



SPORT



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND CALLING S4



Argentina's talisman Lionel Messi cuts a forlorn figure following his side's 2-0 defeat against Colombia in their opening Copa America fixture at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi 'bitter' as Colombia stun Argentina

AFP, Salvador

Lionel Messi said his team was feeling bitter after Argentina lost their opening Copa America match 2-0 to Colombia despite dominating the second half. Goals from Roger Martinez and Duvan Zapata in the final 20 minutes gave Colombia their first tournament victory over Argentina in 20 years as Messi's hopes of finally landing a major international tournament after losing in four finals suffered a serious blow.

"We leave here feeling bitter," said Messi following the Group B clash in Salvador.

"In the second half we had our chances."

One of the best of those fell to the 31-year-old Barcelona icon but he headed wide after Colombia's goalkeeper David Ospina got down quickly to push out a header from center-back Nicolas Otamendi.

But although Argentina dominated possession and created more chances in the second period, they rarely caused Ospina any serious concerns.

"We didn't want to start this way, obviously, but now we have to lift our heads and keep going," said the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, who lined up in an enviable forward trio with Manchester City's Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria of Paris Saint-Germain.

"In the first half we retreated a little and were holding on, but in the second we really opened up," said Messi, the Argentina captain.

"Whenever you lose it's hard for us, we usually take it badly. Now we have to think about Paraguay."

Argentina can still make the knock-out stages with games against Paraguay and guests Qatar, the Asian champions, to come.

Midfielder Leandro Paredes, who forced a diving save out of Ospina with one long range strike and sent a second whistling past the post, was pleased with the second half performance.

"We created a lot but unfortunately they scored in our best period," he said.

Sk Russel down MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club's unbeaten run in the second leg of Bangladesh Premier League came to an end yesterday when they suffered a 4-2 defeat against Sheikh Russel KC in their home match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan, who earned only six points from 12 matches in the first leg, had secured seven points in last three matches before yesterday's match.

The Black and Whites twice fought back from a goal down, but Sheikh Russel had the last laugh, thanks to a brace from Raphael Odoyin.

Biplu Ahmed gave Sheikh Russel the lead, but Toklish Ahmed scored for Mohammedan. Alison Udoka gave Sheikh Russel the lead again, only for Toklish to equalise yet again.

However, Odoyin, the Nigerian striker, then scored two goals in the 70th and 86th minutes to settle the topsy-turvy encounter.

Sheikh Russel are now in third position with 36 points from 15 matches while Mohammedan remained in 10th position with 13 points from 16 matches.

In the day's first match, Arambagh beat Chittagong Abahani 1-0 to raise their tally to 23 points from 16 matches, five points more than sixth-placed Chittagong Abahani. Chinedu Mathew scored the all-important goal in the 63rd minute of the match.

Ruman wins bronze in World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

After earning the right to participate in Tokyo Olympics directly on Thursday, Bangladesh's best archer Ruman Sana ended his Hyundai World Archery Championships campaign on a high when the 24-year-old outplayed Mauro Nespoli of Italy by 7-1 set points in the bronze medal deciding match of men's recurve event in Netherlands yesterday.

Ruman, who did not show much optimism for the tie against the No. 6 archer in the world, put an astonishing performance to take a 4-0 set points lead after winning the first two sets by 28-27 and 29-27 points. Nespoli tried to stage a comeback as he tied the third set by 29-29 points.

With Ruman needing only one set point in remaining two sets, the lad from Khulna once again scored 29 against Mauro's 27 to win the match by 7-1 set points.

Ruman, who had previously grabbed two gold medals on foreign soil in the First Asian Archery Grand Prix in 2014 and International Archery tournament in Kyrgyzstan in 2017, eclipsed those performances with a bronze medal win yesterday as he had to compete against 200 archers from 92 nations including top archery nations like South Korea, Netherlands, USA, China, Chinese Taipei and India.

This year, Ruman played two finals in ISSF Islamic Solidarity Archery Championships in Dhaka and Asia Cup (Stage-1) but he had to be content with silver medals.

He had earlier won two more silver medals from 2nd ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championships in 2018 and 3rd South Asian Archery Championship in 2018 held in Bangladesh.

Ruman and the other Bangladeshi archers are scheduled to return home tomorrow.



WHAT TO WATCH

GTV, BTV & MAASRANGA
ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP
BANGLADESH V WEST INDIES
LIVE FROM 3:30PM

BANGLA TV
BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE
SAIF SC V BROTHERS UNION
LIVE FROM 4:00PM

MUKTJODDHA V NOFEL SC
LIVE FROM 4:00PM

DAY'S EVENTS

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE
SAIF SC V BROTHERS UNION
TIME: 4:00PM

VENUE: ROFIQUE UDDIN BHUIYAN STADIUM, MYMENSINGH

MUKTJODDHA V NOFEL SC
TIME: 4:00PM

VENUE: SHEIKH FAZLUL HAQUE MONI STADIUM, GOPALGANJ

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