



BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh 1st innings: 476 in 141.1 overs (Mushfiqur 106, Litton 128; McBrine 6-109)

Ireland 1st innings: 265 in 88.3 overs (Tucker 75; Neill 49; Taijul 4-76)

Bangladesh 2nd innings: 297-4 declared in 69 overs (Mominul 87, Shdman 78; Mushfiqur 53*; Hoey 2-84)

Ireland 2nd innings: 291 all out 113.3 overs (Campher 71*, Tector 50; Taijul 4-104, Murad 4-44)

Result: Bangladesh won by 217 runs

Player of the match: Mushfiqur Rahim

Player of the series: Taijul Islam

With Ireland needing 333 runs on the final day with just four wickets in hand, a Bangladesh victory was inevitable. The Tigers duly completed the formality, winning the second and final Test by 217 runs to seal a whitewash. [Bottom] However, Ireland -- led by Curtis Campher's unbeaten maiden Test fifty -- put up a spirited fight and batted for almost two sessions, a performance that earned Campher praise from Bangladesh veteran Mushfiqur Rahim, who reached the milestone of 100 Tests in this match.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Abahani, MSC clash as rebranded BFL resumes today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football League has officially been rebranded as the Petronas Bangladesh Football League, after United Group -- one of the country's largest industrial conglomerates -- secured the title sponsorship rights, succeeding Bashundhara Group.

"We signed the deal over two months ago," Fahad Karim, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vice-president and marketing committee chairman, told The Daily Star.

"But United Group took some time deciding which of their products would front the league, which is why the announcement was delayed," he added.

After a month-long break, the league resumes today with four fixtures, involving a high-voltage clash between archrivals Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla.

Both teams have endured a poor start to the season, following a draw and a defeat against inferior oppositions. As a result, they sit near the bottom of the 10-team table.

The extended break has also left both sides short on preparation. Mohammedan, in particular, have been hamstrung by off-field uncertainty and financial strain. Their situation is so tight that the squad travelled to Cumilla by public transport yesterday rather than hiring a team bus.

Abahani

though also facing financial limitations -- will have a slight advantage, with two foreign recruits available together for the first time this season. However,

Mohammedan have recent record on their side, remaining unbeaten in the past five league meetings between the sides, with two wins and three draws.

"The match matters for three reasons," said Abahani coach Maruful Haque. "We haven't won yet, it's a derby between two traditional powerhouses, and we need to get ourselves back in the race."

Mohammedan coach Alfaz Ahmed acknowledged the challenges but remained hopeful. "Motivation may be low, but the boys will play for their own pride. We'll go there looking for a win, even though nothing has gone our way and the situation is very tough."

Since the league's inception in 2007, Abahani and Mohammedan have faced each other 34 times, with Abahani leading the head-to-head: 14 wins, 13 draws, and seven defeats.

In today's other fixtures, Arambagh KS host Bashundhara Kings in Manikganj, Fortis FC face Police FC at Dhaka's Kings Arena, and Brothers Union meet Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club in Munshiganj.



Shamim, Taskin out as squad named for Ireland T20Is

SPORTS REPORTER

Middle-order batter Shamim Hossain and pacer Taskin Ahmed have been left out as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced the squad for the three-match T20I series against Ireland.

All three matches will be held at the Bir Shrestha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman Stadium in Chattogram, scheduled for November 27, 29, and December 2.

Shamim and Taskin have been replaced by seam-bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin and uncapped 26-year-old wicketkeeper-batter Mahidul Islam Ankon.

Shamim has endured a difficult year in T20Is. Despite occasional flashes of promise, his overall returns have been largely underwhelming. In 24 matches this year, the left-hander scored just 261 runs at an average of 15.35 and a strike-rate of 121.39.

Taskin, meanwhile, has had his No Objection Certificate (NOC) extended, allowing him to continue featuring in the ongoing Abu Dhabi T20 throughout November. The tournament will conclude on November 30.

SQUAD:

Litton Das (c), Saif Hassan (vc), Tanzid Hasan, Parvez Emon, Towhid Hridoy, Jaker Ali, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Mahidul Islam Ankon, Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Tanzim Sakib, Shoriful Islam, Mohammad Saifuddin

IRISH DEFIANCE tests Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

The outcome of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and Ireland seemed almost certain after Day 4, with Ireland six down for 176 while chasing a daunting 509-run target.

However, Ireland surprised everyone on the fifth day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur on Sunday by showcasing remarkable resistance with the bat while the hosts were seemingly just going through the motions, waiting for the visitors to collapse.

Led by Curtis Campher, Ireland batted nearly 60 overs on the final day. Campher remained unbeaten on 71 off 259 balls, receiving significant support from the tail-enders.

He had begun the resistance late on Day 4 and had Andy McBrine by his side at stumps. McBrine gave him company for 13.2 overs in the following morning before getting trapped in front by Taijul Islam.

Campher and Jordan Neill then batted together for 14.1 overs before Mehidy Hasan Miraz snuck a ball through Neill's defences.

After losing two wickets in the morning session, Campher found support from the No. 9 batter, debutant Gavin Hoey.

The ninth wicket stand hung on for 30.5 overs, and took the game deep into the second session before a double strike from Hasan Murad left Campher without a partner.

