



What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV

New Zealand vs Namibia

Live from 04:00 pm

India vs Scotland

Live from 08:00 pm

T SPORTS

La Liga

Athletic Bilbao vs Cadiz

Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)



Kiwis look to inch closer to semis

AGENCIES



Firm favourites New Zealand will look to inch closer to the semifinals when they take on a struggling Namibia in Group 2 Super 12 game of the ICC T20 World Cup in Sharjah today.

Kane Williamson led-side recorded two successive victories -- first defeating India by 8 wickets and then edging past Scotland by 16 runs while Namibia managed one win in three matches.

The Kiwis are currently placed third with four points and a win against Namibia will take them closer to the second semifinal spot from Group 2 after Pakistan had already sealed their last four berth with four wins out of as many matches.

The likes of left-arm speedster Trent Boult, experienced Tim Southee and Adam Milne will be eyeing a much-better show against Namibia after an ordinary outing against Scotland, while the spin duo of Ish Sodhi and Mitchell Santner would look to continue their good form.

"We were patchy with the ball but we need

to move on. Credit to Scotland for the way they played and hit the ball out of the park. We were tested and we need to learn from this," skipper Williamson had said.

The biggest positive for the Kiwis is the return to form of flamboyant opener Martin Guptill, who blazed his way to 93 off just 56 balls.

Placed fifth with just two points, Namibia, other hand, have nothing to lose. Namibia, who gave a spirited fight against Pakistan, would be looking to do an encore, albeit this time they would look end on the winning side.

Tigresses to leave for Harare today

SPORTS REPORTER

As part of their preparation for the upcoming Women's ODI World Cup Qualifier 2021 in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh will play a three-match ODI series against the hosts from November 11 in Bulawayo.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 16-member squad, to be led by Nigar Sultana Joty, for the qualifiers. The same side will be playing in the series against Zimbabwe. The Tigresses will depart for Harare today and are expected to arrive in the Zimbabwe capital on November 6.

"With no quarantine protocols required in Zimbabwe, the Bangladesh squad will travel to Bulawayo on November 7 and will have three practice sessions before playing their first ODI on November 11," BCB women's wing manager Towhid



Mahmood told The Daily Star yesterday.

The second and third ODI will be held on November 13 and 15 at the same venue.

The women's national team last took the field in March 2020, during the Tigresses' poor display in the ICC Women's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia.

However, a number of members of the national team played for the Bangladesh Women's Emerging side when they hosted South Africa Emerging side in April this year. They also had three residential camps and participated in 18 local matches in the last three months.

Bangladesh, who failed to win a single outing in the T20 World Cup in Australia last year, will be hoping to fare better in the Zimbabwe series under the leadership of the new skipper and take a good momentum to the ODI World Cup qualifiers.

SQUAD: Nigar Sultana (Captain), Murshida Khatun, Nuzhat Tasnia, Fargana Hoque, Rumana Ahmed, Ritu Moni, Nahida Akter, Salma Khatun, Jahanara Alam, Lata Mondol, Fahima Khatun, Fariha Islam, Sharmin Akter, Sobhana Mostary, Khadiza-Tul Kubra, Shanjida Akther.



'Dravid the right man for the job'

AGENCIES

VVS Laxman congratulated his long-time former India teammate Rahul Dravid after the latter was announced as the senior men's team's head coach on Wednesday.

"Absolutely the right man for the job! Rahul Dravid has been a great servant of Indian cricket. As he takes guard for a fresh innings as the head coach, I am sure he will take the team onward and upward. Best wishes to my partner in many an enjoyable stand!!," Laxman said.

The legendary Sunil Gavaskar feels Indian cricket will go ahead under new coach Rahul Dravid, who will bring not only vast experience to the team but also the work ethic he embodied in his playing days.

The BCCI announced the appointment of former captain Dravid as the head coach of the national team on Wednesday. He will replace Ravi Shastri, who formed a successful partnership with skipper Virat Kohli.

"Indian cricket should be going ahead and ahead. He will bring his vast experience, the work ethic that he embodied when he played the game, the deep thinking about tactics and so on," Gavaskar told India Today.

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Thursday said that he is eager to start training under the new head coach Rahul Dravid.

"I think Rahul bhai has got an immense depth of knowledge and he has got good wishing for anything he does in life. He is somebody who has done the hard yards, Rahul Bhai has gone through the grind of being at the NCA, being the coach of A-team and he knows what is in store," Ashwin said.

India opener Rohit Sharma congratulated Dravid and said he is looking forward to working with him, calling the former Karnataka batter a "stalwart of Indian cricket".

'We want to put SAFF disappointment behind'

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh football team have set their sights on the title of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy in Sri Lanka

despite the absence of five key players combined with a lack of preparation under new coach Mario Lemos.

Bangladesh will start their campaign in the four-nation tournament by taking on Seychelles on November 8 before squaring off against Maldives and Sri Lanka on November 11 and 14, respectively. Top two finishers will play the final on November 17.

Lemos yesterday disclosed his 23-member final squad with the inclusion of two new players -- Obidur Rahman Nawbab and Faisal Ahmed Fahim. This morning, 16 booters are scheduled to fly out for Sri Lanka to join seven U-23 players who were supposed to arrive in Colombo on Thursday evening from Uzbekistan.

only two days to prepare ahead of the match against Seychelles, Lemos is seemingly not bothered about it.

