

SPORT



'NO FEAR AGAINST ENGLAND'

REUTERS, Glasgow



Ukraine manager Andriy Shevchenko said his team would not be intimidated by England's 2-0 win over Germany at Wembley in their Euro 2020 last-16 clash but motivated to produce an upset when they lock horns in Rome on Saturday.

The Ukrainians booked their quarter-final berth with an extra-time 2-1 win over Sweden on Tuesday thanks to a last-gasp goal by Artem Dovbyk after England sent Germany home on the back of second-half efforts from Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane.

"England are a great team, they have a deep bench, an outstanding coaching staff and we are fully aware

QUARTERFINALS

| Match | Date | Time |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| QF1: Switzerland v Spain | July 2 | 10:00pm |
| QF2: Belgium v Italy | July 3 | 1:00am (Friday night) |
| QF3: Czech v Denmark | July 3 | 10:00pm |
| QF4: Ukraine v England | July 4 | 1:00am (Saturday night) |

ALL TIMES ARE BANGLADESH STANDARD.

how tough this game is going to be," Shevchenko told a news conference. "I saw a 1 1

their three group matches, not today's win over Germany because we had to prepare for our own game with Sweden. They are incredibly difficult to score against but their strength shouldn't scare us.

"It should motivate us because everything is possible in football as in life and we will play our hearts out to give our fans even more to cheer about."

England are yet to concede in the tournament, having beaten Croatia and the Czech Republic 1-0 in the group stage while they also drew 0-0 with Scotland. Man of the match Oleksandr

Zinchenko, who scored Ukraine's first goal and set up the second against Sweden, heaped praise on his Manchester City team mate Sterling who has scored three of England's four goals in Euro 2020.

"Sterling is one of the best wingers in the world and right now he is making all the difference for England," he said.

"We will need to be at our very best in defence to stop him but it will be difficult because he is on a roll."

Zinchenko added he and the rest of the team had been under pressure to deliver against Sweden after coming under fire for poor group-stage performances, having lost to the Netherlands and Austria while beating North Macedonia. "It was difficult for me to adjust because a lot of criticism was poured on the whole team and on me in particular.

"Today, we have proved to the whole of Europe that we can achieve our goals."

"I would like to thank the fans, all those who managed to come to the stadium. This is a historic achievement and they should rejoice because moments like this are rare."



'We don't stop here'

AFP, London

England captain Harry Kane said his side will not stop after ending their long barren run against Germany at major tournaments with a 2-0 win at Wembley to move into the quarter-finals of Euro 2020.

Kane headed home his first goal of the tournament late on in front of a raucous Wembley crowd to secure England's first knockout victory at a European Championship in 25 years.

It was also their first knockout victory over the four-time world champions since lifting the World Cup on home soil in 1966.

"It's an amazing day, an amazing game. To hear Wembley like this is a moment none of us will ever forget," said Kane.

"A great performance, another clean sheet, just the perfect afternoon. We'll enjoy this one but we know we've got another big one on Saturday now."

England's route back to Wembley for the semi-finals and final appears kind with Sweden or Ukraine to come in the quarter-finals in Rome on Saturday.

Win that and they will face Denmark or the Czech Republic in the last four.

"It doesn't get bigger than this. A knockout game against a big nation,

at home, when all the pressure is on, and we delivered so we should be proud of that," he added.

"The bottom line is we don't want to stop here, we've got a vision of where we want to go as a team, as a group, as a coaching staff and it's not done yet.

"We loved every second of it. Hopefully we'll be back here for the semi-final and final."

Kane endured plenty of criticism for his form in the group stage as he managed just one shot on target in three games.

He again appeared sluggish for 75 minutes before having a big hand in the first goal, scored by Raheem Sterling.

The Tottenham striker then stooped to head home Jack Grealish's cross. "I always said as a striker you have to be ready for the next chance.

"It's an amazing feeling, any striker wants to be scoring goals. Hopefully I can score a couple more from here till the end.

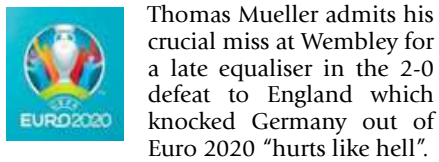
"When you look at our attacking players, any team will be looking at us and know we are dangerous.

"We are keeping clean sheets, we are building confidence off that, there will be more self-belief now but we have to concentrate on Saturday now. We can't switch off."



Hurts like hell, says Mueller

AFP, Berlin



Thomas Mueller admits his crucial miss at Wembley for a late equaliser in the 2-0 defeat to England which knocked Germany out of Euro 2020 "hurts like hell".

With England 1-0 up in Tuesday's last 16 clash thanks to a Raheem Sterling goal, Mueller managed to break clear of the England defence with nine minutes left, but fired agonisingly wide with the goal at his mercy.

"To get that opportunity and then have it go to waste, it hurts like hell," Mueller wrote on Instagram Wednesday under a picture with his head in his hands on the Wembley turf.

"There it was, that one moment that stays in your memory at the end, that keeps you awake at night. The moment you work, train and live for as a footballer.

"That moment when you alone have it in your hands to bring your team back into a tight knockout game and send an entire football nation into ecstasy."

With the Germans ruing Mueller's miss, England doubled their lead moments later when Harry Kane scored to put the Three Lions in the quarter-finals and send Germany out. "It hurts me for the whole @dfb_team (German FA), my teammates and our coach who all put their trust in me to be there right then," added Mueller, as Joachim Loew had his final game as Germany coach after 15 years in charge.

"But most of all, it hurts because of all the Germany fans out there who have stood by us and supported us during this European Championship. Thank you for your support."

The 31-year-old was recalled from a two-year international football exile to play at the Euro finals.

Tigers on course to revive Test form

SPORTS REPORTER



The 18-member Bangladesh national cricket team's Test squad, led by Mominul Haque, have reached Zimbabwe, following a long 21-hour journey yesterday.

Bangladesh's recent performances in the Test format has remained below par, having lost consecutive test series -- first against an inexperienced West Indies side followed by Sri Lanka -- earlier this year. Thus the Tigers will surely look to return to winning ways in Zimbabwe.

However, according to the Tigers team management, the tour of Zimbabwe is not going to be an easy one, especially in Harare. And considering the injury concerns of Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim, the selectors had to include the experienced Mahmudullah Riyad in the Test squad at the very last moment.

Bangladesh are touring the African nation for the first time in eight years and are scheduled to start the bilateral series against the host with the lone Test at Harare Sports Club (HSC) on July 7.

The Tigers went on to lose the three-match ODI series 2-1 while they managed to level both the two-match Test and T20I series on their previous tour to Zimbabwe, back in 2013.

Star all-rounder Shakib al Hasan, who was in the United States with his family, and batsman Shadman Islam, travelled separately and

at Johannesburg.

Bangladesh team members underwent the Covid-19 tests upon reaching Zimbabwe and went to the hotel after being tested negative. The visitors however, will not have to spend a long time in quarantine as they will be allowed to use the training facilities at the Harare Sports Club after a days' break.

will join the team at Harare. Left-hander opener Shadman had some visa complications before he finally boarded the flight.

Newly appointed coaching staff -- spin consultant Ranagana Herath -- joined the team in transit at Doha while batting coach Ashwell Prince joined the Tigers during the layover

The visitors will also take part in a two-day warm up game on July 3 and 4 before facing the Chevrons in the lone Test match.

During the month-long tour, Bangladesh will also play a three-match ODI series which is part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League. Ahead of the ODI

series, Bangladesh will play a 50-over warm-up game on July 14. The first of the three match ODI series is scheduled on July 16 while the second and third match is set to take place on July 18 and July 20 respectively. The remaining members of the ODI side -- Mohammad Naim, Mosaddek Hossain, Mohammad Mithun, Afif Hossain, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mustafizur Rahman and Rubel Hossain -- are due to travel to Zimbabwe on July 8.

Bangladesh will also take part in the three match T20I series followed by the ODI series scheduled for July 23, 25 and 27 respectively. Members of the Tigers T20I side -- Soumya Sarkar, Shamim Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Aminul Islam and Sheikh Mahedi -- is set to leave for Zimbabwe on July 11.

Earlier this month, Zimbabwe Cricket had announced: the series against Bangladesh will be played behind closed doors. The board had also confirmed that the Sports and Recreation Commission of the country has granted permission to host Bangladesh in July despite a surge in Covid-19 cases in the country.



Having topped Group B with three wins and a draw, hosts Brazil will be the overwhelming favourites when they take on Chile in the quarterfinals on Saturday morning (Bangladesh time). The Selecao continued their training for that match at Granja Comary in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday.

PHOTO: TWITTER