

Fernando, Rajapaksa propel Sri Lanka to consolation win over India



Sri Lanka's Avishka Fernando plays a shot
AFP | Colombo

Avishka Fernando (76) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (65) smashed respective fifties to ensure Sri Lanka did not lose the third and final ODI against India despite a late wobble yesterday.

With this win, Sri Lanka opened their account in the series. India won the ODI series 2-1 after failing to secure a win in the dead rubber yesterday. The hosts defeated India by three wickets on the back of some stunning performances.

Chasing 225, Sri Lanka got off to a steady start scoring 35 runs in the first five overs. Krishnappa Gowtham claimed his maiden international wicket when he dismissed Minod Bhanuka in the sixth over.

However, Sri Lanka ensured a solid start as they raced to 55/1 in 10 overs. Avishka Fernando and Bhanuka Rajapaksa held the ground as they stitched a 109-run stand for the second wicket.

Fernando smashed his fifth half-century to put Sri Lanka in control of the chase in Colombo. Meanwhile, Rajapaksa also registered his maiden ODI

“If we had done well in the second match, we would have won the series. After the England tour I worked on my batting and that helped in scoring runs here. We have a very young side and going forward, I believe this young side will do well”

AVISHKA FERNANDO

half-century to aid the hosts' chase.

India bounced back with Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Dhananjaya de Silva's wicket but that didn't dent Sri Lanka's hopes. However, the visitors again wobbled when they lost Charith Asalanka and skipper Dasun Shanaka in successive overs.

In the last ten overs, Sri Lanka needed just 10 runs but Rahul Chahar struck to give visitors another blow. However, Akila Dananjaya and Ramesh Mendis ensured the hosts get over the line in the 39th over.

Bahrain wait extended for FIBA Asia Cup

Continent's leading basketball competition postponed to July 2022 after originally being set to be held next month in Indonesia

● Competition rescheduled to give window for FIBA Basketball World Cup Asia Qualifiers

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team will have to wait an additional year to compete in the continent's biggest basketball tournament following the postponement of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021.

This year's competition was originally scheduled to be held from August 16 to 28 in Indonesia, but FIBA Asia announced yesterday that it has been put off to July 2022.

“The FIBA Asia Cup 2021 will be played as planned in Jakarta, Indonesia, but is rescheduled to July 2022, right after the window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup Asia Qualifiers,” FIBA Asia said in a statement.

In light of this, the Bahrain Basketball Association's national teams committee said that it will be meeting to revise the national team's programme in the coming months, as the next time they will be taking to the hard-



Bahrain national basketball team player Hesham Sarhan in action during the qualifiers earlier this year (File photo)

wood will be in November for the FIBA World Cup qualifiers.

Bahrain secured their berth in the FIBA Asia Cup after winning four of their six qualifying games, which wrapped up earlier this year.

A training squad of 26 players had begun practising for

the tournament several weeks ago. They included Maytham Jameel, Ahmed Hassan Al Derazi, Hesham Sarhan, Mohammed Qurban, Subah Hussain, Mustafa Hussain, Ahmed Salman Ramadhan, Mohammed Hussain, Hasan Nowrooz, Muzamil Ameer, Ahmad Najaf, Mo-

BETTER YOU KNOW

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ammed Ameer, Yousef Al Murbati, Mohammed Buallay, Bader Abdulla Jassim, Mohammed Kuwayed, Mohammed Juma'a, Ali Rabea, Hussain Jan, Hussain Salman, Abdulrahman Ghali, Al Watheq Ali, CJ Giles, Ali Jaber, Hassan Abbas and Nasser Al-mosawi.

Next year's FIBA Asia Cup will mark the 30th edition of the continent's leading basketball championship. It will feature 16 national teams.

Bahrain have appeared in the Cup, originally known as the Asian Basketball Championship, eight times in the past, including in 1977, 1979, 1987, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2011 and 2013.

The Bahrainis' best finish was 10th in the 1999 competition hosted by Saudi Arabia.

Manchester United sign Sancho on five-year deal from Dortmund

AFP | London

Manchester United have signed England winger Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund on a five-year contract, the Premier League club announced yesterday.

No fee was disclosed but British media reports said Sancho had moved from Germany in a deal worth £73 million (100 million dollars) -- which would make him the second-most expensive English player of all time behind new United teammate Harry Maguire.

Sancho is set to stay at United until June 2026, with the option of a further year.

“I'll always be grateful to Dortmund for giving me the opportunity to play first team football, although I always knew that I would return to England one day,” Sancho told manutd.com.

“The chance to join Manchester United is a dream come true and I just cannot wait to perform in the Premier League,” the 21-year-old added.

“This is a young and exciting squad and I know, together, we can develop into something special to bring the success that the fans deserve.”

His move to Old Trafford follows a year-long pursuit by United, who were reportedly put by Dortmund's initial £100m valuation of Sancho, a

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former Manchester City youth team player.

The deal was announced just weeks after Sancho, together with new United team-mate Marcus Rashford and Bukayo Saka, received racist abuse following the trio's penalty shoot-out misses in England's Euro 2020 final loss to Italy at Wembley.

United finished second, 12 points behind local rivals Manchester City, in last season's Premier League but Red Devils manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer expects his side to benefit from Sancho's “untapped talent”, even though the forward scored 50 goals and recorded 57 assists in 137 appearances for Bundesliga club Dortmund.

“Jadon epitomises the type of player I want to bring to the club, he is a forward player in the best traditions of Manchester United,” said Solskjaer.

“He will form an integral part of my squad for years to come and we look forward to seeing him blossom,” the United manager added.

“His goals and assists records speak for themselves and he will also bring tremendous pace, flair and creativity to the team.

“Old Trafford will give him the platform he needs to release his untapped talent and perform at the highest level.

“For a player of his age, Jadon has already achieved a great deal and showed the courage to go and prove himself abroad.”



Jadon Sancho

Bahrain Olympic team bow to Kuwaiti counterparts



Bahrain's Olympic football team prior to their Kuwait friendly

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's under-23 Olympic football team bowed to their counterparts from Kuwait 2-4 in an international friendly match played in Turkey.

The Bahrainis' goal scorers included Ahmed Al Sherooqi and Abdulrahman Al Sayed, but they could not match their Gulf rivals.

The friendly was part of the Bahrainis' ongoing training camp at the Istanbul capital, where they are preparing mainly for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, which takes place in October.

It was the first of two warm-up games against the Kuwaitis.

BETTER YOU KNOW

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The two teams meet once again on Monday.

Bahrain's under-23s are currently training with 28 players in Istanbul. Aside from Al Sherooqi and Al Sayed, the others are Ali Muftah, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Faisal Abdulla, Faisal Hassan Habib, Ammar Mohammed, Omar Abdulbasit, Younis Mousa, Adnan Fawaz, Abdulla Al Haiki, Ali Khalifa, Hussain Al Attar, Hussain Abdulkarim, Abdulla Freah, Ebrahim Shareeda, Mohammed Marhoon, Hamza Abdulla, Ali Al Dosari, Sayed Mohammed Amin, Hassan Issa, Fahad Jassim, Mohammed Ahmed, Ziyad Basil, Hussain Tawfiq, Hamad Fouad, Hamza Al Jabne and Abdulla Nimer.