

# What to WATCH

**T SPORTS & GTV**  
T20 World Cup  
Australia vs South Africa  
Live from 4:00 pm  
England vs West Indies  
Live from 8:00 pm  
La Liga  
Athletic Bilbao vs Villarreal  
Live from 1:00 am (Sunday)  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1**

English Premier League  
Chelsea vs Norwich  
Live from 5:30 pm  
Everton vs Watford  
Live from 8:00 pm  
Brighton vs Manchester City  
Live from 10:30 pm  
**MTV INDIA**  
La Liga  
Valencia vs Mallorca

Live from 6:00 pm  
Cadiz vs Alaves  
Live from 8:15 pm  
**TEN 2**  
Bundesliga  
Bayern Munich vs Hoffenheim  
Live from 7:30 pm  
Hertha Berlin vs  
Monchengladbach  
Live from 10:30 pm



Namibia players are ecstatic after a dominating eight-wicket win over Test playing Ireland in Sharjah yesterday saw the 19th ranked T20I side cruise to the Super-12 stage of the T20 World Cup against all the odds.

PHOTO: AFP



## Namibia make history

AFP, Sharjah

Namibia reached the Twenty20 World Cup second round for the first time on Friday when they defeated Ireland by eight wickets.

World number 19 Namibia, the lowest-ranked team in the tournament, chased down their modest target of 126 with skipper Gerhard Erasmus making an unbeaten 53.

"We are a small country, a small number of people play cricket. We should be proud of ourselves," said Erasmus.

Namibia will finish behind Sri Lanka in Group A barring a heavy defeat for the 2014 champions in their final qualifier against Netherlands later Friday.

That would put Namibia in the same Super 12 section as India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Afghanistan and Scotland.

Erasmus hit three boundaries and a six in his 49-ball innings while David Wiese, who played for South Africa at the 2016 World Cup, was undefeated on 28.

"I count on my senior men to stand up when the pressure is on. And two of us did it tonight. Hopefully we can do it through the tournament," added Erasmus who put on 53 for the third wicket with Wiese.

Wiese smashed two sixes and a boundary in a 14-ball innings which was positively whirlwind in comparison to Namibia's sedate early progress.

They were only on 49-1 at the halfway stage although, in the final analysis, Zane Green's 24 off 32 balls and Craig Williams's 15 from 16 deliveries proved to be an ideal

foundation on a desperately slow surface.

"It's completely overwhelming. I don't think I deserve to be sitting here. I think the captain Gerhard Erasmus deserves to be man of the match," said Wiese who had also taken 2-22 in the Ireland innings.

Ireland skipper Andy Balbirnie was distraught by the loss. "It hurts a lot. We really wanted to win but we just didn't get enough runs," he said.

"I think Wiese played a brilliant knock when the run-rate was at around eight an over, and their skipper saw them home."

Earlier, Ireland had appeared well set at 71-2 at the midway point of their innings but the runs dried up as Namibia's bowlers turned the screws, restricting their opponents to 125-8.

Openers Paul Stirling and Kevin O'Brien gave Ireland, who won the toss and chose to bat, a flying start.

They put on 67 for the first wicket before Stirling fell to left-arm finger spinner Bernard Scholtz in the eighth over. Stirling made 38 with five fours and his team's only six

while O'Brien hit 25.

Balbirnie contributed 21 before he fell to seamer Jan Frylinck attempting to force the pace.

Only 54 runs came off the last 10 overs with Ireland's next seven batsmen all failing to reach double figures.

Frylinck finished with 3-21. As well as securing the last place in the Super 12 stage, Namibia are also guaranteed a spot in the 2022 tournament in Australia.



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### SCORES IN BRIEF

**IRELAND**  
125 for 8 in 20 overs (Stirling 38, O'Brien 25, Balbirnie 21; Wiese 2-22, Frylinck 3-21)

**NAMIBIA**  
126 for 2 in 18.3 overs (Erasmus 53 not out, Wiese 28 not out, Green 24; Campher 2-14)

**RESULT**  
Namibia won by 8 wickets

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH**  
David Wiese

## Sri Lanka make light work of Netherlands

AFP, Sharjah



Bowlers Waniindu Hasaranga and Lahiru Kumara set up a crushing eight-wicket win for Sri Lanka in the final round-one match of the Twenty20 World Cup after they skittled out Netherlands for 44 on Friday.

Sri Lanka moved into the Super 12 stage with three wins and top of their group ahead of Namibia who shocked Ireland in the first match of the day in Sharjah.

Hasaranga and Kumara took three wickets each to sink the opposition who survived just 10 overs after being invited to bat first.

"Bowlers executed really well. A real good performance from all of us," skipper Dasun Shanaka said after the big win.

"We read the conditions really well, so we know the advantages and disadvantages going forward (in the Super 12s)."

The bowlers justified Shanaka's decision to field as spinner Maheesh Theekshana struck twice in his first over after the skipper ran out Max O'Dowd for nought with a direct throw.

