

India brace for 'nervy times' AGAINST AUSTRALIA

India and Australia have faced each other 151 times in ODIs, with Australia leading the rivalry with 84 wins compared to India's 57 victories, while 10 matches ended with no result.

The last two times India and Australia met in a major knockout match, Australia won, clinching both the World Test Championship final and the ODI World Cup final in 2023. The last time the two teams faced each other in ODIs was also in that final.

India have a 2-1 record over Australia in the Champions Trophy, having won in 1998 and 2000; the Men in Blue lost in 2006 at home, and the 2009 encounter between the sides ended in a no result.

AGENCIES

Rohit Sharma warned his India team Monday to expect "fightbacks" and "nervy times" against Australia in the Champions Trophy last four in a rematch of the 2023 ODI World Cup final.

Blessed with a venue advantage and with a depleted Australia at their disposal, India will be gunning for revenge when the familiar foes clash in the first semifinal today.

While most Group A teams shuffled between two of the three venues in Pakistan and flew to Dubai for their match against India, Rohit Sharma and his men have been spared any travel hassle.

By staying put in one venue, they have gained valuable insights into the vastly different conditions in Dubai, where spinners have dominated typically low-scoring matches.

With an injury-ravaged Australia fielding a depleted side, India sense an opportunity to settle a score against an opponent who beat them in the finals of the World Test Championship and the 50-overs

World Cup - both in 2023.

In absence of Australia's frontline quicks, including regular skipper Pat Cummins, stop-gap captain Steve Smith will be banking on his second-string pace attack to make early dents in India's batting lineup.



unit claiming nine of the 10 New Zealand wickets on Sunday while successfully defending 249-9 was a fair indication of the turn on offer in Dubai.

While Smith and Marnus Labuschagne are known for

their spin proficiency, Australia will also count on the firepower that Josh Inglis provides in the middle order.

India will also be sick of the sight of their familiar nemesis Travis Head.

Head smashed match-winning hundreds against them in both the finals of the ICC events two years ago and the opener seems to have regained his form just in time.

"Look, it is a great opposition to play against. All we have to do is what we have been thinking about the last three games and we have to approach that game in a similar fashion," said Rohit Sharma.

"We understand the opposition and how they play and stuff like that. Look, Australia have been such a great team over the years. So we will expect some fightbacks, we will expect some nervy times as well in the middle," he added.

"But that is how the game is being played these days. And you are talking about a semi-final."



'Being dominant against world-class players is different'

After Bangladesh's Champions Trophy campaign came to an end, pace bowling coach **Andre Adams** made his way home to Sydney, reuniting with his family after a long journey from Pakistan on 28 February. With time to reflect, the former New Zealand pacer spoke to **The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan**, sharing his thoughts over the phone. From Bangladesh's performance in the tournament to the pacers' progress and the team's recurring struggles on the big stage, Adams offered candid insights. The following are excerpts from the interview:

The Daily Star (DS): How do you evaluate Bangladesh's performance in the Champions Trophy?

Andre Adams (AA): It was an average campaign, but I thought we showed some great signs with the ball. Particularly in the New Zealand game, we were bowling beautifully, but then we got a little too keen to take wickets. So the mentality is good -- the guys are hunting wickets.

DS: The fast bowlers started well but couldn't sustain it. Why?

AA: I think the guys got a bit too excited and tried to strike. We haven't been a consistent bowling attack, certainly not in the last couple of years... I also think the standard of cricket the boys came from Bangladesh with -- they were very dominant [in the Bangladesh Premier League]. So understanding what it takes to be dominant against world-class players is slightly different.

DS: Why didn't Nahid Rana play against India?

AA: He was recovering from an ankle injury. Having said that, [Tanzim] Sakib has been excellent for us over the last 12 months, so he deserved his chance.

DS: Did playing continuously in the BPL lead to his injury?

