

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 10, 2024, ASHWIN 25, 1431 BS

## What to WATCH

**T SPORTS**  
Pakistan vs England  
First Test, Day 4  
Live from 11:00 am  
**NAGORIK TV**  
Women's T20 World Cup  
Bangladesh vs West Indies

Live from 8:00 pm  
**SONY SPORTS 5**  
UEFA Nations League  
Israel vs France  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Friday)  
**SONY SPORTS 3**

Italy vs Belgium  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Friday)  
**SONY SPORTS 1**  
England vs Greece  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Friday)

## Tamim decries docile tracks at home

SPORTS REPORTER from New Delhi

Former Bangladesh skipper Tamim Iqbal suddenly appeared in the press box yesterday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, just before the Tigers' second T20I against hosts India at the venue.

Tamim, who has been working as a commentator for Star Sports in the ongoing series, had a chat with the media before his commentary duties as he addressed some questions from the media on specific issues.

The first T20I of the series in Gwalior showed that there was a disparity in batting prowess between the two teams. Tigers' captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said wickets back home were a reason for the gap in skill even if it was not the only reason.

Tamim felt not much had been done about making changes when such complaints came from players.

"Who has taken any initiative? Whether it's the cricket board or management

or players or whoever. So until and unless we don't take that initiative, maybe after two series you will hear the same thing," Tamim said.

There had been speculations about Tamim becoming a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director, but the cricketer clarified that he is not thinking about it at the moment.

"I'm doing commentary now, then I will focus on cricket. I'm not thinking about that right now (director)," he added.

Tamim was asked whether seniors sometimes fail to understand the gravity of retiring in the best way possible, downplaying their own legacy in the process. Mahmudullah Riyad announced on the eve of the second T20I against India that he would be retiring from the format at the end of the series, leading to questions about whether he could have ended his T20I career after the last T20I World Cup and not in an away bilateral series. Earlier on this tour, Shakib Al Hasan also announced his retirement plans.

"Whenever anyone retires, it's not pleasant to hear or talk about that. Since I have spent so much time with them [Shakib and Riyad], of course, I feel bad. Also, I feel proud of both of them for whatever they have achieved," Tamim said.

Tamim himself has not retired from two formats -- Test and ODI. However, he has not donned the red and green jersey since opting out of the ODI World Cup in 2023. Asked how he will focus on cricket before the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League, he said: "I will go from here and have two months which I will use to prepare for BPL."



Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy loses shape and balance, ending up getting a thin inside edge onto his stumps while trying to force a shot off the bowling of India left-arm spinner Abhishek Sharma during the second T20I in New Delhi yesterday. Hridoy's struggle against a bowler whose economy rate and average in the format are north of eight and 58, respectively, was a clear depiction of the Tigers' sorry state of affairs in yesterday's 86-run hammering. PHOTO: AFP

## 'Same errors' as toothless Tigers suffer series loss

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from New Delhi

Bangladesh's batting against India once again fell uncomfortably short in the second T20I, this time in New Delhi, as the Tigers lost by a whopping 86-run margin -- their biggest against India -- in another cumbersome effort without wonder yesterday.

As a result, India take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series -- their 16th successive T20 series win at home since 2019.

At the Arun Jaitley Stadium, the Tigers did show early promise in their chase of a 222-run target. However, just like their bowlers stuttered after three early wickets, a few boundaries later their batting innings had a similar look to it like the series opener.

Parvez Hossain Emon welcomed Arshdeep Singh, starting the innings with a boundary. The entertaining over ended with two back-to-back fours, but the flourish was short-lived as Emon departed in Arshdeep's next over.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto arrived and hit two back-to-back fours in the same over, and then Liton Das hit a towering six off Nitish Kumar Reddy. From 38 for one in four overs, things went downhill from there. Once Shanto departed, finding the fielder at long-on in the Powerplay, Liton got one from Varun Chakravarthy that stayed low, disturbing his stumps. Towhid Hridoy departed to part-timer spinner Abhishek Sharma, leaving Bangladesh's chase in shambles -- on 46 for four.

From that point onward, not much materialised. Mahmudullah Riyad, playing

his final T20I series, got a few over the ropes. His 39-ball 41 seemed more like a vigil as the chase had already fallen off the tracks, eventually ending up on 135 for nine.

"I think we made the same errors [as in the first game], which is not a good thing as a team," Shanto said during the post-match ceremony.

"We need to improve. I think it was a good decision [to bowl]. They batted well after the first six-seven overs, but we didn't execute our plans. We need to take responsibility as batsmen," he added.

Earlier, Bangladesh pacers held their own in the Powerplay. Tanzim Sakib was impressive with his pace and variations, while Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman were also among the wickets as India stood at 45 for three.

Then Liton dropped what should have been a regulation catch off Sakib, giving Nitish Kumar a reprieve. Dropped on five, Nitish went on to pummel seven sixes

during a 34-ball 74.

A 108-run stand developed between Rinku Singh and Nitish in just eight overs. Thus, even after a solid Powerplay effort, the game slipped away for the tourists.

Taskin ended with two for 16 as the pick of the Tigers' bowlers. The margin of the defeat was also due to the batting-friendly track on offer. In last year's IPL, five games saw eight scores of 200 at this ground.

"Wanted to get a partnership with Nitish as the wicket was slow and was sticking in the pitch a bit. The no-ball from Mahmudullah shifted the momentum, and Nitish got going after that," Rinku said after the game, referring to a no-ball from Mahmudullah which resulted in a free-hit and India's first six.

But Nitish had made the difference after the dropped catch. Still, a disastrous batting performance is what the Tigers will take away from the game before they look to make amends in the series' final match in Hyderabad on Saturday.

- India's total of 221-9 yesterday became the second-highest score against Bangladesh in T20Is, behind the 224-4 posted by South Africa in Potchefstroom in 2017.
- India's batters hit 15 sixes to register the highest number of overboundaries smashed against Bangladesh in the format, surpassing the 14 sixes recorded by the West Indies in Mirpur back in 2021.
- Bangladesh's spinners recorded their worst economy rate of 14.50 in a T20I encounter (subject to five or more overs bowled), having gone for 116 in eight overs while picking up three wickets.

## Make or break for Tigresses

SPORTS REPORTER

It's make or break for Bangladesh women's cricket team, who will be facing one-time champions West Indies in an attempt to keep their semifinal hopes alive in their penultimate Group B fixture of the Women's T20 World Cup at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium today.

The match is scheduled to start at 08:00 pm (Bangladesh time) and will be telecast live on Nagorik TV.

The Tigresses, who began their campaign with a 16-run win over Scotland, conceded a 21-run defeat to England in the second match. Although Bangladeshi bowlers have been top-notch in both games so far, there is concern about their batting department, which could only make 119-7 and 97-7.

"It's a visible thing that we need to improve our own batting. I think in crucial times we have failed as a batting unit. I think our bowlers have done their job very nicely in the last two games. But we are struggling with our batting side. We are definitely looking forward to seeing a bit of improvement in the next game," Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty said in a pre-match press conference yesterday.

"The last two games were pretty good for us. The



one we lost and the one we won. But we learnt a lot of things and what we should do next. Definitely we want to carry forward those positive stuff in the next game," she added.

Bangladesh, who previously lost all three encounters against West Indies -- all in T20 World Cups, are currently fourth in the Group B points table with two points from two games while West Indies, who have the same points from same number of games, are in third spot with a better net run-rate.

South Africa lead the table with four points from three games while England are in second place in with four points from two games.



India captain Harmanpreet Kaur starred with an unbeaten 27-ball 52 during her side's emphatic 82-run win against Sri Lanka, who were bowled out for 90 in 19.5 overs, chasing India's 172 for three, in a Group A fixture of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai yesterday. PHOTO: ICC

## Argentina get Messi boost as Brazil seek 'immediate response'

REUTERS

Brazil goalkeeper Ederson has called on his teammates to respond immediately when they face Chile on Friday morning (6:00am Bangladesh time), as pressure mounts on his side after they slumped to a fourth defeat in their last five CONMEBOL World Cup qualifiers with a shock loss to Paraguay.

The record five-time World Cup winners suffered a 1-0 loss to Paraguay in September and now sit fifth in the CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying standings with 10 points from eight matches.

The 31-year-old Manchester City keeper wants his side to bounce back and regain their fans' confidence.

Brazil also failed to impress at the Copa America, suffering a second straight quarterfinal exit from a major tournament after they lost to Croatia on penalties at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

"When you talk about the national team, you want victories and quick answers, but the process takes a long time," Ederson told reporters on Tuesday.

"We know the impatience, the demands, but we have to respond immediately and start winning games to restore the confidence of the best football in the world and bring the fans back."

Brazil is dealing with a lengthy injury list, with first-choice goalkeeper Alisson Becker, winger Vinicius Jr. and centre



backs Eder Militao and Gleison Bremer all sidelined.

"Unfortunately, because of a teammate's injury, I ended up being given the opportunity. I hope to be fit to help the national team," Ederson said.

Meanwhile, Argentina captain Lionel Messi is ready to return to their line-up when they play Venezuela early Friday

morning (that fixture kicking off at 3:00am Bangladesh time), but midfielder Alexis Mac Allister's availability is in doubt, manager Lionel Scaloni said.

Argentina were boosted by the return of Messi for their World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela and Bolivia after the 37-year-old recovered from a right ankle injury, which he picked up during the Copa America final against Colombia in July.

Messi, who plays for Major League Soccer club Inter Miami, had missed their qualifiers against Chile and Colombia.

"Messi is fine. He played several games for his team in recent weeks, after not being in the last call-up, which was what we had agreed because he needed to recover and get more minutes," Scaloni told reporters on Tuesday.

"Leo is training with the squad and is ready to be part of the team to play against Venezuela, who will be a great rival."

Liverpool's Mac Allister was replaced at half time during the club's 1-0 win over Crystal Palace in the Premier League last weekend.

"He (Mac Allister) is training separately. We'll see if he makes it to the first game," Scaloni said.

"For now, he hasn't been able to join us, and well, we'll make the decision if he's part of the squad or on the bench or if he plays on Thursday. But it's difficult for him to make it today."

- England's Joe Root, unbeaten on 176 at the end of Day 3 of their first Test against hosts Pakistan in Multan, became the top run-getter for his country in the format yesterday. Playing his 147th Test, Root has now amassed 12578 runs to surpass Alastair Cook (12472 runs in 161 Tests) to the feat.
- Root is also the highest run-getter in Tests among active players and fifth overall after Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jaques Kallis, and Rahul Dravid.
- Root, who was already the player with the most Test centuries for England, got to his 35th ton in the format and now remains sixth on the list of most centuries scored. He is the frontrunner in this regard among active players with New Zealand's Kane Williamson next to him with 32 tons.
- Root's 243-run fourth-wicket partnership with Harry Brook is the highest partnership for England for any wickets on Pakistan soil.



PHOTO: REUTERS