

# What to WATCH

**T SPORTS & GTV**  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup  
Bangladesh vs England  
Live from 04:00 pm  
Scotland vs Namibia  
Live from 08:00 pm

**T SPORTS**  
La Liga  
Real Madrid vs Osasuna  
Live from 1:30 am (Thursday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**NCL (DAY-4)**  
RANGPUR VS DHAKA, SIC'S  
DHAKA METRO VS RAJSHA-

**HI, COX'S BAZAR**  
SYLHET VS KHULNA, SYLHET



Pakistan's Haris Rauf celebrates the wicket of New Zealand's Devon Conway during the Twenty20 World Cup at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

## Injured Saifuddin ruled out of T20 World Cup

ICC

Bangladesh have been forced into a personnel change in their squad, the ICC Event Technical Committee has confirmed.

Bangladesh have officially replaced the injured Mohammad Saifuddin with Robel Hossain in their squad for the remainder of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021.

The Event Technical Committee approved the request on Tuesday.

The all-rounder picked up five wickets across Bangladesh's opening four games



of the tournament, but will play no further part in the Tigers' campaign after picking up a back injury.

Rubel was one of the approved reserve players who travelled to the UAE with Bangladesh's initial squad.

The 31-year-old has played 159 matches for his country, including in 28 T20Is, two of which came 12 years ago at the 2009 ICC T20 World Cup.

Bangladesh face England in their second Group One game of the Super 12 stage in Abu Dhabi today.

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## Rauf stars as spirited Pakistan down New Zealand

REUTERS, Sharjah

Pakistan underlined their credentials as early Twenty20 World Cup favourites when they held their nerve to beat New Zealand by five wickets in Sharjah on Tuesday and secure a second straight victory in the tournament.

Chasing a modest 135 for victory after pace bowler Haris Rauf choked out New Zealand with four wickets, Pakistan were in trouble at 69-4 but crossed the line in 18.4 overs for a fine start in their bid for a second championship.

Mohammad Rizwan top-scored with 33 while Shoaib Malik (26 not out) and Asif Ali (27 not out) guided them home.

The Group II contest was played against the backdrop of bad blood between the sides after New Zealand abruptly abandoned a limited-overs tour of Pakistan last month citing a security alert. England followed suit in a double blow.

But Pakistan, on a high after beating arch-rivals India in their Super 12 stage opener, channelled any lingering anger as they restricted New Zealand to 134-8 as Rauf picked up 4-22.

The contest was evenly poised until the 16th

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over with Pakistan at 98-5 but Tim Southee conceded 13 runs in the next as Asif smashed two sixes to turn the game on its head.

Malik struck a six and a four off Mitchell Santner to ensure Pakistan could complete the job in style.

Skipper Babar Azam kept faith with the eleven that hammered India and his decision to bowl after winning the toss paid off as they restricted

New Zealand to 42-1 in the powerplay.

New Zealand struggled to release the handbrake as Pakistan continued to apply pressure and Rauf took two wickets in three balls in the 18th over to ensure there were no late fireworks.

"It's always good to win, we'll take this confidence forward in the tournament. The way Shaheen (Afriidi) and Haris bowled was very impressive," Babar said.

"I think we gave them 10 runs too many, but it's cricket and that happens. We lost wickets early, but I want to give credit to Shoaib and Asif. Every game is crucial. We want to take it game-by-game and do well in all departments."

New Zealand opener Daryl Mitchell (27), skipper Kane Williamson (25) and Devon Conway (27) all got good starts but were unable to build on them.

"It's disappointing," Williamson said. "Unfortunately we couldn't nail things towards the back end but we were up against a very good side in Pakistan."

Pakistan meet Afghanistan on Friday while New Zealand face a potentially tricky test against a wounded India two days later.



## DE KOCK WITHDRAWS FROM SA-WI GAME AFTER REFUSING TO TAKE KNEE

South Africa's Heinrich Klaassen takes the knee before their match against West Indies show solidarity with Black Lives Matter movement. However, South Africa stumper-batsman Quinton de Kock skipped yesterday's match citing "personal reasons" after the team were directed to take a knee in their remaining matches in the tournament. Cricket South Africa (CSA) said its board met on Monday evening and decided the team should adopt "a consistent and united stance against racism" by taking the knee prior to the start of their remaining matches. "Several other teams at the World Cup have adopted a consistent stance against the issue, and the board felt it is time for all SA players to do the same," the CSA statement read. De Kock had declined to take a knee in the past calling it "my own personal opinion."

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Bangladesh U-23s play against Kuwait today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-23 football team will look to begin their AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign on a winning note when they take on Kuwait in a Group D encounter at the Jar Stadium in Tashkent, Uzbekistan today.

The match will get underway at 4:00pm (Bangladesh time) as hosts Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia square off at the same time at Pakhtakor Stadium.

Head coach Maruful Haque has set sights on a maiden final round appearance in the continental championship in the team's fifth attempt.

At the official press conference in Tashkent yesterday, Bangladesh's lone UEFA A licenced coach, Haque, reiterated his target of a win against Kuwait, whose senior side are 45 places ahead of Bangladesh in FIFA ranking.

"I know our opponents are much higher in terms of FIFA ranking but on match day, the team that will perform better according to strategy and tactic will come out with a win," Haque said. "We are confident about winning our first match against Kuwait. We must respect

our opponents and I told the boys to perform according to the strategy and prepare mentally to take this challenge."

Bangladesh had four weeks of preparation but played no practice matches before heading to Uzbekistan while Kuwait have recently played in a regional tournament. However, Haque is optimistic about performing well with a team that has a mixture of experienced and new players.

"Our focus and target are to qualify for the final round, so we formed a squad with a mixture of experienced players and new players," replied Haque to a query.

Captain Tutul Hossain Badsha also echoed the sentiment of the coach and vowed to perform according to the game strategy.

"We know our opponents are good but we are ready for tomorrow's match. We are looking forward to the game and will try to win it. The coach has told us to follow the strategy to get a result and I am hopeful that we will perform well to get a good result," said Badsha, who, along with five U-23 players, were part of the senior side in the recent SAFF Championship.

## Proteas bounce back with big win

AGENCIES

South Africa hammered holders West Indies by eight wickets in a game overshadowed by Proteas star Quinton de Kock's refusal to take the knee prior to Tuesday's Twenty20 World Cup clash.

Aiden Markram smashed 51 to lead South Africa's chase of 144 in an unbeaten 83-run third-wicket stand with Rassie van der Dussen (43) to achieve their target with 10 balls to spare in the Super 12 contest.

South Africa bounced back from their opening loss to Australia, while two-time champions West Indies have lost both their matches.

Cricket South Africa ordered its players to kneel in Dubai and lend their support to the anti-racism movement but De Kock pulled out of the game due to "personal reasons".

Temba Bavuma's team took the knee after their decision to field first.

"When the news hit us, it did kind of take us back as a team. A guy like Quinnie [de Kock], he obviously plays an integral role within the team, not just with the bat but as a senior player but with that, Klaassen coming in there was an opportunity for him, it was another game of cricket that we had to play for our country and we had to live up to that," said Bavuma after the match.

South African skipper expressed his satisfaction over his side's performance in the second game.

"Much better than our first game. We knew there were areas that we needed to improve on. Particularly our batting. Our bowling again was



PHOTO: AFP

West Indies' Chris Gayle falls to the ground after playing a shot during the Twenty20 World Cup match against South Africa yesterday. The left-hander was dropped from three to four in the batting order but the change in position barely helped to regain his form as the big-hitter fell for 12.

outstanding. A good day for us," he added.

Opener Evin Lewis hit 56 in West Indies' 143-8 as they suffered another heavy loss, having made just 55 in a crushing defeat by England three days ago.

"Obviously just a matter that we haven't scored enough runs. It's disappointing today," said West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard.

Fast bowler Dwaine Pretorius took three wickets as West Indies again failed to fire after a painstaking 16 off 35 balls from Lendl Simmons at the top of the order.

Skipper Kieron Pollard hit a useful 20-ball 26 before falling to Pretorius, who was on a hat-trick only for Dwayne Bravo to hit a boundary.

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### SCORES IN BRIEF

**NEW ZEALAND**  
134 for 8 in 20 overs (Guptill 17, Mitchell 27, Williamson 25, Conway 27; Rauf 4-22)

**PAKISTAN**  
135 for 5 in 18.4 overs (Rizwan 33, Malik 26 not out, Asif 27 not out; Sodhi 2-28)

**RESULT**  
Pakistan won by 5 wickets.  
**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH**  
Haris Rauf.

**WEST INDIES**  
143 for 8 in 20 overs (Lewis 56, Pollard 26; Pretorius 3-17, Maharaj 2-24)

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
144 for 2 in 18.2 overs (Markram 51, Dussen 43, Hendricks 39; Akeal 1-27)

**RESULT**  
South Africa won by 8 wickets.

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:**  
Anrich Nortje.