AA: I'm not blaming anyone. He is a young bowler, and he also has to learn how far he can push himself. I also think

there is too much press surrounding Rana. He has been dropping in pace, and he might have been tired. That's what happens when you play regularly.

DS: Is Mustafaizur Rahman an automatic choice, given he hasn't been in great form but still remains in the team?

AA: You always want a left-arter in your team. At the moment, Fizz is our go-to guy; our main death bowler, and he bowls slower balls really well. There are other left-arm bowlers like Shoriful, so the competition can be tough. And when it comes to selection, we want to put our best team on the park. You can't leave behind anyone who is improving and putting in 100 percent effort.

DS: Most pacers were already developed when you took over. What have you done differently?

AA: Nothing special (laughs)... I see my main job as helping them understand the game better. Every bowler is different, so you just can't give a blanket rule for everyone to follow the same approach.

DS: Having been part of Bangladesh's last two ICC campaigns, where do you think the Tigers fall short in global events?

AA: There will probably be only one team in an ICC event that doesn't leave with ifs and buts, and that will be the team that wins it... There is a lot of pressure on our guys, and that's the main difference between here and other coaching environments. What you guys see as a silly shot or a poor choice is not due to laziness. Sometimes, it's just being exhausted by pressure.

I think our main difference is mental skills; the understanding of how to apply yourself in the situation.



BCB delays approval of new central contracts

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) held a board meeting yesterday, with central contracts topping the agenda. The board is in the process of redesigning the contracts, reintroducing a grade system that had been used in the past.

While last year's central contracts were announced in early February, there was some confusion this time, specifically due to the board's pending decision on veterans Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad.

"Yes, one of the reasons for the lateness was the two seniors. We need to understand their plans, and that has to be discussed," a BCB source close to the development told **The Daily Star**.

Following the board meeting, BCB director and cricket operations chairman Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was asked if there is any plan of action regarding both seniors, especially if they are in consideration for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

"They have to prove themselves. Considering their age and performances, it's not my call actually, but the selectors," Fahim told reporters in a press conference.

The board is also working to improve the contracts of players who only play Test cricket, with the grade system expected to better the terms of their contracts.

In addition, BCB plans to extend the contracts of national team head coach Phil Simmons and senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin, whose initial contracts were until the Champions Trophy. If a deal with Simmons cannot be reached before the upcoming Zimbabwe series, Salahuddin is set to take over as head coach, sources said.

BCB is also seeking new bowling coaches, and should favourable options arise, pace-bowling coach Andre Adams may move to a different role within the board.

Meanwhile, BCB officials yesterday informed that the independent investigation committee has been thoroughly going through incidents, paperwork, and conducting interviews to probe into match-fixing allegations in the Bangladesh Premier League. With no deadline set, the committee is still investigating, and BCB sources informed that the report may be due soon.

Real's 'fantastic four' face Atletico test

AGENCIES

Real Madrid's galaxy of attacking stars initially struggled to gel this season, but coach Carlo Ancelotti kept faith and now the "fantastic four" are Los Blancos' greatest strength as they face rivals Atletico Madrid in the Champions League.

They host Diego Simeone's Atletico side



on Tuesday at the Santiago Bernabeu in the last 16 first leg, with the return at the Metropolitan stadium across town on March 12.

French superstar Kylian Mbappe joined last season's trident of Jude Bellingham, Vinicius Junior and Rodrigo Goes and both the former Paris Saint-Germain striker and Madrid's squad needed time to adapt to the change.

Madrid must cope without England

international Bellingham in the first leg after his booking in the play-off round against Manchester City triggered a suspension for three yellow cards.

Ancelotti has solved tactical problems throughout his storied career. Last season he replaced forward Karim Benzema with Bellingham, a central midfielder, to great effect. Real Madrid claimed a Champions

Madrid's fantastic four have taken flight at just the right time. Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone admitted city rivals Real have the more illustrious history but backed his own team to deliver.

Atletico are battling with Spain's big two for the La Liga title and are currently second, one point behind Barca and two ahead of Los Blancos.

Real Madrid have lost just one of their last 17 Champions League knockout-stage matches (W11 D5).

Atletico Madrid have lost their previous three away knockout-stage encounters in the Champions League.

Real hold a significant upper hand against their city rivals in knockout stages of the European Cup/Champions League, including finals, as the Los Blancos have emerged victorious in all five of their showdowns in this stage, with the most recent coming in the 2016-17 season.

However Atletico have won the last two European fixtures between the sides -- a 2-1 triumph in the semifinal second leg back in 2016-17 and a 4-2 win in the 2018 Super Cup.

League and La Liga double, but it has taken time to click with Mbappe.

Madrid's struggles forced them into the new play-off round, where they faced English champions Man City. Finally firing on all cylinders, the holders hit six goals over the two legs.

Mbappe and Bellingham scored at City and Vinicius was named man of the match. Mbappe then netted a brilliant hat-trick at home to seal a 6-3 aggregate victory.

Gulshan, Agrani stun DPL heavyweights

SPORTS REPORTER

Both newly-promoted clubs Gulshan Cricket Club and Agrani Bank Cricket Club created a stir in the opening day's fixtures of the Dhaka Premier League, beating grand opponents Mohammedan and Abahani respectively.

At BKSP Ground 3, Gulshan's Zawad Abrar and Itekkhar Hossain Ifi took on the challenge of facing the likes of Mohammad Saifuddin, Ebadot Hossain, Nasum Ahmed and Tajjul Islam to put 298 on the board. Zawad hit 75 at the top while Ifi struck a 110 ball 108, laced with nine fours and three sixes, to bolster the Gulshan side. Abu Haider Rony picked up four wickets for Mohammedan. Liton Das, who had signed for Gulshan, did not appear in the game.

Tamim Iqbal-led Mohammedan did not have the best of starts as both openers -- Tamim and Rony Talukdar -- fell cheaply. Mushfiqur Rahim

and Mahmudullah Riyad could not recover from their Champions Trophy slump and made seven and 10 respectively. Centurion Ifi later picked up three wickets while Ariful Islam's 73 saw Mohammedan reach 191 all out, losing by 107 runs.

At Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Najmul Hossain Shanto's bat was still waiting to smile, out after a cumbersome 51-ball 20. In the end Abahani reached 234 all out, through Mosaddek Hossain's 65 ball 73 and Parvez Hossain Emon's 50 at the top. Imrul Kayes's 94 and Amite Hasan's unbeaten 44 saw Agrani Bank cruise to a six-wicket win in 45 overs.

At BKSP's Ground 4, Prime Bank beat Rugganj Tigers by three wickets, courtesy of an 83-ball unbeaten 98 from Shamim Hossain Patwary. Rugganj posted 216 all out earlier, with Arafat Sunny and Nahidul Islam bagging three wickets each for Prime Bank.





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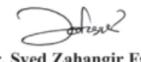
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This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted on the National e-GP Portal System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, please register on the e-GP System Portal. e-Tender has been invited on e-GP System Portal by Office of Chief Engineer, University of Chittagong, Chittagong for procurement of following.

SL. No.	e-Tender ID & Package No.	Package description
01	ID-1075746, CE-e-GP(OTM)-126/CUCE-2623-IMSF/2024-25	OTM-126/CUCE-2623-IMSF/2024-25 Supplying & Installation for 400X200 mm dia Deep Tubewell & Pipe Line Work at Institute of Marine Science & Fisheries, University of Chittagong

e-Tender details can be downloaded from as stated above on e-GP System Portal for purpose. The fees for downloading e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal should be deposited online through any registered bank. The e-Tenders will be accepted on the e-GP System Portal within the specified date and time. Accepted tenders will be opened as per the date and time displayed online.

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