

# SPORT

## What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
England vs India  
Fourth Test (Day 3)  
Live from 4:00 pm  
**T SPORTS**  
Sri Lanka vs South Africa

Second ODI  
Live from 3:00 pm  
**STAR SPORTS**  
SELECT 1 & 2  
US Open  
Third Round  
Live from 9:00 pm &

3:30 am (Sunday)  
**TEN 2**  
World Cup Qualifiers  
Ukraine vs France  
Live from 12:45 am (Sunday)



**Bangladesh players could see the funny side of captain Mahmudullah's gesture, which was probably out of relief as the hosts scraped to a four-run victory over New Zealand in the second T20 International at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Tigers' positive intent shines through

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a string of low-scoring encounters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur that began with the series against Australia last month, some runs were finally put on the board as the hosts managed to post 141 for six after skipper Mahmudullah Riyad elected to bat in the second T20I against New Zealand yesterday.

The surface played a lot better than in the first T20I, when the Kiwis were bundled out for their joint-lowest T20 total of 60 and suffered a seven-wicket defeat.

Bangladesh's positive intent was evident from the start and one should credit the team management for taking up the challenge after talk about batsmen not receiving adequate preparation for the upcoming ICC World T20 in mind.

After failing to fire in the first game, opener Naim Sheikh and Liton Das provided stability although the latter got a reprieve after being dropped very early in the innings.

The duo showed great maturity and, interestingly, it was the first time in seven T20Is in Bangladesh that a team completed the PowerPlay without losing a wicket.

Naim and Liton added 59 runs for the first wicket, Bangladesh's highest opening stand in their past nine T20Is with the previous best of 42 coming against Australia last month.

Liton was bowled for a 29-ball 33 while trying to drag the ball to the leg side off Rachin Ravindra. That sparked a mini-collapse, with Mushfiqur Rahim, who promoted to number three, registering his third duck in the last ten innings.

The wicketkeeper-batsman missed a turning delivery from

Ravindra, losing his balance and finding himself out of the crease when opposing keeper Tom Latham dislodged the balls.

Shakib Al Hasan tried to counterattack, hitting struck two boundaries to off-spinner Cole McConchie, but the left-hander paid the price as he chased a third, handing an easy catch to long-off. He departed for 12, leaving Bangladesh on 72 for 3, having lost three wickets inside nine deliveries.

Naim could only look on from the other end as the wickets fell before attempting to steady the ship with skipper Mahmudullah Riyad at his side. However, the necessity of going for big shots saw a frustrated Naim caught at long on to become Ravindra's third victim. He scored a run-a-ball 39 which included three fours.

It was then Mahmudullah taking on

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### BANGLADESH:

141 for 6 in 20 overs (Naim 39, Liton 33, Mahmudullah 37 not out, Nurul 13; Ravindra 3-22)

#### NEW ZEALAND:

137 for 5 in 20 overs (Latham 65 not out, Young 22, McConchie 15 not out; Mahedi 2-12, Shakib 2-29)

#### RESULT:

Bangladesh won by 4 runs to lead the series 2-0

#### PLAYERS-OF-THE-MATCH:

Mahmudullah

যে আলোয় একটু বেশিই  
সুন্দর হয় চারপাশ

SUPER STAR  
Lighting

## BETTER WICKET LEADS to competitive game

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh beat New Zealand by a narrow margin of four runs in the second T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series and both captains argued that the pitch was better than the one which was on offer in the first T20I where the Kiwis were bowled out for their joint-lowest T20 score of 60.

The Tigers put on a solid batting display, putting on 141 for six with the top-order finding runs before skipper Mahmudullah Riyad put on the finishing touches. The Tigers' captain credited the bowlers for coming through in a wicket which fared better under lights, restricting the Kiwis to 137 for 5.

New Zealand put on a better show with the bat after swallowing a bitter seven-wicket defeat in the first game. Tom Latham's unbeaten 49-ball 65, laced with six fours and a six, took them within touching distance before they fell short by four runs needing six off the last delivery.

"Yeah, it was a great game to take it down to the last over considering how things went in the first game. I thought we learnt from the last game and we did that really well, especially with the bat. We were able to build partnerships and to take it down to the last over with a chance of winning," Latham said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

The Kiwi skipper reiterated that chasing 140-odd runs was going to be challenging but a better surface

produced better cricket. "Yeah, I think a better surface makes for a better game and that certainly was the case. The spinners did well and for us it was about executing our skills and we probably weren't there as we would have liked, but I still think 130-140 was a competitive score. We took it deep to give ourselves a chance," he concluded.

Riyad said that the bowlers were up to the task defending the 141-run total in a track that favoured batsmen more at night.

"Wicket was better here compared to the previous match. When we were batting, deliveries bounced irregularly but at night the wicket got better. Keeping that in mind, the bowlers did very well to defend the runs and credit goes to them."

Liton Das and Mohammad

Naim's 59-run opening stand created the platform for a good total and Riyad credited them for playing a vital role.

"It's difficult to bat against the new ball here. When the seam is hard, there is bounce and a few deliveries skid while there is some sharp turn on offer too. Liton and Naim did what was required in the Powerplay, providing the optimum start."

Mustafizur Rahman was Bangladesh's main weapon as Kiwis went into the last over needing 20 runs. A beamer went for four and he went back to basics in his final two deliveries to defend the score. "Mustafiz held his nerve well and we went really close. It was unusual, but I had quite a bit of confidence in Mustafizur," Riyad concluded.



**Lautaro Martinez (R) scored the opening goal as Argentina beat Venezuela 3-1 to maintain their unbeaten run in South American World Cup Qualifying at the in Caracas yesterday. (Inset) Brazil's Everton Ribeiro celebrates after scoring the decisive goal against Chile as the Selecao made it seven wins out of seven at the Monumental Stadium in Santiago.**

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



## Booters gear up to tackle Palestine

SPORTS REPORTER

Having watched the opening match of Three Nations Cup between hosts Kyrgyzstan and Palestine on Thursday night, Bangladesh head coach Jamie Day discussed the tactics of handling Palestine with his charges during yesterday's two-hour long training as the men in Red and Green prepare to take on the Lions of Canaan at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium on Sunday in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan defeated Palestine 1-0 in the match.

"After watching the match, we got a clear idea about both Palestine and Kyrgyzstan and today (Friday) we worked on Palestine's weakest and strongest points with the boys in

training, so that they can implement those elements in the match," assistant coach Masud Parvez Kaiser told in a video message sent by the Bangladesh Football Federation.

"Palestine is a physical team and not very mobile but Kyrgyzstan move fast and exchange their positions quickly. We are hoping that the boys will get ready before the match and put a good show in both matches," added the assistant coach.

Midfielder Sohel Rana and defender Saad Uddin are also optimistic as they worked on tactics to combat Palestine in training.

"We had practice with some tactical insights of how to play against Palestine. We all watched Palestine's match last night (Thursday) and know

their weak and strong points. We are hoping to produce a good result against Palestine and get prepared for the upcoming SAFF Championship," said the midfielder of Abahani.

Defender Saad said: "We are thinking match by match. Palestine are much stronger than us and the coach has been working accordingly. Jamie informed us about different info about Palestine and also in today's (Friday) training, so we are hoping for a good show on Sunday."

Palestine, ranked 102nd in FIFA Ranking, never lost to Bangladesh in five matches in which Bangladesh could only hold them to a 1-1 draw in now-defunct AFC Challenge Cup in 2006 but had lost all last four matches in between 2011 to 2020.

## POPE DRIVES ENGLAND TO LEA



England's Ollie Pope plays a drive during the second day of the fourth Test against India at the Oval in London on Friday. The right-handed batsman led England to the lead after the hosts had found themselves in a spot of bother, losing at five down for 62, chasing India's first innings total of 191. Pope strung together an 89-run partnership with Johnny Bairstow as England closed in on the India total before stitching together a 71-run partnership with Moeen Ali to surpass the visitors' total. At Tea, England were 227 for seven, with Pope batting on 74 and Chris Woakes on four.

PHOTO: AFP

## Afghan U-19s due today

SPORTS REPORTER

Afghanistan U-19 are due in Bangladesh today to play a five-match one-day series which will be followed by a four-day game. The series itinerary was rescheduled but despite the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, will go ahead as planned with all the matches taking place in Sylhet.

The visitors are set to arrive in Dhaka in two batches. The players will be transferred to Sylhet by September 5 before their first practice session on September 8 at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

This will be Bangladesh U-19s' first assignment since the Akbar Ali-led side won the Under-19 World Cup by beating India in Potchefstroom in February 2020. The one-day series will take place from September 10 till 19 before the four-dayer from September 22.

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