DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2026, ASHWIN 27, 1433 BS

SPORT



I'm not happy with the amount of points that we've had so far. I think it could have been different but for a couple of little things here and there, but the reality is the reality, we've got to accept it.

Manchester United coach **MICHAEL CARRICK**

Record ton, familiar result

STAR SPORTS DESK

Although the Bangladesh women's cricket team suffered a nine-wicket thrashing at the hands of hosts Australia in the second WODI in Brisbane yesterday, there was one major positive to take away from the game. Sobhana Mostary's record-breaking maiden century -- the third WODI hundred by a Bangladeshi batter away from home -- offered a rare reason for optimism amid the Tigresses' persistent batting struggles. Called up to the senior national side in 2018 at just 16, Mostary has long shown glimpses of promise in Bangladesh's batting line-up. Her magnificent 118 off 134 balls was more than a personal milestone; it rescued the visitors from a precarious eight for three and helped them post 220 for six. However, Georgia Voll's unbeaten 131 ensured Australia romped to the target in just 28.1 overs, sealing the three-match series with a 2-0 lead.

1st: Sobhana Mostary became the first Bangladesh batter to score a WODI century against Australia.

118: Mostary's 118 off 134 balls was the highest individual score by a Bangladesh batter in WODIs, surpassing Fargana Hoque's 107 against India in 2022. It was Mostary's first international century and made her only the third Bangladesh woman to score a WODI hundred, after Fargana (two) and Nigar Sultana Joty (one).

195: Mostary and Joty shared a 195-run fourth-wicket partnership, Bangladesh's highest for any wicket in WODIs.

220-6: Bangladesh's highest total against Australia in WODIs.



"I am very happy for her [Sobhana Mostary] because she is a wonderful player and has been very consistent, so I think she deserved it. It was really historic and definitely a great achievement for her and for the team as well."

NIGAR SULTANA JOTY, Bangladesh captain

"Awesome for the game of cricket. The century was pretty special. They showed really good intent today, got us thinking a bit more about our field changes, and it was awesome to see them post a total like that."

TAHLIA MCGRATH, Australia captain

"I'm so happy about my hundred because I batted against the world champion. "

SOBHANA MOSTARY, Bangladesh batter

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
One-off Test, Day 4
Afghanistan vs Bangladesh
Live from 12:00 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 HD
LaLiga
Levante vs Sevilla
Live from 1:00 am (Tuesday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 HD
Premier League
Coventry vs Newcastle
Live from 1:00 am (Tuesday)



TIGERS FIRMLY IN CONTROL

Bangladesh ended the third day of their one-off Test against Afghanistan in the driver's seat, reaching 223 for six at stumps and taking a lead of 329 runs at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The Tigers seized the initiative early in the day through pacers Ebadot Hossain and Hasan Mahmud, with the latter stealing the spotlight by becoming the first Bangladeshi fast bowler to take a Test hattrick.

Hasan claimed his fourth Test five-wicket haul, while Ebadot took four wickets, making them the first Bangladesh fast-bowling pair to claim at least four wickets each in a Test innings. Their efforts helped the Tigers secure a sizeable 106-run first-innings lead.

Bangladesh's batters then extended that advantage, with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim playing key roles through knocks in the eighties. Their 159-run fourth-wicket partnership helped the Tigers recover from 53 for three.

Although neither Shanto (82 off 191 balls) nor Mushfiqur (81 off 148) could reach three figures, Bangladesh remained firmly in control at stumps, with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (0* off one ball) and Litton Das (5* off 13) at the crease.

Hasan's domination continues with immaculate length management

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Hasan Mahmud's Test career has hit a purple patch over the last few months, and a maiden Test hattrick is the icing on the cake as his skill set in the red-ball format continues to grow.

A Test hattrick showcases a bowler's tenacity in the game's hardest format, and Hasan became the first Bangladesh pacer to achieve the feat, running through the Afghanistan batting line-up on the third day of the one-off Test on a good batting surface on Sunday.

The second new ball did the trick for Hasan. In Abu Dhabi, where there is little moisture and searing heat adds to a pacer's burden, Hasan showed the same nous that he had displayed in Rawalpindi, Chennai, Darwin and county cricket with Kent.

Things are falling into place for the 26-year-old, much like the lengths he hit on Sunday morning in Abu Dhabi.

