

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh: 119-7 (Sobhana Mostary 36, Shathi Rani 29, Nigar Sultana 18; Saskia Horley 3-13)
Scotland: 103-7 (Sarah Bryce 49 not out; Ritu Moni 2-15)
Result: Bangladesh win by 16 runs
Player of the match: Ritu Moni

It was a decent wicket so I just wanted to bowl wicket-to-wicket and use my variations. We have put in a lot of hard work in the last year and we were really prepared. It is a great moment and a very proud moment for me and my team.

Bangladesh seamer **Ritu Moni**

Left-arm spinner Nahida Akter became the first Bangladesh woman and the second-youngest overall to take 100 T20I wickets, reaching the milestone in her 88th appearance yesterday. Rwanda's 20-year-old Henriette Ishimwe is the youngest to the feat.



Bangladeshi expats in the UAE usually gather in numbers to watch their country in action, and yesterday was no different as around 2,000 fans -- from young kids to adults -- were present at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium to watch Bangladesh play Scotland in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup opener. Bangladesh did not disappoint, snapping their 16-game winless streak with a 16-run win as Ritu Moni shone with the ball to scalp two wickets and help the Tigresses restrict Scotland to 103 for seven after setting a 120-run target.

PHOTO: ICC/COLLECTED

Heat and scenic views await Gwalior stadium's debut

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Gwalior

The area around Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium in Gwalior, set to stage the first of three T20Is between Bangladesh and hosts India, is on "high security alert" ahead of the venue's first-ever international exposure.

Built in the middle of nowhere, between the mountains and hills of Madhya Pradesh, the stadium has a no-entry policy unless proper gate passes or IDs are presented. Cars were seen turning around some four kilometres away from the main entrance, where checkpoints have been set up to cordon off the area.

Security officers were overheard saying, "High security alert, so you understand we have to check," before allowing a cab carrying media personnel to pass.

While Bangladesh are set to be part of the scenic stadium's history, they will be feeling the



'Blown with the wind' but Sachin's Roop Singh etched in history

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Gwalior

"It's blown with the wind, so Sachin's name isn't there. We had left it like it was in the game," said scorer Sunil Gupta while looking at the dilapidated scoreboard at the Roop Singh Stadium in Gwalior.

This was the venue where the great Sachin Tendulkar had notched up ODI cricket's first double hundred and as the official scorer of that India vs South Africa game back in 2010, Sunil saw it all unfold right in front of him. It was the last international fixture to be played at the ground as well.

Once the main hub of cricket in the region, the first international cricket stadium in Gwalior now stands in near ruins. A better and more modern venue—Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium—has been built in the outskirts of the city, where Sunil would be scoring the first T20I between Bangladesh and



India on October 6.

Entering the venue, one can feel the power of tradition and the ambience a sportsperson like Tendulkar can attach to even a small venue such as the Roop Singh Stadium, named after a former hockey player who was part of India's Olympic gold medal winning teams in 1932 and 1936.

Its swansong saw the changing of times in ODI cricket, the first double hundred in the world by a batter, arguably the greatest in history, tormenting South Africa in a 153-run win.

Sunil recalls the build-up to the game.

"The atmosphere was dramatic. The match had to be shifted from Kanpur due to some issues. They came to us and the ground was ready so we said we would host. So, with about two weeks of preparation we hosted.

"During the nets, he [Tendulkar] was trying out different shots. He called some bowlers and [Anil] Kumble was among them. He asked them to stop him from sweeping by any way possible. Kumble left after bowling six to seven deliveries, perhaps saying 'your concentration is going ok but I'm losing mine'. If you look at the 200, there were a lot of sweeps and

reverse-sweeps," he said and a majority of Tendulkar's runs did come from glances.

In a ground of small stature, Tendulkar must have been eying big runs like the Indian fans and the media were anticipating.

"There was hype among media and fans on whether he would get a century in Gwalior, since he had not scored a ton here, previously getting out on 97 against Pakistan in 2007," Sunil said.

There are other stories associated with the venue as well like the great West Indian side playing an ODI here in 1988. In the 1996 World Cup, West Indies and India played another game here where some 30,000 food packets were brought in from Delhi's Nathu's Sweets.

"We wanted to do something new, so we gave food packets, 1.5 litre coke and Yash mineral water bottle for tickets priced at just 100 rupees. It was for 22,000 people. Each lunch packet cost at least 500 rupees," Sunil said.

This ground also held the first ever day-night Ranji Trophy final, a five-day white-ball affair in 1996.

The dressing room, where once Sachin treaded contemplating his double ton, has seen better days. A few of the stands are almost unusable now. Once a hub of cricket, it is currently run by the municipal of the city not the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.

The scoreboard paper slabs showing what had happened on that fateful day may have been blown away by the wind but the name Roop Singh Stadium will be etched in cricket history no matter what.



Villa shine brightest on underdogs' night

AGENCIES

Holders Real Madrid suffering a shock 1-0 loss to Lille in the Champions League would have been the most talked about on any given day but it was Aston Villa's stunning 1-0 win over Bayern Munich with a last-gasp goal in a repeat of the 1982 European Cup final that probably made more ripples.

Jhon Duran's audacious chipped goal in the 79th minute saw Villa celebrate in style their first home game in Europe's elite club competition for 41 years.

With the Germans dominating possession but squandering chances, Duran ran onto a high ball, spotted goalkeeper Manuel Neuer off his line, and scooped the ball over him to send Villa Park into delirium.

It was the 20-year-old Colombian striker's fifth goal from the bench this season after four in the Premier League.

"He's [Duran] an excellent substitute. The first time he touched the ball, he chipped Neuer -- one of the most beautiful goals in history," said Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, whose saves also played a vital part in securing victory.

The win was a throwback to one of Villa's most glorious days when they beat Bayern to lift the European Cup in 1982.



Duran's goal came against the run of play as the visitors enjoyed two thirds of possession and the best chances but found World Cup-winning goalkeeper Martinez at his best.

"It's unreal. It's a night that we will remember for a long time. It's a statement," Martinez added. "It was hurting my ears. This is a club that's moving forward. I love playing here. I love the fans."



Lille halt Real Madrid's unbeaten run

Kylian Mbappe made his return from injury for Madrid in France as a substitute but he was upstaged by Jonathan David, whose penalty condemned Carlo Ancelotti's side to a first loss in all competitions since January -- a run spanning 36 matches.

The outcome also ended Real Madrid's 14-game unbeaten run in

the Champions League, in which they last lost to Manchester City 4-0 in the semifinal second leg in May, 2023.

"It hasn't been a very good night for us, we shouldn't look for excuses," said Ancelotti.

"We could have equalised at the end but it wouldn't have been deserved."

Canada international David, scorer of a hat-trick in Ligue 1 at the weekend, buried his spot-kick at the end of the first half after Eduardo Camavinga used his arm to block a strike from Edon Zhegrov.

Lille goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier produced a string of late saves as the French club clung on for a famous win over the record 15-time European champions.

Juve resilient, Atletico flop while Slot makes history

Meanwhile, Arne Slot became the first Liverpool manager to win eight of his opening nine matches as Mohamed Salah's brilliant strike sealed a 2-0 victory against Bologna at Anfield.

Juventus won 3-2 in a thrilling encounter against RB Leipzig in Germany despite having goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio sent off for handling outside his area in the 59th minute.

Atletico Madrid fell to a humiliating 4-0 loss at Benfica.



Inter Miami captain Lionel Messi celebrates scoring the second of his two goals -- curling a laser-precision free-kick into the corner from 24 yards -- during his side's thrilling 3-2 win over the Columbus Crew at Lower.com Field in Ohio yesterday, clinching the Supporters' Shield awarded for the best regular season record in Major League Soccer (MLS). Messi, returning from a two-month injury, now boasts 17 goals and 15 assists in 17 MLS matches.

PHOTO: REUTERS