TEN 1 & TEN 2 **UEFA Champions** League Bayern Munich vs Villarreal Real Madrid vs Chelsea Live from 08:00 pm

(Wednesday) **STAR SPORTS 1** Chennai vs Bangalore

Live from 01:00 am

# 'We need a lot of time to improve in Tests'

Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque drew a clear picture of where Bangladesh are as a Test side after their 332-run loss in the second Test against South Africa at Port Elizabeth saw them lose the series 2-0. In his postmatch press conference, the disappointed skipper gave indications of where it had all gone wrong. The excerpts

#### On the lack of fight on the field:

There is only one explanation. We batted really badly and that's all there is to it. As a team, we didn't play the way we wanted. If you look at the previous Test, although we lost we batted well as a team in the first innings. We could not replicate that effort as a team. Team-wise, we couldn't bat from session to session or bat for a long time. Those things were missing.

On the win Test win against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui appearing to be a fluke after such performances:

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF (DAY-4)**

South Africa: First Innings- 453 all out and Second Innings 176 for 6 dec

Bangladesh: First Innings 217 all out and Second Innings 80 all out (Liton 27, Miraz 20; Maharaj 7-40, Harmer 3-34)

**Result:** South Africa won by 332 runs Player-of-the-match: Keshav Maharaj Player-of-the-series: Keshav Maharaj

The conditions there were different to conditions here. Whether you say it's a fluke or not is up to you. It's not in my hands. Whether playing in a Test for five days is a fluke or not, I don't know. Perhaps you can say better. However, you can't look for similarities between the conditions in Mount Maunganui and here.

#### On the change in approach

The thing is that you have to adapt to the conditions quickly. It's not like we don't play on spinning wickets. I think our execution was flawed in one or two areas.

On wavering from Test mentality Test cricket is the kind of game that demands you



Bangladesh batter Mushfigur Rahim walks back to the pavilion after playing yet another reckless shot as the Tigers suffered a 332-run thumping against South Africa on the fourth day of their series-deciding second Test at St George's Park in Gqeberha yesterday.

improve on a daily basis as a team. You can't just play well for one session or even three days in a Test. You have to play well all five days. You may make mistakes in one or two sessions, but you still have to play well over five days. I think we need to improve more in Test cricket. From the way you speak, it feels like we're already the number one Test team. But I feel we are still in the same place we were before we won the Test [against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui]. Maybe your expectations rose. So did ours, but there is lot to improve on.

## Mushfiqur's dismissal and whether anyone talked to

A reverse-sweep is a cricketing shot. It's not like it's not a cricketing shot. He can play that shot and he will play it according to his game plan. I support him. No one [talked to him regarding that shot]. I will make a request of you because it will benefit Bangladesh cricket. If you emphasise this issue, it will be bad for his mood, for our team and for our country.

#### On losing wickets to spinners

Everyone knows that we, bar one or two players, are not very good at playing spinners. It sounds bad but that's how I feel. Maybe some play [well], but we don't understand which areas to target square of the wicket.

#### On being used to Shakib [Al Hasan] and Taijul [Islam] but struggling against Keshav Maharaj

The fundamental thing is the difference between wickets in the subcontinent and here. Side spin is very effective in our country but here it's not so effective. In these conditions, over spin [flighted with top spin] is very effective. Our bowlers' technique would be hampered if they tried over spin after two days.

#### On not picking a third seamer

Picking five bowlers is difficult for us because it shortens the batting line-up. Bangladesh are number nine or ten in the Test rankings. You can't forget that winning one Test hasn't made us the number one team in the world. You have to understand that we need a lot of time to improve in Tests. Maybe there will be success from time to time, but we can't think we have become number one. When we're number four or five in the rankings, I will be able to play with five bowlers. It's difficult for us with six batters because contributions from the lower-order is still small other than maybe [Mehedi Hasan] Miraz.

## Nail-biters in three DPL games

SPORTS REPORTER

All three Dhaka Premier League encounters on Monday saw thrilling finishes, with Mohammedan, Sheikh Jamal and Abahani registering narrow victories.

The game between Abahani and Gazi Group had the most thrilling finish as Abahani registered a slender one-run victory at the BKSP-3 ground. A century by Jaker Ali (109 off 103 balls) and a rapid fifty from Afif Hossain (50 off 32) propelled Abahani to 311 for seven. Gazi, despite quick-fire knocks of 82 and 92 from Mehedi Maruf and Al Amin Jr respectively, could only reach 310 to fall agonisingly short.

The match was halted for about five minutes due to confusion created by a mistake from the scoreboard operators. The incident took place before the second ball of the 40th over during Abahani's innings. The umpire gave a no-ball after Gazi's skipper Akbar Ali had placed five fielders outside the circle as the scoreboard showed 40 overs completed.

"It was a misunderstanding and the fault was neither ours nor the umpire's. A mistake from the scorers created the issue," Akbar told The Daily Star yesterday.

Despite the narrow defeat, Gazi remain well in contention for the Super League spot, in fifth place just behind Abahani.

Meanwhile, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, table-toppers Sheikh Jamal registered a four-run win against sixth-placed Rupganj Tigers. After being asked to bat, opener Saif Hassan's 94-ball 61 and another boundaryladen 50-ball 57 by Ziaur Rahman helped Sheikh Jamal amass 202 all out in 48.1 overs.

