

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021

Final

Australia vs New Zealand

Live from 08:00 pm

T SPORTS & TEN 1

World Cup Qualifiers

Spain vs Sweden

Live from 01:45 am (Monday)

TEN 2

World Cup Qualifiers

Croatia vs Russia

Live from 08:00 pm

Armenia vs Germany

Live from 11:00 pm

Portugal vs Serbia

Live from 01:45 am (Monday)

SONY SIX

World Cup Qualifiers

North Macedonia vs Iceland

Live from 11:00 pm

Luxembourg vs Ireland

Live from 01:45 pm (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (Round 5, Day 1)

Dhaka vs Rangpur, BKSP-4

Khulna vs Sylhet, BKSP-3

Chattogram vs Rajshahi, Sylhet

Dhaka Metro vs Barishal, SICS

Academy



Jamal, Tapu help Bangladesh end Maldives jinx

SPORTS REPORTER

Jamal Bhuiyan and Tapu Barman scored a goal apiece as Bangladesh ended their 18-year winless streak against Maldives with a 2-1 victory in their second match of the Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy at the Race Course Ground in Colombo yesterday.

Jamal and Tapu – the two most senior statesmen of the team – stepped up as Bangladesh desperately needed a positive result to stay in contention for the final following a disappointing 1-1 draw against Seychelles, the lowest-ranked side of the four-nation tournament, on Wednesday.

The win put Bangladesh on top of the table with four points from two matches ahead of the day's second match between Seychelles and Sri Lanka, who had registered a 4-4 draw against Maldives in the tournament's opening match.

Bangladesh will play their last match of the round-robin stage against the hosts on Tuesday. The top two teams from the round-robin stage will meet in the final on November 19.

Bangladesh's interim coach Mario Lemos felt the win against the Maldivians, apart from it being a historic one, is a step in the right direction.

"In football, we should cherish the moment. When you do something special, you've got to cherish the moment... But we want more. Even if we lost today or drew, we would have had a chance. These types of tournaments are like



chess. You take one step at a time. This is a very important step," the Portuguese coach said at the post-match press conference.

"I think Sri Lanka are a very good team. Playing at home is an extra motivation. We've got to enjoy today and then start preparation for that match," said Lemos as his team know a draw against Lankans would be enough for a place in the final.

Lemos's charges started the game strongly against the top-ranked side of the tournament, with Rakib Hossain and Mohammad Ibrahim proving handful for the Red Snappers, who were playing a high-line from the very beginning.

Captain Jamal broke the deadlock in the 12th minute – his first goal for the senior team – tapping home Rahmat Mia's throw-in which had brushed the head of a Maldivian player on its way.

The linesman, for reasons not clear, raised the offside flag, but the goal was allowed to stand following a brief conversation between him and the referee.

Maldives, though, slowly started to control possession and reaped rewards in the 33rd minute when Mohamed Umair found himself free inside the box to smash home the equaliser after Ali Ashfaq's curling corner-kick was pushed in front of goal by Akram Abdul Ghani.

The Red Snappers were in the ascendancy in the second half even as substitute Faisal Ahmed Fahim's trickeries gave them some hard time down the left flank, but a double substitution in the 74th minute – Mahbubur Rahman replacing Sumon Reza and Jewel Rana coming in place of Rakib – injected some much-needed burst of pace that Bangladesh were looking for and eventually paved way for the winning goal. Sufil caught a Maldivian midfielder in possession close to the centre circle and threaded a through-pass for Jewel, who was brought down by Maldives keeper Ali Naajih.

Tapu, who was adjudged player-of-the-match, blasted the ball at the top corner of the net, in process becoming the top scorer among the current players with six goals and, more importantly delivering a win that all of Bangladesh had been waiting for for the last 18 years.

'Changing whole squad won't bring results'

SPORTS REPORTER

"The bond that we have created must not be broken. We need to stay unified to figure out where we went wrong and where we have to improve," Pakistan skipper Babar Azam told his teammates during a dressing room speech following their defeat to Australia in the semifinal of the T20 World Cup.

Pakistan played exceptionally throughout the T20 extravaganza and had it not been for a Matthew Wade blitz at the death, Babar's side might have been currently preparing for their third T20 World Cup final later today against New Zealand.

But instead, Pakistan arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning for their next assignment -- a three-match T20I series and two World Test Championship fixtures against Bangladesh. And the spirited side seem ever so determined to keep building on what they had achieved.

On the other hand, Bangladesh, who crashed out of the T20 World Cup with six losses in eight games, are still trying to find out what went wrong in their world cup quest.

While a spirited Pakistan seem aware of the goals they need to achieve, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the team management are apparently still in their discussion phase.

