

SPORT

WHAT TO WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & STAR SPORTS 1

IPL
Delhi vs Rajasthan
Live from 4:00 pm
Hyderabad vs Punjab
Live from 8:00 pm
T SPORTS & MTV INDIA
La Liga
Alaves vs Atletico Madrid

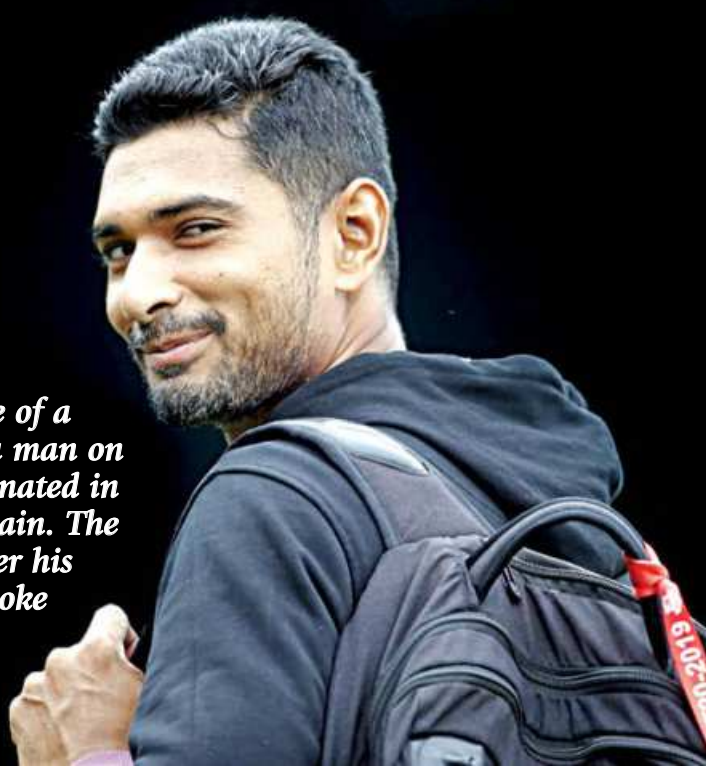
Live from 6:00 pm
Valencia vs Athletic Bilbao
Live from 8:15 pm
Sevilla vs Espanyol
Live from 10:30 pm
Real Madrid vs Villarreal
Live from 1:00 am (Sunday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Manchester United vs Aston Villa

Live from 5:30 pm
Leicester City vs Burnley
Live from 8:00 pm
Brentford vs Liverpool
Live from 10:30 pm
STAR SPORTS 2
English Premier League
Chelsea vs Manchester City
Live from 5:30 pm
STAR SPORTS 3

English Premier League
Leeds United vs
West Ham United
Live from 8:00 pm
TEN 2
Bundesliga
Hoffenheim vs Wolfsburg
Live from 7:30 pm
Monchengladbach vs Dortmund
Live from 10:30 pm

‘A LOT OF THINGS NEED TO BE ACHIEVED’

After suddenly retiring from Test cricket in the middle of a match in Zimbabwe, Mahmudullah Riyad appeared as a man on a mission over the following three series, which culminated in him becoming Bangladesh's most successful T20I captain. The 35-year-old will be aiming to script more history under his leadership in the upcoming T20 World Cup and he spoke about his plans and other topics during an interview with The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin. The excerpts are below:



The Daily Star (DS): You have been having the time of your life as captain. Do you believe there is a good balance of youth and experience heading into your maiden T20 World Cup as a captain?

Mahmudullah Riyad (MR): Alhamdulillah I am enjoying my captaincy and the matter of fact is that I always enjoy this role. I think this is as a positive challenge for me and I like taking on such challenges. At the same time, our team is in very good shape after winning a few good series recently. All credit goes to the team because when the team does well, it becomes easy for the captain. More importantly, the bond between the players and the mentality of helping each other and appreciating each other is a very good sign. We had something to prove, especially in the T20 format, and I hope the boys are looking forward to the World Cup and looking forward to doing well. DS: Winning the last three T20I series must have boosted the team's morale. Realistically, what are Bangladesh's chances at the upcoming T20 World Cup?

MR: I think a lot of things need to be achieved as a team at this

World Cup. The most important thing is to let the world know that we are becoming a good side in this format. I hope we can deliver some good results. As captain, I expect teammates and the team management to also want to achieve some memorable wins that will help us to move forward as a team.

DS: Openers normally tend to utilise the Powerplay in T20 cricket. Will that trend hold true

Bangladesh to adapt to the pitches at the World Cup?

MR: There will be different opinions when it comes to the pitches but it was very important for Bangladesh to win games and to win series as well. It is also important to have that winning habit. It was important for me and also for the team management. Having said that, we still don't know what's waiting for us at the World Cup. We don't know if it's

order at the World Cup?

