

SPORT

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS
SELECT HD2
English Premier
League
Liverpool vs West HamLive from 7:00 pm
STAR SPORTS
SELECT HD1
English Premier
LeagueArsenal vs Tottenham
Live from 7:00 pm
Sheffield United vs
Newcastle United
Live from 9:30 pm

The bad patch of Bangladesh's stand-in skipper Liton Das continued as he was dismissed for a 16-ball 6 in the second ODI against New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Earlier, Bangladesh recalled Ish Sodhi to bat again after he was Mankaded by Hasan Mahmud. Ultimately, Sodhi's 35-run innings helped the visitors post 254. The leg-spinner, Sodhi, then returned with stunning figures of 10-1-39-6 to wreak havoc in Bangladesh innings.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



BPL players' draft takes place today

SPORTS REPORTER

The players' draft of the 10th edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) will take place at a city hotel today.

The BPL governing council already named 203 local players, divided into seven categories, in the players' draft for the auction.

BDT 80 lakh has been set aside for Category A, where Mushfiqur Rahim is the sole representative. Four cricketers (BDT 50 Lakh) are in Category B, 18 in Category C (30 lakh), 31 in Category D (20 lakh), 75 in Category E (15 lakh), 29 in Category F (10 lakh), and 45 in Category G (5 lakh).

So far, Shakib Al Hasan directly signed for Rangpur Riders, while Tamim Iqbal was roped in by Fortune Barishal. Holders Comilla Victorians, Duroto Dhaka, and Chattogram Challengers will be represented by Liton Das, Taskin Ahmed, and Shuvagata Hom, respectively.

A total of 443 foreign cricketers were drafted into five categories, with salaries ranging from USD 80,000 to USD 20,000.

Earlier in June, BPL governing council member secretary informed that the seven-team franchise-based tournament would most likely begin after Bangladesh's general election in January next year.

"Their [New Zealand] lower order did really well. The wicket was not bad to bat on. Probably [we were] not up to the mark in batting. Our two senior guys played really well [with the bat]. Somebody has to get an 80 or 90 or 100."

Bangladesh stand-in captain
LITON DAS

"Excellent win by the boys. The way Henry and Blundell batted today took off the pressure. The way Ish bowled today was exceptional. Nice to see after all the hard work he has done. Nice to see Ish get the runs, and Kyle as well. Nice team performance."

New Zealand stand-in captain
LOCKIE FERGUSON

"Really good day. Coming on the winning side... historically, we haven't done too well. Thanks to Liton for calling me back. We thought it would start turning later in the day. Even Ravindra and McConchie got it to spin later. Not every day is like that. This is really a tough place to come and win."

ISH SODHI

'Losing wickets back-to-back a problem'

SPORTS REPORTER

"What is wrong with our top order?" This question during the post-match press conference in Mirpur yesterday had Tamim Iqbal a bit perplexed.

The southpaw took some time and replied with a laugh: "We are losing wickets, that is the problem. Now, how do I answer your question?"

Bangladesh suffered an 86-run thumping against New Zealand in the second of the ongoing three-match series yesterday – the Tigers' first ODI loss at home against the Kiwis since October, 2008. Even preliminary scrutiny of the game would



been a regular picture of the side in recent times.

"This is one thing that we seriously need to look into before the World Cup. Regardless of the team and the conditions you are playing in, any team losing 4-5 wickets upfront will not be winning most games. That is the truth," Tamim said.

However, Tamim, back into the national fold after relinquishing his ODI captaincy in August following a retirement saga in July, offered one specific reason for such batting failure and mentioned why they were not able to chase down the "gettable target".

"When you are facing the new ball, wickets will fall. But losing back-to-back wickets is a problem. If we can minimise this then we will be benefitted. But there were patches where our batters had partnerships. For instance, [Tanzid Hasan] Tamim and I had a small partnership in a very quick time after Liton [Das] got out.

"The type of wicket it was, this run [target]

was gettable. But I'll have to add that they [New Zealand] should not have crossed the 250 mark. We could have restricted them within 210-215, but the wicket we played in was not bad. If you see the first game, the pitch was such that a lot was happening out there. But it was not the case in this game. The way we got out is there for everyone to see. There is not a single delivery which was really extraordinary and that we got out because of that," Tamim added.

It might be too harsh that all these difficult questions were thrown at Tamim, who probably had hoped for a return at a more amicable period. Batting for the first time since being at the center of all the controversy and chaos in the Bangladesh cricketing fraternity about two months back, Tamim looked solid during his 58-ball 44. The 34-year-old, however, did not shy away from mentioning that he indeed was nervous.

"To be speaking the truth, I was nervous. It would be a lie if I said that it was just another game. Whatever happened in the last couple of months... when I was going out to bat, the nerve was there. After the first over, I was able to gather myself. So that was good. It was nice to be hitting the balls again," Tamim said when asked how he felt on his comeback to the side.

The match had seen another stalwart of Bangladesh – Mahmudullah Riyad – wield his willow in the national colours after returning to the side following a five-month gap. Riyad fell just a run short of his 28th ODI fifty, and according to Tamim, the 37-year-old looked fit and in his element during the game.

SCORES IN BRIEF

New Zealand: 254 all out in 49.2 overs (Blundell 68, Nicholls 54; Mustafizur 2-53, Khaled 3-60, Mahedi 3-45).

Bangladesh: 168 all out in 41.1 overs (Liton 6, Tamim 44, Mahmudullah 49, Nasum 21; Sodhi 6-39, Jamieson 2-32)

Result: New Zealand won by 86 runs.
Player of the Match: Ish Sodhi.

reveal that it was yet another batting failure by the Tigers as they were bundled out for 168 in 41.1 overs while chasing a 255-run target.

Was Tamim able to answer the aforementioned question that he was asked? Unfortunately, it seems, like the Bangladesh team management, even the senior campaigner failed to pinpoint the issue behind such a batting display that has

Zinnat gets bye in first round

SPORTS REPORTER FROM HANGZHOU

New York-based boxer Zinnat Ferdous got a bye in the first round in 50kg weight category of the Asian Games, which officially got underway in Hangzhou yesterday.

Zinnat will face the winner of the match between Yesugen Oyuntseyeg of Mongolia and Aira Villegas of the Philippines in pre-qualifiers on September 27.

"It's good for me as I have got the opportunity to watch the opening ceremony," Zinnat said. "I will also get chance to watch my opponents, rings and some others even though I was ready for my first fight."

Zinnat said boxing is changing rapidly, so past video clips of the opponents would not help her much.

"I had the opportunity to watch how the opponents fought but if it will be different this time. Nevertheless, it was nice to watch her just before my bout," added Zinnat.

Some 18 boxers are taking part in this particular weight category.

KOLY EYES A MEDAL

Though Bangladesh won a number of medals from shooting in the Commonwealth Games, the discipline has failed to fetch a single medal for the country in the Asian Games.

The hope his time will lie with Kamrun Nahar Koly, Shaira Khatun and Nafisa Tabassum.

"I feel a bit nervous in my first appearance in the Asian Games. We had great practice today. If we can shoot like the practice session, we can hope to bring a medal for Bangladesh," said Koly, who will team up with Shaira and Nafisa for the 10m air rifle team event as well as individual event.

"Our women's team is really strong. We can expect a medal from any one individually or as a team," said Koly, whose personal best is 629.2 points.

GYMNASTS AIM FOR FINALS

Though Bangladesh coach expressed little expectation with Abu Sayeed Rafi and Sangkhiang Khumi, the duo is determined to show their best to secure places in the final round.

Rafi will play in pommel horse and vaulting apparatus while Khumi will take part in four apparatuses with Rafi.

"We have been taking preparation for Asian Games for a long time and our target is to qualify for the finals," Rafi said. "Though we don't have facilities like China, Japan and Korea, we have prepared with whatever we have and hope to fight against them."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh women's cricket team will play against India in the quarterfinals today while men's football team will play their last group match against group leaders China.

Athletes from hockey, chess, taekwondo and swimming will also start their campaigns on Sunday.



Members of the Bangladesh delegation take part in the parade during a colourful opening ceremony of the 2022 Asian Games at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in Hangzhou in China yesterday. Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the 19th Asian Games open, launching a two-week sporting extravaganza that boasts more athletes than the Olympics.

PHOTO: AFP