"We discussed with the coach, selectors and a few players. We need to improve our performance and we also discussed how we can do it so that we can meet the expectations of the fans," said BCB cricket



operations committee chairman Akram Khan to the media yesterday following a meeting with the coaching staff, including head coach Russell Domingo, after they returned to the country on Friday.

Akram realises that the Pakistan series will put the cricketers under a stern test but he also remained hopeful that the Tigers would be able to regain their form in the format.

"It goes without saying that the series will be a very tough one for us. And our form isn't very good. But we will regain our form. It is something that goes up and down," added Akram, who also informed that the squad for the Pakistan series will be announced on November 16.

Akram, however, mentioned that the squad will not see massive changes.

"Changing the whole squad won't bring results. A few of our players are injured so there might be one or two changes to replace them," said Akram.

BCB, meanwhile, is set to appoint a local fielding coach for the upcoming series against Pakistan as Akram informed that the board decided not to renew the contract with current fielding consultant Ryan Cook.



Tigresses cruise to series win

SPORTS REPORTER

Unbeaten fifties from Murshida Khatun and Fargana Hoque helped Bangladesh women's national cricket team cruise to a comfortable nine-wicket victory with 153 balls to spare in their second ODI against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo yesterday.

The win also meant that Bangladesh, who won the first ODI by eight wickets, have clinched the three-match ODI series 2-0.

Chasing a modest total of 121, Bangladesh lost opener Sharmin Akhter early. However, opener Murshida and Fargana strung together an unbeaten 115-run stand between them to ensure the Tigresses romp to victory without any more hitches in just 24.3 overs. Murshida remained unbeaten for a 65-ball 51, featuring eight boundaries, while Fargana struck seven fours during her 53 off 68 not out.

Earlier, Jahanara Alam removed Zimbabwean opener Sharne Mayers in the very first delivery after the hosts elected to bat. The Tigresses kept the pressure with the ball throughout the game and had their Zimbabwean counterparts bundled out for 121 in 46.4 overs.

Nahida Akter continued her good form with the ball, picking up three wickets for 30 runs.



Argentina on brink of WC qualification

AGENCIES



Angel Di Maria's goal on Friday put Argentina on the verge of qualifying for next year's World Cup in Qatar as Lionel Messi was on the bench for the 1-0 win away to Uruguay.

Argentina started without Lionel Messi but a moment of magic from Angel Di Maria was enough to give them a barely deserved win in Montevideo.

Messi was only called upon by coach Lionel Scaloni to play the final quarter of an hour as he made his comeback from knee and hamstring issues that saw him miss Paris Saint-Germain's last two matches.

The victory takes Argentina to 28 points, six behind Brazil, who on Thursday became the first South American team to guarantee their place in Qatar 2022 after beating Colombia 1-0.

The result means Argentina -- who are unbeaten in 26 matches -- will qualify for

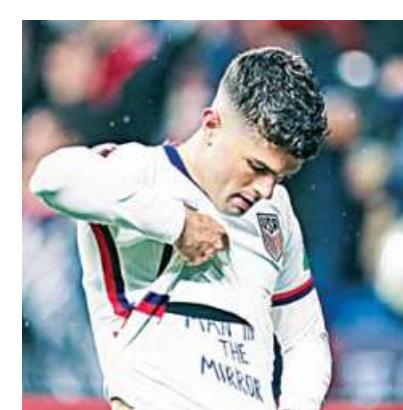
'Man in the mirror'

REUTERS

United States' Christian Pulisic was on target in Friday's 2-0 win over Mexico, but it was the message scrawled on his T-shirt that made headlines as the winger responded to a pre-match jibe from their North American arch rivals with one of his own.

Second-half substitute Pulisic headed home a cross within five minutes of coming on, while Weston McKenzie scored another as a young U.S. team moved to the top of the World Cup qualifying CONCACAF standings.

Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa had said before the game that



his team was the "mirror in which the United States wants to see itself".

As soon as Pulisic put the home side

ahead, he lifted his shirt to show the words "MAN IN THE MIRROR".

"I think you guys know the message, I don't need to speak on it too much. It's not a big thing, I'm not trying to cause a controversy, it was just an idea that came to my head," a smiling Pulisic told reporters.

"I actually wrote it in a mirror - no, I'm kidding. Somebody did it for me," he added as the news conference room erupted in laughter.

"I think we've earned respect the last couple of times we've played them," Pulisic said. "They understand what we're about, we understand what they're about - that's what makes a great rivalry."



[INSET] England captain Harry Kane plundered a hat-trick before halftime in a 5-0 hammering of Albania at Wembley on Friday to all but guarantee his side's spot at next year's World Cup in Qatar. Italy midfielder Jorginho blazed a late penalty over the bar as his side were held to a 1-1 draw by Switzerland in their Group C World Cup qualifier, leaving both sides with a chance of automatic qualification for Qatar.

PHOTO: REUTERS