

SPORT

Gomez steals the show in Messi's record appearance

AGENCIES



Argentina and Chile on Monday booked their places in the Copa America quarter-finals, ending top of Group A after low-scoring matches that left the other two spots up for grabs.

Argentina logged its second win in three group matches played, beating Paraguay 1-0, with Alejandro "Papu" Gomez scoring the sole goal of a lacklustre match in Brasilia in the ninth minute.

The win placed Lionel Messi's La Albiceleste top of Group A with seven

HIGHLIGHTS

• Lionel Messi equalled Javier Mascherano's record as the player with the most caps for Argentina (147). In addition, he has now played 100 competitive matches for the Albiceleste.

• Argentina stretch their unbeaten run to 16 games in all competitions (9 wins, 7 draws). They have not lost since an 0-2 defeat to Brazil in the Copa America 2019.

• Argentina beat Paraguay for the first time in four competitive games (3 draws, 1 loss). The previous Albiceleste victory came in the semifinal of the 2015 Copa America.



PHOTO: REUTERS

points -- enough to secure its spot in the next phase of the tournament being played in empty stadiums in coronavirus-battered Brazil.

It was not a night of glory for Messi or his team, who in the second half seemed to resign themselves to defending a spirited, but ultimately fruitless, Paraguayan attack. In the other match Monday, Chile drew 1-1 with Uruguay to end the day with five log points.

With four matches left to play in Group A, Paraguay has three points, Uruguay one, and Bolivia zero, meaning they all still stand a theoretical chance to go to the

quarter-finals.

Brazil, who will take on Colombia on Thursday at 6am (Bangladesh Time) in their next match, has already qualified for Group B.

The victory over Paraguay in Brasilia took Argentina through to the quarter-finals with a game to spare and Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni admitted the time might be right to rest his star man.

"It's possible that we will rotate in the next game," he said of next Tuesday's final group game against Bolivia (6am, Bangladesh Time). "Having qualified gives us some peace of mind. Now we can recharge our batteries and our strength."

Mushy joins Tamim, Taskin on sidelines

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani skipper Mushfiqur Rahim has been ruled of the ongoing Bangladesh Dhaka Premier League and will miss the rest of the super league matches after hurting left hand while fielding during a match against Gazi Group Cricketers on Monday.

The wicketkeeper-batsman sustained the injury as a throw from his teammate struck his left hand after Mushfiqur had removed his gloves to collect the ball.

After undergoing a CT scan yesterday, Bangladesh Cricket Board's chief physician Dr Debshahish Chowdhury informed that Mushfiqur had a hairline fracture on his index finger.

"There is a small hairline fracture on the index finger according to the CT scan. We have asked him to take a week's rest, after which we will assess his condition again. Since it's a hairline fracture, we expect him to recover quickly," Debshahish

told media today.

Although it is still unclear whether Mushfiqur can recover before the upcoming Zimbabwe tour, Debshahish informed that the medical team would review his condition after a week.

Earlier, Prime Bank Cricket Club's Tamim Iqbal was ruled out of the super league suffering a knee injury. Pacer Taskin Ahmed also sustained an injury and was ruled out of the super league.

Selectors are expected to announce the Bangladesh squad for the upcoming Zimbabwe tour within the next few days. Bangladesh are scheduled to play a Test, three ODIs and three T20Is.

However, the BCB is still waiting for the quarantine protocols from the Zimbabwe Cricket Board, depending on which they will announce the travel date for the tour. Mushfiqur had asked for a break from the T20I series while star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who is currently in the USA with his family, is expected to join the team in Zimbabwe directly.



EURO 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



DENMARK'S FAIRYTALE

PHOTO: REUTERS

AGENCIES

Despair turned to exhilaration for Denmark as they claimed an astonishing 4-1 victory over Russia to scramble into the last 16 of Euro 2020 on a head-spinning night in Copenhagen on Monday.

Nine days after Denmark's talisman Christian Eriksen needed life-saving treatment after suffering a cardiac arrest in front of a stunned Parken Stadium crowd, his team mates duly delivered on their promise to "do it for Christian".

"It's so insane that we've gone through. This team, these players. It's great to be a part of it," said Mikkel Damsgaard, the 20-year-old who has stepped into Eriksen's boots.

