# 





An Argentina team without many of its brightest stars nearly held archrivals Brazil to a draw on Tuesday, only to be undone by a perfect corner from Neymar which left the unmarked Miranda (C) at the near post with the simple task of heading home. The win in Jeddah means the Selecao now have 41 wins to Argentina's 38 in their meetings.

## Brazil silence Argentina

### 'I promise a goal next time'

STAR SPORT DESK

Brazil superstar Neymar dazzled the crowd in Jeddah on Tuesday night with his tricks, flicks and passes and drew roars from the stands at will when he decided to turn on the flair. However, the largest roar of the night, which was reserved for his goal, never came.

Tite's permanent captain -- the experiment with the rotation of the armband is now over -- promised however that he would not disappoint again.

"You can rest assured that I will dedicate myself in the next game and I promise you a goal," Neymar told the Brazilian press after the game.

The 26-year-old added that it was a great feeling to lift his first piece of silverware as captain.

"I told the group that I wanted to win and I would play for

it. When a trophy is at stake, we want to win. We give our lives for this shirt and want to win, no matter if it is friendly." However, despite having lifted the trophy, Neymar

warned that the team would only get better with experience.

"I won't say anything about today's game, but I think we could have done more in the first game [a 2-0 win over Saudi Arabia]. We need to learn. We will not always make a great start but we took all the positives and it was a learning experience."

AFP, Jeddah



Brazil snatched a dramatic 1-0 win over Argentina with an injury-time header from Miranda in their friendly match in front of a sell-out crowd in Jeddah on Tuesday.

The Inter Milan centre-back was left all alone to thump in a 93rd-minute effort from Neymar's corner when the match between the fierce South American rivals seemed

The lapse spoiled an otherwise strong defensive performance from Argentina, who contained Brazil for long periods.

destined for a stalemate.

With Neymar to the fore, Brazil exerted late pressure and could have scored in the few minutes before Miranda struck. Casemiro came close with a 25-

yard free-kick manufactured by Neymar that flew past goalkeeper Sergio Romero's left post. Then Nicolas Otamendi stuck out a boot to deflect a shot

from Richarlison in the last minute. "Argentina created chances to score, tried to win, young players of the team showed. but Brazil were better and the team's performance

was rewarded with the goal," Tite told reporters. "It [Miranda's winner] could have been another time, but it was in the end," Tite added. "The team were concentrating. The corner was the result of a

many of their top stars while Brazil named a strong

Argentina created

win, but Brazil were

performance was

**Brazil coach Tite** 

better and the team's

rewarded with the goal.

chances to score, tried to

keeper Alisson beaten.

side. Brazil's win saw them extend their record to 41 wins to Argentina's 38, with 26 draws. La Albiceleste manager Lionel Scaloni was pleased with his side's performance, although he seemed to agree with Tite's assess-

Argentina's best chance came during a period of

pressure around the hour mark, when Leandro

Paredes hit a swerving, dipping drive that had Brazil

In their 105th meeting, Argentina were without

volume of play that we put in the game."

ment that Brazil were the better side. "Doing what we did today, we are going to be able to take on the whole world," Scaloni said. "The result was secondary, but it does not mean it does not hurt to lose like that.

"It was an exciting match and the boys put up an incredible effort. They played as equals to a team that has a lot more than us. I am tremendously excited and happy for the work that the boys did."

Another one of the positives that Scaloni took away from the match was the composure which the

"It was a first Superclassic for many of the footballers and they showed that they are ready for important things. This is the case for [right-back] Saravia, who played against one of the best players in the world [Neymar] and had a great match."

### New mindset, new Mehedi

SPORTS REPORTER





Even from age-level days, Mehedi Hasan Miraz was rated highly for his ability to take responsibility despite being a young cricketer and it has continued to be a standout feature

of his performances at the highest level.

Although the 20-year-old made his Test debut two years ago with a bang, Mehedi has had to struggle for his place in the fifty-over format until the West Indies tour in August where he was given a different role -- to restrict batsmen with the new ball.

Mehedi opened the bowling and managed to keep things tight for the Caribbean batsmen and that role continued in the Asia Cup in the UAE. Mehedi has picked up eight wickets in his last 10 games but it was his miserly economy rate, 3.93, which has been arguably more important for the Tigers.

Talking about his role in the limited-overs format as

different from Test cricket -where he is considered a wicket-taker -- Mehedi said that he is only focusing on restricting the batsmen in the one-dayers, which allows the others to pick wickets and ultimately help the team.

Mehedi informed that he has added a few variations in his bowling and that, along with his changed mentality, helped his bowling to improve immensely.

"I think my thinking has changed from the past as I am now mentally stronger and have also brought some variations to my bowling which worked well for me. Previously I used to bowl at a particular pace and the seam position was a bit different. Now I have changed the direction of the seam; now I bowl with a 90-degree angle while previously it was a 45degree and I am mixing it up in my bowling," Mehedi told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

**TALK ON ZIM SERIES** 

It is disappointing that Shakib bhai is not with us. I hope he can return soon. It is not any pressure as I see it as an added responsibility. Since Shakib bhai is not there, my responsibility will be to bowl better and at the same time I will try to encourage the other

Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz

spinners.

Much like the absence of champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has created complications in the bowling line-up, it also creates a big vacuum in the batting. The upcoming home series against Zimbabwe will be the platform for the youngster to take a leadership role and in that Mehedi, who opened the innings in the final of the Asia Cup against India, has set a good example.

"Shakib bhai is the best all-rounder in the world and

whenever he plays I try to play the small roles to contribute for the side. I will try to fulfil my role in the Zimbabwe series," said Mehedi and added that he is more confident with his batting than in the past.

### Taskin, Soumya surprise

SPORTS REPORTER



Two out-of-favour Bangladesh cricketers WALTON put in surprising performances on the third day of the third round of the National Cricket League yesterday. National opener Soumya Sarkar unexpectedly bagged his second five-wicket haul in first-class cricket playing for Khulna Division against Rangpur Division, while discarded pacer Taskin Ahmed seemed to discover some longer version

nous with a five-wicket haul of his own for Dhaka Metro. In the Tier-1 Khulna-Rangpur game at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, the visitors started the day on 200 for four in their first innings after Khulna's 304 all out. Sohrawardi Shuvo was dismissed by pacer Al-Amin Hossain for 48 after nine runs were added. Soumya then took the last five wickets with the medium pace that seemed useful in ODI cricket in the recent Asia Cup, but it was not enough to stop Rangpur from taking a slender 11-run lead.

Soumya then hit his second half-century of the match after coming in at number three, adding 71 as Khulna ended the day on 181 for five, leading by 170 runs.

In the Tier-2 game at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura, Chattogram resumed the day on 187 for six after Taskin had taken three wickets on the previous day. He added two more to help skittle Chattogram for 236, 51 shy of Metro's first innings total of 287. Chattogram batsman Tasamul Haque however shared in Taskin's limelight with a 263-ball 116.

Metro opener Shadman Islam then hit 62 and through some useful middle-order contributions, the side reached stumps on 191 for six, with a lead of 242 runs heading into the last day. 17-year-old off-spinner Nayeem Hasan took his maiden five-for in first-class cricket.

Meanwhile, bat met ball for the first time in the other two



TASKIN AHMED... 5 for 67

#### HIGHLIGHTS

 Soumya Sarkar, who is mainly known for his batting abilities, announced himself as an all-rounder by bagging his second five-wicket haul in first-class cricket. An occasional seamer, the 25-year-old has been working on his bowling and will surely look to emerge as a handy all-rounder in the coming days. O Despite making his first-class debut seven years ago, pacer Taskin Ahmed

finally bagged his first five-wicket haul against Chattogram. The tall 23-yearold, who just returned from a back injury, finally got back into rhythm to help bundle out Dhaka Metropolis for a low total.

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

KHULNA V RANGPUR **KHULNA:** 1st inns 304 and 181 for 5 (Soumya 71, Tushar 63) RANGPUR: 1st inns 315 (Tanbir 67 not out; Soumya 5-61, Al Amin 4-67) DHAKA METRO V CHATTOGRAM DHAKA METRO: 1st inns 287 and 191 for 6 (Shadman 62; Nayeem 5-99) CHATTOGRAM: 1st inns 236 (Tasamul

116; Taskin 5-67) SYLHET V DHAKA DIVISION SYLHET: 1st inns 229 for 2 (Zakir 84 not out, Rajin 64 not out) BARISHAL V RAJSHAHI BARISHAL: 1st inns 133 all out (Al Amin 31; Farhad 4-30, Taijul 2-42) RAJSHAHI: 1st inns 125 for 9 (Sabbir 31; Sohag 3-19)

matches yesterday as the first two days of the Tier-1 game between Barishal and Rajshahi and the Tier-2 game between Sylhet and Dhaka were washed out. At the Barishal Divisional Stadium, the home side were shot out for 133 with Forhad Reza taking four for 30. Rajshahi fared no better as they were cut down to 125 for nine at stumps.

It was a different picture in Cox's Bazar where Sylhet coasted to 229 for two, with Zakir Hasan batting on 84 and Rajin Saleh unbeaten on 64 at stumps.



### BD U-19s fail to capitalise on good start

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite scoring 209 for 3 in the first day of the first four-day game against Sri Lanka, visiting Bangladesh Under-19 side were unable to utilise the start.

The young Tigers lost six wickets adding another 100 runs to their overnight score before being bundled out for 309 runs in their first innings on the second day at the NCC ground in Colombo yesterday.

Bangladesh lost both the overnight batsman skipper Towhid Hridoy (54) and Shamim Hossain (43) without troubling the score.

Amite Hasan who came to bat at number seven took the responsibility singlehandedly and struck his fifty but there were wickets tumbling at the other end which made things difficult for Bangladesh.

Amite was the last batsman to be dismissed for the Tigers after scoring a team high 64 off 99 balls with six fours as the youths were all-out inside 38 overs of the second day.

Sri Lanka in reply ended the day on 65 for 1 losing the only wicket of Kamil Mishara on 19 to the bowling of Hridoy. His partner Navod Paranavithana not out on 35 and Skipper Nipu Dananjaya on 5 will resume the third day trailing by 244 runs.



Zimbabwe skipper Hamilton Masakadza (L) plays football during the first practice session of the tour at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

### 'Have the team to win'

SPORTS REPORTER





The last time Zimbabwe won an ODI against Bangladesh was in

last time they beat the Tigers in an ODI in Bangladesh was in December 2010. Having lost the last 10 contests between the sides and coming off a winless tour of South Africa, it may seem that there is little reason for Zimbabwe skipper Hamilton Masakadza to be optimistic.

However, the Zimbabwe team were in high spirits as they had their first practice session of the tour at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, ahead of the three-match ODI series set to start next Sunday.

"It is a very important series. We've played a lot against each other; it's always been competitive and I expect it to be competitive this

time around as well," Masakdza said. A cricketing culture perennially in turmoil because of conflict between the board and the

players, Zimbabwe do have the benefit this time of having a lot of players back in their ranks, including star all-rounder Sikandar Raza, who was out of the picture for a while because of a contract dispute.

"[Raza is] obviously a big inclusion to May 2013, and the the team. It adds a lot of value. [He] Bowls and bats and is also a very good fielder."

One other thing in their favour will be that Bangladesh have to play without two of their biggest stalwarts in Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan, both of whom will

miss the series due to injury. "Obviously those are two very big players for Bangladesh who have performed for them for quite a long time," Masakadza said. "But Bangladesh have a lot of players; they've obviously got a few replacements waiting, so I don't think it will take too much out of them."

"I believe we have the personnel to do the job. We've got good youngsters that are coming through and good experience. I think we definitely have the team to be able to win games here."

SOUMYA SARKER... 5 for 61