

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021
Afghanistan vs New Zealand
Live from 04:00 pm
Pakistan vs Scotland
Live from 08:00 pm

T SPORTS

La Liga
Real Betis vs Sevilla
Live from 02:00 am (Monday)
STAR SPORTS HD 1 EPL
Arsenal vs Watford

Live from 08:00 pm
West Ham vs Liverpool
Live from 10:30 pm
STAR SPORTS HD 2 EPL
Everton vs

Tottenham Hotspur
Live from 08:00 pm
TEN 2
Hertha Berlin vs
Leverkusen
Live from 08:30 pm

DAY'S SEVENT

NCL (ROUND 4, DAY-1)

Dhaka vs Sylhet, Sylhet
Khulna vs Rangpur,

SICS Academy

Chattogram vs Barishal, BKSP-3
Dhaka Metro vs Rajshahi, BKSP-4

Will the BCB take responsibility?

AL-AMIN

Criticism has been so overflowing after a forgettable performance by Bangladesh in the ongoing T20 World Cup that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is also feeling the heat along with players and officials.

While cricket fans turned to social media to crucify the players for their off-key performances, former cricketers refused to blame only the players and termed the debacle a collective failure that also includes the team management and the BCB.

To make the matter worse, former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury termed incumbent board president Nazmul Hasan 'incompetent' and blamed him for Bangladesh's awful performance at the T20 World Cup.

The Tigers bowed out of the tournament after losing all of five of their Super 12 games after stumbling earlier to a chastening defeat against Scotland in the first round.

Although the Tigers' track record in the shortest version of the ICC's flagship event has always been disappointing, barring that stunning win against the West Indies in the inaugural edition in South Africa in 2007, this time around the team was a complete mess.

Ever since their defeat to Scotland in the first round in Oman, the team management failed to keep the necessary discipline against a barrage of criticism, which board president Nazmul Hasan also injudiciously joined publicly.

Some senior players and captain Mahmudullah failed to keep their composure and unnecessarily opted to take the attack to their critics. Mushfiqur Rahim's already infamous mirror theory only boomeranged on him and perhaps also distracted the players from focusing on their game.

Although Bangladesh won their next two games against Oman and Papua New Guinea in the first round to qualify for the Super 12, they were hardly able to focus on their game. They lost matches against Sri Lanka and West Indies that they should have won.

They surrendered meekly against England, South Africa and Australia, appearing demoralised that they forgot to play their natural game.

This performance, on the back of the false confidence gained from series wins against under-strength Australia and New Zealand teams on low and slow wickets at Mirpur, reminded of a similar debacle in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

In that 50-over World Cup, Bangladesh lost five of their Pool B games, starting with a crushing 60-run defeat against Canada. They avoided a sixth defeat in six total games against the West Indies due to inclement weather rendering it a no result.

After that disastrous performance, the BCB decided to form an independent committee to unearth the reasons behind the debacle. It was truly a soul-searching effort and that in-depth report helped the board greatly afterwards.

We do not know what the current BCB set-up, which has recently been elected for a third term, is thinking about the latest debacle.

Many critics want the removal of the current coaching staff and the captain. Some of them are calling for wholesale changes to the board, saying that the current leadership has failed to improve the domestic structure, focused too little on the pipeline for future cricketers and has not prepared the sort of sporting wickets that can produce quality bowlers.

Some of that criticism is logical and a few might be emotionally driven. Four years ago, all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan appeared at the press centre after Bangladesh's semifinal defeat against India in the 2017 Champions Trophy in England. He was sitting alone, despondent, when yours truly asked him to comment on what went wrong and what things were needed for Bangladesh to be more competitive in the future. He responded in a way we were not prepared for.

"We are all emotionally driven at the moment. I think it is not the right time to speak logically. Let the dust settle first," Shakib said, adding that he was ready to give his input if the board sought his opinion.

