

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021
Afghanistan vs Namibia
Live from 04:00 pm
India vs New Zealand
Live from 08:00 pm

T SPORTS
La Liga
Real Sociedad vs Athletic Bilbao
Live from 02:00 am (Monday)

STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPL
Norwich vs Leeds
Live from 08:00 pm
Aston Villa vs West Ham
Live from 10:30 pm

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (DAY-1)
DHAKA VS KHULNA, SIC'S ACADEMY
RANGPUR VS SYLHET, SIC'S

CHATTogram VS DHAKA METRO, BKSP
RAISHAH VS BARISHAL,
COX'S BAZAR

Miller spoils Hasaranga's party

REUTERS



David Miller struck two consecutive sixes in the final over to help South Africa edge Sri Lanka by four wickets in a thrilling but low-scoring Twenty20 World Cup match in Sharjah on Saturday.

Needing 15 in the last over for their second Super 12 win, left-hander Miller deposited the second and third balls from paceman Lahiru Kumara over the legside boundary to help South Africa chase down a 143-run target with one ball to spare.

Kagiso Rabada also hit a six and a four in an unbeaten 13 off seven balls, giving able support to Miller, who smashed 23 off 13 balls. The duo got together with South Africa looking all at sea in their chase after Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga completed a hat-trick across two overs.

The 24-year-old Hasaranga dismissed Aiden Markram on the final ball of his third over and returned for his last over to send back South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, who top-scored for his side with 46, and Dwaine Pretorius for



the hat-trick.

"I was a bit tense," Bavuma said at the presentation. "(But) I had lot of confidence in the fact that David was there.

"David hadn't done that for a long time for us and it was a good time coming. He's probably got the most beautiful swing I've seen from a batter, it's almost like a golf swing."

Earlier, left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and all-rounder Pretorius picked up three wickets each as Sri Lanka were bundled out for 142 on the final delivery of their innings after they were put in to bat.

Opener Pathum Nissanka played the anchor's role before opening his shoulders to lift the scoring rate during his 58-ball knock of 72.

Nissanka added 41 during a brisk second-wicket stand with Charith Asalanka but the latter's run out after a 14-ball 21 pegged back the island nation.

Shamsi, the top-ranked bowler in the format, then spun a web around the Sri Lanka batters, sending back Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Avishka Fernando and Wanindu Hasaranga to reduce them to 91-5.

Pretorius then carved through the middle and lower-order batting, picking up three wickets including that of Nissanka, to restrict them.

"I was looking for the points table. I think it's really hard for us after this game," Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka said. "But still we got a lot of pride in us, so next two games we hope to win and keep our pride."



'Want to finish with wins'

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM DUBAI

Bangladesh's dreams of reaching the semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup were virtually dashed following their heart-breaking three-run defeat to West Indies on Friday, which was their third consecutive defeat in the mega-event.

Yesterday was unlike the other days at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Dubai, where the Bangladesh team is staying, in that there was no rush from the players at the breakfast table.

The team management had announced two days of rest for the demoralised Tigers, allowing them to resume training from November 1 ahead of their fourth Super 12 game against South Africa in Abu Dhabi the following day.

The cricketers opted to stay in their hotel rooms throughout the day, not that they had much choice given the Covid-19 protocols which even forbid them from stepping down to the lobby from their designated floors. The members of the Bangladesh team have often shared experiences about life inside the bio-secure bubble, but the situation after the defeat to West Indies was gloomy.

"Mentally, it's very disturbing to be honest. We are not in a state of mind to share what we are going through following one defeat after another. It hurts more when you lose close matches like we did against Sri Lanka and West Indies because it shatters self-confidence," a member of the team said, requesting anonymity.

Despite the fact that Bangladesh have

two games remaining -- against South Africa and Australia -- in the Super 12, there is still a lot to gain for the Tigers in terms of confidence and finishing the World Cup journey on a positive note.

"All the players are very upset after yesterday's (Friday's) game. Apart from the game against England, when we were totally outplayed, there was a chance for us to win the other games against Sri Lanka and West Indies. Obviously, the game against Sri Lanka was a heartbreaker for us. If we could win that game, it would have boosted our confidence for the next two games. But we still have two more World Cup matches, which are very vital considering the tournament," selector Habibul Bashar told the media yesterday.

