

BCB reimposes food, drink ban at Mirpur

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has reimposed its ban on bringing outside food and beverages into the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium for the second and third T20Is between Bangladesh and Pakistan on July 22 and 24.

In a press release issued yesterday, the BCB stated the decision was made in light of “enhanced security protocols” following the opening match of the series on Sunday, where fans were temporarily allowed to bring in food and water to address long-standing complaints over overpriced in-stadium vendors.

The move was welcomed by spectators, many of whom brought their own snacks and drinks. However, according to BCB’s media committee chairman Iftekhar Rahman Mithu, several incidents raised concerns among security forces.

“We had lifted the ban with good intentions, but people came in with food carriers. Security officials said they couldn’t inspect items like lentil dishes properly,” Mithu told The Daily Star.

He added that spectators also failed to follow instructions regarding water bottles, with some refusing to remove caps and others bringing steel bottles, complicating entry checks.

Injury setback for India ahead of Manchester Test

AFP, New Delhi

India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy was on Monday ruled out of the final two Tests against England because of a knee injury.

India trail the five-match series 2-1 after losing by 22 runs at Lord’s last week.

“Nitish will fly back home and the team wishes him a speedy recovery,” the Board of Control for Cricket in India said in a statement.

Reddy scored 45 runs and took three wickets in his two outings in the series.

The fourth Test starts on Wednesday at Old Trafford.

Left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh, who is yet to feature in the series, will miss the fourth Test after injuring his thumb during net practice.

Uncapped all-rounder Anshul Kamboj has been added to India’s squad.

Athletes, sports bodies mourn Uttara tragedy



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh and Nepal players, along with match officials, observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims of a Bangladesh Air Force F-7 aircraft crash into a building of Milestone School and College in Uttara, ahead of their title-deciding clash in the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday.

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The tragic plane crash in Uttara yesterday sent shockwaves across the nation, with the country's sports fraternity joining in mourning. Various sports bodies and athletes expressed deep sorrow and offered prayers for those affected.

The incident occurred around 1:30pm, when a Bangladesh Air Force F-7 aircraft crashed into the premises of Milestone College. The resulting blaze left many injured and claimed several lives, including schoolchildren, by the time of filing this report.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) offered condolences in a statement: “The Bangladesh Cricket Board is deeply shocked at the casualties from the tragic air crash... Our prayers and thoughts go out to all those affected in this devastating incident.”

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Tabith Awal also shared a message of solidarity, mourning the loss of young lives and extending prayers for the injured. “At this moment in time we would like to express our solidarity with all the members of the affected families and with members of the Bangladesh Air



Force,” he said.

Other organisations, including the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, Olympic Association and Sports Press Association, released similar statements of grief.

Bangladesh T20I captain Litton Das wrote on Facebook: “Prayers and heartfelt thoughts go out to everyone affected by the Uttara Milestone School & College incident. May peace, healing, and strength find their way to the victims and their families.”

Former captain Tamim Iqbal echoed the nation's sorrow: “What has happened and is happening right now is incredibly sad. Our hearts are breaking apart... They are our children.”

Cricketers Mushfiqur Rahim, Shadman Islam, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mominul Haque, and Akbar Ali also shared their condolences on social media.

Men's football captain Jamal Bhuyan wrote: “Horrible to see this. Praying for everyone involved,” while national defender Tapu Barman called it “truly heartbreaking” and urged authorities to take preventive measures.

Ahead of their SAFF U-20 Women's Championship final against Nepal in the evening, the Bangladesh women's U-20 team observed a minute's silence at the Bashundhara Kings Arena to honour the victims.



4-star Sagorika strikes gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Mosammat Sagorika struck all four goals as Bangladesh beat Nepal 4-0 in the final match of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday, sealing yet another South Asian title for the dominant hosts.

The 17-year-old striker – returning after a three-match suspension for a red card against the same opponents last week – delivered with clinical precision every time she got involved.

The win reaffirmed Bangladesh's supremacy in regional women's age-group football, with seven titles from 13 tournaments since its introduction in this region in 2017.

Needing just a draw to retain the title after five straight wins, coach Peter Butler fielded his strongest eleven for only the second time in the tournament.

Sagorika wasted no time, testing Nepal goalkeeper Sujata Tamang in the second minute and, moments later, opened the scoring by rounding off Sujata and finishing coolly from a Sapna Rani through-ball.

Nepal nearly levelled when tournament's top scorer Purnima Rai's volley struck the crossbar after a fumble by goalkeeper Mile Akter, but that was as close as they came.

