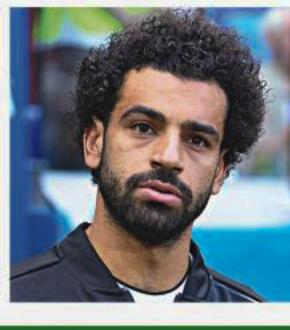
**GTV, CHANNEL 9 & STAR SPORTS 1** India v Bangladesh First Test, Day Two Live from 10:00am

TEN 1 **Euro Qualifiers** Armenia v Greece Live from 11:00pm Romania v Sweden Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

TEN 2 **Euro Qualifiers** Finland v Lichtenstein Live from 11:00pm Spain v Malta Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

**SALAH** TO MISS CUP OF NATIONS QUALIFIERS

African superstar Mohamed Salah will not play for Egypt against Kenya on Thursday in 2021 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying because of a lingering ankle injury. The 27-year-old forward was hurt against Leicester City last month and despite making several subsequent appearances for Liverpool, is suffering from slight discomfort in his left ankle. Egyptian media reported that after Salah travelled from England to Mediterranean city Alexandria, national squad medical staff ruled him out of the Group G clash. He will also miss the away fixture against the Comoros in Moroni next Monday. Salah wore a protective boot on his left foot as he watched his Pharaohs teammates prepare in Alexandria to face the Harambee Stars at the 87,000-capacity Borg el Arab Stadium.





Bangladesh midfielder Biplo Ahmed (R) chases the ball as Oman players close in during a joint qualifers for the World Cup and Asian Cup encoutner in Muscat yesterday.

# Oman thrash Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER



sloppy round performance from Bangladesh the side suffer a heavy 4-1 defeat

against Oman in an away fixture of the joint qualifiers for the World Cup and Asia Cup at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat yesterday.

After a barren first half, Mohsin Al Khaldi, Al Mandhar Al Alawi, substitute Arshad Said Al Alawi and Amran Said Al Hidi struck one goal apiece while Biplu Ahmed pulled one goal back for Bangladesh, who remain glued to the bottom of the table with three defeats and one draw while Oman reduced the gap with leaders Qatar by raising their points tally to nine, just one point behind.

Following brilliant performances in the last two matches against Asian champions Qatar and India, there was an expectation that the boys in red and green would be able to carry that momentum into the Oman tie, however, the charges of Jamie Day failed miserably.

Ahead of the match, coach Day predicted that the match against Oman

was going to be extremely tough. This assumption turned out to be true indeed thanks to their poor performance with Bangladesh players even looking too tired to run later in the match.

Despite making a lot of unforced errors, Bangladesh held back their might opponents, who are 100 places ahead in FIFA rankings, in the first half. However, the scenario soon changed drastically soon after the second half began.

As expected, the ball was confined to Bangladesh's side in the first half due to the superior ball possession of the home team, who pressed hard with crosses whipping in from both flanks, but they could not break the Bangladesh backline with goalkeeper Ashraful Islam Rana standing solid under the post to deny Mohsin Al Khaldi, Al-Mandhar Al Alawi and Muhsen Saleh Al Ghassani.

Interestingly, Bangladesh mustered the first shot on target in the 11th minute when Jamal Bhuiyan unleased a powerful shot from 35 yards only to be thwarted by brilliant goalkeeping from Ali Al Habsi.

deadlock three minutes into the second half with Al Khaldi shooting a powerful left-footer into the near post from the top of the box after availing a

cross from Said Al Razaiqi.

After conceding, Bangladesh started coming out of their defensive shell and began defending in the opposition half, leaving a big space behind the backline and Oman punished the visitors for their folly with quick runs.

through the right flank with Abdul Aziz Al Gheilani releasing a cross which was misjudged by goalkeeper Rana, leaving an unmarked Mandhar Al Alawi to tap it in from inside the six-yard box to double the lead in the 68tth minute. Oman came close to widening the gap further from a counter attack in

Oman again launched an attack

Al Ghassani was denied by woodwork before substitute Arshad Said Al Alawi made it 3-0 in the 78th minute with a powerful left-footer, courtesy of a poor clearance from Raihan Hasasn. Bangladesh kept on with their

the 77th minute but Mushen Salah

offensive approach to reduce the margin in the 80th minute when Biplo Ahmed found the back of Oman's net with an angular shot off a Saad Uddin header. Oman completed the rout in the

Oman eventually broke the 90th minute when defender Al-Hidi scored the fourth goal from inside the box as goalkeeper Rana lost his grip on the ball and allowed it to roll over the line.

## Bangladesh fall to fourth

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh had to be satisfied with finishing fourth among five teams in the Bangamata Asian Senior Women's Central Zone International Volleyball Championship after suffering a straight 3-0 sets defeat to Kyrgyzstan in a place-deciding match at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Bangladesh, who beat Kyrgyzstan by 3-2 sets in a groupstage match on Wednesday, failed to put up any resistance in the third-fourth deciding match as the girls in red and green conceded 13-25, 14-25 and 12-25 set defeats against the Central Asian nation, who subsequently finished third in the inaugural meet.

On the other hand, Nepal emerged as unbeaten champions after thrashing Maldives by 3-0 sets in the final. Nepal, who also beat Maldives by an identical margin in a group-stage match, notched 25-13, 25-12 and 25-8 set points to claim the victory.

"It is a historic moment for us because volleyball has recently been declared the national sport of Nepal and it is the first trophy for Nepal in volleyball since the announcement. I think this success will boost the confidence of the girls for the upcoming SA Games in Nepal," said Nepal coach Jagodish Prasad after the match.

Agriculture minister Abdur Razzak distributed prizes among the winners while Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Syed Shahed Reza, Ilias Úddin Mollah MP, Bangladesh Volleyball Federation president and Dhaka City Corporation (North) mayor Atiqul Islam among others, werepresent on the occasion.

# Soumya shines for emerging team

SPORTS REPORTER



Riding on opener Soumya Sarkar's unbeaten 74-ball 84, the Bangladesh Emerging Team romped to a ninewicket win against their Hong Kongese counterparts

during an ACC Emerging Teams Cup encounter at BKSP-4 in Savar yesterday.

Asked to bat on the opening day of the tournament, Hong Kong were restricted to a below-par 164 for nine in 50 overs before Bangladesh chased down the target in just 24.1 overs.

Bangladesh kept Hong Kong at bay from the beginning, picking up wickets at regular intervals and not allowing any partnership to grow. Hong Kong had lost half their squad by the 26th over with the score on just 76. A team-high 33-ball 35 from Haroon Arshad down the order helped Hong Kong reach 164 for nine. For Bangladesh, rightarm pacer Sumon Khan was the pick of the bowlers, returning figures of four for 33 in his 10 overs. Soumya, who would go on to play an incredible knock which steered

Bangladesh to victory, also shone with the ball. Although the 26-year old remained wicketless, his economic spell of 36 runs in 10 overs, featuring two maidens, helped Bangladesh's cause.

After the exchange, opener Mohammad Naim, who was impressive during Bangladesh's last T20I against India, continued his good run of form, scoring a run-a-ball 52 before being dismissed in the 16th over. Meanwhile, Soumya laced his innings with nine boundaries and three sixes to see Bangladesh over the line with 155 balls to spare.

However, Bangladesh were suffered blow in the form of the injury of legspinner Aminul Islam. Aminul left the field after being hit on his right hand following an attempt to stop the ball off his own delivery in the 19th over.

In the day's other matches, India defeated Nepal by seven wickets at BKSP-3. Meanwhile in Cox's Bazar, Oman won against Sri Lanka by four wickets and Pakistan defeated Afghanistan by eight wickets.



Opener Soumya Sarkar scored an unbeaten 74-ball 84 as Bangladesh Emerging Team beat Hong Kong by nine wickets in an Emerging Teams Cup encounter at BKSP-4 yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

### BD move to semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh moved into

the semifinals of the inaugural Junior World Kabaddi Championship by defeating Thailand 62-37 in the fourth quarterfinal at Kish Island, Iran yesterday. In today's second

semifinal fixture, Bangladesh will take on Iran, who thrashed Chinese Taipei 53-31 in the second quarterfinal. Meanwhile, Pakistan beat Sri Lanka 44-32 to set up a semifinal clash against the winner of the other quarterfinal encounter between Denmark and Kenya.

Earlier in the tournament, Bangladesh outplayed Afghanistan 84-11 before going on to defeat Chinese Taipei 48-36 to emerge as champions of Group C and ensure a quarterfinal berth.

### Test cricket finally returns to Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

Test cricket will return to Pakistan after a long gap of 10 years after Sri Lanka agreed to a tour for two matches next month, the Pakistan Cricket Board

announced on Thursday. The vote of confidence from Sri Lanka is hugely symbolic, as it was the attack on their team bus during a visit to Lahore in 2009 which drove international cricket away from Pakistan as the country grappled with militancy.

## Ibra confirms LA Galaxy exit

AFP, Los Angeles



Swedish star Zlatan Ibrahimovic confirmed his departure from the "The story continues...Now go Los Angeles Galaxy on Wednesday, but

gave no clue over his future plans or possible retirement. 38-year-old striker's The

departure from the Galaxy had been widely expected following the club's elimination from the Major League Soccer playoffs last month.

Ibrahimovic, who joined the Galaxy in the opening months of the 2018 campaign, announced the end of his Californian sojourn in a characteristically enigmatic post on Twitter.

"I came, I saw, I conquered. Thank you @lagalaxy for making me feel alive again," Ibrahimovic wrote. "To the Galaxy fans - you wanted Zlatan, I gave you Zlatan. You are welcome.

back to watch baseball." The Galaxy said in a brief statement the club had parted company with Ibrahimovic by

mutual agreement. "We would like to thank Zlatan for his contributions to the LA Galaxy and Major League Soccer," said LA

Galaxy President Chris Klein. Ibrahimovic has been strongly linked with a return to Italian club AC Milan, where he played for two seasons between 2010 and 2012, scoring 42 goals in 61 league appearances.

THIRD YOUTH ODI

#### BD U-19 thrash SL

SPORTS REPORTER

A magnificent unbeaten 98-ball 123 from Towhid Hridoy saw the Bangladesh under-19 team register a whopping 161-run victory over their Sri Lankan counterparts in the third of a five-match Youth ODI series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. The win ensured Bangladesh a 2-0 lead in the series with the first match being abandoned due to inclement weather.

Asked to bat, Bangladesh posted a mammoth 340 for seven in 50 overs. Three of the young Tigers crossed the 50-run mark with Towhid smashing an unbeaten century.

Following the exchange, a disciplined bowling unit helped the young Tigers bundle Sri Lanka out for 179 runs in 39.2 overs. All six bowlers used by Bangladesh on the day scalped at least a wicket each. For Sri Lanka, opener Navod Paranavithana top scored with 50 off 32 balls.

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