"Yes, we can say we have virtually no chance for the semifinal, but we want to finish our World Cup mission with wins which can be very important for us. We still have a lot of games in the future and though we were unable to fulfill our goal for the World Cup, we will discuss how we can learn from our mistakes and plan for the future" Bashar added.

According to the former captain, Bangladesh are yet to become a consistent side in the shortest format. There were also questions about whether the series wins at home against Australia and New Zealand on slow and low surfaces ahead of the World Cup had truly helped the Tigers while Bashar also informed that he wanted to see batting-friendly pitches in the domestic circuit for overall improvement in the T20 format.



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De Kock takes knee

AFP, Sharjah

Quinton de Kock took the knee along with his South Africa teammates ahead of their Twenty20 World Cup clash against Sri Lanka on Saturday after the wicketkeeper-batsman returned to the side.

The star player had opted out of South Africa's previous match on Tuesday over his refusal to follow the anti-racism gesture but later apologised and said he would be "happy" to do it.

De Kock got down on one knee at his wicketkeeping spot before the start of the Super 12 match in Sharjah with all the other Proteas players supporting the movement from their position on the field.

This remains a first for South African cricket which has been divided over the issue of anti-racism as De Kock and a few others had previously refused to take part in the gesture that has become a regular feature in most sporting events.

The players, barring De Kock, stood in unison for the first time in the match against holders West Indies after the national cricket board ordered its players do it. Pictures had emerged from the team's first game against Australia on October 23 where some players knelt and some stood.

De Kock remained the only change in the Proteas team with Heinrich Klaasen making way for the senior wicketkeeper-batsman. "The team is feeling much better than we were a couple of days ago. Quinton is in a much better state," Bavuma said at the toss.



SHORT CORNER

Bigger deficit budget for BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football federation's executive committee approved a deficit budget of more than 17 crore taka for the next calendar year during an annual general meeting (AGM) at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

The projected income for the upcoming year (January to December) shown at the AGM is around Tk 24 crore while the projected expenditure will be Tk 41.95 crore, culminating in a deficit budget of more than 17 crore taka.

The federation's senior vice-president and chief of finance committee Abdus Salam Murshedy said they would look to sponsors to finance the deficit.

"We did not get enough response from the sponsors last year due to the pandemic yet we managed to run

different events with the help of all. We will try to finance the deficit from sponsors and other sources this time," Murshedy told reporters after the AGM was conducted peacefully.

Last year's budget had around Tk 8 crore deficit, with income worth Tk 15.67 crore against expenditure of Tk 23.22 crore.

The lion's share of the budget will be spent for the national team, the Bangladesh Premier League and for the district leagues.

"We have presented our activities of the last one year and proposed the budget for the next year, all of which have been approved. We have discussed about issues of councillors. It was a peaceful congress and all of us are happy," BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who has completed one year in his fourth term, said after the meeting.

BD U-23s thrashed by Uzbekistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-23 team's interim coach Maruful Haque admitted that there is a big difference in quality of the two sides following their 6-0 thrashing by hosts Uzbekistan in their second AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers fixture in Tashkent yesterday.

"There is big difference in technical and tactical areas between the two teams. That is the main reason of the big defeat," Maruful said at the post-match press conference.

Bangladesh, who started the campaign with a 1-0 defeat against Kuwait, conceded four goals within the first 25 minutes before conceding two more in the second half.

The veteran coach said the team got demoralised after conceding early goals.

"We started positively but conceded two early goals through silly mistakes. So the players got demoralised."

While this match will not go into calculation of points table as Uzbekistan are guaranteed a place in the finals as hosts, the next one against Saudi Arabia on November 2 will and that will be Bangladesh's last match of the campaign.

Kuwait lead the group with six points from two matches, followed by Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh on zero points from one match each (one match counted). Saudi Arabia were held to a 2-2 draw by Uzbekistan in the match between the two sides.

The top teams in 11 groups and five best runners-up teams will go qualify for the final round to be held in Uzbekistan next year.



RAJIB SHINES AMONG THE LOCAL GYMNASTS

Bangladesh's Rajib Chakma performs in men's (junior) individual floor exercise event, where he won the silver medal on the third and final day of Bangabandhu 5th Central South Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Rajib also won a bronze medal in men's (junior) vaulting table event as Bangladesh grabbed a silver and three bronze medals from the three-day meet. Uzbekistan emerged champions with 19 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze medals.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED