

Star

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SPORT

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

West Indies vs Bangladesh

2nd Test, Day 1

Live from 08:00 pm

TEN 2

England vs New Zealand

3rd Test, Day 2

Live from 04:00 pm

SONY SIX

Sri Lanka vs Australia

5th ODI

Live from 03:00 pm

Shakib wants a good start

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Test skipper Shakib Al Hasan reminded that it was neither pace nor spin which held particular sway on the Tigers' batters; rather it was difficult conditions which usually led to batting disasters.

Asked whether there was a defined weakness towards facing pace, Shakib said that any difficult conditions usually see Bangladesh falter.

"If you look at the last three Tests, then you can say that (there is weakness against pace). If you see the two Tests before that, you will say its spin. So we always fail to stay in the wicket in difficult conditions," Shakib told reporters in the pre-match press conference yesterday ahead of the second Test against the West Indies.

Bangladesh were troubled by South Africa's spin attack in the recent two Tests there before



Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan (R), batting at the nets in St. Lucia, will have to take the bulk of responsibility in the second Test, which starts today, if Bangladesh are to take a share of the two-match Test series against Kraigg Brathwaite's West Indies.

PHOTO: TWITTER



succumbing to Sri Lanka's spin. For Shakib, it was an opportunity to overcome their batting troubles. "This is an opportunity and a challenge; let's see how we can overcome it."

Batsman Anamul Haque Bijoy and pacer Shoriful Islam were included in the squad for the second Tests with batting being major issue ahead of the St. Lucia Test. Asked on changes, Shakib said: "We have a few thoughts and we will sit down after the training session today. After this we will hold a meeting to let everyone know who is playing and who is not. This will remain within the team."

Although Kumar Roach had earlier said that the conditions at St. Lucia are good for fast bowlers, Shakib said his side will have to start well.

"We can focus on the first two hours and then go about our tasks according to match situation but the idea is to start well in the first two hours. The first day, it will be better for batting than at Antigua."

Tigers wary of batting debacle ahead of St. Lucia Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh head into the second Test in Saint Lucia 1-0 down in the two-Test series after losing the first Test at Antigua by seven wickets. The Tigers will be hoping to avoid their 100th defeat in the Test format at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, having lost 99 of the 133 Tests they have played so far. The match will get underway from 8:00PM BST and will be broadcast by T Sports.

The second Test will ask tough questions of Bangladesh's batting department, which has collapsed regularly this year. Recurring top-order failures have seen the Tigers lose in South Africa and then at home to Sri Lanka.

The batters also suffered greatly on the first day of the Antigua Test against the likes of Kumar Roach, Alzarri Joseph and Kyle Mayers as they were bundled out for just 103. Another top-order collapse in the second innings then saw them take just an 84-run lead. Despite the bowlers doing well, the Tigers' batters will have to find the right answers to avoid another embarrassment in the second Test.

The Tigers' team management opted to include in-form batter Anamul Haque in the squad for the second Test, with Mominul Haque and Najmul Hossain Shanto both out of form. Either may give way to Anamul in the playing eleven.

Anamul, who had initially made it into the white-ball squads following his

impressive run-scoring in the Dhaka Premier League, was aware of the trend of batting collapses in red-ball cricket.

"I am thinking that if I get a chance, I will try to give my best. I want to help by putting up a good score. It is very important that we prevent the fall of early wickets while keeping the score board ticking. That is very important for me," he remarked to reporters ahead of the first Test.



Anamul's DPL form was astonishing, but in the longer-version surroundings of the National Cricket League, he managed just one big score of 84, averaging 23.25 over six matches. The challenge of adaptability will be significant, but Anamul believes that it is time to show his commitment to Test cricket.

"It's true that I was called up for white-ball formats and was practicing with the white ball. But to be honest, I have said this before, I love Test cricket a lot and

I am very passionate about it. If I get an opportunity, I will certainly try to grab it," Anamul said.

"I am very happy that all the senior and junior players welcomed me. Although results are not going our way, I feel we can go a long way and do good things," he added.

Meanwhile, the hosts named an unchanged squad for the second Test with West Indies lead selector Desmond Haynes saying they were aware of the challenge posed by Bangladesh's bowlers.

"Great credit to our bowlers who worked really hard in the first Test match," he said. "We can't take Bangladesh lightly, they also bowled really well and were quite disciplined. I know we will try our utmost to win the second match."

Roach also spoke to local media and said his recovery was going well while also giving the Tigers a heads up on what awaits them in Saint Lucia.

"It's one of the best wickets in the Caribbean. It offers a lot for fast bowlers. I didn't have a look at the wicket yet so I don't know what to expect. Hopefully today at practice we get a look at the wicket and we plan going forward. Usually it's one of the better wickets for fast bowlers in the Caribbean," he said.

Another pace-friendly wicket would mean that Bangladesh will be desperate from someone in the top-order to score the big runs.

Saif SC edge 7-goal thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

Saif Sporting Club climbed up the ladder in the points table after beating Chittagong Abahani 4-3 in an enthralling Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday.

Saif SC toppled Sheikh Jamal DC to move to the third position by virtue of better goal difference despite having an equal 30 points from 16 matches. Chittagong Abahani, on the other hand, remained fifth on the table with 26 points from 16 games.

Saif SC broke the deadlock in the 43rd minute through an Emeka Ogbugh strike.

The second half saw more goalmouth action as six more goals were scored with Saif SC having the last laugh.

Omid Popalzay and Candy Augustine struck two goals in space of eight minutes to give Abahani a 2-1 lead before Faisal Ahmed Fahim scored a brace in the 72nd and 74th minutes respectively to give Saif SC a 3-2 lead.

The port city outfit once again bounced back to level the margin with a penalty from Peter Thankgod in the 86th minute but Emery Bayisenge converted from the spot in stoppage time to give Saif SC their fifth consecutive win.

In the day's other match, Muktijoddha Sangsad secured valuable points after beating Swadhinata KS 1-0 in Rajshahi.



Mitchell, Blundell revive NZ

AFP, Leeds

Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell revived New Zealand with a 102-run unbroken partnership to take the tourists to 225 for five on the opening day of the three-match Test series finale at Headingley on Thursday.

Mitchell was batting on 78 with Blundell on 45 as New Zealand recovered from 123 for five after winning the toss under blue skies and on a seemingly good pitch for batting in Leeds.

England were without James Anderson, but Stuart Broad removed Tom Latham for a sixth-ball duck after he edged a delivery straight to Joe Root at first slip.

New Zealand were none for one at that stage, but Will Young and Williamson, back in action after missing the second Test in Nottingham with a bout of coronavirus, repaired some of the early damage.

Jack Leach struck with his first ball to dismiss Young before Broad got rid of Williamson.



Bangladesh women hit Malaysia for six

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's football team delivered the biggest surprise in its history as they handed a massive 6-0 defeat to Malaysia in the first of two FIFA-sanctioned international friendlies at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Defender Akhi Khatun struck a brace while Sabina Khatun, Sirat Jahan Swapna, Monica Chakma and Krishna Rani netted one goal apiece as the women took part in their first international match in nine months.

Bangladesh are far behind Malaysia in the FIFA Rankings, where the former are 145th and the latter 85th, but on the field, it appeared completely the opposite.

The manner of Bangladesh's domination saw some questioned whether Malaysia had sent their first team for the match, with the visitors mustering only two shot on target. Golam Rabbani Choton's charges were irresistible throughout the 90 minutes and, on another day, may have even ended the game 10-0.

Bangladesh got off to a sparkling start as Swapna raced into the box from the right in the first minute before squaring the ball to Sanjida

Akhtar, who squandered the opportunity with a feeble shot.

Swapna would time and again expose the defence with darting runs and Bangladesh got their breakthrough in the ninth minute as a corner from Maria Manda floated over the Malaysian goalkeeper and fell to Akhi on the goalline, who simply had to get any kind of touch.

Sanjida wasted two more opportunities afterwards before she and Swapna switched flanks and, from the right, Sanjida fed Sabina for the second goal in the 26th minute.

With Malaysia appearing helpless, Bangladesh continued to create a plethora of chances before widening the margin on the half-hour mark as Akhi tapped in a cross from Sabina after a short-corner routine.

Bangladesh went into the break with a 4-0 lead after Sabina squared the ball to Swapna when the duo was one-on-one with the goalkeeper.

After resumption, Bangladesh continued to press and the sixth goal came in the 67th minute from Monica Chakma, who struck from inside the box, before Krishna Rani completed the route with a header from a Ritu Parna Chakma cross in the 74th minute.



Bangladesh women's team players celebrate one of their six goals against Malaysia in a FIFA friendly at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur on Thursday. (L) Through this match, Joya Chakma became the first Bangladeshi female referee to officiate an international match.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

