

# What to WATCH

## T SPORTS & GTV

ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2021  
New Zealand vs Scotland  
Live from 04:00 pm  
Afghanistan vs India  
Live from 08:00 pm

## TEN 1

UEFA Champions League  
RB Leipzig vs PSG  
Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)

## TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

Real Madrid vs Shakhtar  
Live from 11:45 pm  
Liverpool vs Atletico Madrid  
Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)

## TEN 3

UEFA Champions League

Borussia Dortmund vs Ajax  
Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)

## SONY SIX

UEFA Champions League  
Milan vs Porto  
Live from 11:45 pm

Manchester City vs Club Brugge  
Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)

## DAY'S EVENT

### NCL (DAY-4)

Dhaka vs Khulna, Sics Academy  
Rangpur vs Sylhet, SICS

### Chattogram vs Dhaka Metro, BKSP

Rajshahi vs Barishal, Cox's Bazar



# Survival at stake as India face Afghanistan

AGENCIES



India are in dire straits heading into their third match of the T20 World Cup against a feisty Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi today. The pre-tournament favourites have lost their first two matches - a 10-wicket defeat against Pakistan and an eight-wicket defeat against New Zealand - and head into their clash with Afghanistan knowing only a win can keep their World Cup dream alive. They have put in is not worthy of a semi-final spot even though mathematics keeps their hopes alive.

Afghanistan, by contrast, have won two of their three opening matches, defeating Scotland by 130 runs and Namibia by 62 runs either side of an agonising five-wicket defeat against Pakistan. Mohammad Nabi's side are sitting pretty in second place and have a net run rate of +3.097, which stands them in good stead heading into the business end of the Super 12s.

India and Afghanistan have met just twice in T20Is, with India winning both encounters. However, their most recent

meeting was back in September 2012.

Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's inexplicable absence from the playing XI is in focus as India skipper Virat Kohli tries to figure the combination that can bring his team's floundering campaign back on track.

Mohammed Nabi and Rashid Khan, however, would like to use all their might and T20 freelancing experience to add insult to the Indian injury and prolong the nightmare that started on October 24.

For Kohli, in probably his last three matches as T20 captain of India, one would expect some prudent team selections and it starts with the question of repeatedly ignoring a player of Ashwin's calibre.

India's batting hasn't done well in this tournament so far. However, they will expect KL Rahul to fire at the top. If Ishan Kishan plays, he is likely to move to the middle order and Rohit Sharma back in the opening slot. It will be interesting to see if Suryakumar Yadav will be back in the playing XI and for whom.

Afghanistan's new ball bowlers -- the experienced Hamid Hasan and young Naveen ul Haq -- are certainly good but on their day, KL Rahul and Rohit could just send them on a leather-hunt.

After two bad games, that's exactly what they would want at a new venue.

Against Afghanistan, the middle-overs, during which the peerless Rashid Khan operates, will be crucial.

If Mujeeb Ur Rahman is fit to play, Afghanistan will play three high-quality spin bowlers. Rashid Khan is in a great rhythm and will be a threat for the Indian batters.

**SHIKHA Anannya**

Women Entrepreneurs Loan  
For the self-reliant women

Scan for details

LankaBangla FINANCE

## Shadman, Forhad and Amit steal spotlight

SPORTS REPORTER

Batters dominated on the third day of the third round of the 23rd National Cricket League, with Dhaka Metro's Shadman Islam, Rajshahi Division's Forhad Hossain and Sylhet Division's Amit Hasan each scoring centuries.

Dhaka Metro skipper Shadman, resuming on 66, carried on his good form with the bat and scored 132 against Chattogram Division at BKSP. His strung a 67-run and a 47-run partnership with lower-order batsmen Rakibul Hasan and Munim Shahriar respectively before falling prey to Hasan Mural.

However, there was a late resistance as Munim (59) and Md Sharifullah (75) put up an 83-run partnership before tail-enders Sharifullah and Aminul Islam Biplob (50 not out) added another stubborn 79-run stand.

That saw Dhaka Metro amass 407 for eight, but they still trail Chattogram by 38 runs ahead of the last day.

In an encounter between Barishal



and Rajshahi at the Cox's Bazar Academy Ground, Rajshahi's middle-order batsman Farhad Hossain, resuming on 26, went on to score an unbeaten 108 that featured seven boundaries and a maximum. He also stitched together a 119-run partnership with Sunzamul Islam as his side piled on 441 runs in their first innings despite Barishal spinner Monir Hossain grabbing a fiver.

In reply, Barishal scored 82 runs for the loss of two wickets in their second innings, ending the third day with a 45-run lead.

At the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, Sylhet's Amit Hasan, who resumed on 28, batted out the entirety of the third day, scoring 147 runs with 16 boundaries. However, his teammates failed to maintain that tempo and Sylhet were left on 258 for seven at the end of the day, giving them a 105-run lead ahead of the final day.

Mukidul Islam Mugdho and Robiul Hogue plucked three wickets each for Rangpur.

Meanwhile at the Sylhet Academy Ground, Dhaka resumed on 86 without loss before a batting collapse saw them fold for 231. Khulna's Md Raihan Uddin scalped six wickets as Dhaka were forced to follow-on. They reached 46 for one at the end of the day, trailing by a further 142 runs.

## U-23s end campaign with defeat

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh completed their AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign with a third loss in three matches following a 3-0 defeat against Saudi Arabia at the Bunyodkor Stadium in Tashkent yesterday.

Although Bangladesh had set their sights on the 16-team final round, they ended up conceding 10 goals without scoring a single goal. Kuwait qualified for the final round as Group D champions despite a 5-1 defeat against hosts Uzbekistan yesterday.

Smarting from a morale shattering 6-0 defeat against Uzbekistan in their previous

match, Bangladesh started the match on the backfoot, conceding the lead in the 14th minute when Soud Abdullah Abdulhamid nodded a Aiman Yahya Ahmed cross from close range.

Saudi Arabia's lead was doubled five minute later, thanks to a poor effort from goalkeeper Mitul Marma who tried to fist a low free-kick from Aiman and the ball fell to Ziyad Mubarak Al Johoni, who fired home at near post.

After the break, Bangladesh played comparatively better but Saudi Arabia made it 3-0 in the 70th minute when Hamad Turki raced into the box from the right flank and teed up a powerful cutback for Aiman, who flicked home to complete the rout.

## No Messi for PSG's Leipzig clash

AGENCIES



Lionel Messi was not included in the Paris St Germain squad that will face RB Leipzig in the Champions League on Wednesday but forward Kylian Mbappe made the team.

Messi had limped off during their 2-1 win over Lille in Ligue 1 on Friday and was not included in the 21-member squad named on Tuesday for their Champions League Group A game in Germany.

The Argentine had been replaced by Mauro Icardi in Friday's match after having missed training a day



Club Brugge are on four while Leipzig have yet to earn a point after losing all three games so far.

Liverpool prepare again for Atletico Jurgen Klopp wants to say the right things when it comes to Atletico Madrid and Diego Simeone but there is always an itch he ends up scratching.

Liverpool play Atletico again tonight in a game that this time carries more significance for the Spaniards than the Reds.

Klopp's team are already five points clear at the top of a group that looked awkward when the draw came out in August.

Atletico are in a scrap, level on four points with Porto, whom they still have to play in Lisbon in the final round.

In theory, the pressure on Liverpool should be reduced and yet this fixture keeps finding a way to irritate the German, to push his buttons and draw reactions he later has to rephrase or retract.

This will be the fourth meeting between the sides in the past 18 months. Atletico claimed victory in a thrilling knock-out tie last year after

winning 1-0 at home, and 3-2 after extra-time away.

Liverpool then won by the same scoreline in Madrid last month, capitalising on a red card for Antoine Griezmann and a penalty, scored by the blistering Mohamed Salah.

Can Shakhtar dent Real optimism? Karim Benzema's added-time finish in his side's 5-0 win at Shakhtar on Matchday 3, followed by a Clasico triumph over Barcelona means confidence is high at Real Madrid.

However, Carlo Ancelotti will be wary of any distractions ahead of a potentially crucial encounter -- the visitors won 3-2 at the Santiago Bernabeu last season and are seeking their first goal in the current campaign.

Despite a first setback in their 3-1 defeat at Inter last time out, dangerous newcomers Sheriff remain top of Group C courtesy of their shock win in Madrid on Matchday 2. Even if the Nerazzurri prevail when the teams meet again in Italy, the entertainers from Moldova can keep control of their fate when they attempt to repeat their most famous victory so far on Matchday 5.

**HYBRID**

ALL NEW HAVAL H6

Extended Warranty  
**3 YEAR 70000**

haval.com.bd | 01841 448 880

---

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

**NEW ZEALAND VS SCOTLAND**  
4PM (BST)

---

**INDIA VS AFGHANISTAN**  
8PM (BST)



earlier with a muscle problem.

Teammate Mbappe, however, who had to sit out the Lille game with an infection, was included.

The French club are top of Group A with seven points from three games, with Manchester City second on six.