Mahmudullah helps Tigers to a challenging total

SPORTS REPORTER



Mahmudullah Riyad's fifty gave Bangladesh platform 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 while Hazlewood 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

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

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 Turner, who opened with the ball, he batted till the end.

Mahmudullah went on to reach his half-century off 52 balls, the slowest fifty in Bangladesh's tried to take the pace off the ball successfully and eventually won T20I history, but importantly for purposefully and apart from

striking a six and a four, before he 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 had bowled for the first time in the series.

All the Australian seamers

and immediately made an impact, the Tigers, they were placed at 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, the game by 23 runs.



Australia pacer Nathan Ellis (C) is the toast of his teammates following the debutante's hattrick against Bangladesh in the third T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla form Áfif Hossain looked solid 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
Japan Great Britain	18	20	20	58
POC	17	22	າາ	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

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

TEN 1, TEN 2, TEN 3

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

11:00 am

& SONY SIX

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



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

BTV, T SPORTS

Live from 6:00 pm

Bangladesh vs Australia

& GTV

Fourth T201

Abahani, Sk Jamal cancel each other out

Abahani came from two goals behind to play out a 2-2 draw against Sheikh Jamal DC in an important encounter of Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With leaders Bashundhara Kings on course to defend the league title with 52 points from 19 matches, the outcome of the match between secondplaced Sheikh Jamal and third-placed Abahani was crucial for the runners-up race, however the two former champions settled with an identical stalemate they had produced in their first league meeting.

With the sixth draw in 18 outings, three-time league champions Sheikh Jamal remained at the previous position with 39 points, two more than six-time league champions Abahani, who produced seven draws in 19 matches.

From the kickoff, Abahani looked a bit energetic, in contrast to their 2-4 defeat against lowly Muktijoddha Sangsad in the previous game before the suspension of the league, and dominated the proceedings in the early stages.

A chance for Abahani went begging in the 10th minute when Kervens Belfort squandered an opportunity inside the box. On the half-hour mark, against the flow, Sheikh Jamal took a lead availing a defensive fumble as Gambian Solomon King played his compatriot Pa Omar Jobe on the left-side who scored past goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel. And right at the end of first-half, Solomon doubled the lead with a seemingly harmless shot from 25 yards which the experienced keeper Sohel failed to stop.

After resumption, the difficult conditions on the rain-soaked ground dictated play and Abahani narrowed the margin of score line in the 52nd minute when Nigerian Sunday Chizoba brilliantly controlled a Jewel Rana chip inside the box before volleying it for a goal.

In the 80th minute, Abahani were awarded a penalty when onrushing goalkeeper Samiul Islam Masum had committed a foul on Belfort. Masum however, redeemed himself by thwarting Sunday's spot-kick attempt.

Two minutes from time, Sunday too, managed to redeem himself when he delivered a nice curling cross from the left for Belfort, who did not make a mistake this time around.

Men's

(Sunday)

Live from 12:00 am

Live from 8:00 pm & 4:00 am

SONY SIX & TEN 3

India vs England

First Test (Day 4)

Live from 4:00 pm

(Sunday)

T SPORTS THE HUNDRED Southern vs Northern



IT'S OVER

AFP. 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 fivecontract 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

"We could not accommodate Messi's

MESSI'S BARCELONA CAREER March.

for salaries.

we have inherited is

club's income. We have no margin

and we have no margin. We knew

the situation since we arrived but

the numbers we have seen are even

Laporta said Barca could have

registered Messi by agreeing to

the deal but insisted it was a

risk he was not prepared to

to put the club at risk in this way," said Laporta.

"Barça had to be in favour of

"I am not willing to mortgage the club for anyone.

We have an institution that

is above everyone, even

the best player in the

a contract that would mortgage

our television rights for half a

"We were not prepared

worse than we thought."

"La Liga's rules set limitations

IN NUMBERS abominable and the sports salary **778** GAMES bill represents 110 per cent of the

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

Laporta said he "sadness and felt 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 ico: and has left some historic moments. We contract," said Laporta, who was re-elected have eternal gratitude to him."

Right now it is not in our thoughts (to sign Messi), absolutely not. It looked like it finished well in terms of (Messi) continuing with Barcelona. In the end it was a surprise for everyone, me included of course, but I think Laporta was clear today the reason why.

> PEP GUARDIOLA MANCHESTER CITY MANAGER

We are focused on the club, which is working on the transfer window in a discreet way, and working to improve the team in whichever way possible to achieve the targets we set at the start of the season.

> MAURICIO POCHETTINO **PSG MANAGER**



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.