

Star SPORT

DHAKA M TUESDAY 14, 2025, ASHAR 30, 1432 BS

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh:
177-7 in 20 overs
(Litton 76, Hridoy
31, Shamim 48;
Fernando 3-31)

Sri Lanka: 94 all
out in 15.2 overs
(Nissanka 32,
Shanaka 20; Shoriful
2-12, Saifuddin 2-21,
Mustafizur 1-14,
Mehidy 1-26, Rishad
3-18)

Result: Bangladesh
won by 83 runs.

**Player-of-the-
match:** Litton Das



what to WATCH

T Sports

T20 Tri-series
Zimbabwe vs South Africa
1st T20I
Live from 5:00 pm
West Indies vs Australia

3rd Test, Day 3
Live from 12:30 am (Tuesday)
Sony Sports 1
England vs India
3rd Test, Day 5
Live from 4:00 pm

Last-gasp Trishna decides thrilling contest

SPORTS REPORTER

A stoppage-time strike from Trishna Rani Sarkar helped defending champions Bangladesh maintain their winning run in the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship with a dramatic 3-2 victory over title-rivals Nepal at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday.

The thrilling contest reached its climax when, in the dying seconds of stoppage time, substitute Umehla Marma launched a counter-attack down the right flank. She entered the box and delivered a precise cut-back for fellow substitute Trishna, who calmly slotted the ball into the far post from just outside the six-yard box, sparking wild celebrations in the stands.

Bangladesh, the tournament favourites, had taken a comfortable 2-0 lead in the first half with goals from Sinha Jahan Shikha and Mosammat Sagorika. Their slick passing, quick transitions, and intelligent positioning initially overwhelmed the Nepali defence, much like their 9-1 win over Sri Lanka in the tournament opener.



However, the tide turned in the second half as Nepal piled on the pressure and capitalised on Bangladesh's defensive lapses. Within a span of nine minutes – from the 77th to the 86th minute – they levelled the scoreline through well-taken goals by Anisha Rai and Meena Deuba.

The match also saw a major flashpoint just 11 minutes into the second half when Sagorika and Nepal's Simran Rai were both shown red cards following a scuffle.

Despite losing their two-goal cushion and being reduced to 10 players, the young charges of Peter Butler did not back down. Instead, they regrouped, fought back, and ultimately found the decisive goal in the final moments of the game.

The victory lifted Bangladesh to the top of the four-team standings with six points from two matches – three points ahead of Nepal and Bhutan. Earlier in the day, Bhutan boosted their campaign with an emphatic 5-0 win over Sri Lanka.



Bangladesh players jump for joy after beating Kazakhstan 6-2 in a place-deciding match to finish third in the Women's U-18 Asia Cup in their maiden appearance in Dazhou, China yesterday. The men's team, meanwhile, finished fourth following a 5-2 defeat against Malaysia in a place-deciding match.

Clinical Tigers outplay Lions

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Bangladesh provided a complete performance to clinch a record 83-run win over Sri Lanka in the second T20I to level the three-match series 1-1 at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium yesterday.

After suffering a seven-wicket defeat in the series opener in Pallekele on Thursday, the Tigers staged a quick turnaround, folding the hosts for just 94 runs in 15.2 overs while defending a total of 177-7.

Apart from the openers not clicking, Bangladesh ticked all the boxes in the second game – a very rare occurrence in the recent past across formats.

Captain Litton Das was under the scanner ahead of the second game for his underwhelming form with the bat and for the side's string of losses in the format, as the Tigers had six out of their last seven matches since he officially received the T20I captaincy.

After a long while, Litton played an impactful knock in the white-ball format, making a 50-ball 76 and putting up two crucial stands of 69 and 77 runs with Tawhid Hridoy (31 off 25 balls) and Shamim Hossain (48 off 27 balls) respectively.

Luck also favoured Litton, as Sri Lanka missed a stumping chance when he was on 30 and he was also dropped on 56. Still, he deserves plaudits for his planned approach, as he rotated the strike really well alongside hitting five sixes and one four.

If Litton's innings brought stability after Bangladesh was two down for seven, it was



Shamim's blazing knock that gave them a strong finish.

The flashy left-hander hit five fours and a couple of sixes to help Bangladesh, who were at 80-4 after 12 overs, score 97 runs in the last eight overs to reach a competitive total.