MR: I have been feeling really well with the bat in the last few series and I hope that I will be able to contribute to my team in the coming days as well. The batting order depends on the requirements of the situation. If the situation requires me to, then why not promote myself up the order?

DS: Is the batting department still an area of concern?

MR: Not really. Once, we start to score runs, our batting unit will grow in confidence and hopefully that will reflect on our batting.

DS: The bowling department has been gaining confidence, but how challenging is it going to be for your bowlers considering the sporting pitches at the World Cup?

MR: It will be challenging for any bowling unit to play in batting-friendly conditions. It depends on how you apply yourself and how you use your variations on that particular day. Our bowling unit has been doing really well and I hope they will deliver their best bowling spells at the World Cup. I am confident of my bowling unit.

DS: After retiring from Tests and not speaking a word about the issue to the media, is Mahmudullah a man on a mission now?

MR: (Smiles) That's my answer.



The most important thing is to let the world know that we are becoming a good side in this format.

for Bangladesh's openers at the World Cup?

MR: The openers obviously know their role in using the Powerplay to maximise our score. We have had to adjust at times and take some time initially, but if the wicket is batting-friendly and the conditions favour batters, I think our openers will have a good time in the middle.

DS: There has been a lot of talk about the pitches at home recently. How crucial will it be for

going to be sporting wickets or whether the pitch will slow down. You never know. So it's important to have that adaptability and to be able to identify the conditions. That can dictate what sort of score would be good enough for a particular pitch or how to bowl on a different track. It will be important to quickly identify the pitch and conditions to get results. DS: As a batsman, you have been in fine form. Are you thinking of promoting yourself up the batting



Yousuf adds fresh blood to U-23 team

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday disclosed a 38-member preliminary squad for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, including England-based forward Yousuf Zulqurnain Hoque, who plays for Ipswich Town FC in England's third-tier.

There are 11 players, including Finland-born defender Tariq Raihan Kazi, who have been named in the team but are busy preparing with the senior national team ahead of the upcoming SAFF Championship in Maldives. After the completion of the SAFF Championship, those 11 players will join the U-23 camp directly.

Those not engaged in the senior team's training camp have been asked to report to team manager Satyajit Das Rupu at the Dhanmondi Abahani ground today. Bangladesh have been placed in Group D for the qualifiers, which begin in Kuwait on October 27.

There were whispers about Yousuf for the past few days following the inclusion of Canada-based midfielder Rahbar Wahed Khan and Tahmid Islam in the national squad for the Three Nations Cup in Kyrgyzstan earlier this month. There were rumours that Yousuf would have been considered even if British coach Jamie had still been at the helm of the national team.

Coach-elect Maruful Haque told reporters that he would see Yousuf in trials and select him for the final squad if the League One player proves himself in training.

SQUAD: Pappu Hossain, Shanto Kumar Ray, Rahmat Mia, Riyadul Hasan Rafi, Yeasin Arafat, Maraz Hossain, Abu Shaeid, Rahim Uddin, Faisal Ahmed Fahim, Sabuj Hossain, Bishwanath Gosh, Rimon Hossain, Tariq Raihan Kazi, Biplo Ahmed, Mahbubur Rahman Sufil, Fahim Murshed, Mohammad Atiquzzaman, Amir Hakim Bappy, Jafar Iqbal, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Dipok Roy, Mohammad Ridoy, Manik Hossain Molla, Monir Alam, Jamir Uddin, Mohammad Jewel, Isa Faisal, Mitul Marma, Papon Singha, Hafizur Rahman Tapu, Monir Hossain, Rostom Islam, Sabbir Ahmed, Enamul Islam Gazi, Mahfuz Hasan Pritom, Nihat Jaman Uchash, Mahmudul Hasan Kiran and Yousuf Zulqurnain Hoque.

Chelsea face Man City test

AFP, London



Chelsea host Premier League champions Manchester

City in a stiff test of the leaders' title credentials on Saturday as Liverpool and Manchester United bid to keep pace with Thomas Tuchel's side.

The Blues look well-equipped to end the season as English champions for the first time since 2017 after signing Romelu Lukaku to add a cutting edge to their attack.

But Liverpool, the 2020 title winners, and Manchester United are matching them, with all three teams locked on 13 points after five games. Manchester United face Aston Villa while Liverpool take on Brentford today.

Manchester City will have more than just revenge on their minds against Chelsea on Saturday, with Pep Guardiola's men at risk of leaving themselves with a mountain to climb in the Premier League title race.

A frustrating 0-0 draw at home to Southampton last week lent weight to the argument that they lack the predatory striker needed to keep pace with a stronger batch of title contenders than they faced last season.

Guardiola's champions are just three points behind Chelsea,



All in-form players of their respective sides -- Chelsea's Romelu Lukaku, Manchester City's Jack Grealish, and [Top] Liverpool's Mohammad Salah – set to light up the English Premier League today as joint-leaders Chelsea host City while Liverpool travel to Brentford.



tactical battle as the Blues won the Champions League final in May.

