

TEN 1
Uefa Champions League
Manchester City vs RB Leipzig
Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

TEN 2
Uefa Champions League
Besiktas vs Borussia Dortmund

Live from 10:45 pm
Liverpool vs AC Milan
Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

TEN 3
Uefa Champions League
Club Brugge vs PSG
Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

SONY SIX

Uefa Champions League
Inter Milan vs Real Madrid
Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

STAR SPORTS 1
CPL
Final
Live from 8:00 pm



Aich Mollah struck a blistering century before left-arm spinner Naimur Rahman bagged a fiver to help Bangladesh Under-19 thump their Afghan counterparts by 121 runs in the third Youth ODI at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. A boundary-laden 108 from Aich helped Bangladesh post a competitive 222 for six while Naimur's five for 17 in 7.4 overs, including a maiden, saw Afghans get bundled out for just 101 in 39.4 overs. The crushing victory also means that the young Tigers sealed the five-match series 3-0 with two matches in hand. PHOTO:BCB

'The quicker they adjust, the better'

Mohammad Salahuddin, rated as one of the finest coaches in Bangladesh, spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin in between training sessions at the Masco Shakib Cricket Academy on the outskirts of Dhaka, speaking about the Tigers' chances in the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup and the challenge that the team faces in adapting to foreign wickets. Excerpts of the interview are given below:



The Daily Star (DS): What do are your thoughts on Bangladesh's chances at the T20 World Cup?

Mohammad Salahuddin (MS): Obviously expectations in general are high after winning series against Australia and New Zealand. That's pretty normal because we have winning momentum and can hope that Bangladesh will do well. But if you think practically, the wickets at the World Cup are not going to help us as they did at home. If we get similar wickets to those at home at the World Cup, then we can do a lot better because we prepared on those wickets. As it is a World Cup, I think the pitch is expected to play better and then it will depend on our preparation over there. If we can prepare accordingly, we have an opportunity to do well. I won't say

we are going to do very well or bad but the mental preparation from winning games may help.

DS: Is it only going to be difficult only for the Bangladesh batsmen to adapt to foreign pitches or will the bowlers also be affected?



MS: The bowlers will also have to adjust a lot and it's going to be difficult. In our home conditions, bowlers get wickets only by bowling

the right line. But at the World Cup, it is going to be more difficult and you have to struggle. You have to contain batsmen and you have to think a lot to undo batsmen, whereas in our conditions you just bowl at the right line and the rest is taken care of by the pitch. That nuance was missing in home series. The quicker they adjust to the pitches and conditions in Dubai and Oman, the better for the players. For example, the batsmen's tendency to play shots was reduced at home and that is something they need to adapt quickly to World Cup wickets. Winning is always a great thing but one or two losses can change the entire scenario. So I think it will be a great challenge for the team management to synchronise these aspects before the World Cup.

DS: Do you think we still look

for short-term glory instead of preparing for long-term results?

MS: I think we have always looked for short-term success, from age-level to top-level. If we thought about long-term preparation, we may have reached a certain level by now in all three formats. But there is no point in discussing these things. Instead, we can still work towards a long-term plan that will help the team develop.

DS: What are your observations of Bangladesh's 15-member T20 World Cup squad?

MS: We will undoubtedly miss Tamim Iqbal's presence. His experience as a batsman and cricketer in general would have helped the team immensely on the biggest stage. But obviously all the players in the squad are capable of doing well for Bangladesh.

Eleta marks call-up with a brace

SPORTS REPORTER



Eleta Kingsley, who is awaiting clearance from FIFA to represent Bangladesh in the upcoming SAFF Championship, made a bold statement as his brace powered league champions Bashundhara Kings to an emphatic 3-0 win over Saif SC in a Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Nigeria-born forward was drafted into Bangladesh's 34-member preliminary squad and staked his claim to a spot in the final squad with goals in the 54th and 63rd minutes.

"As I haven't been informed about a national team call-up, I can't make any comments. But it is my job to perform. The national team has a coach who knows exactly what he is looking for. If he is okay with me, he can select me. If he is not okay with me, he can go for the next best option. Today, I just tried to give my best and play according to my coach's instructions," Kingsley said after the match

the national team play as wingers in the league. So Kingsley can be a good option in this position," Jamal said, adding that Bangladesh should play on the counter at the SAFF Championship.

"Of course we want to win the SAFF Championship but we want to think match by match. We have to work hard in training and start training immediately because the players could lose their fitness due to a big gap. We tried a new formation, a 3-4-3, in Kyrgyzstan but it did not work well, so I think we have to go back to basics."

Jamal also believes that collecting 10 points from four matches would give Bangladesh a big chance to reach the final.

