

SPORTS

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
4th T20I
Live from 6:00 pm

STAR SPORTS 1
Indian Premier League
Gujarat vs Chennai
Live from 8:00 pm



A fan turns UNLIKELY HERO

Real Madrid reached their 18th European final (European Cup and Champions League), the most, and seven more than AC Milan, the second-best in this regard.

Carlo Ancelotti will be managing his sixth Champions League final, two more than any other coach in the history of the competition.

The loss was Bayern Munich's 11th defeat against Real which is the most a side has lost against a particular opposition in the Champions League.

Real came back to win a game after conceding the first goal on four occasions in the Champions League this season, the most by a side in a single campaign since the Los Blancos's record of doing it in five matches in 2016-17 when they went on to lift the trophy.

Manuel Neuer's error leading to the second goal was his first in the competition since he made a meal out of Kylian Mbappe's shot in Bayern's first-leg quarterfinal against PSG in 2021.

NABID YEASIN

Two years back, when Real Madrid had defied the odds almost in each of the knockout rounds to be in Paris for the Champions League final against Liverpool, Joselu was just another face amid the thousands cheering for Los Blancos and watching them win the most elite European competition for a record 14th time.

Plying his trade for Alaves at that time, Joselu was there at the Stade de France just as another passionate Real Madrid fan with his father, donning the proud white kit.

Little did he know that two years later, at the age of 34, he would be the one propelling

top flight at an age when footballers usually enter the twilight of their careers.

It is fitting that the 34-year-old is getting adulation and fame at a club with which he scored his first Spanish top-flight goal in his LaLiga debut back in 2011, coming in on as a substitute for the very player he had come in to replace this year: Karim Benzema.

He had since been around the world – from Real Madrid to Germany's Hoffenheim, Eintracht Frankfurt, and Hannover 96 before moving to Premier League side Stoke City and then to Newcastle with one season on loan in Spain sandwiched in between. It came to a full circle when Real Madrid finally came calling to get him as a loanee

on a rare Manuel Neuer spill – the only mistake the veteran Bayern goalkeeper had made in an otherwise flawless outing – to bring Real Madrid back in the game.

Neuer would surely be rueing that one moment of lapse, but Joselu denied attributing the goal solely to the goalkeeper's mistake.

"The first goal is about being smart, they were tired, in a low block, and you could see that," Joselu said about his first goal.

Two minutes later, Joselu was there again, tapping in a cross from Antonio Rudiger as the cheers at the Bernabeu turned deafening. Maybe he was smart about being in the right position for the winner as well as he got only two touches inside the Bayern penalty box last night, turning both into goals.

Joselu has now scored 16 goals in 46 games across competitions – a tally that was little expected of a player who was brought in on loan at the start of the season to partially fill the void of Real Madrid stalwart Benzema, who had left the club, by being part of the forward line missing a proper striker.

Realising that the striker is just one goal shy of equalling his career-best campaign despite making sporadic appearances from the bench at the most prestigious and demanding club in the world is what makes his contribution more staggering.

While the brace on Wednesday night might prolong Joselu's love affair with the Madridistas, to his coach Carlo Ancelotti, the Spaniard has long been a reflection of professionalism.

"He is a fantastic reflection because he's a player who's contributed a lot this season even if he hasn't played many minutes," the Italian manager said after the match.

"But he's the perfect reflection of what this squad is: players who contribute a lot without losing confidence (if they're not playing) and the idea that they can offer the team something."

Even though there remains an option to buy in his current loan contract, it is unsure if Joselu will be at the club in the coming season with Real Madrid set to get the long-awaited signature of Kylian Mbappe.

However, regardless of where he would be, Joselu has already made a permanent place in the Real Madrid folklore and the hearts of Los Blancos fans.

Read more stories about this game on The Daily Star's website



Real Madrid to their sixth Champions League final in 10 years and 18th overall.

Joselu's journey is probably as magical as the incredible story he helped Real Madrid script in yet another Champions League night on Wednesday, scoring a brace, in the 88th and 91st minutes, after coming in on as a substitute with the LaLiga champions elect trailing Bayern Munich 1-0 at home.

"Not even my sweetest dreams are as big as what happened today," Joselu told Real Madrid TV after their 2-1 win on the night and a 4-3 aggregate victory. "I don't know about hero, but I am very happy... it was incredible, something spectacular."

It indeed was something spectacular, especially for Joselu, who was playing for clubs that eventually got relegated from the

from relegated side Espanyol.

Be it for his own performance or the club's overall plight, Joselu could never settle himself in one place for long. But for now, he has made a home in Madrid, with his name now being one of the favourites for fans to chant at the spectacular Bernabeu.

As it so often happens for Real Madrid, they somehow find a way to go through when it comes to the Champions League. And on this occasion, they roared back into the game and into the final through Joselu, who made the Madridistas witness yet another miracle, adding another chapter to the long list of unfathomable comebacks by this team on European nights.

