



T20I STATS OF TIGERS' 15

BATTERS				
Player	Mts	Runs	Avg	St Rt
Tanzid	5	160	40	123.07
Soumya	80	1335	17.56	122.14
Mahmudullah	128	2265	24.35	118.89
Hridoy	19	371	28.53	133.93
Shanto	36	757	25.23	111.16
Liton	80	1790	23.24	128.49
Jaker	11	197	39.4	127.92

ALL-ROUNDERS				
Player	Mts	Runs	Wkts	Avg/Eco
Shakib	119	2404	145	23.56/6.77
Mahedi	47	317	38	13.20/6.58

BOWLERS				
Player	Mts	Wkts	Avg	Eco
Taskin	61	64	24.79	7.53
Mustafizur	93	110	22.78	7.57
Shoriful	39	43	24.53	8.18
Tanzim	4	3	42.66	9.14
Rishad	14	11	29.9	7.83
Tanvir	4	2	34.5	7.66



Chandika says batting order will be shuffled

SPORTS REPORTER

In the 2023 ODI World Cup India, a big part of the discussions on Bangladesh's poor performances revolved around the frequent changes to batting order, which unsettled even those who carried form into the tournament. On the eve of the Tigers' departure for USA, head coach Chandika Hathurusingha admitted that since the tournament is in shortest format, changes to batting lineup are expected.

The Tigers are set to depart for the USA to play the hosts in a three-match T20I series, as part of their preparations for the T20 World Cup. Hathurusingha was asked to comment on preparations and also batting order changes during his press conference yesterday.

"In T20 Cricket, yes, batting order will be changing. That's just normal cricket. It's about where you bat and how best you bat.

"T20 cricket has been challenging for us. That shows where we stand in the rankings. So there's no denial. But then we are counting on our preparation to do better than what we have done before," he said.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto later admitted that he did not altogether rule out Shakib Al Hasan featuring at number three but "it depends on conditions and oppositions' strength". Shakib had been hugely successful in 2019 ODI World Cup in England, batting in that position.

Shakib has shown the tendency of being able to use to Powerplay overs during the recent Bangladesh Premier League (BPL).

Regarding Shanto going back to the opening slot, he felt it depended on a lot of factors.

With batting a big concern in the lead up to the World Cup, whether such tactical moves prove meritorious or disastrous, remains to be seen.

The head coach, too, was asked during the press conference regarding the batting concerns.

"Everybody got an opportunity to bat in the

middle which was a positive. Individually, some of the players would have loved to spend time in the middle, score runs, but in T20 cricket, anything can happen because it's a very different game to the other two formats," Hathurusingha said, adding that they will be able to sort out areas of concerns in the five matches before the World Cup.

The other point of concern would be Taskin Ahmed's injury. Shanto was positive about Taskin's return for the first match.

"We are not expecting that Taskin will not be there. We are hoping he will recover and be available from the first match [at World Cup], he said.



SHORT CORNER



Former Nepal captain Lamichhane acquitted of rape on appeal

Nepali cricket star Sandeep Lamichhane had his eight-year jail sentence for rape quashed on appeal on Wednesday after the former national captain challenged his conviction. He was accused of raping a young woman in a Kathmandu hotel in 2022 but was freed on bail and returned to the team to compete in international tournaments while his lengthy trial dragged on.

Shakib's grip on another top ICC ranking loosens

The race to be the No.1 ranked all-rounder at the start of the ICC T20 World Cup has further intensified as Shakib Al Hasan and Wanindu Hasaranga share top billing following the latest update to player rankings. Just 23 rating points separate the top five players on the updated list, with Shakib joined by Hasaranga in the top spot.

Gambhir backs Pant as India's first-choice wicketkeeper at WC

Rishabh Pant's middle-order experience can help him edge out Sanju Samson and become India's preferred wicketkeeper-batsman at the Twenty20 World Cup in the West Indies and United States next month, former India batsman Gautam Gambhir said. Delhi Capitals skipper Pant scored 446 runs from 13 matches in the IPL this season, with a 23-ball 33 in his team's 19-run victory over Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday.

*Read full stories on The Daily Star website

Now relax, says Haaland

AFP, London

Erling Haaland has urged his Manchester City teammates to "relax" after they closed in on making English football history with a 2-0 win away to Tottenham Hotspur.

Tuesday's triumph in north London saw City, courtesy of two goals from Haaland, win their game in hand as they moved to the top of the table as they moved two points clear of Arsenal.

Victory at home to West Ham on Sunday's final day of the season will now assure City of a fourth successive Premier League title -- an unprecedented feat in the top tier of English football.

"Yeah, fantastic mentality," Haaland told City. "Focus on game by game and now relax. We came here to try to win and we won.

Haaland opened the scoring six minutes into the second half when he tapped in from Kevin De Bruyne's pass before doubling City's lead from the penalty spot after Jeremy Doku was brought down by Pedro Porro.

Spurs, however, had a chance to equalise but City reserve goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, who came on after Ederson was injured in a challenge with

Cristian Romero, stood up well to deny Son Heung-min when one-on-one with the South Korean.

"They're a fantastic team," Haaland said of Spurs. "You know everyone knows that they want to play all the time and all praise to them.

"It was really difficult, but yeah, we came here to try and win and we won. That's my only thing and I'm happy.

Focus on game by game and now relax. We came here to try to win and we won.

Haaland after Suprs win

"I think we were a bit nervous. I think that's normal, there's a lot of emotions for everyone.

"Everyone knows the situation, but it's about not thinking too much. Try to focus on your things to do and try to win."

He added: "Ortega man of the match... What can I say? He's incredible and such a good guy as well, so I'm happy for him."

Salzburg appoint Lijnders as manager

REUTERS

RBSalzburg have appointed Liverpool's assistant coach Pep Lijnders as their new manager from the start of pre-season training in June, the Austrian club said on Wednesday.

Lijnders in January had announced his departure from Liverpool at the end of this season, along with Klopp, and has signed a three-year contract with Salzburg.

"We have been able to get an ideal candidate for the coaching position at Red Bull Salzburg in Pepijn Lijnders," Salzburg sporting director Bernhard Seonbuchner said.

"He is a real football expert and has been a huge influence on a very successful time for Liverpool."



With a brace on Tuesday against Tottenham Hotspur, Premier League top scorer Erling Haaland not only almost sealed his second golden boot on the trot but also moved Manchester City closer to ensuring their sixth title in the last seven years by breaking hearts of second-placed Arsenal with a 2-0 win over Spurs. Haaland tapped home from a brilliant Kevin De Bruyne cross before converting a penalty to take his Premier League goal tally to 27, propelling City to the top of the table with 88 points. The title race would now be decided on the final matchday with Arsenal trailing the defending champions by two points.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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