

'Far superior' Verstappen outpaces Hamilton

Max Verstappen cruised to victory at the Mexico Grand Prix on Sunday leaving defending champion Lewis Hamilton to admit the Red Bull car "is far superior". Hamilton clung on to finish second in his Mercedes holding off a late charge from Red Bull's Mexican driver Sergio Perez. "Their car is far superior this weekend and there was nothing we could really do about it," said Hamilton. Verstappen, who grabbed the lead on the first corner, finished 16.555sec ahead of Hamilton with Perez just over a second further back. The Dutchman increased his lead in the world championship to 19 points from Hamilton with four races left. "There's still a long way to go," Verstappen said. "It's of course looking good but also it can turn around very quickly."



Pakistan names T20 squad for Bangladesh tour

AFP, Lahore

Veteran Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez opted out of Pakistan's three-match Twenty20 international series on Monday, saying a youngster should be given a chance on the tour.

The 40-year-old is part of Pakistan's ongoing Twenty20 World Cup campaign in which they play Australia in the semifinals in Dubai on Thursday.

Pakistan's 18-man squad will fly from the United Arab Emirates to Bangladesh where they also play two Tests after

PAKISTAN T20 SQUAD

Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain) Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Junior, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shahnewaz Dahani, Shoaib Malik, Usman Qadir

the T20Is.

The selectors have brought back Iftikhar Ahmed in Hafeez's place, who is also an off-spinning all-rounder, said a Pakistan Cricket Board release.

Ahmed has played 13 T20Is for Pakistan but was not selected for the World Cup. The three T20Is will all be played in Dhaka on November 19, 20 and 22.

The two Tests will be in Chattogram (November 26-30) and in Dhaka (December 4-8). A squad for the Tests will be announced later.

Fast bowler Shahnawaz Dahani and leg-spinner Usman Qadir -- part of reserves in the T20 World Cup in the UAE -- are part of the squad for the Bangladesh series.

India sign off on a high

AFP, Dubai



India hammered Namibia by nine wickets to give Virat Kohli a winning farewell in his last match as Twenty20 captain and finish their disappointing World Cup campaign on a high Monday.

India, who bowed out of the tournament on Sunday, rode on a 87-run opening stand between Rohit Sharma, who hit 56, and KL Rahul, who made an unbeaten 54, to reach their target of 133 in 15.2 overs in Dubai. India, the 2007 champions, finished the tournament with three wins from five Super 12 matches but missed out on the semi-finals.

Namibia signed off with a single win in their first appearance in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup. Indian spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin took three wickets each to set up

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SCORES IN BRIEF

NAMIBIA: 132 for 8 in 20 overs (Wiese 26, Baard 21; Jadeja 3-16, Ashwin 3-20)

INDIA: 136 for 1 in 15.2 overs (Rohit 56, Rahul 54 not out; Frylinck 1-19)

RESULT: India won by 9 wickets

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH
Ravindra Jadeja

the victory after they kept Namibia to 132 for eight. David Wiese scored 26 off 25 balls and lifted Namibia from a precarious 94-7 to a respectable total, but it was not enough to challenge a powerful Indian batting line-up which came good towards the business end of the tournament. Rohit, who remains the frontrunner to take over the T20 duties from Kohli, hit his second half-century of the

competition.

Rohit finally fell to Jan Frylinck's left-arm medium pace but only after he smashed seven fours and two sixes in his 37-ball knock.

Rahul kept up the pace to make his third consecutive fifty and struck the winning boundary.

Suryakumar Yadav hit an unbeaten 25 off 19 balls.

India had only managed to post 151 and 110 in their opening two

losses against Pakistan and New Zealand that dented their chances of making the semi-finals.

New Zealand beat Afghanistan on Sunday to eliminate India from the competition and join Pakistan as the teams into the final four from Group 2.

In the final Super 12 match, the Indian bowlers took control after pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah sent back Michael van Linen for 14 to end a 33-run opening stand.

Jadeja struck three times with his left-arm spin and off-spinner Ashwin also rattled the Namibian middle and lower order with figures of 3-20.

Wiese put on 23 for the eighth wicket with Frylinck, who made an unbeaten 15, to add useful runs in the final few overs.

Number 10 Ruben Trumppelmann made 13 from six balls, including a six and a four in the 20th over from Mohammed Shami, but Namibia's total was not enough.



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Joy smashes successive tons

SPORTS REPORTER

A second successive first-class ton from Mahmudul Hasan Joy alongside fifties from skipper Mominul Haque and Shahadat Hossain helped Chattogram Division end the second day of their fourth-round National Cricket League (NCL) encounter against Barishal Division at a dominating position at the BKSP 3 yesterday.

Joy's patient 211-ball 121 helped Chattogram pile up 364 for four, leading by 128 runs at the end of the second day.

Resuming the day on 34 for no loss, Chattogram lost overnight batter Pinku Ghosh early. Joy, however, did not let the early jolt put Chattogram on the backfoot as he put up an 85-run stand with opener Jashimuddin, who was trapped in front by Monir Hossain after a 77-ball 49.