After the break, Sagorika doubled the lead with a sublime turn and strike from Umehla Marma's pass. The girl from Thakurgaon completed her second hat-trick of the tournament soon after, lifting Nabiran Khatun's pass over the advancing keeper.

Sujata denied her twice more, but Sagorika sealed her fourth with a powerful long-range effort in the 74th minute as Bangladesh cruised to victory in front of a 5,000-strong crowd.

A minute's silence will be observed and both teams as well as match officials will wear black arm bands to pay respects to those killed in a tragic plane crash at the Milestone School and College in Uttara yesterday.



Tail-up Tigers chase 2015 repeat

SPORTS REPORTER

After a commanding performance in the series opener, Bangladesh will be looking to seal the ongoing three-match T20I series when they take on Pakistan in the second game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Coming back from their recent 2-1 T20I series triumph over Sri Lanka, the home side continued their decent run of form in the shortest format and notched up a dominating seven-wicket win over the tourists to go 1-0 up in the series.

It was Bangladesh's first series win in 2025 across all formats and they will now be eyeing to complete their back-to-back series victory over Pakistan.

Bangladeshi bowlers, especially their pace trio – Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed and Tanzim Hasan Sakib – set up the victory as they leaked only 48 runs in 11.3 overs and claimed six wickets to break the backbone of the visitors' batting line-up, dismissing them to their lowest total against Bangladesh in the format.

On a challenging surface in Mirpur, the total could have been tricky but Parvez Hossain Emon struck an unbeaten 39-ball 56 and shared a 73-run stand for the third wicket with Tawhid Hridoy (36) to drive the hosts home with ease, with 27 balls to spare.

Bangladesh will be hopeful of a similar performance from their players, especially their bowlers, in the second game as well, in order to check opposition batters from scoring big runs. Otherwise, they might face trouble on such a surface, which has already received a lot of criticism from the Pakistan camp.

The win in today's game, however, will enable the Tigers to win their first T20I series over Pakistan after 10 years, while it will also help them register their first victory in a T20I series involving multiple matches.

Earlier, in April 2015, Bangladesh won their only T20I series over Pakistan in Mirpur, but the series featured only one game. Since then, they have lost three consecutive T20I series to Pakistan (all three-match series), with the latest defeat coming in May-June this year in Lahore.

Meanwhile, for Pakistan, the challenge will be to keep the series alive by winning the second game, and it might lead to a few changes in their playing eleven.

Although the visitors bat deep, the majority of their batters wanted to go from the very beginning of their innings – a rare stance, especially in conditions like Mirpur – and they might have worked on the issue before taking the field against Bangladesh again.

Ahead of today's game, both teams opted to have a rest day yesterday.

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Call for Climate-Smart, Innovative, Small-Scale, and Digital Solutions to Mitigate Climate Impact

Due to global warming and climate change, various natural disasters such as floods, tidal surges, and heatwaves are occurring in different regions of the country. To address these adverse effects, the Innovations for Climate-smart Urban Development (INCLUDE) project is being implemented in the municipalities of Chapainawabganj, Charghat, Gaibandha, and Sirajganj under the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), which operates under the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives of Bangladesh. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented through GIZ.

Under this project, a call for innovative solutions has been launched to build climate-resilient cities in the participating municipalities. Your innovative, digital, inclusive, realistic and practical ideas, especially those offering practical and sustainable solutions for vulnerable areas and communities, can guide the way toward real change in addressing local climate challenges. The winning ideas will be implemented by the respective municipalities.

Selected participants will receive special training, certificates, publicity, and opportunities for recognition. Implemented solutions will include a commemorative nameplate as a mark of recognition, serving as a lasting example.

Eligible Municipalities: Chapainawabganj, Charghat, Sirajganj, Gaibandha.

Who Can Participate: Participation is open to general citizens, any legally operating community-based group, civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, educational institutions, relevant individuals or entities from the private sector.

However, applicants must submit solutions specifically relevant to one of the four municipalities mentioned.

Your idea must be based on local problems, digital, inclusive, innovative, feasible for implementation.

Submission Deadline: 31 August 2025

To submit online, scan the QR code provided

Visit: <https://include-call-for-ideas.grantplatform.com/>

To submit in person, collect the form from the respective municipal office.

For any assistance,
Mobile: 01324175193, **Email:** include.call.for.ideas@gmail.com

This initiative is implemented by GIZ and the municipalities of Chapainawabganj, Charghat, Sirajganj, and Gaibandha.