



SCORES IN BRIEF

Scotland vs West Indies

Scotland: 160 for five in 20 overs (Munsey 66, MacLeod 23, Jones 20; Holder 2-14, Joseph 2-28, Smith 1-31)

West Indies: 118 all out in 18.3 overs (Holder 38, Mayers 20, King 17; Watt 3-12, Leask 2-15, Wheal 2-32)

Result: Scotland won by 42 runs.

Player-of-the-match:

George Munsey.

Zimbabwe vs Ireland

Zimbabwe: 174 for seven in 20 overs (Raza 82, Madhevere 22, Jongwe 20; Little 3-24, Adair 2-39)

Ireland: 143 for nine in 20 overs (Campher 27, Dockrell 24, Delaney 24; Muzarabani 3-23, Ngarava 2-22, Chatara 2-22)

Result: Zimbabwe won by 31 runs.

Player of the match:

Sikandar Raza.



Bangladesh T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan walks off after being castled by Afghanistan pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, who starred with three wickets for nine runs, during his side's 62-run defeat in a T20 World Cup warm-up match in Brisbane on Monday. Bangladesh will play their second and final warm-up match against South Africa tomorrow in Brisbane.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Qatar WC ticket sales near 3 million

REUTERS, Doha

Ticket sales for the soccer World Cup are approaching the three-million mark ahead of the tournament kicking off in Qatar on Nov. 20, FIFA's president Gianni Infantino and event organisers said on Monday.

The top three purchasing countries of the 2.89 million tickets sold are Qatar, the United States and Saudi Arabia, World Cup Chief Operating Officer Colin Smith told a news conference in Doha.

Infantino said 240,000 hospitality packages had been sold for the month-long tournament, the first to be held in a Middle Eastern country.

WHAT TO WATCH

SPORTS

T20 World Cup

Namibia vs Netherlands

Live from 10:00 am

Sri Lanka vs UAE

Live from 02:00 pm

Tigers look to stay united through 'bad times'

SPORTS REPORTER

Just a day prior, batting coach Jamie Siddons had been speaking about tail-enders getting some time in nets sessions since the top order had productive outings in the tri-nation series in New Zealand.

However, after moving to Australia, it has become necessary that their tail wag a bit more, if only for the sake of preserving dignity, especially after Bangladesh slumped to a 62-run loss to Afghanistan in their first warm-up fixture ahead of the World Cup at Brisbane's Allan Border field yesterday. Mosaddek Hossain said after the game that a win would greatly help with team bonding and better performances.

The bowlers managed to restrict Afghanistan to 160 but death overs were once again a worry, with Bangladesh conceding 42 runs in the last three overs. That undid a lot of good work as Taskin Ahmed bagged two inside 14 overs and Hasan Mahmud bagged both Ibrahim Zadran (46 off 39) and Najibullah Zadran (5) to restrict Afghanistan to 118 for five after the 17th over.

Liton Das -- who did not play as precautionary measure after he suffered a strain against Pakistan in the final match of the tri-series against Pakistan last week -- batted in the nets yesterday ahead of a warm-up fixture against South Africa on Wednesday.

But the Tigers' response with the bat was disastrous as Fazalhaq Farooqi bagged three early wickets.

Asked to open alongside Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Najmul Hossain Shanto's stumps were rattled by Farooqi after he made 12 runs before Soumya Sarkar, coming in at number three, fell to Mujeeb Ur Rahman for 1.

We are not falling behind mentally. We need a moment of victory and if that happens, I believe the whole dynamic will change. I think everyone should believe that.

MOSADDEK HOSSAIN

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Afif Hossain also failed to keep Farooqi at bay, the swing getting the better of them as they fell for 1 and naught respectively.

Stuttering at 47 for seven inside 11 overs, Mosaddek Hossain's 29 off 33 deliveries and Mustafizur Rahman's 10 off 17 balls saw Bangladesh reach 98 for nine in 20 overs, far below the 170 or 180 that Siddons said they would have to target as a batting to win a game.

Mosaddek said that there were no real positives from the game, which was disappointing considering the improvement

they had shown despite failing to win a single game in the recently-concluded series in New Zealand.

"Many things can be said. We could not win in the last series and now we have lost the first warm-up match. When you lose, many problems find their way into the open. If we talk about positives, there was nothing from this game. But there were positives in the last series and we are improving as a team," he said.

The all-rounder said that 'failure to execute' was once again the reason they failed and, when asked about whether they were lacking inspiration, he admitted they were going through a bad phase.

"We could restrict a team to 160 but we should have chased it down. As I said, we haven't been doing well as a team. At this time, players and support staff have to stay together as a unit alongside those affiliated with the team. Since we are going through a very bad time, I feel if we can rally together, then once we start winning, we will do really well," Mosaddek said.

He was hopeful of turning things around.

"We are not falling behind mentally. We need a moment of victory and if that happens, I believe the whole dynamic will change. I think everyone should believe that," Mosaddek concluded as the Tigers hoped such bad performances were only for warm-up games, not the Super 12 stage of the World Cup.

City miss a trick as Arsenal just will not go away

REUTERS, Manchester

Liverpool's recent jitters meant they were there for the taking by Manchester City on Sunday, but the unusually conservative champions missed a trick, falling further behind Premier League leaders Arsenal who must be taken seriously as title contenders.

