

India battle for World Cup survival after 'messaging up on grand scale'

AFP | Ahmedabad

Defending T20 World Cup champions India need "two big performances" to reach the semi-finals after Sunday's huge defeat to South Africa, said their assistant coach.

India came into the T20 World Cup as hot favourites on home soil but were thrashed by 76 runs in the Super Eights as 80,000 fans at the massive Narendra Modi stadium were stunned into silence.

In their first chafe of the tournament, India's batting came up woefully short in the face of some disciplined South Africa bowling.

India collapsed to 111 all out in 18.5 overs in response to South Africa's 187-7 as their 12-match win streak in the T20 World Cup came to a crashing end.

The magnitude of the defeat has left India with a desperate net run-rate of -3.8 and likely needing to win their last two Super Eight matches convincingly to make it to the semi-finals.

Anything less and India will need to rely on a combination of other results going their way.

"Very disappointed in the performance," said Ryan ten Doeschate.



South Africa's Dewald Brevis (C) celebrates with teammate Keshav Maharaj (R) after taking a catch to dismiss India's captain Suryakumar Yadav (L)

"When you set out to win a World Cup, don't expect someone to come and deliver it to you halfway through," the assistant coach added.

"We've messed up on a grand scale and now the onus is on this group of guys to turn it around and put in two solid performanc-

es." India are grouped with South Africa, the West Indies and Zimbabwe in Super Eights, with the top two advancing to the semi-finals.

The West Indies faced Zimbabwe yesterday night in Mumbai in their Super Eights opener.

India next face giant-killers Zimbabwe, who have already beaten Australia and Sri Lanka, on Thursday in Chennai.

South Africa play the West Indies the same day in Ahmedabad where Aiden Markram's side could put one foot firmly in the semi-finals with another win.

'Cloak came off'

"Obviously with the way the group goes, you need at least four points to get through now, and it's going to need two big performances and a big bounce back from everyone," said Ten Doeschate.

India's fragile batting was exposed against an in-form bowling attack led by left-arm quick Marco Jansen, who returned figures of 4-22 from 3.5 overs. Keshav Maharaj took 3-24 with his left-arm spin.

India's media tore into the team on yesterday morning.

"The night the cloak came off," blazed a headline in the Indian Express newspaper.

"Sloppy India reach point of no return," said the Hindustan Times.

India's ultra-aggressive left-handed opening pair have failed to fire, leaving a shaky middle order to pick up the pieces.

Ishan Kishan was out without scoring to Markram on Sunday, while the world's top-ranked T20 batter Abhishek Sharma fell to Jansen for 15, his only runs of the tournament so far after three ducks.

"It's certainly not panic sta-

tions," said Ten Doeschate, who hinted there could be discussions about India's batting line-up.

"If those guys (Abhishek and Ishan) bat for six overs, the score is going to be 70-plus," said Ten Doeschate.

"So can we get them to temper the way they're playing and be a little bit smarter?"

"Or do we just let them go on the way they are?"

"Or do we bring in a right-hander at the top and make a change somewhere in the middle?"

Captain Suryakumar Yadav agreed India need to use their brains in the first six-over power play when only two fielders are allowed on the boundary.

"Chasing 180-185, you can't win the game in the power play, but you might lose it," he said after his side stumbled to 31-3 after six overs, which became 43-4 a few balls later and then 51-5.

"We lost too many wickets in the power play."

The 2024 champions also have the weight of history against them. No team has ever retained the T20 World Cup and no side have ever won the trophy on home soil.

BIC offers incredible 35% discount on dual karting sessions throughout Ramadan at BIKC

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', announced today that race fans can enjoy an incredible discount on dual karting sessions throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

BIC is offering a fantastic 35% price reduction to all those booking a pair of arrive-and-drive sessions at BIC's world-class grassroots motor racing facility, Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC).

This is a special, limited time promotion that must not be missed and BIC is inviting



speed enthusiasts and casual thrill-seekers alike to make the most of this deal with their family members or friends.

All those who book their first session along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track will get 35% off on the second session.

Each session lasts for 15 minutes and they cost BD14 for the 9hp karts while the 13hp karts are BD17 per session. There is also a 7hp kart for kids, also costing BD14 per session, and two-seater karts priced at BD24 per session.

With this amazing discount in place, there is no better time to go karting under the stars and to make this holy month extra special with a little adrenaline and a lot of fun.

BIKC is open each night throughout Ramadan from 7pm to 1am.

For more information or to make a booking, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Tudor says Tottenham can still beat the drop despite Arsenal loss

AFP | London

Igor Tudor believes there is still enough time for his Tottenham Hotspur side to avoid relegation from the Premier League provided they "stay humble".

Spurs were overwhelmed 4-1 at home to league leaders and arch-rivals Arsenal in a lopsided north London derby, with Sunday's defeat leaving them 16th in the table and just four points above the bottom three.

A woeful run of two league wins in 17 games under Thomas Frank saw the Dane sacked as Spurs manager earlier this month, with Tudor brought in to replicate the kind of mid-season recovery he managed with Italian sides Juventus and Lazio.

Tottenham last played outside the English top flight in



Igor Tudor

the 1977/78 season and Tudor, following his first game in charge, insisted that they could avoid dropping down to the second-tier this term.

"Of course there is enough time," Tudor said.

"I saw the passion, I saw the will, so I was not angry, because they wanted to do (it), but then they were not able to do in this moment the things" they need to do.

"I speak from day one at the club, I come here to resolve the problems."

Al Hidd Hit Sitra for Four to Climb Fifth

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Al Hidd produced a ruthless second-half display to beat Sitra 4-1 last night at Bahrain National Stadium, reinforcing their momentum in the Nasser Bin Hamad Premier League and leaving Abdulmajeed's side in a difficult spot.

Sitra began strongly, pressing well in the opening stages. But in the 40th minute, Algerian Osama Belatrech capitalised on a scramble following a corner, reacting to a miskick from Maicon Douglas to poke past goalkeeper Yusuf Habib.

On the stroke of halftime, Jumai Jalow cut in from the right



Sitra's captain Al Matari challenges Hidd's Jumai Jalow

and curled a stunning effort into the top corner, sending Hidd 2-0 ahead despite Sitra's bright-

er start. Five minutes after the restart, Jalow threaded a defence-splitting pass to Belatrech, who calmly finished to complete his brace. The fourth came in the 62nd minute after Mohamed Al Akash won a midfield header, releasing Mahmoud Al Kaissoumi, who squared to Jalow for his second goal.

In the dying minutes, Sitra were nearly reduced to ten when Rayan Fourgi went studs-up on Walid Karoui's hill, but the decision was rescinded to a yellow. They grabbed a late consolation through Othman Al Hajj, whose deflected effort from outside the box went in as the final action.

The win lifts Shukri Al Bajawi's Hidd into fifth place on 21 points, while Sitra remain 10th on 15 points.

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