Just seven minutes after being subbed on for Federico Valverde, the striker pounced

No dead rubbers as evolution emphasised

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed said that winning the five-match Twenty20 series against Zimbabwe did not give the team false confidence heading into the T20 World Cup, instead the two remaining fixtures should be utilised to "test new skills" they are developing.

The shortest format is about expanding one's repertoire in such a way that it can be executed during high pressure match scenarios. Ahead of major tournaments, such discussions typically come along in Bangladesh cricket, but little is shown in terms of on-field performances, where mentality and game sense are just as important.

Taskin, who has been bowling with a much greater rhythm and consistent pace since the injury troubles at the ODI World Cup last year and the subsequent Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), believes that whitewashing Zimbabwe in itself was not a precursor to taking false confidence to the USA and West Indies, co-hosts of the ninth edition of the mega event.

The Tigers are also set to take on the USA in a pre-World Cup series.

"It is not fake confidence. Playing well always



boosts confidence," Taskin said during a pre-match presser yesterday, ahead of today's fourth and penultimate T20I in Dhaka.

"We are not aware of conditions in the USA; probably playing in drop-in pitches. We have to adapt in a new way. It is good that we are going to play the USA in three T20Is. It will give us some time for early adjustment. We can't change conditions in Bangladesh, but more sporting wickets may have been better," he said, implying that playing on high-scoring pitches ahead of the World Cup might have led to better preparations.

"We want to win the last two games. We have different individual roles, which we try to execute. Results vary, but we also want to use these two matches to test some of our new skills," he remarked.

Irrespective of the outcomes, the Tigers' batting has been a concern in this series so far. However, if the World Cup in India is anything to go by, the bowlers too struggled on flat wickets and went for plenty of runs in the death overs. Taskin, though, has appeared sharp during this phase of play.

"I was quite sure in the World Cup, and I had to go through two and a half months of rehab afterwards. I started with the BPL this year. I struggled with my rhythm in that tournament, but it improved in the Sri Lanka series."

"Rhythm is a factor for fast bowlers. It is improving for me. I am working hard. The team will expect me to bowl at a high pace. I am bowling well, but I hope it gets better soon," Taskin said about his own bowling.

Meanwhile, Mustafizur Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan and Soumya Sarkar were part of the Tigers' practice session yesterday. While Mustafizur was testing Shakib at the nets, Soumya was still gearing up to play a part in the two dead rubbers, working his way back to a desired level of fitness.

The left-hander did some range-hitting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium main ground and his match preparations would be key to Tigers' combination.

Alarm bells ringing for Nigar and Co

SPORTS REPORTER

Alarm bells are ringing for the Bangladesh women's cricket team following the 5-0 humiliation at the hands of India at home, as the series showed how far the Nigar Sultana Joty-led side is lagging behind from leading teams in twenty20s.

The Tigresses lost the fifth and final match of the series at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday by 21 runs, which was their ninth straight defeat in the format.

Although the team lost, Bangladesh actually put forth their best batting performance of the series, reaching 135-6 while chasing 157, thanks to Ritu Moni (37 off 33 balls) and Shorifa Khatun (28 off 21).

Bangladesh could only score 36 runs in the Powerplay for the loss of two wickets whereas India were 51-

after six overs.

The slow start followed by the loss of a couple of more wickets meant the Tigresses were reeling at 52-5 at the halfway point of the innings, and were already out of the match.

Nigar commended Ritu and Shorifa for their positive approach while accepting that the top-order lacked intent.

"Batting is the area we need to work on. We need to work on our approach and intent in batting," Nigar said in the post-match presentation.

Bangladesh will next play the Women's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka in June and then take part in the Women's T20 World Cup later in the year as hosts. After the poor series against India, Bangladesh now need to go back to the drawing board and figure out how to avoid the same fate.



SL name T20 WC squad

STAR SPORTS DESK

All-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga will lead an experienced Sri Lanka outfit for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Middle-order batter Charith Asalanka has been named as his deputy.

There will be leadership experience aplenty in the Sri Lanka setup, with former skipper Angelo Mathews and former limited overs skipper Dasun Shanaka also in the mix along with Kusal Mendis (current ODI captain) and Dhananjaya de Silva (current Test captain).

Squad: Wanindu Hasaranga (c), Charith Asalanka (vc), Kusal Mendis, Pathum Nissanka, Kamindu Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Angelo Mathews, Dasun Shanaka, Dhananjaya De Silva, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Dushmantha Chameera, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana, Dilshan Madushanka

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS Summer 2024

MPharm (PTB/PCP)

Master of Pharmacy in
• Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmaceutics (PTB)
• Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy (PCP)

- Financial aid for deserving students
- World-class research facilities
- Weekday evening and weekend classes
- Classes conducted by faculty members with PhD



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Contact: 55668200 Ext: 1902, 1962, 4448, 6266
Email: pharmacy@northsouth.edu
graduate_admissions@northsouth.edu
website: www.northsouth.edu

Admission Deadline
15 May 2024
Admission Test
17 May 2024



3 Scholarships for each program
One 50% and Two 25%

Graduate Application Helpline:
01886271722

Apply online
<http://apply.northsouth.edu>