Star SPORT
DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2022, JAISHTHA 4, 1429 BS

What to WATCH

T SPORTS	SPORTS 1	
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka	IPL	UEFA Europa League
1st Test, Day 4	Kolkata vs Lucknow	Final
Live from 10:00 am	Live from 08:00 pm	Frankfurt vs Rangers
T SPORTS & STAR	TEN 2	Live from 01:00 am
		(Thursday)

Bangladesh's brilliant outing on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka yesterday was made possible by some tremendous partnerships. First, openers Mahmudul Hasan Joy and hometown hero Tamim Iqbal put on 162 runs to start the Tigers' first innings in Chattogram. Later, Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and Liton Das would see out the day for Bangladesh, set to continue their unbeaten 98-run stand today. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tamim's discipline sets the tone

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI, *from Chattogram*

Hometown hero Tamim Iqbal was a class apart at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday and the most remarkable aspect of his innings was the necessary poise and comfort he displayed during his 133 run-knock in the first Test against Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh reached a commanding 318 for three at the end of the third day, with Liton Das and Mushfiqur Rahim seeing off the last delivery after Tamim's wait to maximise his effect was interrupted when he suffered a cramp and had to retire hurt.

Tamim had missed quite a few Tests in recent times and his approach on his return to the Test format in the second Test against South Africa had not looked altogether convincing. There was the regular attacking intent on offer at South Africa, but Tamim may have lacked the harmony he offers when he is in flow. There was a hurried 47-run knock at Gqeberha which took South Africa's focus but did not provide the stability the Tigers needed.

> **"It was a great knock, Tamim was very disciplined today and didn't try and go fast. He looked like Angelo Mathews actually, just very patient and taking runs whenever they were available and only hitting fours that were handed to him on a plate with bad balls.**
>
> Bangladesh batting coach **Jamie Siddons**

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH V SRI LANKA (DAY 3)

SRI LANKA: First Innings-397 all out in 153 overs.

BANGLADESH: First Innings- 318 for 3 in 107 overs (Tamim 133 retired hurt, Joy 58, Mushfiqur 53 not out, Liton 54 not out; Rajitha 2-17, Fernando 1-55)

Tamim's approach, balance and confidence yesterday looked all-natural. The balance returned and so did the conviction in shot selection. He did throw his hand at one delivery on the second day, which was dropped in the slip cordon, but it would not have counted as it was a no-ball. Sri Lanka were left frustrated but it acted as a warning for Tamim. He appeared on the third day with renewed discipline and picking up a ton.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy turned out to be the perfect opening partner to Tamim's domineering approach and the duo showed class and application as Bangladesh's openers recorded a first 100-run partnership in five years.

Batting coach Jamie Siddons said that they got exactly what they wanted from the opening pair.

"Opening the batting is not an easy job and what they did yesterday [Monday], set up today [Tuesday]. Yesterday was very tough after almost two days in very, very hot conditions. They went none for 75 (76) yesterday and then continued. Tamim's performance was fantastic and there are plenty of more runs left. He's not out so he can come back in when we think he's fit. The discipline today is exactly what we asked for," Siddons said.

"I think after two days in the field and batting like he did, running between the wickets in the heat, it just takes it out of you," Siddons said of Tamim's cramp. But the coach was hopeful that the left-hander could come back in tomorrow and pick up where he left off.

Tamim had been the dominant partner during that 162-run stand with Joy and, after a few wickets fell, he was able to keep himself together and not get distracted by the wicket favouring stroke-play. Being able to hold onto his process was what gave Tamim his natural flair back. Despite being lucky after finding a lifeline when Dhananjaya de Silva dropped one at slip yesterday, Tamim's calm was commendable.

Siddons spotted something similar in Tamim and said Tamim's approach was much more in line with the Test mentality Bangladesh were looking for.

"It was a great knock, Tamim was very disciplined today and didn't try and go fast. He looked like Angelo Mathews actually, just very patient and taking runs whenever they were available and only hitting fours that were handed to him on a plate with bad balls. Didn't take the bowlers on like I've seen him before. Thought he was very disciplined," Siddons said of Tamim's classy knock.

"We made a mistake in South Africa, not taking our time. It was a little bit of a thing we made sure we didn't do today, led by Tamim and then Mushy at the end. Test cricket is not a race. You've got to bat for a long period of time," Siddons said.

Bangladesh will be looking for more of that discipline from the batters today in order to put more pressure on Sri Lanka and also set the approach they are looking for in Tests.

DAY-3 HIGHLIGHTS

- Bangladesh openers were able to stitch a 100-run stand after over five years in Tests on the third day in Chattogram yesterday as the opening duo of Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudul Hasan Joy brought up their 100-run stand in the 24th over after resuming the day on 76 for no loss. The last time that Bangladesh had a 100-run stand was also against Sri Lanka, a 118-run partnership between Tamim and Soumya Sarkar at Galle in 2017. Since then, in the following 31 Tests, Bangladesh crossed fifty runs for the opening stand 10 times but was never able to get to the three-figure mark.

