Al Hasan consolidated and added 44 runs for the third-wicket stand.

Shakib attempted to stage a counter attack, striking 15 runs off Mitchell Marsh's eighth over of the innings, as the Tigers were looking to gain momentum in the innings.

Shakib was looking good until he was caught at long-off while trying to clear Zampa's delivery beyond the fence. In-form Afif Hossain looked solid

and immediately made an impact, striking a six and a four, before he was run-out after a 13-ball 19.

The Aussies came back strong in the middle overs but skipper Mahmudullah steadied the ship for the Tigers. The 35-year-old however, kept losing partners from the other end but made sure he batted till the end.

Mahmudullah went on to reach his half-century off 52 balls, the slowest fifty in Bangladesh's T20I history, but importantly for

the Tigers, they were placed at an improved situation by then compared to at the start.

Australia on the other hand, came up with a better approach to adapt to the slowness of the pitch and rotated their bowlers well. Interestingly, off-spinner Ashton Turner, who opened with the ball, had bowled for the first time in the series.

All the Australian seamers tried to take the pace off the ball purposefully and apart from

Ellis, Josh Hazlewood also made his mark picking up two wickets conceding just 16 runs from his four overs while leg-spinner Adam Zampa also bagged a couple.

It will be interesting to see whether the Tigers can defend their total of 127. The first game of the series can be a good source of inspiration for Bangladesh where they managed to defend their lowest-ever total, of 131 runs, successfully and eventually won the game by 23 runs.



Australia pacer Nathan Ellis (C) is the toast of his teammates following the debutante's hatrick against Bangladesh in the third T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

OLYMPICS MEDALS TABLE (TOP FIVE)				
COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
China	36	26	17	79
USA	31	36	31	98
Japan	24	11	16	51
Great Britain	18	20	20	58
ROC	17	23	22	62



Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas celebrates winning gold in women's 400 metres at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo yesterday. She clocked 48.36 seconds to retain her Olympic title as American Allyson Felix took bronze for a record 10th Olympic medal.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Kenya's Faith Kipyegon retained her title in women's 1,500 metres as she denied Dutchwoman Sifan Hassan her dream of winning an unprecedented Olympic treble. The Kenyan won in an Olympic record time of 3:53.11.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Canada players celebrate their penalty shootout victory over Sweden in the final of the Olympic women's football event at the Yokohama Stadium yesterday. The Canadians won their maiden title with a 3-2 win on penalties after the regulation time and extra time ended 1-1.

PHOTO: REUTERS

What to WATCH

BTV, T SPORTS & GTV

Bangladesh vs Australia Fourth T20I

Live from 6:00 pm

BTV

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Live from 7:15 am, 8:25 am & 11:00 am

TEN 1, TEN 2, TEN 3 & SONY SIX

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Live from 8:00 pm & 4:00 am (Sunday)

SONY SIX & TEN 3

India vs England First Test (Day 4)

Live from 4:00 pm

T SPORTS THE HUNDRED

Men's Southern vs Northern

Live from 12:00 am (Sunday)



IT'S OVER

AFF, Barcelona

Barcelona's negotiations with Lionel Messi are over and the striker is considering other offers, the club's president Joan Laporta said on Friday.

Laporta said in a press conference he was not prepared "to put the club at risk" by renewing Messi's contract, with Barca facing huge financial problems ahead of the start of La Liga.

"Yesterday we realised it was over. I had the last conversation with Leo's father," said Laporta.

"I do not want to give false hope. The player has other offers and there is a time limit because La Liga starts soon and he needs time to assess his other options."

Messi reached an agreement with Barcelona to sign a reported five-year contract but with the trade-off that he would earn 50 per cent less per year.

But La Liga's financial fair play rules, which are expected to reduce Barca's salary limit to less than 200 million euros this season, led Laporta to conclude they were unable to complete the deal.

"We could not accommodate Messi's contract," said Laporta, who was re-elected

MESSI'S BARCELONA CAREER IN NUMBERS

778 GAMES

672 GOALS

305 ASSISTS

10 LA LIGA

7 COPA DEL REY

7 SUPERCOPA DE ESPANA

4 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

3 UEFA SUPER CUP

3 CLUB WORLD CUP

6 BALLON D'OR

6 EUROPEAN GOLDEN SHOE

6 LA LIGA BEST PLAYER

as club president in March.

"The situation we have inherited is abominable and the sports salary bill represents 110 per cent of the club's income. We have no margin for salaries.

"La Liga's rules set limitations and we have no margin. We knew the situation since we arrived but the numbers we have seen are even worse than we thought."

Laporta said Barca could have registered Messi by agreeing to the deal but insisted it was a risk he was not prepared to take.

"We were not prepared to put the club at risk in this way," said Laporta.

"Barça had to be in favour of a contract that would mortgage our television rights for half a century.

"I am not willing to mortgage the club for anyone. We have an institution that is above everyone, even the best player in the world."

Laporta said he

felt "sadness and disappointment" but that he "did everything possible" to keep Messi, who joined Barcelona aged 13 and went on to score 672 goals in 778 appearances for the club.

"There is a before and after Leo," Laporta said. "Leo Messi has been an icon and has left some historic moments. We have eternal gratitude to him."



Lionel Messi was recently pictured on a social media post alongside Neymar, Leandro Paredes, Angel di Maria and Marco Verratti – all of Paris Saint-Germain, the most likely destination for the former Barcelona star.

PHOTO: TWITTER