

## What to WATCH

**TEN CRICKET**  
Sri Lanka v Pakistan  
First Test, Day 1  
Live from 10:15am

**STAR SPORTS2**  
England v New Zealand  
Fourth ODI (D/N)  
Live from 7:00pm

**SONY SIX HD**  
Copa America  
Brazil v Colombia  
Live from 5:45am  
(Thursday)



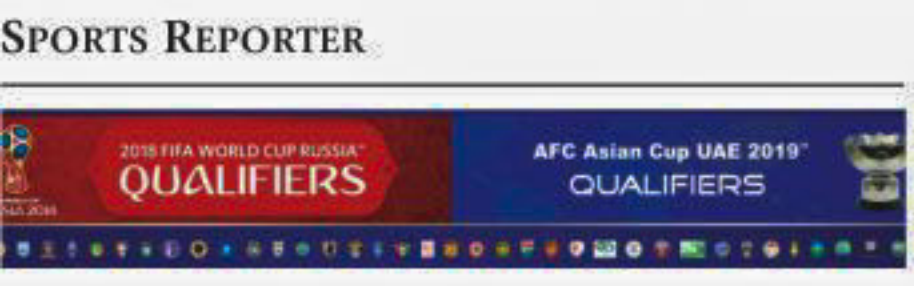
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Made in Italy



# Wasted opportunity



**BANGLADESH 1 - 1 TAJIKISTAN**

Bangladesh wasted a glorious opportunity to grab all three points in their second fixture of the Joint Qualifiers of the World Cup and the Asian Cup against Tajikistan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The men in red and green, who took a deserved lead early in the second half after having played dominant and eye-catching football for most part of the opening half, were left to rue some wasted opportunities and a needless free-kick at the death to share the spoils against 10-man Tajikistan in front of some 10,000 home supporter.



**Bangladesh coach Lodewijk de Kruijf**

The hosts had taken the lead in the 50th minute, thanks to a tap-in from the goalline by Zahid Hasan Emily after Hemanta Vincent Biswas saw his faint header on a Mamunul Islam free-kick only half-stopped by Tajikistan keeper Alisher Tuychiev.

But the goal seemed only to unleash the threat from the visitors and setting the cat amongst the pigeons in the Bangladesh ranks, resulting in some nervous moments and finally to a needless challenge in front of the box. And as has been the pattern of Bangladesh's football off late, the free-kick turned into the equalising goal, earning first point of the campaign to the two teams, who had started with identical 1-3 defeats on Thursday.

Bangladesh coach Lodewijk de Kruijf, who had to watch the proceedings from the

VIP box for being suspended for this match, had brought on two changes to the starting eleven from the previous match.

Right-back Nasirul Islam replaced injured Nasiruddin Chowdhury while young winger Jewel Rana was drafted in place of veteran Enamul Haque.

The changes seemed to spark life into the team as the hosts started brightly and dictated terms in the opening half.

Jewel, with his nifty dribbles, proved to be a constant havoc for the visitors while Mamunul pulled the strings from deep into his own half as Bangladesh played some eye-catching, albeit a bit sluggish, passing football.

However, the most open chance of the first half came to the visitors in the 22nd minute when Makhmudov Khurshed latched onto a through-pass from Vasiev Dilshod inside the box and nodded it towards goal, only to be denied by a brilliant block by centre-back Yeasin Ahmed.

But the hosts took a deserved lead five minutes after restart when Tuychiev failed to grab Hemanta's header leaving Emily with the simplest of nods from the goalline.

The visitors stepped up the attack, with two substitutions, and came close to scoring twice in the 62nd minute, but saw Manucher Dzhalilov fail to keep his header on target from point-blank range before being denied by Bangladesh goalie Rasel Mahmud Liton.

However, against the run of play the visitors were down to ten men in the 67th minute when Hemanta's mazy run was cynically cut short by Asrorov Siyovush around the centre-circle, earning the defender a second yellow card.

Emily should have taken the game away from the visitors, but his wayward headers from inside the box paved the way for a nervous last quarter of an hour for the hosts.

And then the veteran forward brought disaster onto his team with a needless challenge on a Tajikistan forward five yards in front of the box with just three minutes left of regular time.

Mamunul raced out of the wall on the first free-kick, earning himself a yellow card and giving away another free-kick three yards in front. And the resulting free-kick was deliciously curled in by Fakhuloev.

Bangladesh will play their next qualifying match away to Perth against the Socceroos on September 3.



**Bangladesh captain Mamunul Islam (L) is not amused with teammate Zahid Hasan Emily who needlessly conceded the free-kick that led to the Tajikistan equalising goal during the Joint Qualifiers of the World Cup and the Asian Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.**

# Needed one per cent more



Coming from a lacklustre 1-3 defeat against Kyrgyzstan in their opening fixture, Bangladesh showed character and played some scintillating football against Tajikistan in their second match at the Bangabandhu National yesterday.

But for all the possession and enterprise, all they could show for in the end was a single point, thanks to profligacy of the forwards and not being able to keep their calm in face of opposition attacks.

Bangladesh coach Saiful Bari,

who was standing in the dugout in absence of suspended head coach Lodewijk de Kruijf, felt luck was not on their side even while praising the players' whole-hearted effort for the enterprising performance.

"I am proud with the way the players executed the game-plan. They gave their 100 percent effort there: from goalkeeper (Rasel Mahmud) Liton to striker (Zahid Hasan) Emily; everyone was superb and I must mention the name of Jewel Rana too, who gave his all in the match," said Titu at the post-match briefing.

"But there is a one percent thing beyond the 100 percent effort and that one percent is luck, which was

not with us today," added Titu.

The veteran coach believed the first free-kick, which had resulted in the equalising kick, was not justified for he thought it was a fair challenge on air from Emily and he believed that the Tajikistan player deceived the referee to win the free-kick.

Titu also explained Bangladesh's vastly improved performance against Tajikistan, who sit 27 places above Bangladesh in the FIFA rankings.

"The mobility between the forwards and midfielders was the key to this performance and I think the Tajikistan players were less skillful than the Kyrgyzstan players," said Titu, who also lamented the absence in these two matches of veteran

winger Zahid Hossain due to illness.

Tajikistan coach Mukhsin Mukhamadiev was seemingly also thought his team was unlucky not to have grabbed full points from this match.

"Bangladesh showed their passion but we had bad luck because we could not avail four scoring chances, said Mukhamadiev adding that his players could not put up their natural game due to fatigue of flying for 21 hours and also due to the heavy traffic and humid weather in Dhaka.

He however promised that Bangladesh will face a different side when they travel to Tajikistan for the away match on November 25 this year.

## Spanish coach in waiting?

SPORTS REPORTER

The fate of Lodewijk de Kruijf hangs in the balance as Bangladesh Football Federation officials were spotted watching the yesterday's match against Tajikistan alongside a Spanish coach.

The Dutchman, who has been working with the Bangladesh team temporarily since being terminated unceremoniously in November last year. The 45-year-old coach was given further responsibility to guide the team in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup, AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers and the first two matches of the World Cup and the Asian Cup Qualifying round.

However, the 1-3 defeat against Kyrgyzstan on Thursday has seemingly left the high-ups of the game's governing body looking for a permanent coach.

Yesterday BFF vice-president and National team's Committee member Tabith Awal accompanied a Spanish coach during the match. The Spaniard was also spotted watching Bangladesh's international friendly match against Afghanistan on June 2.

## Campaign to oust Capello

AFP, Moscow

A group of Russian football lovers has started a fundraising campaign aimed at collecting the sum of 21.4m euros (\$24.2 million) needed to buy the national squad manager Fabio Capello out of his contract.

Capello has again come in for heavy criticism following Sunday's 1-0 home defeat in Euro 2016 qualifying campaign to Austria.



**Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal scores his second goal from a penalty during their Copa America encounter against Mexico in Santiago on Monday.**

# Chile held by Mexico

## Bolivia stun Ecuador

AFP, Santiago

Mexico snatched a pulsating 3-3 draw with Chile while Bolivia downed Ecuador in a five-goal thriller as the Copa America laid on a feast of attacking football on Monday.

A dramatic day of action in Group A saw Bolivia secure their first win in the tournament in 18 years with a 3-2 victory over Ecuador in Valparaiso before an epic battle between Chile and Mexico in Santiago.

Chile, 2-0 winners over Ecuador in their opening game, looked to have booked their place in the quarterfinals after two goals from Juventus star Arturo Vidal helped them into a 3-2 lead.

But a 66th-minute equaliser from Vicente Vucoso, his second of the match, earned a share of the points for Mexico, who are one of two teams from outside South America invited to take part in this year's tournament.

Vucoso had given Mexico the lead after only 21 minutes, tucking away Juan Carlos Medina's cross after a sweeping counter-attack, only for Vidal to level a minute later with a thunderous header.