Victory in Porto completed a hat-trick of wins for Chelsea over City towards the end of last season that set the foundations for a tilt at the Premier League for the Stamford Bridge side.



Another victory this weekend would mean Tuchel would become the first manager to ever beat Guardiola in four consecutive games. The German's near-flawless start to life in English football has continued in the early weeks of this season.

Chelsea have taken 13 points from a possible 15 despite tough away games so far against Arsenal, Liverpool and Tottenham.

Crucially, Tuchel got what Guardiola did not in the transfer window -- a proven goalscorer. Romelu Lukaku, who joined from Inter Milan, already has four goals in all competitions since returning to Stamford Bridge for a club-record 97.5 million (\$134 million). City spent even more in making Jack Grealish the first-ever 100 million Premier League player.

But the England international only added to an array of creative talents at Guardiola's disposal rather than addressing the need for a successor to Sergio Aguero.

City's pursuit of Harry Kane failed, with Tottenham unwilling to sell and interest in Cristiano Ronaldo ended with the five-time Ballon D'Or winner returning to the red half of Manchester with United.

Without a proven number nine, it has been feast or famine in front of goal for City this season.

Confidence soars under Bruzon

SPORTS REPORTER



Goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico is optimistic of good results at the SAFF Championship after the national team switched from their usual counter-attacking strategy to more attacking football under interim coach Oscar Bruzon.

"Bruzon asked us to hold possession, which is the style we used at our club, Bashundhara Kings. That means the coach is trying to play the same attacking football we try at the club level," Zico said after completing the second day of training under the Spaniard at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

"Jamie liked to play on the counter but Bruzon builds up from the back so the goalkeeper has also a role in the build-up. Goalkeepers have to play a role. If we can take things match-by-match, we can do something good in the SAFF Championship," Zico hoped, adding that had Bruzon tailored training to different opponents. "Bruzon has been working in South Asian nations like India, Maldives and Bangladesh for a long time, so he has good knowledge of South Asian football

and he is working with us based on the style of our opponents."

Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday observed practice from the VIP box and praised the training session.

"I expected this sort of practice," Salahuddin said. "I had three to four meetings with Bruzon and I wanted to know what kind of football he wants to play and what he wants to do on the field because I had some experience as a player and coach."

The technical aspects that we discussed matched my ideologies, barring a couple of things. So we are thinking along the same lines and methods," Salahuddin added, hoping players would not have trouble adapting to style of play in such a short time.

"Most of the players are from Bashundhara and the rest are mature enough to understand Bruzon's playing style. So I think it won't be a problem. I think we have taken the right decision. The thing I like most about Bruzon is that he owns the team from the first day. I did not see feel that from previous coaches. I am hopeful that the team will produce good results in SAFF Championship."



Newly appointed Bangladesh coach Oscar Bruzon instructs his charges during training at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prantik, Aich give U-19s lead

A fifty from Prantik Nawrose Nabil (76) and an unbeaten 40-run knock from skipper Aich Mollah helped Bangladesh Under-19 end the third day of their lone four-day with a 51-run lead in the second innings against their Afghan counterparts at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Afghanistan, who had resumed the day on 226 for eight, were bundled out for 281 in 134.3 overs with a 119-run lead. Bangladesh were 170 for four at stumps.

Women to take on Hong Kong

Bangladesh women's national football team, currently in Uzbekistan, will play a friendly match against Hong Kong on Sunday (4 pm, Bangladesh Standard Time) at the JAR Academy Stadium in Tashkent, informed head coach Golam Rabbani Choton. The women booters recently played the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in Uzbekistan but could not go past the group stage, having suffered heavy defeats against Jordan and Iran.

Ancelotti backs Benzema for Ballon D'or

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has backed forward Karim Benzema to win the Ballon D'Or, comparing the Frenchman to a wine that gets better with age. The award, which has been dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo in recent years, is as open a contest as ever as the duo age and Benzema's form in 2021 has led to calls from the local media for him to be given the gong. "For what he's doing and for what he's done, he has to be in the list of possible winners," Ancelotti said of Benzema. "Saying that, Karim's got time to win it. I somehow doubt this is his final season - he's like a fine wine; the older he gets the better he is."

Ruman disappoints, Rubel shines

Ruman Sana bowed out from the first round of the Men's Recurve event at the World Archery Championships in the United State of America while youngster Hakim Ahmed Rubel exceeded expectations to reach the third round of the same event yesterday. Ruman, who bagged the bronze medal in the previous edition in Netherlands in 2019 and qualified for 2020 Tokyo Olympics directly, surrendered to a 0-6 defeat at the hands of Italian Musolesi Federico. Rubel however, advanced far into the third round where he lost 4-6 against 12-ranked Dutch archer Wijler Steve, after a fighting display. All Bangladeshi archers were eliminated from individual events yesterday.

PHOTO: TWITTER