



## A crazy night of football

AGENCIES

It was a crazy Saturday night of football that started with a draw in the Merseyside derby before Real Madrid and Barcelona's embarrassment in La Liga took hold of discussions.

Sterling made the difference in a tactical encounter to condemn Arsenal to their second defeat of the season, AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an early brace to secure a 2-1 win over neighbours Inter in the Serie A derby, Chelsea were held

to a 3-3 draw by a spirited Southampton side, Bruno Fernandes made amends for a missed penalty with a late strike as Manchester United thrashed Newcastle United 4-1, Serie A champions Juventus were held to a 1-1 draw at promoted Crotona and Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller scored two goals each as the German champions crushed hosts Arminia Bielefeld 4-1 in the Bundesliga in an eventful night.

But in the end Barca and Real lost for the first time this season, increasing the doubts over their stalled attacks ahead

of Champions League openers and their own Clasico clash. Both the games were in Madrid, at venues 30km apart, and both Real and Barcelona were wearing pink.

Barcelona had a first defeat under Ronald Koeman when they lost 1-0 at Getafe, soon after Madrid were beaten 1-0 at home by newly-promoted Cadiz.

It was Los Blancos' first La Liga loss in 15 games.

Barca superstar Lionel Messi was not rested for the clash, but the Argentine failed to make an impact as the star-powered attacks of the European powerhouses

appeared shackled by their opponents.

While Getafe lived up to their reputation as one of Spain's top defensive sides by shutting down Barcelona, Madrid were sloppy and sluggish against an inspired Cadiz, who came back to the top flight after 15 seasons.

Madrid had perhaps the more concerning display, the reigning champions managing just two shots on target against Cadiz. But Barca were not much better, with Lionel Messi strangely quiet and the team failing to rebound after Jaime Mata's penalty gave Getafe the lead.

### WHAT THEY SAID

"They played with more pace than us and more enthusiasm. We can't make any excuses, we played a bad game and we have to congratulate Cadiz. We're not happy at all."

**Zinedine Zidane**, Real Madrid Coach

"I don't know if it was a penalty, it looked like they were looking for it and we fell into the trap. I don't know if we had VAR or not today. I don't like to talk about referees, but if you watch the match and see how many fouls they made and how many cards were given out, then you can make your own mind up."

**Ronald Koeman**, Barcelona Coach

"The first half was very near to what we see as perfect football. But at times we have to be more clever to save energy."

**Hansi Flick**, Bayern Munich Coach

"I am the real support of VAR. (Last season) the armpit was offside. Now, there is no armpit offside, everyone tells me it was not offside but it does not lift my mood. We lost one player with Virgil and maybe another with the red card. Not our day. The picture I saw now once on the laptop, there is no armpit, there is nothing, we are just not offside."

**Juergen Klopp**, Liverpool Coach

"We don't want to use it as an excuse, but we needed pre-season. We wanted to get to this international break with more points than we have, but now we know our season started today because we've come up to the speed of the game."

**Ole Gunnar Solskjaer**, Manchester United Coach

"So there are going to be moments of carelessness, it happens -- we have a young, quality team which is still under construction, so we need time and the youngsters need to make mistakes. We haven't had time to oil the machine."

**Andrea Pirlo**, Juventus Coach

"I was being tested every three days to see the result, I told myself I could skip the other games but not the derby. Nobody was going to stop me. We hadn't beaten Inter for four years in the league and I was hungry."

**Zlatan Ibrahimovic**, AC Milan striker

"We haven't been quite as fluent this season but in the last couple of games have shown that fluency is coming back and it's great to keep the momentum going. When Sergio is on the field you know there can be a goal at any moment. He is vital to help us compete on all fronts and great to have him back."

**Raheem Sterling**, Manchester City forward



(Top) Cadiz's Honduran forward Anthony Lozano looks to the heavens in celebration after his match-winner against Real Madrid while Getafe celebrate their memorable 1-0 win against Barcelona. (Bottom) Manchester City's Raheem Sterling and AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic break out in celebration after scoring against their respective opponents while Real's Sergio Ramos and Barca's Lionel Messi look dejected following shocking defeats. Bayern Munich strikers Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller celebrate their double strikes in the Bavarians' 4-1 Bundesliga win over Arminia Bielefeld.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## Time for the batsmen to learn from mistakes

NABID YEASIN

"I had got out a couple of times to balls bowled outside off stump. So I decided not to play the cover-drive. They were bowling consistently outside the off stump, and I decided to leave all those balls," were the words of the great Sachin Tendulkar after he played an unbeaten 241-run knock without a single drive through the off side during the Sydney Test of India's 2004 tour.

What was more remarkable than the unbeaten double hundred was that Sachin had not given in once to the temptation of playing the cover-drive -- one of his trademark shots -- in more than 10 hours of batting while negotiating the likes of Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie and Nathan Bracken, who were in constant pursuit of tempting the little master to have a go outside off stump.

Tendulkar had learnt from scores of 0, 1, 37, 0 and 44 in his previous Test innings on tour and decided not to



they kept repeating the same mistakes.

In Saturday's game, Najmul XI's Soumya Sarkar, a regular face in the Bangladesh national side, dragged an outside off delivery onto his stumps while trying to smash Mahmudullah XI's Rubel Hossain, an experienced fast bowler, for the third consecutive boundary. Soumya probably was reeling from the criticism he faced for his sloth-like 47-ball nine in the previous match and was trying to score as many runs as possible in quick time.

But the situation was set up for the left-hander to slow down and take his time. After playing a cracking drive through the off side for a boundary, Soumya tried to follow that up with another but was luckily avoided being caught at mid-off, courtesy of the fielder's misjudgement that saw the ball running to the boundary. While most batsmen would have deemed that misjudgement from the fielder as a sign and regroup, disappointingly, a player who has played 15 Tests, 55 ODIs and 50 T20Is, again slashed hard at an outside off delivery off the very next ball and ended up dragging that onto his stumps.

The trend of repeating mistakes continued. It was then the vastly experienced Mushfiqur Rahim,

Mushfiqur repeated the same mistake he made in the previous game against Tamim XI when his attempt to scoop Mustafizur Rahman cost him his wicket -- and with it the possibility of winning the game for Najmul XI -- after a brilliant 103-run knock.

And just like the previous match, Mushfiqur once again tried to scoop a pacer -- this time Ebadot Hossain in the 42nd over -- and was only able to offer a simple catch to the wicketkeeper. Mushfiqur, who played the anchor role during a crucial 147-run fourth-wicket stand with the brilliant Afif Hossain, could not cash in on the chance to accelerate at the latter part of the game and returned after a 92-ball 52 that featured a solitary boundary.

Maybe it is not possible for Bangladesh batsmen playing in a 50-over tournament to replicate what Tendulkar did in Sydney more than a decade ago in a Test, but what they can at least try to replicate is reining in their urges and not repeating the same mistakes over and over again. Because, if they keep repeating the same mistakes during an intra-squad domestic tournament, chances are that the same thing will happen during a high-voltage international series or tournament.

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repeat the cover drives that had proved his downfall, leaving a lesson for all batsmen in the world about how not to be easily tempted and fall prey.

Learning from their mistakes, just like Tendulkar did back then, is one of the most crucial traits an athlete can acquire. Unfortunately, Bangladesh batsmen in the ongoing BCB President's Cup seem to have completely forgotten about that trait as

## 'Had forgotten the feeling of shooting'

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a long break due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Gulshan Shooting Range yesterday turned into a vibrant place in presence of shooters, officials, media personalities and spectators. Bangladesh shooting embraced a new experience by hosting an international online competition for the first time even though such competitions have been held before in other nations.

Enthusiasm among the shooters and officials could have gone in vain had Abdullah Hel Baki not clinched the country's only medal from this competition. The two-time Commonwealth Games silver medalist finished third among five competitors with a score of 617.3, despite a below-par performance. Japan's Nooya Okada finished first with a score of 630.9 while Indian shooter Tuhsar Mane settled for second with a score of 623.8.

In women's event, Syeda Atkia Hasan Disha finished second from bottom among six shooters with a score 616.4. Indian world champion shooter Elavenil Valarivan, Japan's Shiori Hirata and Indonesia's Vidya Rafika became first, second and third with scores of 627.0,

622.6 and 621.1 respectively.

The online competition was expected to be a tough one for the Bangladesh shooters, who were out of practice for seven months due to the pandemic coupled with a dispute between the former president of Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) and the BSSF secretary general.

While shooting federations in other countries organised online competitions, turning shooters' living rooms into miniature shooting ranges, the Bangladeshi shooters were idle until the BSSF stalemate came to an end with the declaration of an ad-hoc committee last month.

"I've had a new feeling for shooting through this online competition and I am now looking forward to thinking about shooting again. I had almost forgotten the feeling because the last competition I participated in was in the South Asian Games in December last year," said Baki.

"I have been getting offers from June to compete in online competitions but there was not opportunity for me to take part due lack of support from the federation. But I must thank the federation now for arranging such a tournament. I got back my old rifle and participated in an international tournament after starting training a few days ago," said Baki.

### 'AB is the most impactful player'

REUTERS, Mumbai

Virat Kohli labelled AB de Villiers as the "most impactful player" in the IPL after the South African batsman's belligerent half-century helped Bangalore pull off an unlikely victory against Rajasthan Royals on Saturday.

On Saturday the right-handed batsman hit an unbeaten 55 off just 22 balls to help his side chase down a 178-run target for a seven-wicket win against Steve Smith-led Rajasthan.

"In my eyes he's the most impactful match-winner in the IPL," RCB captain Kohli said.

### Nepal friendlies on Nov 13 and 17

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation has verbally expressed their desire to host Nepal on November 13 and 17 in FIFA friendly matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The BFF has decided to start the preparation camp for the national team on October 23 under the supervision of local coaches. Head coach Jamie Day and assistant coach Stuart Whatkis are likely to arrive in Dhaka on October 28.

"Nepal will officially confirm their tour tomorrow [Monday] and we will then approach the government to get permission to hold two international friendlies," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, adding that Nepal agreed to quarantine but wanted to ensure practice facilities during the quarantine period.

**FIRST ROUND: MATCH 3**

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