Hasan is showing an ability to do more damage in less time. Over the last two years, he has been Bangladesh's most prominent pacer, taking 30 Test wickets at a strike rate of 53.86. Over the last 12 months, his strike rate has improved to 43.25, with 16 wickets in five Tests. Even in Bangladesh's impressive pace battery, Hasan stands out.

"In the last one-and-a-half years, he has improved immensely. From the Pakistan series to India and then elsewhere, his confidence has soared," Tarek Aziz, one of the pace-bowling coaches who has been working with Hasan, told The Daily Star.

"The main aspect was how he upgraded his length, which has increased his wicket-taking ability with the new ball," Tarek noted.

"Given his confidence, he now knows anything is possible, especially after performing against India and Australia and his exploits in county cricket. He now knows from what lengths to move the ball to get wickets. Length management, knowing what length to bowl on what wickets, has vastly improved. The length with the new ball varies from wicket to wicket. For instance, on some wickets the ideal length is 5.5m, while on another it is 6m, and it can be very challenging. He really focused on these lengths and is now very confident," Tarek said.

Not an express fast bowler, Hasan often does not attract the same limelight as some of his peers. But his consistency has made him an all-condition seamer, capable of making things happen on docile tracks. Even in the absence of Nahid Rana, his rise is helping Bangladesh deliver with the ball. His improved wrist action and high-arm action have been key to his development.

"Hasan is a flicker," Tarek said, referring to the wrist snap that gives the pacer extra zip. "Most importantly, his wrist position is higher than before, which automatically helps him swing the ball more. Now, if he can work more with the old ball, he would be even better," Tarek added.

All three deliveries that completed Hasan's hattrick forced the Afghanistan batters to play, but movement and extra zip proved their undoing. Hasan finished with figures of five for 55, his fourth five-wicket haul, drawing him level with Shahadat Hossain.

His exploits on Sunday also made him the fastest Bangladesh pacer to reach 50 Test wickets, achieving the milestone in 17 Tests and surpassing Taskin Ahmed, who took 18 matches. For now, the sky is the limit for Hasan and his snappy action.





PHOTO: REUTERS/FACEBOOK

Yan Diomande's first goal as a Real Madrid player earned Los Blancos a narrow 1-0 victory over Villarreal yesterday, keeping them within six points of LaLiga leaders Barcelona. But more than the result, it was the incident involving Vinicius Junior [Inset] that became the talking point. Vinicius was sent off just 20 minutes after coming on as a substitute in the 52nd minute. The Brazilian, who has already faced plenty of criticism for his underwhelming performances this season, found the net, only for a VAR review to reveal that he had pulled Villarreal's Nathan Saliba by the hair in the buildup. He was dismissed moments after celebrating the goal emphatically. Vinicius now faces the prospect of a suspension of at least two matches, which would rule him out of the first Clasico of the season on October 25.

SHORT CORNER

Smith surpasses Root with record 221st Test catch

Australian vice-captain Steve Smith became the leading non-wicketkeeper catcher in Test cricket history with 221 catches, surpassing England's Joe Root, who previously held the record with 220. Smith achieved the milestone on the third day of the first Test against South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban on Sunday, producing two stunning catches that helped Australia put the Proteas' top order under pressure.

Mahedi follows six-for with ton in NCL

Five centuries lit up the second day of the second round of the National Cricket League (NCL) on Sunday, as batters dominated across the venues amid the continued impact of the Kookaburra ball and hot weather. Shak Mahedi was the standout performer, following up his six-wicket haul on the opening day with a commanding century (104) to put Khulna in a strong position against Rajshahi in Mirpur.

BCB investigates Nahid Rana's back pain

Doubts are growing over Bangladesh pacer Nahid Rana's participation in the upcoming West Indies Test series, although the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to rule him out. The board has launched an investigation into the back pain he experienced during his recovery and is assessing the situation.

Bangladesh bow out of U-17 Women's Asian Cup qualifiers

Bangladesh finished their AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup qualifying campaign with a 3-0 defeat against the Philippines in Samarkand on Sunday, ending their hopes of reaching the final round of the continental competition. Bangladesh kept the Philippines at bay until late in the match but conceded goals in the 73rd, 90th and 91st minutes to suffer a heavy defeat.

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