Shakib was pragmatic then but the board was not. There was no such discussion or engagement involving all the stakeholders to address key issues hindering growth.

Now the burning question is whether the board will act responsibly after the latest debacle.

Will the BCB do some soul-searching? Will it wait for the wave of criticism to die down and flick the age-old problem under the carpet once more? Or will it try to find a scapegoat as inspirational former captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza apprehended?



South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi (L) and Kagiso Rabada celebrate the dismissal of England's Jonny Bairstow during their T20 World Cup match in Sharjah on Saturday. Rabada later took a hattrick as South Africa won by 10 runs yet failed to qualify for the semifinals.

PHOTO: AFP

'A bittersweet ending' for South Africa

SCORES IN BRIEF

South Africa: 189 for 2 in 20 overs (VD Dussen 94 not out, Markram 52 not out; Ali 1-27, Rashid 1-32)
England: 179 for 8 in 20 overs (Ali 37, Malan 33; Rabada 3-48, Shamsi 2-24, Pretorius 2-30)
Result: South Africa won by 10 runs
Player-of-the-match: Rassie van der Dussen

REUTERS, Sharjah



Former champions England sailed into the semifinals of the Twenty20 World Cup despite their 10-run loss to South Africa on Saturday with Ashes rivals Australia also making the last four from Group I.

Kagiso Rabada's final over hattrick came too late for South Africa who lost out to Australia on net run-rate count after the three sides ended with eight points from five matches. With Australia beating holders West Indies in the previous match of the day, South Africa needed a victory and a massive run-rate boost to make the last four.

They showed intent with the bat too and Rassie van der Dussen blasted an unbeaten 94 off 60 balls to propel them to 189-2, their highest score of the tournament. South Africa had to restrict England to 131 or fewer to make the semifinals ahead of Australia, while scoring 87 was enough for Eoin Morgan's team.

Moen Ali (37) and Dawid Malan (33) chipped in with breezy cameos to snuff out South Africa's semifinal hopes but England could not maintain their unblemished group record and finished on 179-8.

"Very happy topping the group, we know how hard it is to get through," Morgan said after the loss. "Every game tests us in different ways... Today our batters could

have been more expressive and bowlers had to find a defensive mode." In another setback for the 2010 champions, Jason Roy's tournament appeared over after the opener retired hurt with a calf injury.

Earlier, put into bat, South Africa lost Reeza Hendricks early but van der Dussen and Quinton de Kock (34) propped up the innings with a 71-run stand.

Roy took a diving catch near the rope to send back de Kock but another partnership, bigger and more blistering, bloomed when Aiden Markram walked in.

Van der Dussen and Markram tore into the English attack, combining to hit Chris Woakes for three sixes in an over during their century-plus partnership.

Roy (20) combined with Jos Buttler (26) to give England a flying start before retiring hurt. Two quick, big wickets followed with Buttler falling to Anrich Nortje and Tabraiz Shamsi trapping Jonny Bairstow lbw.

Liam Livingstone (28) smashed Rabada for three consecutive sixes to knock South Africa out of the tournament but the pacer could not be denied a personal milestone.

Defending 14 runs in the final over, Rabada dismissed Woakes, Morgan and Chris Jordan off successive deliveries.

"Win was important, but a bittersweet ending for us," South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said. "We achieved what we wanted to do in terms of winning, but we didn't win well enough."



Bangladesh eye medals in Asian Archery Championships

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh archery team's head coach Martin Frederick is optimistic that the home archers will improve on their individual and team standings by getting into medals table in the upcoming Teer 22nd Asian Archery Championships, which begins in Dhaka on November 13.

This will be second time that Bangladesh will host the continental event, four years after hosting it first. In 2017, Bangladesh's best effort was finishing fourth in women's compound team event.

However, Bangladesh's archery, spearheaded by Ruman Sana, has come a long way since then and Frederick, who took charge of the team in 2018, believes his charges can grab a few medals this time.

"I want (medals). I want to make them better. I will not say colours (of medals I want)," Frederick told reporters at official press conference for the meet at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Around 130 archers from 16 countries are expected to take part in the week-long championship to feature 10 events and to be staged at the Bangladesh Army Stadium.

Frederick believes South Korea, the dominant power in world archery, will be the main contenders for the titles and main competitors for Bangladesh too.

"Asian is the strongest continent in archery Korea is the most powerful nation. Then there will be a good meeting with the neighbours India. But we will fight," Frederick said. Bangladesh Archery Federation's general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal admitted that they had a disastrous World Championship campaign in USA in September, but they will be a force in the Asian Archery Championship at home.

"I don't want to talk about any explicit targets and I have never done so, but I can say I see Korea as our opponents here," Chapal said.

Bangladesh will field 15 members in the championships, two of whom will be making their international bows. The team is currently in training in at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium Tongi and they will start practising at the Army Stadium from November 9, informed Chapal.

The press meet was attended, among others, by BAF's president Lt gen Moinul Islam, sponsors City Group's director Mohammad hasan and City Group's executive director Zafar Uddin Siddique.

'We had the game of our lives'

REUTERS, MANCHESTER



Premier League champions Manchester City cruised to a 2-0 win over struggling

Manchester United in their derby at Old Trafford on Saturday. Gifted two goals by United in the first half, City were happy to control the game after the break, while their hosts failed to present any sort of real threat.

It was ultimately a disappointing derby with City's superiority in all areas confirmed abundantly while Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's showed once again they simply lack enough quality to mount even a token title bid. United are now winless in their last four home league games, losing three of them. City are second, two point behind leaders Chelsea who host Burnley later on Saturday.

City were handed an ideal start, going ahead in the seventh minute with an own goal from United defender Eric Bailly, who stretched out a leg but turned a low Joao Cancelo cross into his own net.

Cristiano Ronaldo forced Ederson into



a full-stretch save with a fine volley, but that turned out to be United's sole effort on the City goal. United, shaky at the back despite playing a three-man central defence, relied on goalkeeper David De Gea to keep them in the game as the

Spaniard made a series of saves.

De Gea smothered a close range effort from Gabriel Jesus and tipped over a long-range shot from Cancelo before reacting well to stop another potential own goal after Victor Lindelof turned a low Phil

Foden ball towards his own net.

The Spanish keeper then rose to the challenge again to deny Kevin De Bruyne as City searched for a second.

But just before the break, Pep Guardiola's side profited from more woeful United defending with Luke Shaw inexplicably leaving a Cancelo cross deep to the back post, allowing Bernardo Silva to sneak in and poke a shot goalward that crept past De Gea.

It was a moment which undid all De Gea's work and left United with a mountain to climb in the second half. In truth, however, they hardly got to base camp. Substitute Jadon Sancho brought some life to United on the wing but there was no real pressure on City's unruffled back line, while at the other end the visitor's twice could have added to their tally. De Bruyne at the back post blasted a volley wide and then Foden drilled a low shot wide of De Gea's left-hand post.

"We had the game of our lives today. Everything went right, a lot of possession and chances. We dominated from start to finish," said Foden.



CRUCIANI TAKES OVER AT SAIF

Former Bangladesh national team coach Diego Cruciani (L) receives a bouquet of flowers from SAIF SC's managing director Nasiruddin Chowdhury after taking charge of the club ahead of the upcoming season. The 59-year-old Argentine, who coached Bangladesh team in 2005-06 before guiding Abahani the following year, landed in Dhaka in the early hours on Saturday before penning the one-year deal at the club's official headquarters in the afternoon. At a subsequent press meet, Cruciani told reporters that he was happy to have returned to Bangladesh, which he always wanted. He also said he would like to talk less and focus more on the work, which would be to see the club improve on their standings from the previous seasons.

PHOTO: SAIF SC