

ACC U19 ASIA CUP

Skipper credits bowlers for semi win against India

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 captain Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby thanked his bowlers for putting in a match-winning effort in their semifinal win over defending champions India in the ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in the UAE yesterday.

2019 runners-up Bangladesh beat India by four wickets, courtesy of left-arm pacer Maruf Mridha's four wickets -- which helped them bundle out India for 188 -- and batter Ariful Islam's 90-ball 94-run knock laced with nine fours and four sixes.

They will face hosts UAE in the final on Sunday.

"The bowlers bowled really well. I would like to thank my bowlers," Rabby said in the post-match interview.

The pace quartet of Mridha, Iqbal Hossain Emon, Rohanat Doullah Borson and Chowdhury Mohammad Rizwan bowled tight lines and lengths and made use of the new ball to tighten the screws on the eight-time champions.

The pacers bowled the first 18 overs of the innings and manufactured India's slump to 69 for six after sending the reigning champions to bat first on conditions that had swing on offer early on.

Mridha, in particular, shone as he picked up four wickets for 41 runs, removing three of India's top four with the new ball.

Filits from India's Musheer Khan (50) and Murugan Abishek (62) kept India alive in the contest, taking their total to 188.



Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto and his New Zealand counterpart Tom Latham pose with the trophy of the three-match ODI series, set to begin on December 17, in front of the iconic Dunedin Railway Station yesterday.

PHOTO: NZC

HIGHLIGHTS

- The first ODI of the three-match series between Bangladesh and New Zealand in Dunedin on Sunday will be the 43rd time the two teams face off in a one-dayer.
- Although the Tigers have won 10 ODIs against the Kiwis, eight of them came at home and two in Dublin and Cardiff in 2017.
- This is Bangladesh's eighth tour of New Zealand for a bilateral series.
- This is the first time Bangladesh are touring New Zealand for a bilateral ODI series without Tamim Iqbal. The opener had featured in Bangladesh's five previous ODI series in New Zealand in 2007, 2010, 2016, 2019 and 2021 where he made 622 runs in 16 innings with four half-centuries.

“With a few guys resting there are opportunities. We hope the new guys come in and show off their skills as best they can.”

New Zealand captain Tom Latham



Bangladesh's reply got off to a rocky start as they lost their top three, including their top scorer in the tournament Ashiqur Rahman Shibli, within the first powerplay with 34 runs on the board.

But Ariful and Ahrar Amin put together a 138-run stand for the fourth wicket to take Bangladesh on the brink of victory, with the latter scoring a steady 101-ball 44 before being dismissed with the side just two runs away from victory.

Sheikh Parvez Jibon (three) scored the winning run, with the skipper at the other end unbeaten on two.

In the day's other semifinal, hosts UAE beat Group A champions Pakistan by 11 runs to advance to the final.

Tigers confident of flipping script

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are set for a steep challenge in trying conditions in New Zealand as their white-ball tour against the 2023 World Cup semifinalists begins with the first of three ODIs at the University Oval in Dunedin on Sunday (Bangladesh time 4:00 am).

For Najmul Hossain Shanto and his troops, however, the island nation in the southwestern Pacific Ocean is no longer an alien territory. The current trip is Bangladesh's fourth in New Zealand in the past six years -- the most compared to other countries in the period -- but the visitors are still searching for their maiden win in white-ball formats there.

The last ODI series ended 3-0 in favour of the hosts in 2021 -- extending Bangladesh's winless streak in ODIs on New Zealand shores to 16 games -- with the Tigers failing to contend in any of those games.

The three-match ODI series

will also serve as a springboard for Bangladesh to somewhat soothe the wounds of their abysmal World Cup campaign in India. Despite the absence of regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan, still recovering from a finger injury, the Tigers will remain buoyant following a drawn Test series with New Zealand at home earlier this month.

Turns out, Mount Maunganui Test triumph last year is still providing the visitors with hope of rewriting history once more. Shanto, who guided Bangladesh to their first-ever home Test victory against New Zealand in Sylhet last month, said that they "look to win this series".

"We have a very good team, and last year we won one a Test match here," Shanto said yesterday following the trophy-unveiling ceremony alongside his counterpart, Tom Latham.

Earlier, the Tigers enjoyed a fruitful outing in their lone warm-up match -- having posted over 300 runs en route to a 26-run win over

New Zealand XI on Thursday.

"I think the boys played some good cricket and the wicket was fantastic. Preparation wise, everyone is doing their job. The New Zealand eleven played some good cricket, so it was a great practice match, giving us confidence for this series," he added.

Along with Shanto, who sat out of the practice match, batting mainstay Mushfiquur Rahim, all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz and pacer Shoriful Islam are anticipated to return in the starting lineup.

Given how the warm-up game went, the Tigers thinktank could upvote in featuring uncapped Rishad Hossain after the leg-spinner took three wickets and hit a blistering 54-ball 87 while batting at number seven.

The hosts, meanwhile -- having rested two veterans in Kane Williamson and Tim Southee -- will be relying on several fresh faces, with World Cup sensation Rachin Ravindra set to resume from where he had left off.

Memorable debut for Aamer Jamal

REUTERS, Perth

Seamer Aamer Jamal bowled with pace and confidence on Friday to claim a six-wicket haul on his debut and help Pakistan bowl Australia out for 487 on day two of the first Test in Perth.

Pakistan batted for 53 overs in the afternoon to reach 132-2 at stumps. Abdullah Shafique top-scored with 42 as the visitors trail by 355 runs after David Warner and Mitchell Marsh built Australia's imposing first-innings total with scores of 164 and 90.

"We were expecting from Aamer Jamal that he can bowl for us a long spell and good pace," Pakistan bowling coach Umar Gul said. "I think he did his job and we are quite happy with him."

Unafraid to vary his lengths, Jamal (6-111) bowled at an expensive economy rate of over five but demonstrated he was worth persevering with having accounted for Warner and Travis Head on day one.

The 27-year-old produced some excellent deliveries, however, when he pitched the ball full, uprooting the stumps of keeper Alex Carey (34) and Mitchell Starc (12) in the morning session.

Fellow debutant Khurram Shahzad (2-83) clean-bowled Marsh on the first ball after lunch, allowing Jamal to mop up the tail.



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Mohammedan, Kings in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings and Mohammedan Sporting Club set up a final clash in the Independence Cup with victories in the semifinals yesterday.

Defending champions Kings blew Abahani away with a 4-0 win at the Kings Arena in Dhaka while Mohammedan edged past Rahmatganj MFS with a 1-0 win at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj.

The final will be held in Gopalganj on Monday.

It will be the first Independence Cup final for the record three-time champions Mohammedan in nine years while Bashundhara Kings will be appearing in their fourth consecutive final.

Mohammedan had to wait for 72 minutes to break the deadlock when a clever freekick from Muzaffarov ended Rahmatganj's hopes of making it to a maiden Independence Cup final.

Meanwhile, Kings were lucky not to concede in the first half against Abahani, thanks to a string of fine saves from goalkeeper Mehedi Hasan Srabon.

But after a barren first half, the match changed complexion completely when Sohel Rana scored a deflected goal in the 48th minute before Dorielton Gomes tapped in Rakib Hossain's pass five minutes later.

Miguel Figueira's header on a cross from Saad Uddin made the scoreline 3-0 in the 77th minute before Robson Robinho completed the rout with a spot kick in the 89th minute, even though the decision did look pretty harsh.

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