Shamim made further impact in the game with his electric fielding, dismissing in-form Kusal Mendis (eight) with a direct throw in the second over before pacers Shoriful Islam (2-12), Mohammad Saifuddin (2-21) and Mustafizur Rahman (1-14) dismantled the Sri Lankan batting order.

Luck also favoured Litton, as Sri Lanka missed a stumping chance when he was on 30 and he was also dropped on 56. Still, he deserves plaudits for his planned approach, as he rotated the strike really well alongside hitting five sixes and one four.

"Credit goes to Shamim, the way he batted, it was amazing... That run-out by Shamim to remove Kusal Mendis was very

important," Litton, who was adjudged player-of-the-match, said in the post-match presentation.

Leg spinner Rishad Hossain also played his part, striking twice in the 11th over to break the 41-run fifth wicket stand between Pathum Nissanka (32) and Dasun Shanaka (20), all but sealing the fate of the match.

Rishad dismissed Binura Fernando to wrapped up the contest, finishing with 3-18.

The fate of the series will be decided on Wednesday in Colombo but for now Bangladesh can heave a sigh of relief after ending their losing streak by notching up their second largest victory by runs in T20Is.

'Hope to finish with 350 Test wickets'

Despite being in the international scene for nearly seven years, off-spinner Nayeem Hasan hasn't played much for Bangladesh, being considered mostly as a backup option to the likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam and Mehidy Hasan Miraz. For the first time in his career, the 25-year-old featured in back-to-back away Tests recently in Sri Lanka. Nayeem recently talked to The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan about the Sri Lanka tour, his preparation and goals. The excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): In Sri Lanka, you finally got to bowl in an away Test for Bangladesh. In your first innings with the ball, you claimed a fifer, and finished the series with nine wickets. Are you satisfied with your performance in Sri Lanka?

Nayeem Hasan (NH): Alhamdulillah, I'm happy with my performance. If we could have won any matches, I would have felt happier. The most satisfying thing for me is to contribute to a winning cause.

DS: Did bowling in an away Test for the first time feel any different?

NH: Everyone was saying that it was my first match [abroad]. But I never thought of that because I had toured with the 'A' team, the Under-19 team and the Emerging team before. It's true that it feels different when you play after a long time. Before going to Sri Lanka, I played against New Zealand 'A' team and I think it helped me a lot.

I think I had a good preparation for the Sri Lanka series.

DS: How do you prepare yourself when you play matches after a long gap?

NH: I don't have anything else to do other than play. I practice regularly and follow my routine to improve myself. We have regular camps for Bangla Tigers. I always try to be ready and wait for my opportunities.

Sometimes, performance is not in your hands. But I need to work hard and keep faith in Allah.

DS: In your career so far, do you feel different when you play after a long time?

NH: I don't think of myself as the third or fourth option. It's true

that sometimes I feel bad when I don't get to play. But for me, the team always comes first. I always think that whenever I get the opportunity to play, I have to fulfil my role and help the team win. If I see myself as the third or fourth spin-bowling option, I won't have the same hunger.

DS: Having played only 14 Tests in seven years, do you consider yourself unlucky?

NH: I don't feel like that. When Harbhajan Singh was in the Indian side, Ashwin [Ravichandran] made it into their playing XI. He finished his career with more than 500 [537] Test wickets. When I was with the Bangladesh U-19 side, I got the opportunity to play for the national team. Most of the players get into the national side

at the age of 24 or 25. But when I was only 17 and a half years old, I got into the national side. For this, I consider myself lucky. Everyone thinks that I'm unlucky but I want to think positively and consider myself lucky in this aspect. I have learnt a lot of things in these seven years and I hope it will help me in future.

DS: You bat reasonably well in domestic matches. Do you think you could have cemented your place in the playing XI if you had concentrated more on your batting?

NH: I have been working on my batting. I also got starts in Sri Lanka but couldn't bat longer in both matches. Hopefully, I will not make the same mistake next time.

DS: Age is in your favour as you are just 25. What's your goal by the end of your career?

NH: I hope to finish my career with 350 Test wickets.



England pacer Brydon Carse celebrates after getting the wicket of India captain Shubman Gill late in the last session on Day 4 of the third Test at Lord's on Sunday. After being set a target of 193, India were reduced to 58-4 at the close of play, with three of their top four back in the hut. Speedster Archer dismissed Yashasvi Jaiswal for nought before Carse trapped Karun Nair lbw and followed up with Gill's dismissal. England skipper Ben Stokes castled nightwatchman Akash Deep, leaving India 135 more runs to get on the final day.

PHOTO: AFP