



Following his assist in the first match, left-back Yeasin Arafat turned the rescuer yesterday as Bangladesh salvaged a 1-1 draw against India in their second SAFF Championship match in Male yesterday. (Bottom) Sunil Chhetri had broken the deadlock for India earlier in the match. PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Bangladesh football is alive'

ANISUR RAHMAN FROM MALDIVES

Having come back from a goal down and one man short to earn a creditable 1-1 draw against India, Bangladesh football coach Oscar Bruzon mentioned that the Bangladesh football is still well and truly alive and expressed his satisfaction with the performance of the national team in their second SAFF Championship encounter at Maldives yesterday.

"I want to say that Bangladesh football is alive, so let's go and get more points from the tournament."



play with one mind. Today, I think we controlled the first half. They tried to play in the wings and we controlled the central area for ninety minutes. Sunil is a quality player and we allowed him to score. But I think the first half was absolutely balanced so I can't say we are better," said Bruzon.

India were not as dominant as they were during their 2-0 win over Bangladesh in Doha and Bangladesh grabbed all opportunities to play on level terms against India, who are 82 places ahead of Bangladesh in the FIFA Ranking.

"India was coming more in our area, so we needed to change five players and we started making it after 10 minutes of the second half. And I think the changes improved the team though I did not expect to play with 10 men in the second half. And, the players did not want to hold 1-0 and we worked here to win the match and still I feel we missed the full three points," said Bruzon.

Indian coach Igor Stimac congratulated Bangladesh for playing out a 1-1 draw but blamed themselves for the equalizer of Bangladesh.

"It was a good and interesting match and I want to congratulate both India and Bangladesh for presenting a nice match here," said Stimac.

I thank Almighty Allah for giving me the opportunity to play. I also want to thank the supporters who backed us throughout the match. I was lucky to get such a goal and if you want to know my feeling, it is amazing.

YEASIN ARAFAT

Of course we are satisfied with the performance of all single players today. We believe in our players and our country as we wanted to play positive football against India," Bruzon said at the post-match conference yesterday.

In the last five meetings between Bangladesh and India, Bangladesh drew all matches except the last match where they lost 2-0 during the World Cup Qualifying tie in Doha in June.

"The boys performed excellent but today we should've won the match. If we did not concede the lead in the first half, the plan would've been the same in the second half. I think the chances of winning the match was very, very high but unfortunately we

conceded a goal in a manner which we need to analyse," said Bruzon while explaining the strong comeback despite being one man short in the last 40 minutes.

"When you've received a bamboo, you need to be even stronger because you don't want to receive a second bamboo. We got one point and we're going to play a very tough opponent Maldives in the next match," said the 44-year-old coach, who has been given the responsibility to guide the team in SAFF Championship in place of British coach Jamie Day.

"We said before that every problem we have should make us stronger and that's what I am trying to communicate, that we are an unbeatable force when we

UAE stadiums to be at 70% capacity

REUTERS



Stadiums in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will operate at 70% of capacity for the Twenty20 World Cup, the organisers said, though conditions in Oman, where preliminary rounds are due to be played, have still to be fully assessed following a cyclone.

Tropical Cyclone Shaheen struck coastal areas of Oman, including the capital of Muscat on Sunday, two weeks before preliminary round matches of the tournament commence on Oct. 17.

Some 3,000 fans would be accommodated at Al Amerat stadium in Muscat, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a statement on Sunday, though the cyclone left streets in the Omani capital under water, prompted evacuations from coastal areas and delayed flights in and out of the country.

The 16-team tournament was shifted to the Gulf states as result of a surge of

COVID-19 infections in India, but the Indian cricket board (BCCI) remains the event host.

The ICC said the BCCI and itself had worked closely with host authorities to ensure fans are welcomed in a safe environment and COVID-19 protocols are applied at all venues.

"The T20 World Cup is the largest sporting event to be held in the region and it will be the biggest global cricket event since the pandemic with fans in stadia," the ICC said.

"In the UAE all venues will be operating at approximately 70% of maximum seated capacity, whilst Abu Dhabi has also introduced new socially distanced 'pods' of a maximum of 4 spectators on their east and west grass grounds," it said.

Dubai, which hosts matches including the Nov. 14 final, and Sharjah are the two other venues in the UAE.

The UAE is currently hosting the Indian Premier League (IPL) with fans at a reduced capacity.