In total, Ireland batted 113.3 overs before being bowled out for 291 in their second innings as the hosts notched up a 217-run



No visiting team has batted more overs in the fourth innings at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCS) than Ireland, who faced 113.3 overs. Ireland's 291 is also the highest fourth-innings total by a visiting side at the venue, surpassing Australia's 244 in 2017.

Ireland all-rounder Curtis Campher faced the most balls by any batter in a fourth innings at SBNCS. His 259-ball vigil surpassed Shakib Al Hasan's 212-ball 96 against Sri Lanka in 2008.

victory to win the series 2-0.

Ireland's fight becomes even more impressive when looking at the numbers. They now hold the record for both the highest fourth-innings total and the most overs batted by a visiting team in the fourth innings at Mirpur.

In terms of runs scored in the fourth

innings overall, they are second only to Bangladesh's 413 against Sri Lanka in 2008. Campher also faced the most balls in a fourth innings at Mirpur, surpassing Shakib Al Hasan's 212-ball effort against Sri Lanka.

Unlike the previous touring side that had to contend with the traditional slow and turning Dhaka pitches, the Irish had the advantage of batting on a sporting wicket, which had not turned into a minefield for batters even on the fifth day.

On a surface where things automatically didn't happen for the spinners on Day 5, the Tigers had to toil hard for wickets against the lower order of perhaps the least fancied Test side in the world in South Asian conditions.

However, skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto claimed to be satisfied with his bowlers' efforts.

"On a wicket like this on Day 5, the way they [Ireland] challenged us, they definitely deserve that credit. But at the same time, the way our bowlers bowled with patience is also credit-worthy."

Meanwhile, Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie praised his team for their resistance, particularly lauded Campher for his effort. "Probably just before Murad took the two wickets, there was a small bit of excitement in the changing room at the drinks break. But credit to the Bangladesh spinners -- they don't miss their line and length too often, which tests our batters' defense. The two wickets and two balls ended it pretty quickly. Curtis can be very proud of his work today -- it was an enthralling day's play."

Infinix backs Bangladesh women's Mission Australia

SPORTS REPORTER

Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Infinix has partnered with the Bangladesh women's football team as part of efforts to support the fast-improving side ahead of the upcoming AFC Women's Asian Cup in Australia.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has named the team's campaign "Mission Australia" after the women in red and green qualified for the finals for the first time in the country's history.

As the team prepares for the Asian Cup, the BFF has been working to ensure full support, including arranging as many international friendly matches as possible before the top-tier competition gets underway in March next year.

"Infinix has become a partner of our Mission Australia. They will provide us with financial support until next April," BFF vice-president and marketing committee head Fahad

Karim told reporters at the BFF House yesterday, adding that the agreement has already been signed.

Jiang Zixu, Infinix's retail manager for Bangladesh, said: "Women's football in Bangladesh is growing fast and we are pleased to be associated with the Bangladesh women's football team."

As part of their preparation, the BFF is set to host a tri-nation tournament featuring Bangladesh, Malaysia and Azerbaijan. Infinix has also been named the title sponsor of the event, which will take place from November 26 to December 2 at the National Stadium.

"Infinix is the title sponsor of the upcoming tri-nation series. We are also planning more friendly matches at home and abroad," BFF president Tabitha Awal informed.

"The team will travel to Australia around two weeks before the Asian Cup begins, and Infinix will assist us

during that period," he added.

Although the BFF has not disclosed the preparation budget, it is understood that Infinix will cover 50 percent of the estimated Tk 4 crore required.

After the tri-nation series, many national players will join Nasrin Football Academy for the SAFF Women's Club Cup in Nepal, while the remaining players are expected to compete in the women's football league from December 15.

"We are trying to ensure players have competitive matches in addition to training because continuous training alone may fatigue them," the BFF president said, further informing the federation is also working to distribute the long-promised cash awards to the SAFF Women's Championship-winning squad by December.

Meanwhile, the women's national team returned to Dhaka from Chittagong yesterday.



Rupali bids adieu as Bangladesh finish third

Asif Mahmud Sajeeb Bhuiyan, the Adviser for Youth and Sports, places a farewell crown on the head of Rupali Akter ahead of the second semifinal of the 2nd Women's Kabaddi World Cup at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The Bangladesh skipper pulled the curtains on her 16-year-career through this match, which Bangladesh lost by 25-18 points, settling for a bronze medal and third position. Bangladesh had finished fifth in the 1st Women's Kabaddi World Cup in Patna 13 years ago where Rupali was the only player from the current Bangladesh team.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



"The way the federation and my teammates gave me a farewell at the beginning of the match made me a little emotional. I have been involved with kabaddi for a long time. There isn't any significant bad feeling or experience in my career. I won't be playing competitive kabaddi anymore, but I will stay involved with kabaddi in some way. This is my place of love."

Rupali Akter, Bangladesh captain

PHOTO: AQUA PAINTS

In a picture taken recently, Hamza Choudhury, Jamal Bhuyan, and Shamit Shome pose with the U17 women's national team at the newly renovated entrance of BFF House, where Aqua Paints has completed a football-themed mural.