

SPORT

What to WATCH

Sony Sports 1
England vs India
2nd Test, Day 5
Live from 4:00 pm
T Sports
West Indies vs Australia2nd Test, Day 4
Live from 8:00 pm
Star Sports Select HD1
and 2
Wimbledon
Live from 4:00 pm

Bangladesh celebrate Asian Cup berth with 7-0 win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh team had reserved their celebration of clinching Asian Cup berth till the last match of the campaign. Yesterday against Turkmenistan, they celebrated the epic achievement with a resounding 7-0 victory, ending the Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign with an all-win record at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Turkmenistan (141), on paper, were the weakest team of the group, 13 places below Bangladesh. But Bangladesh's comprehensive wins against higher-ranked Bahrain and Myanmar had already proved that rankings can be deceptive. However, there was hardly any doubt about the outcome of the game – the only matter of



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh left-arm spinner Tanvir Islam jumps in celebration after dismissing Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis during the second ODI of the three-match series at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday. Tanvir's five for 39 -- the best-ever bowling figures by a Bangladesh bowler against Sri Lanka, surpassing Abdur Razzak's five for 62 -- helped the Tigers bounce back in the series with a 16-run win.

Newcomers step up as Tigers square series

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite a faltering middle order and a few dropped chances in the field, Bangladesh held their nerve to claim a tense 16-run victory over Sri Lanka in the second ODI at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium yesterday, levelling the three-match series 1-1.

The win, the Tigers' first in seven matches in this format, was delivered by two newcomers in Parvez Hossain Emon and Tanvir Islam. The former laid the foundation with a composed 67 off 69 balls, helping the visitors post 248, while Tanvir turned the game on its head with a five-wicket haul (5-39), dismissing the hosts for 232.

It was also the first win as captain for Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who had endured five straight defeats before this game. Their last ODI win had come back in November against Afghanistan in Sharjah.

The match swung back and forth throughout. After a steady start, the visitors stumbled again in the middle overs, with the middle order failing to provide support. Emon and Towhid Hridoy (51 off 69) built momentum, and a late unbeaten 33 from Tanzim Hasan Shakib ensured a defensible total despite a collapse from 204-5 to 218-9.

Bangladesh were defending a total nearly identical to what Sri Lanka (244) had defended two days ago at the same venue, but the wicket looked much better for the batters this time around.

Sri Lankan opener Kusal Mendis' blistering 31-ball 56 had already given the hosts a sense of wrapping up the series before the series finale in Pallekele on July 8.

Tanvir, however, had other plans. Showing sharp game awareness, he convinced his captain to review an lbw decision against Mendis, which was overturned in their favour and proved decisive.

The left-arm spinner went on to dismantle the middle and lower order, claiming four more wickets to leave Sri Lanka teetering at 170-8. His 5-39 stands as the best ODI

figures by a Bangladeshi against Sri Lanka, surpassing Abdur Razzak's 5-62 from 2013.

"Felt really well and bowled in the right areas; was a better wicket than the last game. Grateful to the captain who gave me confidence despite leaking 22 runs in the first two overs. He said try to take wickets and not just look to contain, and his words made me confident in the game," said Tanvir, who was named Player of the Match.

Still, the outcome was in the balance as Janith Liyanage was dropped twice: first by Jaker Ali on 28 and then on 42 by Rishad Hossain. Liyanage capitalised, forging a 58-run stand with Dushmantha Chameera that brought the home side within touching distance.

But Mustafizur Rahman, who had struggled throughout the day, delivered a crucial breakthrough by removing Liyanage in the 48th over, ending his brilliant 78 off 85. Tanzim then wrapped things up by dismissing Chameera (13), sealing their first-ever ODI win at this venue in 12 attempts.

"240 was difficult to bat on in the second innings. We believed we could defend 248," Miraz said at the post-match presentation.

"They played really well and we needed wickets at that moment. I told Tanvir that we need wickets and I just tried to say positive things to the bowler because we needed wickets. Otherwise, we can't win," he added.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh:

248 all out in 45.5 overs
(Parvez 67, Hridoy 51,
Shamim 22, Jaker Ali 24,
Sakib 33 not out; Asitha
Fernando 4-35, Hasaranga
3-60)

Sri Lanka:

232 all out in 48.5 overs
(Kusal Mendis 56, Kamindu
Mendis 33, Liyanage 78;
Sakib 2-34, Tanvir 5-39)

Result:

Bangladesh won by 16 runs.

Player-of-the-match:
Tanvir Islam



We are all very happy. We want to improve and get better results like this day by day. I would thank all my teammates because it was a team effort. I would also like to thank all my fans for continuing to support me.

MONIKA CHAKMA, Bangladesh midfielder

speculation was how big the margin of victory would be.

And soon as the match kicked, it became clear that it was going to be a one-way traffic as the side from Central Asia hardly had an answer to what Bangladesh were throwing at them. The goalfest started in the third minute, thanks to a thunderous strike from Sapna Rani Mondal from outside the box.