TIGERS BEGIN WORLD T20 JOURNEY

Despite an uncertainty posed by Cyclone Shaheen that bore down on Oman on Sunday, Bangladesh cricketers were able to commence their T20 World Cup campaign as they reached the middle eastern country yesterday. After spending a day in room quarantine, the Tigers will start their training camp today and will train for the next three days in order to acclimatise with the condition before flying to the UAE to take part in two warm-up matches. The team will play their first official warm-up game against Sri Lanka on October 12 and then face Ireland on October 14 in Abu Dhabi. Following the warm-up matches, the Tigers will return to Oman to begin their World Cup mission with the qualifiers round. Bangladesh will face Scotland on October 17 in their first qualifier game before playing hosts Oman and Papua New Guinea on October 19 and 21 respectively.

PHOTO: BCB

Milan beat Atalanta in five-goal thriller

REUTERS, Bergamo

AC Milan continued their impressive start to the Serie A season on Sunday, surviving a late Atalanta comeback to earn a 3-2 away victory.

Milan raced into an early lead, with captain Davide Calabria poking home the ball at the second attempt after just 28 seconds.

The hosts piled on the pressure in search of an equaliser but could not make several chances count, and Atalanta's wastefulness proved costly as Sandro Tonali raced clear three minutes before the break to double Milan's advantage.

Milan did not let up as Rafael Leao seemingly put the victory beyond all doubt with a third goal with 12 minutes to go.

Duvan Zapata got Atalanta back into the contest from the penalty spot with four minutes left, before Mario Pasalic ensured

a nervy finish for Milan in stoppage time with a second goal for the hosts but it proved too little, too late.

A sixth victory from seven league games this season for second-placed Milan helped them to close the gap with leaders Napoli to two points, while Atalanta, who finished third behind Milan last term, are eighth after their first defeat in six matches in all competitions.

"After it went to 3-2 we were worried but it is over now," Tonali told DAZN. "We had a great match."

"We went strong despite a bit of tiredness after the Champions League in midweek. Now let's continue like this. If you come to Bergamo and play a match like that it means that you are on the right path."

Milan were the away-day specialists last season, winning 16 of their 19 games on the road in Serie A, and maintaining their unbeaten away record this term became much more achievable in Bergamo following Calabria's early goal.



'Salah goal will be remembered in 50 years'

REUTERS, Liverpool



Mohamed Salah's wonderful individual

goal against Manchester City, in Liverpool's 2-2 draw with the champions on Sunday, will still be talked about in half a century's time, his manager Jurgen Klopp said.

Salah, who had created the first goal for Sadio Mane, restored Liverpool's lead, making it 2-1 after twisting away from Joao Cancelo, leaving Bernardo Silva on the floor and dribbling past Aymeric Laporte

before a clinical right-foot finish.

"Only the best players in the world score goals like this. It was the first touch, the first challenge he wins, the going there and putting it on his right foot and finishing the situation off like he did. Absolutely exceptional," said Klopp.

"Because this club never forgets anything, people will talk about this goal for a long, long time, in 50, 60 years, when they remember this game," he added.

Klopp suggested Salah, whose has six goals from his opening seven Premier League games, deserved greater credit for the quality of his

strikes.

"If Leo Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo score that goal then the world says yes because it's world class. He is one of the best players in the world, that's how it is," he said.

Salah himself had little recollection of the detail of the goal, judging from his post-match comments.

"I have to watch it to see. I do remember it. It would be more special if it won the game but it is what it is. It's the result. I think it's a good goal, nothing much to say," he said.

Mueller rues Bayern's shock home defeat

AFP, Munich

Thomas Mueller has admitted Bayern Munich's first home Bundesliga defeat for two years was a wake-up call after the Bavarian giants had won their nine previous games this season.

"We are of course disappointed. Or angry, annoyed, I don't know which best describes it," said Mueller in the wake of Sunday's 2-1 shock home loss to Eintracht Frankfurt. "This is a game that we definitely didn't have to lose."

Bayern and new coach Julian Nagelsmann suffered their first defeat in any competition this season as Filip Kostic hit a low shot past Manuel Neuer from a tight angle seven minutes from time.

It was the Bavarians' first home league defeat since November 2019 and Frankfurt's first win at Bayern for 20 years.

"Defeat always hurts," Nagelsmann said. "On one hand, because it was the first, and on the other, because it was totally avoidable."

Bayern had 20 shots on goal to the visitors' five and had 73 percent possession, but paid the price for not making their domination count.

"When we go 2-1 up, it can also end up being a 3-1 or 4-1 result, then we hear 'Super Bayern' being sung, but that (performance) had nothing to do with 'Super Bayern'," added Mueller.



Mohammad Hossain of BKSP dives to a new record in the one-metre springboard diving event on the second day of the Bangabandhu 34th National Age-group Swimming and Diving Competition at the Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED