

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV
ICC T20 Men's World Cup 2021
South Africa vs West Indies

Live from 04:00 pm
Pakistan vs New Zealand
Live from 08:00 pm

T SPORTS
Espanyol vs Athletic Bilbao
Live from 01:00 am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (Day-3)
Rangpur vs Dhaka, SICS
Dhaka Metro vs

Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar
Sylhet vs Khulna, Sylhet



Qatar-grown Nawbab makes the cut

SPORTS REPORTER



Newly appointed interim head coach Mario Lemos revealed a 24-member preliminary squad of Bangladesh football team for next month's Four Nations invitational tournament in Sri Lanka yesterday.

The squad involves the inclusion of a new face in Obidur Rahman Nawbab, who was groomed in the Aspire Academy of Qatar and represented Qatar U-19 national team before joining Al Duhail Club for the Stars League and Qatar Cup.

Last year, the 22-year-old left-winger Nawbab joined Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings from Al Duhail Club as a free agent and played around 76 minutes in two matches under the guidance of Kings' Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon, who was Lemos' immediate predecessor in the national team.

Post-selection, Nawbab did not respond despite repeated phone calls, however, Portuguese coach Lemos explained the surprise inclusion.

"I saw Nawbab a little in the Bangladesh Premier League but I think he has the potential. He is, perhaps, a little bit different than the rest," Lemos told The Daily Star over phone as he returned to Dhaka on Sunday night from South Korea.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan and defender Tariq Raihan Kazi, both Finland-born, had already cemented their place in the national team's playing eleven after proving themselves in the domestic competition

while expatriates Rahbar Wahed Khan and Reasat Khaton went on to directly feature for the national team earlier.

"I reckon he [Nawbab] deserves a chance in the preliminary squad provided he hasn't been given a chance before," said the Portuguese coach, who worked with the national team as the fitness trainer in 2017 and also had guided Abahani till the zonal semifinals of AFC Cup.

"A lot of U-23 players who are in the training camp [for AFC U-23 Asian Cup], I've watched them closely. About him [Nawbab], some of the local players gave me good feedback," said Lemos.

Even though Lemos selected 24 players in his preliminary squad, the 35-year-old informed that at least six U-23 players - Tutul Hossain Badsha, Rahmat Mia, Mahbubur Rahman Sufil, Riyadul Hasan Rafi, Mohammad Ridoy and Yeasin Arafat -- who featured in the recently concluded SAFF Championship, is likely to get the nod for the final 23-member squad.

Whereas, Defenders Shushanta Tripura, Yeasin Khan, Mohammad Atiquzzaman, Mehedi Hasan, midfielder Masuk Mia Johnny and forward Mehedi Hasan Royal have been recalled in the preliminary squad for the upcoming tournament after missing out on the SAFF Championship.

"It's going to be a tough tournament [Four Nations] but we have to try to win every game and secure maximum points and if we can do that, we have a chance [to play the final]," Lemos concluded.



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SHAHEEN AFRIDI

Pakistan's first-strike destroyer

AFP, DUBAI



Standing at an imposing 6ft 6ins (1.98m), Shaheen Shah Afridi, the first-strike destroyer of India at the T20 World Cup, is the latest high-end product of Pakistan's fast bowling factory -- left-arm

division.

From Wasim Akram to Mohammad Amir, with passing hat tips in recent years to the likes of Wahab Riaz and the giant Mohammad Irfan, Shaheen on Sunday devastatingly proved his star quality.

Unburdened by carrying the same name of one of his country's iconic white-ball pioneers -- as well as inheriting Afridi's number 10 shirt -- the 21-year-old shattered the hopes of India with a mesmerising spell of fast bowling.

His 3-31 off four overs was the prelude to Pakistan finally ending their jinx against India with a first win in 13 attempts in World Cup competition.

Even India skipper Virat Kohli, one of Shaheen's victims in Sunday's landmark 10-wicket rout,

appreciated the bowler's four-over blockbuster. "In T20 cricket you need good execution to pick up wickets with the new ball and he certainly did that," Kohli said. "He put our batsmen under pressure immediately with the new ball and ran in with intensity."

A blistering yorker pinned Rohit Sharma on the back foot for an lbw decision as cut-and-dried as any. KL Rahul followed, his T20 International average no match for the velocity of the ball that swept through the gate and demolished his stumps. Shaheen returned to see off Kohli for good measure.

It was a big-stage performance which echoed fellow left-arm fast bowler Amir's brutal three-in-a-row dismissal of Sharma, Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan at the 2017 Champions Trophy final at The Oval.

Shaheen is one of eight brothers who grew up in the Khyber Pass on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. One of those brothers Riaz -- who played a single Test for Pakistan -- inspired a passion for fast bowling. Shaheen switched from tape ball to cricket and has not looked back.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

AFGHANISTAN VS SCOTLAND

Afghanistan: 190 for 4 in 20 overs (Zardan 59, Gurbaz 46, Zazai 44, Sharif 2-33, Watt 1-23)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Messi muted as 10-man PSG draw with Marseille

Lionel Messi was kept quiet as 10-man Paris Saint-Germain settled for a 0-0 draw with bitter rivals Marseille in a heated atmosphere in Ligue 1 on Sunday. The meeting of French football's biggest rivals was briefly held up on more than one occasion as objects were thrown from the stands when PSG players went to take corner kicks. There was another interruption in the second half when one young man invaded the pitch and approached Messi before being escorted off by a legion of security staff.

United fans deserve better, says Ronaldo

Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo blamed the team for Sunday's 5-0 defeat at home to Liverpool and said fans of the Old Trafford club deserve better. "Our fans were, once again, amazing in their constant support. They deserve better than this, much better, and it's up to us to deliver. The time is now!" Ronaldo, who returned to the club in the summer for his second spell, said on Instagram.



Barishal wrap up match inside two days

SPORTS REPORTER



The Tier 2 game between Barishal Division and Chattogram

Division saw an early finish as Fazle Mahmud's Barishal wrapped up the game on the second day with a convincing 78-run victory in the two sides' National Cricket League encounter at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

With a 59-run lead, Barishal resumed the day by starting their second innings. However, a fifer from off-spinner Nayeem Hasan, who scalped four in the previous innings, and a four-for from left-arm spinner Hasan Murad helped Chattogram bundled out Barishal for a meagre 139 in 36 overs.

Coming down to chase a 199-run target with over a couple of days' play remaining, Chattogram couldn't impress with the bat as they did with the ball. Barishal's left-arm spinner Monir Hossain, who bagged a fifer in the previous innings, got three yesterday while the likes of spinners Mohammad Ashraf, Sohag Gazi and pacer Kamrul Islam Rabbi picked two wickets apiece as they restricted Chattogram to 120 in 50 overs.

Meanwhile, in Sylhet, following centuries from Abdul Mazid and skipper Saif Hassan on Day one, Dhaka Division amassed 394 in 127.5 overs in their first innings against Rangpur Division. Pacer Mukidul Islam was the pick of the bowlers for Rangpur, picking up three wickets for 77 runs while spinners Nasir Hossain and Sohrwardi Shuvo scalped two wickets each.

Dhaka's Anamul Haque, Nazmul Islam and Shuvagata Hom took a wicket each as Rangpur finished the day with 96 for three on the board, still trailing by 298 runs.

Quality batting was on display in the match between Rajshahi Division and Dhaka Metro at the Cox's Bazar Academy Ground. Dhaka Metro, who were trailing by 249 runs, scored 283 runs for seven before stumps on day two. Dhaka skipper Shadman Islam led the batting attack with a steady 79 off 128 balls, featuring nine boundaries.

Meanwhile, it was a day for the bowlers at the Sylhet Academy Ground as Khulna Division's Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Al Amin Hossain scalped three wickets each to bundle out Sylhet Division for 172.

Khulna finished the day with a 70-run lead but lost three wickets for just 46 in their second innings.

Pressure mounts on Solskjaer after Liverpool debacle

REUTERS, Manchester



Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer faced intense criticism and speculation

over his future after his team's humiliating 5-0 defeat at home by Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday.

United's worst ever defeat at home to their arch-rivals killed in 90 minutes the short-lived hype that surrounded Cristiano Ronaldo's return to the club and the hopes of a title challenge that it raised.

But it also brought into the spotlight the Norwegian's management and coaching of the team as he approaches three years in charge of the side.

While United were booed off the field at halftime, as they trailed 4-0 at the break for the first time in the Premier League era, there were no chants for Solskjaer to be fired.

But social media was much less forgiving and the British media and pundits raised the question of whether it was time for United's

owners to change manager.

Former Liverpool and England defender Jamie Carragher, a lead analyst on Sky Sports, said that Solskjaer could not compare to his old club's manager Juergen Klopp, Manchester City's Pep Guardiola or Chelsea's German boss Thomas Tuchel.

"I think Ole has done a good job but to take on Klopp, Tuchel and Pep, Manchester United need a better manager," he said.

"I'm not comfortable saying someone should be sacked -- but we are comfortable saying Fred is not good enough or Scott McTominay is not good enough so I do not feel too

bad saying Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is not good enough," he added.

United have earned just one point out of the last 12 available and are already eight points behind leaders Chelsea after just nine games of the campaign.

There is no indication from United that a change of manager is imminent, however, and former captain, turned pundit, Gary Neville, said he expected Solskjaer to be given a chance to turn things around.



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