Mexico grabbed the lead again on

29 minutes when Atletico Madrid striker Raul Jimenez headed home Adrian Aldrete's corner to make it 2-1.

Chile again hit back rapidly however with Eduardo Vargas equalising shortly before the break.

Vidal then struck a 55th-minute penalty to put Chile ahead for the first time in the match, only for Vucoso to frustrate the home side with his second.

Chile had what looked like a legitimate Alexis Sanchez goal ruled out for offside with 10 minutes to go as Mexico survived a late onslaught to claim a share of the points.

Chile now top Group A on goal difference as they prepare to meet Bolivia in their final first round match on Friday.

Man-of-the-match Vidal said 'La Roja' would need to improve to be sure of winning the group.

## RESULTS

**Bolivia 3** (Raldes 5, Smedberg-Dalence 18, Martins 43-pen) **Ecuador 2** (Valencia 48, Bolanos 82)  
**Chile 3** (Vidal 22, 55-pen, Vargas 42) **Mexico 3** (Vucoso 21, 66, Jimenez 29)

# Mihajlovic in, Inzaghi out

AFP, Milan

AC Milan on Tuesday sacked coach Filippo Inzaghi after what has been a bitterly disappointing season, immediately replacing him with Serbian Sinisa Mihajlovic.

Milan will not compete in Europe next season after finishing down in midtable alongside city rivals Inter, spelling the end for Inzaghi, who failed to lift the club out of the gloom after taking over from former teammate Clarence Seedorf last season.

"AC Milan announces that it has sacked first team coach Filippo Inzaghi, whom it thanks for the work done," the Serie A giants said in a statement.

Former Sampdoria coach Mihajlovic has signed a two-year deal with Milan, the seven-time European champions added.

Inzaghi, nicknamed Superpippo, made his name as a player with Milan, scoring 126 goals in 300 games and winning 10 titles including the Champions League twice.

But the 41-year-old was widely seen as having been out of his depth since stepping up from coaching the youth team to replace Seedorf in June 2014.

Milan's billionaire owner Silvio Berlusconi had admitted to having "different visions" to Inzaghi on the club.

The media tycoon, who is seeking outside investors to help him revive the club's fortunes, said Inzaghi had ignored his request for players emerging from the club's academy to be given a chance.

Milan went on to finish 10th in this season's Serie A, their worst season since Berlusconi acquired the club three decades ago.

Minutes after announcing Inzaghi's departure, Milan released a second statement: "After spells in charge of Bologna, Catania, Fiorentina, the Serbian national team and his last experience at Sampdoria, Sinisa Mihajlovic is officially the new coach of the rossoneri.

"Good luck and welcome coach!" it said of the Serb who steered Sampdoria to a seventh-place finish in Serie A and to the brink of qualification for the Europa League.

The 46-year-old former Red Star Belgrade, Lazio and Inter player has overseen 156 matches as a coach in Serie A and 11 in the Italian Cup, whilst he was also Serbia coach in nine World Cup qualifiers.

Mihajlovic will be hoping that club president Berlusconi's plans with Thai businessman Bee Taechaubol towards welcoming a possible 48 percent investment in the club come to fruition.

If the deal is confirmed, it could provide a huge shot in the arm to a club that has slipped spectacularly since Berlusconi sold a number of top stars at the same time as a number of ageing players left the San Siro in the summer of 2012.

## Guam beat India to go top

AFP, Singapore

Guam produced another stunning result on Tuesday as the tiny Pacific island side beat India 2-1 to move to the top of their 2018 World Cup qualifying group.

Looking to build on their 1-0 win over Turkmenistan last Thursday, the Matao took the game to their visitors who are currently 141st on the FIFA World Ranking, 33 spots ahead of them.

They took the lead at the GFA National Training Center after 38 minutes when Brandon McDonald headed in Ryan Guy's long throw-in and Travis Nicklaw extended the advantage in the 62nd minute when he received a long pass from his elder brother Shawn and fired home on the turn.

Sunil Chhetri got a consolation goal for India with the last kick of the game but it did little to take the shine off another remarkable result for Guam, who moved to the top of Group D with six points from two games.

With Oman -- who beat India 2-1 last week -- not in action and Iran playing their first group game in Turkmenistan later on Tuesday, Guam are assured of remaining at the summit of their group in the second round of Asian qualifying until the next round of games in September.

Guam, a United States island territory in the Western Pacific with a population of less than 200,000, are competing in the World Cup qualifiers for the first time since 2000 when they were beaten 19-0 by Iran and 16-0 by Tajikistan.