BANGLADESH'S 100-PLUS OPENING STANDS

- Tamim Iqbal - Imrul Kayes: **312 v Pakistan, Khulna, 2015**
- Tamim Iqbal - Imrul Kayes: **224 v Zimbabwe, Chattogram, 2014**
- Tamim Iqbal - Imrul Kayes: **185 v England, Lord's, 2010**
- Tamim Iqbal- Mahmudul Hasan: **162 v Sri Lanka, Chattogram, 2022**
- Tamim Iqbal- Junaid Siddique: **161 v New Zealand, Dunedin, 2008**
- Nafis Iqbal- Javed Omar: **133 v Zimbabwe, Dhaka, 2005**
- Tamim Iqbal- Imrul Kayes: **126 v England, Old Trafford, 2010**
- Tamim Iqbal- Soumya Sarkar: **118 v Sri Lanka, Galle, 2017**

- Concussion substitute pacer Kasun Rajitha, who replaced pacer Vishwa Fernando as a like-for-like substitution, removed Najmul Hossain Shanto for one and Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque for two to restore some parity in the game.

- Tamim hit his 10th Test ton and this was also the left-hander's first century in 16 innings. He had scored in the 90s twice, thrice in the 70s and a fifty during this time. His last century in the format, a 128-ball 126, was against New Zealand in Hamilton in 2019. Tamim's wait for reaching landmark 5000 Test runs, however, has been extended as the left-hander had to retire hurt after suffering a cramp in the second session of the day and he was on 133 off 217 deliveries, just 19 runs shy of reaching the landmark.
- Mushfiqur Rahim is just 15 runs away from becoming the first Bangladesh player to reach 5000 runs in Test cricket, ended the day unbeaten on 53. He was on 4932 runs in 80 Tests before the start of the Chattogram encounter.

Kings begin Asia venture

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings are set to kick-start their third AFC Cup campaign when the Bangladesh Premier League champions take on Maldives league champions Maziya S&RC in Group D opener at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, India today.

An established, modern powerhouse of Bangladesh club football, Kings could not enter the knock-out phase despite having remained unbeaten in their last two AFC Cup campaigns. However, This time around, Oscar Bruzon's well-balanced side aim to find the right rhythm and be the second Bangladeshi outfit to progress through the group stage.

Kings had started strong in both of their previous campaigns, a thumping 5-1 win over TC Sports in 2019 was followed by 2-0 victory over Maziya in 2021. Again, for the third time, a Maldivian outfit is in Kings' way, although a setback against Maziya would be considered an upset.

Spanish coach Bruzon, who once worked in Maldives, is clearly aware of the threat from their upcoming opponents, who would be hungry for revenge.

"Maziya are a very well-organised team, compared to last year. The match tomorrow is going to be a tough contest. I expect a lot of pace and tempo from Maziya's local players while their foreigners will provide them with a good physical presence," Bruzon said yesterday, according to the AFC official website.

"Bashundhara Kings, however, have experience as this is our third time here. We want to grow and keep the vision of doing well at the international level."

Nevertheless, an outright triumph over Maziya will give Kings an advantage before facing two strong Indian outfits – ATK Mohun Bagan and Gokulam Kerala – up next.

No doubt, Kings will have to perform collectively and with a high intensity against Maziya with foreign recruits expecting to play key roles in the match, like how Brazilian Robson Da Silva did in the last edition of the AFC Cup.

Unlike now, Kings had suffered through injuries to their foreign players back then. With new-signing Miguel Figueira's scoring prowess and naturalised footballer Eleta Kingsley in the ranks upfront, Kings' attack force seems well equipped.

Bruzon's counterpart Miodrag Jesic is unwilling to take any pressure against Kings.

"We think we have a chance in the group stage, and there isn't any pressure on the players," Jesic said.

"From the beginning we have analysed our opponents. Our focus will be on our game and not to worry about our opponents."

Europa League final tonight

AGENCIES

Ten years after financial oblivion plunged them into Scotland's bottom tier, Rangers are on the brink of lifting their first European trophy in half a century as they meet Eintracht Frankfurt in the final of the Europa League on Wednesday.

Administration, liquidation and relegation all blighted a broken club in 2012 but if the Rangers recovery was complete when they won the Scottish Premiership again last season, a final in Seville now offers them a shot at European glory too.

A victory would earn the club its first cup on the continent since Rangers beat Dynamo Moscow 3-2 in Barcelona to lift the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972.

Spain's chief of police warned of the potential for 'serious problems' as the southern city of Seville braces for an expected invasion of 150,000 Rangers and Eintracht Frankfurt for Europa League final.