Hasaranga kept up the pressure with his twin strikes in his opening over and soon claimed skipper Pieter Seelaar.

Kumara returned to clean up the tail and claim T20 best figures of 3-7 with his pace bowling.

The Dutch though can take consolation that it was not the lowest total -- they were bowled out by the same opponents for 39 in a T20 World Cup match in 2014.



Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (2nd from R) celebrates with teammates after dismissing Netherlands' Bas de Leede (R) during their Twenty20 World Cup Round 1 fixture at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

### LONG CORNER

#### New swimming records surface

Three national records were topped on the opening day of the Bangabandhu 30th National Swimming Championships at Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mipur yesterday.

Mariyam Akter of Bangladesh Navy created a new record, clocking 1 minute 19 seconds (hand-timed), in Women's 100m Breaststroke. The previous best of 1:19.53 belonged to Ruman Akter of Bangladesh Army.

Juthi Akter of Navy also created history in Women's 50m Backstroke with a timing of 00:32.75 seconds after eclipsing the previous best of 00:33.74 seconds made by Naima Akter of Army while Kajal Mia of Navy overcame his previous best of 02:13.49 in Men's 200m Individual Medley with a timing of 02:12.05.

#### BKSP triumphant in shooting

Ehsanul Mahbub Jubayer and Sanjida Haque from BKSP hogged the limelight on the opening day of the Hamidul Rahman 4th National Youth Shooting Championships after bagging gold medals in their respective 10m Air Rifle Open Sight (60 shots) events at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

In the finals, Jubayer won the gold with a score of 591.2 while Sanjida grabbed hers with a score of 617.

In the Men's and Women's 10m Air Rifle (30 shots) events, Hasib Hossain of BKSP emerged victorious with a score of 252 while Samanta Rahman of Kushtia Rifle Club won the gold with a score of 235 in the finals.

#### Afzal and Sumaiya lead the pack in 100m

Mohammad Afzal Khan of Narail DSA and Sumaiya Dewan of BKSP secured gold in their respective events of Juvenile's 100m sprint in Sheikh Russel 37th National Junior Athletics Championships at Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

Afzal clocked 10.71 seconds, which was 0.19 second less than the second-placed Swapna Chowdhury of Cumilla DSA while Monirul Islam stood third with a timing 11.10 seconds.

Sumaiya, the last edition's fastest girl in the same event, took 12.20 seconds to continue her domination.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel inaugurated the event in which 342 athletes from 38 organisations are taking part in 41 events split into four categories.

## Bangladesh U-23s dreaming of rewriting the script

SPORTS REPORTER



Ever since the AFC U-23 Asian Cup competition was introduced back in 2012, Bangladesh never managed to go past the group stage but this time the Bangladesh U-23 team are dreaming of reaching the final round of the tournament from the Qualifiers phase, scheduled to begin on October 27 in Uzbekistan.

Bangladesh were pitted against Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and hosts Uzbekistan in Group D. Group champions and four best runners-up from 11 groups will join hosts Uzbekistan in the 16-team final round, to be held in 2022. However, if Uzbekistan top their group, then one more runners-up team will advance to the final round.

Head coach Maruful Haque talked to the press about his side's preparation and potential at the BFF House yesterday.

"When the grouping was announced, I thought if I could work with the U-23 side for two to three months, then it'd



be possible to do well. Ultimately, I was offered to take charge of the U-23 side after the completion of the domestic league and I accepted it gladly.

"I know the opponents are superior to Bangladesh and it's a challenge because we hardly get opportunities to play against the better sides. Since the U-23 team is also considered as the next national team, I took the challenge

and worked with these boys for the past month.

"I'm satisfied with our preparation and hopeful about qualifying for the final round," said Maruful.

In the last four editions of the tournament, other than a win over Sri Lanka and a draw against India, Bangladesh lost all 11 matches against Syria, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Tajikistan,

Palestine, Bahrain, Nepal and Yemen.

"A major difference between Bangladesh and other opponents is based on the individual aspects but I believe it can be overcome if our team can perform collectively," said the coach, who has six national players - Rahmat Mia, Riyadul Hasan, Yeasin Arafat, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Mahbubur Rahman Sufil and Mohammad Ridoy - at his disposal after three national players - Biplu Ahmed, Bishwanath Ghosh and Tariq Raihan Kazi - opted to stay out of the squad following injury concerns, personal and visa issues, respectively.

Maruful believes that four points - with a win against Kuwait and a draw against Saudi Arabia - from three matches will be enough to secure a place in the final round.

Bangladesh will kick off their campaign against Kuwait on October 27 before taking on hosts Uzbekistan on October 30. The third and final match against Saudi Arabia will take place on November 2.



Abahani forward Pushkor Khisa MIMO scores one of his three goals in an 8-3 rout of Police SC during their Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday. In the day's other matches, Club Cup champions Mariner Youngs Club thrashed Dilkusha SC 7-1 while defending league champions Mohammedan beat Azad SC 4-0.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED