



'THE EAGLE' IN BANGLADESH'S GOAL

To hopeful forwards chasing through balls with tunnel vision for goal, beware of 'The Eagle', Rupna Chakma. Perched in the middle of the Bangladesh goal, Rupna is always ready to deny the dreams of opponents' glory before they even take flight with a bird's eye view as precise as that of the sharp eyed creature.

SCAN QR CODE TO READ FULL STORY



No Shanto for SL T20Is

SPORTS REPORTER

Former skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto was left out as Bangladesh announced a 16 member squad on Friday for the upcoming three match T20I series against Sri Lanka, starting on July 10.

Since he opted out of T20I captaincy, Bangladesh played two series in the UAE and Pakistan. The left-hander, struggling with his form in the format, was drafted in the squad for both series, but was picked for only one game (against UAE) while he was sidelined throughout the Pakistan series.

Opener Naim Sheikh was rewarded with a spot for his domestic form, and seamer Mohammad Saifuddin also made the cut as the Tigers also left out pacers Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, and Khaled Ahmed.

Pacers Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman returned, and left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed was preferred instead of Tanvir Islam, who was part of the squad that played against Pakistan in May.

The second T20I is scheduled for July 13 in Kandy, and the final match will be on July 16 in Colombo.

SQUAD

Litton Das (Captain), Tanzid Tamim, Parvez Emon, Naim Sheikh, Tawhid Hridoy, Jaker Ali, Shamim Hossain, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Rishad Hossain, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Nasum Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Shariful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Mohammad Saifuddin.

AGENCIES

FIFA Club World Cup quarterfinal fixtures on Saturday are set to witness heavyweight clashes as four of Europe's elite sides go head-to-head in the US. Reigning Champions League winners PSG face German champions Bayern Munich in Charlotte, while Real Madrid meet Borussia Dortmund in New Jersey.

PSG arrive in red-hot form, having dispatched Lionel Messi's Inter Miami 4-0 in the last 16. While their group-stage slip-up against Botafogo raised questions, the French champions quickly regained momentum.

This will be PSG's 63rd match in all competitions going back to the start of the Ligue 1 season last August, and Luis Enrique is hoping for one last push from his exhausted players before they can enjoy a short summer break.

Bayern, meanwhile, reached this stage by overcoming Flamengo 4-2, thanks to a Harry Kane brace. The English striker continued his prolific season, scoring 41 goals in 50 appearances since last August. Vincent Kompany's team have

Not taking foot off the pedal as celebrations reserved

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite reducing the match against Turkmenistan to a dead rubber following a historic Asian Cup berth, Bangladesh are not taking their foot off the gas ahead of the last Group fixture of the qualifying campaign in Yangon today.

Peter Butler's charges have defied heavy odds in the first two matches by thrashing much higher-ranked Bahrain 7-0 before getting the better of pre-tournament favourites Myanmar -- the top-ranked side of the group at 55 -- at their own backyard.

With qualification already in the bag, Bangladesh will now play Turkmenistan, the lowest-ranked side (141) in Group C, in the last group fixture at 6:30pm (Bangladesh time) at the Thuwunna Stadium.

Ritu Porna Chakma, who drove the team to the victory against Myanmar with two



wonder strikers, said the Asian Cup qualification was "a result of the hard work of the whole team", and revealed that the team is staying focused till the end and reserving their plans of celebration.

"We didn't celebrate at all (after learning about the qualification). We have one match left, and we have planned to celebrate after that match," Ritu Porna said in a video message shared by the Bangladesh Football Federation.

Butler, who quietly orchestrated this historic achievement, is willing to show Turkmenistan the respect he believes they deserve.

"We have to remain professional to the end and stay focused. We have Turkmenistan and we shall show them the respect they deserve," Butler told The Daily Star in a text exchange on Thursday.

Bangladesh women's team (currently ranked 128th)

have never played against Turkmenistan, but they can be expected to show the same kind of composure and flair that they have mesmerised everyone with in the first two matches.

Goalkeeping coach Masud Ahmed Uzzal, meanwhile, informed that there were slight injury concerns for a few players and the head coach gave those players a chance to recover, while taking the rest through a practice session.

Young captain Afeida Khandaker said the team was in a jovial mood as they are eyeing much bigger prizes now, urging fans to continue supporting them.

"We wish everyone continues supporting us the way they have done so far, so that we can do better in future. I want to see the team at the World Cup. Since now we have this opportunity, we will definitely try to make it count," Afeida said.

Serve, set, match!

REUTERS, London

Talk about a man in a hurry -- 10th seed Ben Shelton required just 55 seconds to finish off Australian Rinky Hijikata and reach the Wimbledon third round on Friday as he completed a 6-2 7-5 6-4 victory.

The American was left frustrated the previous evening when the contest on Court Two was suspended because of fading light with Shelton about to serve for the match.

That did not sit well with the 22-year-old who was heard to shout "just one more game" to the umpire.

After a night to sleep on it, Shelton made no mistake when play resumed, serving three aces and an unreturned second serve to take his place in the last 32, with the crowd chanting, "One more game".

The big-serving Shelton has enjoyed a consistent run in the Grand Slams, now having reached at least the third round in his last eight appearances, including a semi-final run in Australia at the beginning of the year.

Shelton will play Hungarian lucky loser Marton Fucsovics in the next round when victory would see him match his best result at Wimbledon having reached the last 16 this time last year.

SHORT CORNER

The pieces are set, in a name to remember

A landmark event in Bangladesh's chess calendar gets underway on Saturday, as Dhaka plays host to the inaugural GM Zia Memorial chess tournament. The event is a tribute to the late Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman, one of the most revered names in the nation's sporting history.

Shaheen removed from National Teams Committee

Just weeks after publicly demanding the resignation of Bangladesh national football team head coach Javier Cabrera, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Executive Committee member Shakhat Hossain Bhuiyan Shaheen has himself been relieved of his duties on the National Teams Committee.

Nico Williams pens new Athletic Bilbao deal amid Barcelona links

Athletic Bilbao announced on Friday that coveted Spain forward Nico Williams had extended his contract to 2035 with an increased release clause, warding off reported interest from La Liga champions Barcelona. The deal, which extends the contract by eight years and swells the release clause by 50 percent, is "a resounding success" faced with "dizzying offers" for the 22-year-old, the club said in a statement.

Ex-Arsenal footballer Partey charged with rape

Former Arsenal footballer Thomas Partey was on Friday charged with five counts of rape and one count of sexual assault after complaints by three women, UK police said. Lawyers for Partey, 32, said in a statement he "denies all the charges against him".

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PSG vs Bayern
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Real Madrid vs Dortmund
Live from 10:00 pm

DAZN website
Club World Cup

Chelsea vs Palmeiras
Live from 1:00 am
(Sunday)

Live from 4:00 pm

Live from 7:00 am

Live from 10:00 pm

Live from 1:00 am