**Sports 18** South Africa vs India Fourth T20I Live from 9:00 pm Sony Sports 5 Nations League

Switzerland vs Serbia Live from 1:45 am (Saturday) **Sony Sports 1** Denmark vs Spain

Live from 1:45 am (Saturday) Sony Sports 2 Portugal vs Poland Live from 1:45 am (Saturday)

# ICC looking into T20 WC payment issues

REUTERS

Cricket International Council (ICC) is in talks with several boards that are yet to pay prize money from this year's T20 World Cup to the players, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

India beat South Africa in the final of the tournament, co-hosted by the US and West Indies in

The World Cricketers' Association (WCA) said in a statement on Wednesday that some cases of nonpayment of the prize money have been paired with "threatening and intimidatory behaviour" by national governing bodies to player groups.

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A source told Reuters that the ICC has taken up the issue with five boards of the 20 participating countries to ensure players were paid in a timely manner.

WCA CEO Earlier, Tom Moffat said they "extremely concerned... with a number of threats made against players who stand up for themselves and colleagues.'

Can Tigers' pacers match the Calypso beat?

Getting some extra bounce -- that's what Bangladesh pacers were seemingly after during their previous Test tour of the West

During that series, the likes of Shoriful Islam and Khaled Ahmed, who got his maiden Test fifer in the first match, followed that routine of trying to make the ball get higher up to the bat.

As another tour of the Caribbean beckons, there have been a few key reshuffling in the current squad for the two-Test series – which is part of the World Test Championship. Length would be key, along with getting that extra zip off the seam as the Tigers aim to attack with more venom and pace prowess, starting with the first Test in Antigua from November 22. The second Test will be held at Jamaica's Sabina Park from November 30.

This time, there is no Khaled or Ebadot Hossain for the upcoming West Indies Tests. Shoriful, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, and Nahid Rana, the new bolt of energy in Bangladesh's pace battery, are the four quicks picked for this series.

Incidentally, the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua which hosted the first game of the previous series will be the one to welcome the Tigers this time around as well.

The venue offers help to batters only when they are able to weather the pacers' early threat -- a prospect that must excite someone like Nahid who usually hits the 150-kph mark and looked deadly in the final of the Tigers' three-match ODI series against Afghanistan in the UAE earlier this month.

In order to find momentum in the series,

Bangladesh quicks need to make their presence felt from the first Test.

The fact that Bangladesh pacers have been able to make their presence felt in away conditions recently -- the pace trio of Taskin, Hasan, and Rana picked up all 10 wickets in the second innings of the second Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi in August-September would only make the Tigers hopeful about the upcoming series.

"I think there could be an ominous attack that can shake the Windies up, especially due to the pace Rana can bowl at. It's a great thing that every one of the bowlers is competing hard," a national team player said during a casual chat regarding pacers' performance in away conditions.

Bangladesh pacers, however, were not able to produce the desired results in their recent away tour to India and in the home Tests against South Africa. The last series against the Proteas saw pacers take a back seat as spin was favoured in home conditions.

"Pace bowling has improved but to get to [Jaspit] Bumrah or Stewart Broad's level, more hard work is needed.

"Pakistan were a big side and we beat them at their home. We just need a bit of consistency. There were big players like Babar Azam in that team, a world-class player. Obviously, we did well which is why we won," the cricketer mentioned.

Aside from looking for consistency, the current crop of pacers can also take inspiration from Khaled's fifer in the last Windies Tests in order to seize the Caribbean calypso beat this time around.

Kemar Roach and Co had taken all 10 Bangladesh wickets in the first innings of that first innings in Antigua last time and it shows just how crucial the pacers would be in the upcoming series.



Southeast Bank PLC rewarded Tk 3 lacs to each of the members of the Bangladesh team that won the SAFF Women's Championship 2024 last month, while each member of the coaching staff received Tk 1 lac each, during a ceremony at the bank's head office in the capital yesterday. **Bangladesh Football Federation president Tabith** Awal was the chief guest at the event which was also attended by the bank's senior officials and a few distinguished guests. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## **SHORT CORNER**

#### Tamim helps out GM Zia's family

Former Bangladesh skipper Tamim Iqbal handed over a check of Tk five lakh to the family of late Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman Zia at the indoor facilities of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. "Tamim told me to keep in contact with him for any kind of problem. He told my son [FIDE Master Tahsin Tajwar Zia] to keep his focus on studies and sports as well," Late Ziaur's wife, Tasmin Sultana Labanya, told reporters in

### Australia dominate Pakistan in first T201

Veteran batter Glenn Maxwell returned to form before quicks Xavier Bartlett and Nathan

Ellis claimed three wickets apiece as Australia downed Pakistan by 29 runs in a truncated T20I series-opener in Brisbane on Thursday. After Maxwell's blistering 43 off 19 balls powered a shorthanded Australia to an imposing 93-4 in a seven-over-a-side contest, Pakistan's batting order crumbled under

lights to finish well short on 64-9. Read full stories on The Daily Star's website



# Wrestler Dipu's decadelong reign continues

Mohammad Dipu has been a standout in the country's wrestling, holding his ground not only in local village wrestling since a young age but also on the artificial mats at national championships for over a decade.

While wrestling isn't as popular as other sports in Bangladesh, it still has its charm, with a few wrestlers like Dipu consistently excelling at the national level. Competing for Bangladesh Ansar, Dipu yesterday secured his 10th gold medal out of the 11 championships he's entered, celebrating this milestone on the final day of the 36th National Wrestling Championships.

Dipu's wrestling journey began in his home village in Daudkandi upazila of Cumilla, where he was inspired by his grandfather and father, who were both local wrestlers. He started competing in traditional village wrestling in 2005, at the age of 14, and quickly made a name for himself as a champion. After several wins, he moved to Dhaka in 2012 to compete in the Junior Wrestling

Championship, where he took the title and subsequently got a job in Bangladesh Ansar.

"On the back of only 17 days' training, I won a gold medal in the 61kg category during my first appearance at the senior level through the Bangladesh Games in 2013. Since then, I grabbed eight consecutive gold medals -- two each in 61kg and 65kg and four in 70kg

until 2022 because I lost the 70kg final in 2023. However, I regained the 70kg medal, beating Jewel of Army this time," said Dipu after his 10th gold triumph. He recalled his early success with

humility, saying, "To be honest, I did not realise what I achieved when I won gold in the 2013 Bangladesh Games. But I realised in 2014 that it is a bigger achievement than the fridge and TV I used to win in our locality." Dipu added that Bangladesh Ansar has acknowledged his successes, and he's received recognition from others as well.

Although Dipu is now a national player, the 33-year-old wrestler still goes to his locality to play village wrestling during the winter season.

"Usually I sell four to five fridges or TVs every year, which I get as the champion prizes in village wrestling, because competitions are held every week in 17 villages of Uttar union under Daudkandi upazila of Cumilla during the winter season," informed

However, he also expressed regret at not winning an international despite competing in handful of international tournaments in India, Thailand, Korea, Iran, and Turkey between 2013 and 2018.

"I am satisfied with my current position, but I regret not winning any medal for the nation at the international level. However, I really feel proud as a wrestler when I go abroad to represent Bangladesh," said Dipu, who wants to play until he turns 40.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Ansar emerged as the champion team in both the men's and women's sections. The men's team secured seven golds, one silver, and one bronze, while the women's team won six golds, one silver, and three

