

# 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

THE MARK OF ARISTOCRACY

**WALTON**  
Smart Fridge

## 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.

### 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

## Can Pakistan break jinx against favourites India?

AFP, Dubai

Babar Azam's Pakistan will look to end their losing streak against India at the Twenty20 World Cup when the two rivals begin their title race in a Sunday blockbuster. India have beaten Pakistan in all of their 12 matches at the T20 and 50-over World Cups. However, Pakistan come into the Super 12s contest with 10 wins in a row in the United Arab Emirates and former Pakistan all-rounder Mudassar Nazar believes the team has struck the right balance to challenge Virat Kohli's India. "A week ago I had apprehensions about the team but now they have made certain changes and they look a decent, well-balanced side now," Nazar told AFP. "Pakistan stand a very good chance as they have experienced players who have

There have been protests in India with calls to boycott the match in the wake of recent killings of 11 migrant workers and minority Hindus and Sikhs in Indian-administered Kashmir. But fans from both the nations have shown immense interest in watching Sunday's game in Dubai as tickets for the key contest were sold out hours after they went on sale early this month. Kohli, though, has downplayed the hype around the encounter, saying "it's just another game" of cricket. "I have always approached this game as just another game of cricket. I know there is a lot of hype created around this game more so with ticket sales and the demands for tickets," said Kohli. "Yes, the environment, you can say, is different. From the fans' point of view, it is definitely louder. From the players' point of



played a lot against India. India start as favourites and they have all the areas covered but in T20 anybody could beat anybody on their day." Azam, who is in top form with two T20 centuries this year, believes his team can break the World Cup jinx. "Definitely we have played a lot of cricket in the UAE," Babar said when asked about his team's dismal 0-5 record against India in T20 World Cup clashes. "These conditions suit us and we know how to play here. We need to keep things simple in all the departments." The two teams last met in the 2019 ODI World Cup in England as India only plays Pakistan in multi-nation events after cutting off bilateral cricket ties with their neighbours following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. India, who have blamed Pakistan for importing terror, last hosted their neighbours in a bilateral series in 2013 during a brief thaw in their rivalry.

view, we stay as professional as we can." India's two-time World Cup-winning skipper M.S. Dhoni is with the team as mentor and Kohli said the icon's presence in the dressing room will further "boost" their morale. Dhoni led India to the inaugural T20 World Cup crown in 2007, beating Pakistan in the final, and hold a 7-1 advantage in the shortest format. Pakistan's only win came in a bilateral series which ended 1-1. India head into the contest with two big wins against England and Australia in their warm-up matches with openers KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma scoring big runs. Pakistan will depend on the experience of Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik while Babar, Mohammad Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman hold the key at the top of the order. The bowling, led by Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Ali, looks potent to trouble any opposition in the Super 12 stage.

### LONG CORNER

#### New swimming records surface

Three national records were toppled 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 Mahub 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 Swapan 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: FROZ AHMED