"We need minimum of 10 points to play the final," said Jamal. "Of course we have a chance to win three matches and draw one. We recently played against Palestine and Kyrgyzstan, who are higher ranked sides, but if we play against teams ranked between 145 to 190, we have a chance to win matches," said Jamal.

Brazilian forward Robson Da Silva also had good news, hitting his 20th league goal of the season in the 80th minute to



yesterday, adding that he had received no information about his eligibility to represent Bangladesh.

National team and Saif SC captain Jamal Bhuiyan appreciated Kingsley's inclusion in the squad and opined that the national team needed a striker with the ability to hold up the ball.

"We need a striker who can hold up the ball up front because we don't have a No. 9. Those who usually play up front for

overtake Sheikh Jamal DC's Pa Omar Jobe as the league's top scorer.

Having previously confirmed back-to-back league titles with four games to spare, Kings raised their tally to 61 points from 22 matches. They will play two more matches, which were suspended due to their AFC Cup engagements. Meanwhile, Saif SC finished in fourth place in the 13-team table with 44 points after completing all 24 league matches.

Malinga calls time

REUTERS

Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a 17-year career in which he became the highest wicket-taker in Twenty20 internationals.

Malinga, known for his unorthodox bowling action and toe-crushing yorkers, continued to play T20 matches after quitting Test cricket in 2011 and one-day internationals in 2015. His last T20 game was against the West Indies in March 2020.

"Hanging up my T20 shoes and retiring from all forms of cricket," Malinga said on Twitter. "Thankful to all those who supported me in my journey."



Tiger Madrid won the Community Gold Cup cricket tournament in Spain. On the occasion of the golden jubilee of independence, eight teams of the Bangladesh Association in Spain took part in this cricket tournament of expatriate Bangladeshis. Tiger Madrid won the title by defeating Via Verde Cricket Team by 96 runs in the final held at a ground on the outskirts of the Spanish capital on September 13. PHOTO:COLLECTED

Pak to tour BD for 3 T20Is, 2 Tests

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday confirmed the schedule for Pakistan's tour of the country for three T20Is and two Tests, both part of the ICC World Test Championship, in November-December.

This home series against Pakistan is set to be the Tigers' first assignment after the upcoming T20 World Cup, which will be held in the UAE and Oman from October 17 to November 14.

All the T20Is will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and are set to be Day-Night contests. The first

T20I is scheduled to be held on November 19 while the second and third T20Is are scheduled for November 20 and 22 respectively.

After the T20Is, the teams will then travel to Chattogram where the first Test will be held at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium from November 26. They will return to Dhaka for the second and final Test, scheduled to be held in Mirpur from December 4.

The Test series will mark the beginning of Bangladesh's campaign in the ICC WTC cycle 2.

This is the first time that the Pakistan team are returning to Bangladesh since the ACC Asia Cup T20 in 2016.

Sheriff FC: The surprise from Moldovan separatist region

AFP, MOLDOVA



Fans of European giants Real Madrid and Inter Milan will see their teams face unusual competition this autumn: a club from a tiny separatist region in one of Europe's least known countries, Moldova.

After a couple of failed attempts, Sheriff FC are making their debut this week as the first club from the ex-Soviet country to reach the group stage of the Champions League.

But their historic success is highlighting divisions in the wake of a brief civil war after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which resulted in the creation of Transnistria.

The tiny breakaway state has its own currency, border police, army and cellular network but is not recognised internationally, allowing Sheriff to continue playing in the Moldovan league.

The Moldovan football federation celebrated the qualification as "EUROFANTASTIC!!!", a sentiment echoed by sports blogger Sandu Grecu, who called it a "massive achievement for Moldovan football."

Not everyone is so thrilled. "I don't see much reason to be happy," sports journalist Cristian Jordan told AFP.

"The team represents a separatist enclave where corruption, smuggling and shadow

economy deals are rife, which directly damage the budget and state interests of the Republic of Moldova."

The Champions League place, he said, will only benefit the owners of Sheriff -- "and nothing more".

Founded in 1997, the young club based in the breakaway region's administrative hub, Tiraspol, have been on a steady climb into the limelight.

They have won six straight Moldovan league titles and 19 out

of the last 21.

At a training session last weekend at Sheriff Stadium -- soon to host the likes of Karim Benzema and Lautaro Martinez -- coach Yuriy Vernyub was still processing Champions League qualification.

"Honestly, I didn't expect it," the 55-year-old Ukrainian told

and are dwarfed by their Group D rivals.

The specialist website Transfermarkt estimates that Real Madrid boast a team worth 780 million euros, Inter Milan's players are valued at 575 million euros and Shakhtar Donetsk's 180 million.



NADIR SHAH:
LARGER
THAN LIFE



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO READ ISHTIAQUE
AHMAD'S TRIBUTE
TO THE LATE
CRICKETER-
TURNED-UMPIRE