



## Sri Lanka Beat Bangladesh by 7 Wickets in T20 Series Opener



Collected picture

Sri Lanka took a 1–0 lead in the three-match T20I series by defeating Bangladesh by 7 wickets in the opening match at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy. Chasing a target of 155, the hosts secured victory with six balls to spare.

Batting first after losing the toss, Bangladesh posted a total of 154 for 5 in their allotted 20 overs. Opener Parvez Hossain Emon top-scored with 38 runs. Mohammad Naim added 32, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz contributed 29 runs. In the final overs, Shamim Hossain Patwari gave the innings a boost with a quickfire unbeaten 14 off just 5 balls, including two sixes.

For Sri Lanka, Maheesh Theekshana claimed 2 wickets, while Thushara, Shanaka, and Vandersay took one each.

In response, Sri Lanka's chase began with a strong 78-run opening stand between Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis. Nissanka smashed 42 runs off just 16 deliveries, hitting five fours and three sixes before falling to Miraz, caught by Rishad.

Kusal Perera joined Mendis at the crease but was dismissed for 24 by Rishad. Mendis anchored the innings with a composed 73 off 51 balls. He was eventually dismissed when Sri Lanka needed just 7 more runs to win.

Charith Asalanka and Avishka Fernando completed the formalities and guided the team to victory.

Bangladesh's bowling effort saw one wicket each from Mohammad Saifuddin, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, and Rishad Hossain.

The second match of the series will take place on 13 July in Dambulla, where Bangladesh will look to bounce back and level the series.