For Rupganj, left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed shone with the ball, returning figures of four for 22 runs in 10 overs that included two maidens. However, Asif Ahmed Ratul's 95-run knock went in vain as Rupganj could only muster 198 for

At the BKSP-4 Ground, Mohammedan registered a five-run victory over City Club and are seventh. Fifties from Abdul Majid (64 off 86) and Shuvagata Hom (59 off 57) saw Mohammedan post 228 for nine before bundling out City Club, ninth in the table, for 223 in 10.4





Bayern Munich superstar Robert Lewandowski will be the man to watch out for in the second-leg quarter-final fixture of the Champions League against Villarreal tonight while Karim Benzema, who is literally in the form of his life, will look to repeat his Stamford Bridge masterclass when Real Madrid welcome Chelsea to the Santiago Rernaheu

## Chelsea face 'incredibly high' challenge

Bayern won't play badly twice, promises Nagelsmann

### **AGENCIES**

Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said his team need a "fantastic script" to overturn a two-goal deficit against Real Madrid on Tuesday and qualify for the Champions League semi-finals.

Chelsea's 3-1 defeat in the first leg at Stamford Bridge last week followed a surprise 4-1 home defeat to Brentford in the Premier League, although Chelsea got back on track with a 6-0 thrashing of Southampton this weekend.

"It is one of the biggest challenges to perform away at the Bernabeu," Tuchel said. "We need nothing else than a fantastic script if we want to overcome this. The task is incredibly high," the German said.

Carlo Ancelotti said Real Madrid will not under-estimate Chelsea. "Chelsea are here to bring the fight to us. It will be tough for them of course but they will try. Good teams never give up," Ancelotti said in a press conference.

"I know my players very well," said Ancelotti. "They are well aware of what happened a few weeks ago (against Barca) and what is required tomorrow. We won't be underestimating anyone. This is a great opportunity to reach the semis but Chelsea are a very good team. We have to respect them."

"It's the only way we can prepare for this game, thinking that Chelsea will be better tomorrow and be ready. There is no other way. We are ready. We know we will have to suffer and we are ready to suffer," Ancelotti added.

Karim Benzema scored a hattrick against Chelsea last week, with the Frenchman now on 42 goals in 42 games this season.

His scintillating form comes in stark contrast to Chelsea's Romelu Lukaku, who cost the club 115 million euros (\$125 million) last summer but has fallen out of favour under Tuchel.

"Karim has to be a modern striker," Ancelotti said. "In the old

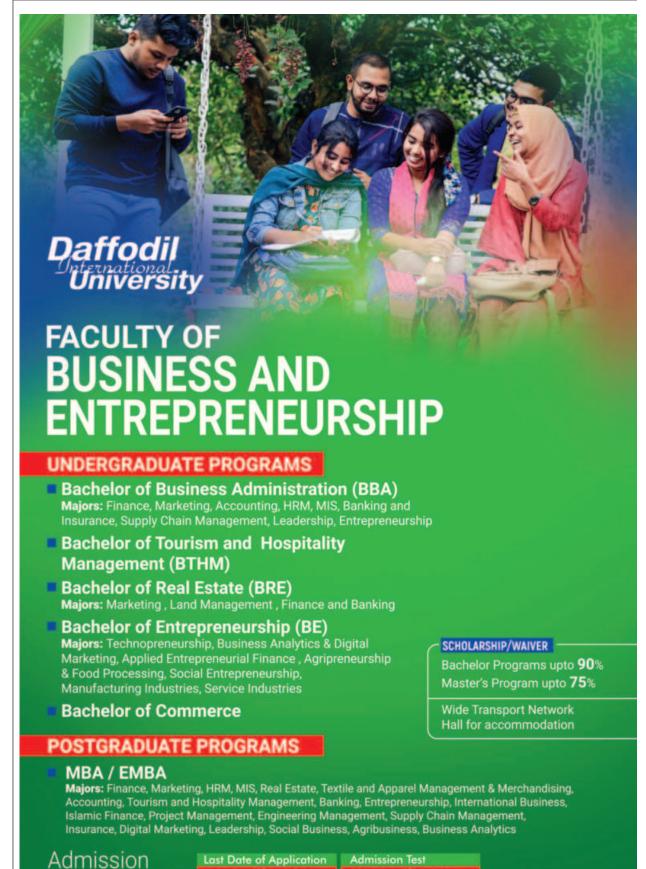
days strikers would hang around the box and just tap the ball in when they could. Now they have to do more.

"Modern strikers don't just score the tap-ins. They have to defend. They have to fight. In my opinion Karim is the model modern striker."

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich will deliver against Villarreal in their Champions League quarter-final second leg on Tuesday despite a bad first-leg performance because too much is at stake, Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said on Monday.

The Bavarians suffered their first defeat in the competition this season, losing 1-0 in Spain last week with Villarreal the dominant side after also hitting the woodwork and missing several chances to score more goals.

"We played a bad game and they played their best game," Nagelsmann told a virtual news conference. "This will not happen again, to play badly against the same opponent twice.'



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