"I can't change much in seven days or two days but I know most of the players. Basically we are going to prepare to win the match [against Seychelles]. Of course, more time is better but I will try to do my best," added Lemos, who drove Abahani to the zonal semifinals in the AFC Cup in 2019.

However, captain Jamal Bhuiyan is aiming for glory in Sri Lanka, shrugging aside the disappointment from their previous campaign.

"We all want to win but we have to take one match at a time and the first match against Seychelles is very important and will be a tough match. We want to put behind SAFF disappointment in Maldives and look at a new target, which is to become champions in the four-nation tournament," said Jamal.

When asked about how difficult will the upcoming assignment be for the Men in Red and Green, who



Since the likes of Tariq Raihan Kazi, Bishwanath Ghosh, Biplu Ahmed, Matin Mia and Sohel Rana -- who were part of the playing eleven during the SAFF Championship did not join the camp due to different reasons, Portuguese coach Lemos has a steeper slope to climb in Sri Lanka compared to the uphill task his predecessor Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon faced in Maldives.

"Of course, those five players of the SAFF squad were important players. But it's an opportunity for other players to show themselves," Lemos told the reporters at the press conference at the BFF House yesterday. Even though the 33-year-old will get all players together for

had toiled hard to beat Sri Lanka 1-0 before suffering a 0-2 defeat to Maldives in the recently concluded SAFF Championships, Jamal said:

"As a player, I don't dwell on the past. I look ahead and the future is that we have a match against Maldives, Sri Lanka and Seychelles." Bangladesh squad: Ashrafal Islam Rana, Shahidul Alam, Anisur Rahman, Razaul Karim, Tapu Barman, Yeasin Khan, Mohammad Ridoy, Yeasin Arafat, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Rahmat Mia, Riyadul Hasan, Sushanto Tripura, Jamal Bhuiyan, Saad Uddin, Rakib Hossain, Atiqur Rahman Fahad, Obidur Rahman Nawbab, Mohammad Ibrahim, Jewel Rana, Mehadi Hasan, Suman Reza, Foysal Ahmed Fahim, Mahbubur Rahman.



Benzema saves Real as Liverpool, City cruise to victories

AGENCIES



Karim Benzema struck twice to lead Real Madrid to an unconvincing 2-1 home win over Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday and move the Spanish side clear at the top of Champions League Group D.

Real, who beat Shakhtar 5-0 in Ukraine last month, lead the standings with nine points, two more than Inter Milan who beat Moldova's Sheriff Tiraspol 3-1.

Real went ahead in the 15th minute when Vinicius Jr. stole the ball from a Shakhtar defender and set up Benzema to score with a powerful shot from inside the box.

Shakhtar equalised five minutes before halftime with a stunning counter-attack finished off by Fernando.

Benzema and Vinicius Jr. combined again for the Real winner just after the hour mark, the latter linking up well with Casemiro before teeing up the France striker to find the net again.

"It's hard when you play a game every three or four days, the team felt a little bit of fatigue. But sometimes you just have to win, even if you win ugly," Benzema told reporters.

Liverpool are through to the Champions League round of 16 after a convincing 2-0 win over Atletico Madrid at Anfield. Trent



Alexander-Arnold was the star of a convincing victory for the Reds, who are guaranteed top spot in Group B, providing assists for Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane early on in a game that was effectively over when Felipe was sent off for the visitors before the interval.

"The first target was to get through this group. I didn't expect we would be through after four games but the boys did it and it's really well deserved," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

Guardiola lauded the special ability of right back Joao Cancelo after his three assists in the 4-1 defeat of Club Brugge.

"He has been playing incredibly well all season," Guardiola said. "Of course, he sometimes has to improve his quality. He has highs and lows, but he has a special ability to do something good."

Meanwhile, Georginio Wijnaldum scored his first two goals for his new club Paris St Germain on Wednesday



The only negative for Klopp's side was a hamstring injury to Brazilian forward Roberto Firmino in the second half. They will be joined by Ajax, who came from a goal down to beat 10-man Borussia Dortmund for their fourth win from four. Dortmund now have Sporting breathing down their necks after they beat Besiktas 4-0 in Lisbon.

Manchester City are close to joining Liverpool and Ajax in the knockout stages after a hard fought but ultimately impressive win over Club Brugge. Riyad Mahrez, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus netted in the second half to move Pep Guardiola's side five points clear of their opponents in third in Group A after an own goal had given the visitors hope in the Etihad Stadium.

Manchester City manager Pep

but a stoppage-time penalty for RB Leipzig rescued a 2-2 draw in their Group A game.

Leipzig were eliminated from competition with just one point from four matches.

The French side, without the injured Lionel Messi, are in second place on eight points, one behind Manchester City. Club Brugge are on four with Leipzig bottom on one.

Inter Milan picked up a 3-1 win over Sheriff that allowed them to leapfrog the Moldovan champions, whose hopes of a shock run to the knockout stages appear to be receding. AC Milan, meanwhile, are hanging on in the race to escape Group B after they could only draw 1-1 with Porto, their first point of the group stages unlikely to be enough for them to qualify with two games left to play.