"I have never dreamed of being a part of something so big, so it's a great feeling."

Denmark is a nation united behind its football team after they charged into the Euro 2020 knockout on a cathartic night in Copenhagen which sets them up well for the rest of the

**This is the first time a team has ever survived the group stage despite losing their first two matches. It was an unusually prolific day out for the Danes, too, as it is the first time they have scored four or more goals in a major tournament game since they beat Nigeria 4-1 in the 1998 World Cup. The feat is made all the more impressive by the players overcoming the shock of Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest during the clash with Finland.

**As of Monday night, 11 teams had qualified for the round of 16. Italy, Belgium and Netherlands were through as group winners, while Wales, Denmark and Austria were confirmed as runners-up. Switzerland were confirmed in third place, while Czech Republic, England, Sweden and France were also confirmed as qualified, but their final placing unknown.

tournament.

Considered by many a dark horse before the Euro started thanks to a squad packed with talent, Denmark will face Wales in the last 16 and on the evidence of Monday's thrilling 4-1 thumping of Russia will be favourites to make the last eight.

Before the tournament started, coach Kasper Hjulmand said he wanted his side to "dare to dream" of going all the way as in 1992, and on Monday their

resolve shone through after a rough fortnight in which the players had to deal with seeing teammate Christian Eriksen nearly die on the pitch.

Asked how he managed to hold things together for the team after they secured a spot in the next round, Hjulmand said: "I have a great team around me, great staff, great people around me, great players."

"I think the only way I can tell it is we are a unit. It's not one

person, it's not me or anything else, it's a unit," he added. "We're backing each other up and that is the best within Denmark I think, the best values we can show that we stand united, we are helping each other."

Having lost their first two matches in the aftermath of Eriksen's sudden cardiac arrest midway through their opener against Finland, the Danes came into Monday's match with their tournament status in danger.

They needed eventual Group B winners Belgium to beat Finland and a win by two goals or more -- or a single-goal win by any other score than 1-0 -- over the Russians.

During the match's opening ceremony fans roared as a huge Denmark shirt with "Eriksen 10" written on it was unfurled, and Hjulmand said his team were playing in honour of their close friend. "It's hard to describe what this team has been through the past four weeks. We're thinking about Cristian all the way."



DO-OR-DIE CLASH FOR SPAIN

Spain coach Luis Enrique does keepy-uppy with the ball during a training session yesterday ahead of his side's do-or-die Group E battle in the Euro 2020 against Slovakia tonight. Spain are readying themselves for a test of nerve in their last group game, with Enrique's side needing victory to guarantee their place in the last 16 after two disappointing draws against Sweden and Poland.

A LETHAL COMBINATION

Belgium outclassed Finland 2-0 on Monday to continue their perfect start to Euro 2020 and finish top of Group B, leaving the Finns facing a nervous wait to see if they can sneak into the last 16. A much-changed Belgium side dominated the game but only found a breakthrough in the 74th minute courtesy of an own goal from keeper Lukas Hradecky. Striker Romelu Lukaku clinched the victory in the 83rd minute by swivelling to thump home a Kevin de Bruyne pass. The Manchester City midfielder was once again the best player on the pitch while Lukaku used a combination of skill and power to seal the victory and continue his prolific start to the tournament, joining Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, Czech Republic's Patrik Schick and the Netherlands' Georginio Wijnaldum on three goals.



PHOTO: TWITTER

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1
WTC Final (Reserve Day)
India vs New Zealand
Live from 3:30 pm

SONY SIX & TEN 2
EURO 2020
Sweden vs Poland
Live from 10:00 pm
Slovakia vs Spain
Live from 10:00 pm
Portugal vs France
Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)
Germany vs Hungary
Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

T SPORTS & GAZI TV
Dhaka Premier Division T20
Mohammedan vs Sheikh Jamal
Live from 9:00 am
Prime Bank vs Gazi Group
Live from 2:00 pm
Abahani vs Prime Doleswar
Live from 6:30 pm



India's Mohammad Shami celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Colin de Grandhomme on the fifth day of the weather-marred World Test Championship final at the Ageas Bowl yesterday. Shami bowled masterfully to take four wickets while Ishant Sharma claimed three wickets as New Zealand were all out for 249 runs before Tea in reply to India's first innings total of 217. PHOTO: REUTERS