Last season, two breathless 2-2 draws between Liverpool and Manchester City showcased the best of what the Premier League had to offer - two brilliant teams at the peak of their powers - but this term, the new-found rivals have enjoyed differing form.

While champions City, chasing a fifth league title in six seasons, travelled to Anfield unbeaten, having plundered 33 goals in nine league games at the start of the new campaign, Liverpool trailed in their wake.

A worst start to a league season after eight games since 2012-13, when Liverpool went on to finish seventh, meant City will have fancied their chances of earning a first win over the Reds in five matches in all competitions.

Confidence would have been sky high

with Erling Haaland gunning for his 21st goal in a remarkable debut season so far in England, up against an injury-ravaged Liverpool backline, who had 36-year-old midfielder James Milner at full back.

But, the champions could not get going at Anfield, restricted to half chances in the first half, with an unusually reserved formation from coach Pep Guardiola curbing their flow.

Liverpool looked nervy in possession, giving the ball away with regularity, but a normally ruthless City could not capitalise.

After they were denied an opener in the second half by VAR, they never really threatened the Liverpool goal, and there was only going to be one winner, with Mohamed Salah's fine solo effort making all the difference.

It was more frustration against Juergen Klopp for Guardiola. The Spaniard has lost 11 matches against the German as a manager, at least four more defeats than against any other coach.

"Many years we come here and we lost because we made a mistake and played one of the best teams in the world," Guardiola said.

"At that level, we cannot concede the mistakes. It is October, so we must learn."

Not just in terms of points, City could have really taken a position of superiority in this new-found rivalry with victory, but instead allowed Liverpool to get the win they need to galvanise their stuttering campaign.

The other big winners from City's Anfield lapse were Arsenal. Nobody tipped Mikel Arteta's side to be serious title contenders this season, not after finishing no higher than fifth in the standings in each of the last six campaigns.

Their impressive early season form was put down to new signings making an instant impact, but few predicted it would last.

However, another hard-fought victory against a vibrant Leeds United on Sunday, with the hosts throwing everything at the Gunners, proved Arsenal must be taken seriously as rivals to City's crown.

With a four-point league lead, and having won 12 of their 13 games this season in all competitions, a first Premier League title since 2004 could be a realistic prospect.



Paris St Germain and Brazil soccer star Neymar and eight others went on trial in Barcelona on Monday charged with fraud and corruption over the player's transfer to Barcelona from Santos in 2013. Neymar spent around two hours at the Barcelona courthouse before he was excused by the judge from the rest of the day's session. He is scheduled to testify on Friday.

'We are ecstatic'

AFP, Hobart

Sikandar Raza smashed 82 off 48 balls to set up a convincing 31 run victory for Zimbabwe in their opening match of the Twenty20 World Cup against Ireland on Monday.

Zimbabwe lost three early wickets after being invited to bat first in Hobart, but Raza put on key partnerships to guide the team to 174-7 in Hobart.

Returning paceman Blessing Muzarabani took three wickets as Zimbabwe restricted Ireland to 143-9.

"We are ecstatic. To put up a performance like that first game, it shows that we do belong here," said skipper Craig Ervine, whose side missed the last edition in the UAE.

"It's a pity that it has been a long way since we have played a World Cup."

Zimbabwe are on track to make the Super 12 after winning the first of their three matches in round one. Raza set the tone for the team's domination after he put on attacking stands with Sean Williams and then Milton Shumba.

Raza took nine balls to get going as he smashed Curtis Campher for two sixes in the ninth over and kept up the attack despite losing partners along the way.

He fell on the last ball of the innings off Mark Adair after hitting five fours and five sixes.

Ireland were never in the chase after losing their top four for just 22 runs inside four overs with pace bowler Richard Ngarava and Muzarabani sharing the spoils.

Bowlers shine on Day 1 of NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur pacer Musif Hasan's ruthless dismissal of Chattogram captain Tamim Iqbal, who saw his middle stump uprooted by a brilliant delivery, proved to be the highlight of the opening day of the second round matches of the National Cricket League yesterday.

20-year-old Musif, who bagged a five-wicket haul on his first-class debut in the first round, ended with three wickets in the Tier-1 game in Mirpur while another pacer, Mukidul Islam, bagged four wickets for Rangpur.

On the other hand, Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim was once again dismissed after getting a start at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. He made just 19 as Chattogram were bundled out for just 126 in their first innings. Rangpur had reached 96 for two when the bails were drawn, trailing by 30 runs.

In the other Tier 1 game in BKSP-3, Dhaka Division were bundled out for 128 by Sylhet, courtesy of left arm spinner Nabil Samad's second consecutive fifer of the tournament. In reply, Sylhet ended the first day on 59 for two, trailing by 69 runs.

In Tier 2, Dhaka Metro were bowled out for 134 in their first innings by Rajshahi, who managed to reach 72 for 2 to trail by 62 runs in Chattogram.

In the other Tier 2 match at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar, Barishal amassed 210 for seven riding on fifties from skipper Fazle Mahmud and Salman Hossain against Khulna.