The Central Asian side were hit by the eye of a storm over the next 17 minutes as Bangladesh smashed five more goals, with Shamsunnahar Jr bagging a brace while Monika Chakma, Tohura Khatun and Ritu Porna Chakma getting one apiece.

The fifth goal from Ritu Porna in the 18th minute was a disaster as the ball slipped through the goalkeeper's grasp, warranting a change of keeper. However, life for Turkmenistan's second-choice keeper didn't start well as she conceded a goal a minute after being subbed in.

There was a lull of 20 minutes as Bangladesh failed to increase the margin before Ritu Porna's trademark left-footed screamer from outside the box found the top-right corner of goal.

While there was anticipation among the Bangladesh fans of a likely breach of Bangladesh's biggest victory -- a 9-0 win against Bhutan in Cox's bazar in 2010, Turkmenistan came out with a much more disciplined performance after the break to keep the women in red and green at bay. They successfully blocked the passing channels in the final third as Bangladesh, with Ritu Porna and Sapna Rani both subbed out early in the second half, found it hard to break the final hurdle.

The substitute keeper, too, put in a much better performance as the scoreline remained unchanged but Bangladesh were happy to go to the dugout with a convincing win and start their long-awaited celebration.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Skipper Shubman Gill celebrates after notching up his second century of the match as India piled on the runs during Day 4 of their second Test against England at Edgbaston yesterday. Gill, who scored 269 in the first innings, followed it up with a 162-ball 161 in the second to propel India to 427-6 declared, setting England a 608-run target. England, in reply, lost three of their top four batters, including Joe Root, as they finished the day on 72-3, 536 runs away from a victory.

Hercules' will, Silva's wish

STAR SPORTS DESK

On Independence Day in the United States, Fluminense's Hercules carved his own freedom: from the bench to the scoreboard with a match-winning strike that powered the Rio club into the Club World Cup semifinals on Friday (early hours of Saturday in Bangladesh).

Having already stunned Inter Milan in the round of 16, the 24-year-old defensive midfielder struck again as a substitute; his goal sealed a 2-1 win over Saudi giants Al Hilal in Orlando.

Hercules put Fluminense in front for good in the 70th minute; his persistence was rewarded after an initial long-range effort was deflected high into the air. However, he kept running forward -- and into the danger zone -- as teammate Samuel Xavier won the next header, which landed at his feet.

Hercules then took a sublime first touch to control the ball before firing a right-footed shot into the bottom left corner, prompting jubilation from yet another largely pro-Brazilian crowd.

At the heart of it all stood Thiago Silva: the 40-year-old captain who marshalled the backline and watched his post-match wish unfold.

"I'm rooting for Chelsea," he had said. Later that evening, the Blues defeated Palmeiras 2-1, setting up an emotional semifinal clash with Silva's current and former clubs on opposing ends.

With four Brazilian clubs reaching the round of 16 and Fluminense now among the final four, this Club World Cup has become a celebration of Brazil's footballing heritage: past, present, and what lies ahead.



Paris Saint-Germain's Ousmane Dembele celebrates with Joao Neves after scoring their second goal against Bayern Munich in Atlanta on Saturday, sealing a dramatic 2-0 win that sent the nine-man European champions into the Club World Cup semifinals.

PHOTO: REUTERS



FIDE Master Tahsin Tajwar Zia, son of the late Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman, plays his opening game at the inaugural GM Zia Memorial 2025 chess tournament, which commenced at the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) Hall Room in Paltan, Dhaka, yesterday. Behind him, his mother, Tasnim Sultana Labony, watches quietly: a poignant image of a family continuing a legacy on the first anniversary of a legend's untimely passing.

PHOTO: STAR

India's Bangladesh tour deferred to September 2026

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday confirmed that India's white-ball tour of Bangladesh, originally scheduled for next month, has been postponed to September 2026.

The announcement puts an end to recent speculation surrounding the fate of the series.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have mutually agreed to defer the white-ball series, three ODIs and three Twenty20 Internationals, between Bangladesh and India in August 2025 to September 2026," a BCB press release read.

BCB also mentioned that the decision was made keeping in mind the international cricketing commitments and scheduling convenience of both teams.

India were initially set to arrive in Dhaka on August 13 to play three ODIs and as many T20Is. The matches were to be held between August 17 and 31 in Dhaka and Chattogram, as part of the ICC's Future Tours Programme (FTP).

Recent reports had suggested that BCCI was "wary" of the security situation in Bangladesh, raising concerns that the series could be postponed.

BCB also mentioned that the revised dates and fixtures for the tour "will be announced in due course."



Bangladesh men's team registered a massive 13-0 win against Sri Lanka to boost their chances of qualifying for the semifinals of the Men's U-18 Asia Cup Hockey in Dazhou, China yesterday. Mohammad Abdullah was adjudged player of the match.

PHOTO: BHF