Skipper Mominul then ratcheted up the scoring rate with his 85-ball 81, laced with 11 boundaries, and strung together a 112-run stand with Joy to drive Chattogram to a commanding position.

Joy, who was the last one to fall on the day for Chattogram, starred in another 83-run stand with Shahadat, who remained unbeaten on 63. Runs also came in abundance from the willow of Dhaka Metropolis' batters as skipper Shadman Islam, Shamsur Rahman, Aminul Islam and Abu Hider smashed fifties against Rajshahi Division at the BKSP 4.

Shadman (62 off 112) and Shamsur (89 off 157) starred in a 129-run fourth-wicket stand while Aminul and Hider remained on 65 and 56, respectively, as Dhaka Metropolis ended the day with 353 for six on the board, leading by 121 runs.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Division's left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam bagged his seventh first-class fifer to help his side bundle out Sylhet Division for 265 after they had resumed the day on 79 for two at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

However, Sylhet's Sayem Alam (78 off 177) and skipper Zakir Hasan (67 off 143) were able to pick up fifties before both fell prey to Nazmul. Zaker Ali remained unbeaten on 67 but Nazmul ran through the tail to wrap up Sylhet's innings.

Dhaka ended the day on 22 for one, still trailing by 120 runs. In the other game in Sylhet, pacer Mrittunjoy Chowdhury and national Test team all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz shared nine wickets between them to help Khulna Division bundle out Rangpur Division for 222. Mrittunjoy scalped a fifer while Miraz returned figures of four for 74.

Khulna ended the day on 21 for one, with a lead of 56 runs.



Bangladesh players carry the frame of the goal during a practice session in Colombo yesterday, ahead of today's opening match of the Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy against Seychelles. The match was originally scheduled for Monday but torrential rain forced its deferral to Tuesday for a 4:30pm (Bangladesh time) kick-off.

PHOTO: BFF

MSC thrash Victoria to stay second

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Mohammedan continued their winning run and consolidated their Super Five position in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with a 10-2 victory over Victoria SC at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

With seven wins from as many matches, Mohammedan joined archrivals Abahani in second position with 21 points, three behind leaders Mariner Youngs Club, who have played eight and won all of those matches.

Since the start of the top-flight league in the middle of October following the Club Cup tournament, Mohammedan, Abahani and Mariner Youngs have been in fine



form, with Mariner Youngs scoring highest 53 goals followed by Abahani's 45 and Mohammedan's 44.

However, Mohammedan have the best record when it comes to defence. The Black and Whites have conceded only three goals and kept five clean sheets. Club Cup champions Mariner Youngs have

conceded nine while Club Cup runners-up Abahani conceded seven goals.

Though the three giants have not faced each other yet, the clashes between these three teams in the first phase and the Super Five stage will likely have a big say in deciding the title race.

With the three giants having already ensured their Super Five berths in the 12-team league, four more clubs -- Sonali Bank (15 from eight matches), Ajax SC (15 from nine matches), Bangladesh SC (13 from eight matches) and Shadharan Bima (12 from nine matches) -- are fighting for the two remaining spots.

Though the midtable sides could not provide much challenge to the title contenders, the battles between these teams and the ones at the lower end of the table have been quite intense.

Roy ruled out of T20 World Cup

REUTERS

England opener Jason Roy has been ruled out of the remainder of the Twenty20 World Cup due to a torn calf muscle, the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement on Monday. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved batsman James Vince as his replacement.

Roy retired hurt with the problem during England's 10-run loss to South Africa in their final Super 12 match even though Eoin Morgan's team still qualified for the last four as the Group 1 leaders.

"I'm gutted to be ruled out of the World Cup. It is a bitter pill to swallow," Roy said. "I will be staying on to support the boys, and hopefully, we can go all the way and lift that trophy."

"It has been an unbelievable journey so far, and we have to continue expressing ourselves and concentrating on us."



Kiwi kings of swing eye World Cup final

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Trent Boult and Tim Southee are New Zealand's kings of swing, unstarry but deadly with the new ball and looking to inspire the Black Caps to the T20 World Cup title.

They face England in Wednesday's first semi-final in Abu Dhabi where the two veteran seamers will be key to slamming the brakes on opposing openers Jos Buttler and Jason Roy.



Left-arm, right-arm," said Southee who is also no slouch with the bat.

When he made his Test debut back in 2008 against England in Napier, he smashed 77 off 40 balls with nine sixes, batting at 10. He had also taken 5-55 with the ball. "Our strength is to swing it. When it swings, it's dangerous," added Southee. Boult and Southee have been the foundation for New Zealand being able to strangle opposition batsmen at the World Cup.

They made the semi-finals with four wins in five. In three of those wins, mighty India were limited to 110, Namibia limped to 111 off their 20 overs and Afghanistan managed just 124.

Boult relaxes between matches by playing the guitar and has become used to being instrumental" headlines.

He was a relatively late arrival to T20 cricket, only making his international debut in 2013. Since then he has collected 57 wickets in 39 games to go along with his 292 Test victims and 169 in ODIs.