

## SPORT



PHOTO : FIROZ AHMED

## WHAT TO WATCH

## T SPORTS

Bangladesh vs New Zealand  
Fourth T20I  
Live from 4:00 pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & 2**  
US Open  
Quarterfinals  
Live from 9:00 pm

## TEN 1

World Cup Qualifiers  
Kosovo vs Spain  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Thursday)  
**TEN 2**  
World Cup Qualifiers  
Poland vs England  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Thursday)

## TEN 3

World Cup Qualifiers  
Iceland vs Germany  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Thursday)  
**SONY SIX**  
World Cup Qualifiers  
Italy vs Lithuania  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Thursday)

## ‘Reading the pitch and adapting is important’

SPORTS REPORTER



After suffering a 52-run thrashing against New Zealand, many questioned the approach from Bangladesh's batting department, which folded for the just 76 runs -- the Tigers' lowest T20I score at home.

The pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur played better than in the first T20I of the series, when the visitors were bundled out for 60 runs. But in this instance, the hosts had themselves to blame for the poor batting display.

Bangladesh's batting coach Ashwell Prince admitted that the batsmen could have shown a more composed approach.

"I think we could have been a little more composed in our chase after a

we were possibly being too aggressive early on. I don't think the pitch changed much and I think 129 was a competitive score and we could have gotten it if we were calmer in our chase."

The 44-year-old also pressed the need rotate the strike because boundaries were difficult to come by on such pitches, adding that the Tigers had the right batting combination but need to adapt to pitches.

"There was one particular run chase against Australia where Nurul Hasan and Afif Hossain had a good partnership. For me what's important is to have a combination of batsmen in the team.

You have guys who can rotate the strike and can hit boundaries and then you have a group of guys towards the end of the innings who can chase nine-ten runs



beautiful start where Naim [Sheikh] hit two boundaries in the first over and then Liton [Das] hit a couple of boundaries to put us at 20-odd runs after two overs," Prince told media yesterday.

"At that stage, we were ahead of the run rate. But we lost too many quick wickets over the course of the next few overs and

per over if necessary and if the pitches are conducive.

"I think we have a good combination of both types of players but what's also very important of course is that every pitch is different. Being able to read the pitch on the day and adapt accordingly is important," he added.



## ‘WE’RE GOING TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE’

New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel, who took four wickets in the third T20I to bring his side back into contention in the five-match series against Bangladesh, shares a light moment with batting coach Thilan Samaraweera during their training session in Mirpur yesterday. "They [Bangladesh] have had a fantastic record not just against us but also against every other team in the world [at home]. So, for them to lose, they'll come back pretty strong and they'll be hurting from that [the 52-run defeat in the third T20I]. We're certainly prepared for a backlash from them but we're going to fight fire with fire, so to speak, and we're certainly up for it as well," New Zealand stand-in coach Glenn Pocknall said ahead of today's game. And definitely, the visitors will be looking forward to Patel for keeping the series alive when they take on Bangladesh in the fourth match today.

PHOTO: STAR

## History awaits Shakib, TIGERS

SPORTS REPORTER



4-0-24-0. Those were Shakib Al Hasan's bowling figures in the third T20I against New Zealand. And when Shakib's wicket column remains empty, more often than not, it does not augur well for Bangladesh.

That proved to be the case in the previous game, with Bangladesh missing their chance to wrap up the series and instead suffering a 52-run thumping after the Tigers were bowled out in 19.4 overs for 76 runs -- their lowest total in T20Is at home.

There is no denying that the Tigers have had a number of performers, especially in the bowling department, in recent outings such as the five-match T20I series against Australia last month and in the ongoing series against the Kiwis.

Despite that, it was often Shakib's impact that the Tigers needed more than anything to turn things around after a dismal showing. After all, Shakib is said to be the vital cog in bringing balance to the side by his teammates, coach, skipper and team management.

In going wicketless, Shakib not only affected the Tigers' chances but also delayed a crowning

moment in his career. The champion all-rounder has claimed numerous records over the years and now finds himself on the cusp of becoming the leading wicket-taker in T20I history.

With 106 wickets from 87 T20Is, the left-armer is breathing down the neck of Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga, who tops the chart with 107 scalps from 84 T20Is, and needs just two wickets to dethrone one of the finest and lethal T20I bowlers the world has ever seen.

The question on everyone's mind is whether Shakib can do today when Bangladesh take on New Zealand in the fourth T20Is in Mirpur and, in the process, create

another piece of history by sealing Bangladesh's maiden T20I series win over the Kiwis.

That question might even be going through the 34-year-old's head, who mentioned during the series against Australia that he "sometimes keeps track of his records" after becoming the only cricketer to get 1000-plus runs and 100 wickets in the shortest format of the game.

Going by Shakib's penchant for making spectacular turnarounds, it is not unlikely that he will achieve another milestone and help Bangladesh return to their winning ways.

## Sufil's goal only consolation in heavy defeat

SPORTS REPORTER



The challenge of taking on a fast-paced Kyrgyzstan proved too tough to handle for Bangladesh

as the men in red and green suffered a 4-1 defeat to the hosts in their second and final match of Three Nations Cup at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek last night.

It was expected that the match against the Central Asian nation, who are 87 places ahead of Bangladesh in the FIFA rankings, was going to be a tougher affair than Bangladesh's previous game against Palestine. And the edge in terms of pace, skills, technique and tactics from Kyrgyzstan was evident as they proved difficult to deal with till the last minute.

Jamie Day made four changes to the playing eleven, drafting in Canada-based Rahbar Wahed Khan along with first-choice goalkeeper Anisur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman Sufil and Riyadhul Hasan. But the visitors time and again failed to contend with the home side in

one department, letting them capitalise on their pace to score all three goals.

Kyrgyzstan dominated and exposed Bangladesh's five-man backline time and again and went to the break with a comfortable 2-0 lead. After resumption, they



added two more goals on either side of Bangladesh's consolation strike.

Although Day's charges failed to hold possession and exchange passes to the extent they had done against Palestine, they fought bravely and tried to attack on the break. Most importantly, they

penetrated into the box a few times on either side of the break and even pulled a goal back.

The hosts made inroads in the 10th minute when Elder Moldozhunusov tapped in an Alimardon Shukurov free-kick before Tapu made a brilliant goal-



line clearance in the 16th minute.

Bangladesh then caused havoc in the Kyrgyz box and exchanged passes inside the area but the ball was cleared safely at the cost of a corner in the 27th minute. Alimardon Shukurov then collected a cut-back from left-back Kairat Izakov and doubled the

lead with a left-footed drive from inside the box in the 39th minute.

After resumption, Kyrgyzstan made it 3-0 within the first minute as winger Gulzhigit Alykulov easily entered the box from the left and passed to captain Tursunali Rustamov, who drove home from the edge of the six-yard box.

Bangladesh reacted soon after, scoring in the 53rd minute when a long throw-in by substitute Rahmat Mia was cleared feebly to Mahbubur Rahman Sufil, who brought the ball under his spell nicely before driving to the near post.

Despite their two-goal cushion, the home side continued to press with the same pace as they looked to widen the margin and Bangladesh survived a scare in the 69th minute as a shot came off the post.

Goalkeeper Anisur was then called into action in the 87th minute and made a save, but he was powerless to stop the hosts' fourth in the 89th minute.

Bakhtiyar Duyshobekov, who plays in the Bangladesh Premier League, wrapped up the win with a header that took a deflection off a Bangladeshi player.

## SRI LANKA SEAL SERIES

Sri Lanka's cricketers celebrate their 78-run victory in the third one-day international against South Africa, which helped them to a 2-1 series win, at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Tuesday. Debutant spinner Maheesh Theekshana claimed four wickets as the hosts bowled out the tourists for 125 in 30 overs after having themselves posted 203 for nine in their allotted 50 overs. The two sides will now play three Twenty20 internationals starting Friday at the same venue.

PHOTO: AFP



## SHANG-CHI

THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS

### QUIZ CONTEST

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Email your answer to [starquiz@outlook.com](mailto:starquiz@outlook.com) by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

#### QUIZ - 04

**How many movies were released before Shang-Chi and the legend of the Ten Rings in the MCU?**

#### WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 03

- Shova Aktar, Katarur.
- Mohammad Imran Hossain, Zahurul Haque Hall.
- Soikat Hossen, Mirpur 6.
- Anurup Asraj, Baily Road.
- Nilesh Saha, Noakhali.
- Md. Abu Taher Mesbah, Rampura.
- Tariq Salmon, Azimpur, Dhaka.
- Aleef Aladin Rahman, Keranigonj, Dhaka.
- Farhan Shadman Chowdhury, Narayanganj.
- Malyha Nawar Zannath, Rampura.