





(L-R) Mahmudul Hasan Joy became Bangladesh's first centurion in the ongoing ICC Under-19 World Cup as the right-hander's exquisite 127-ball 100 helped Bangladesh Under-19s romp into their first-ever final in the biggest age-level tournament after defeating New Zealand by six wickets in Potchefstroom yesterday. It was also a clinical performance from the bowlers -- led by left-arm pacer Shoriful Islam -- to restrict the young Kiwis to a modest total.

BANGLADESH AT THE U-19 WC

HOST	RESULT
South Africa	9th place
Sri Lanka	10th place
New Zealand	11th place
Bangladesh	9th place
Sri Lanka	5th place
Malaysia	7th place
New Zealand	9th place
Australia	7th place
UAE	9th place
Bangladesh	3rd place
New Zealand	6th place
South Africa	?
	South Africa Sri Lanka New Zealand Bangladesh Sri Lanka Malaysia New Zealand Australia UAE Bangladesh New Zealand

A milestone two years in the making

SPORTS REPORTER



methodical performance the U-19s secured a final berth at the ICC U-19 World Cup for

Bangladesh. The team made history by not only becoming the first-ever U-19 Bangladesh side to make it to the final but also becoming the first side from any level in Bangladesh to make it to the final of an ICC event.

A mature performance delivered at the right time was further substantiated by the cool innings from Mahmudul Hasan, who took Bangladesh to the doorstep of victory with a sublime 127-ball ton, laced with 13 fours. He played the drives, the cuts and the pulls to good effect but it was the pace of the innings that meant the young Tigers in chase of New Zealand's 211 for eight. The two partnerships he featured in took Bangladesh home.

He found the singles as well in a wicket that was not easy for batsmen, pronounced by the hard work it took for the Kiwis to cross 200-run mark. Bangladesh then lost openers Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Parvez Hossain Emon in quick succession. Mahmdul and Towhid Hridoy then stabilised the innings with singles and odd boundaries with a 68-run partnership for the third wicket.

Towhid left after a 47-ball 40 and then Mahmudul and Shahdat Hossain starred in a 101-run partnership.

Mahmudul struck a boundary to complete his ton with the Tigers on the brink of victory. He departed next delivery but the job was done.

never lost control of the match He maintained that it was his role to stay at the wicket till the end.

> "I thought I would bat till the end and rotate the strike. My role is to rotate strike for the team and bat till the end, and after the early two wickets, that is what I tried to do. During the last New Zealand series, I got one score in the 90s and made a mistake and got out, but I wanted to set it right today. I feel good. Thanks to Allah, our support staff, and all the supporters for today."

It was an all-round performance after the bowlers had done a superb job to restrict New Zealand to a middling score, maintain tight line and length. Pacers Shoriful Islam and Tanzim Hasan Sakib got the ball to move and bounce, with the former picking up three wickets. The spinners kept the pressure up with Rakibul Hasan, Shamim Hossain and Hasan Murad amongst

the wickets. Bangladesh skipper Akbar Ali congratulated the bowlers and reiterated the importance of partnerships to go through.

"Our bowlers did really well, and then our batsmen needed to have a big partnership up front. We were able to do that. Our three spinners are bowling really well. We had specific plans against New Zealand. We had played them away recently, and we needed to bowl to our plans. The way they [Joy and Hridoy] batted was exceptional. They work really hard, and it's commendable," he said.

"It's all about discipline. We plan accordingly and we played so many U-19 games. Before the World Cup, they played 30-plus games and that's very good for the boys. They have experience playing other nations such as England, New Zealand and Sri Lanka back home. We have a good management group. We didn't

SCORES IN BRIE

NEW ZEALAND U-19S: 211 for 8 in 50 overs (White 18, Lellman 24, Lidstone 44, Wheeler-Greenall 75 not out; Shoriful 3-45, Shamim 2-31, Murad 2-10) **BANGLADESH U-19S:** 215 for 4 in 44.1 overs (Mahmudul 100, Towhid 40, Shahadat 40 not out; Clarke 1-37, Hancock 1-31) **Result:** Bangladesh U-19s won by 6 wickets. Player-of-the-match: Mahmudul Hasan

chop and change too many things. These are the 15 or 18 players who have played over the last two years. This is the most mature side ever in Bangladesh's U-19 level. We have been thinking of how to play better cricket in the World Cup and our work has paid dividends," Khaled

SHORT CORNER

Eng to join SA's cancer cause by sporting pink kits

England will join hosts South Africa in raising funds for breast cancer charities by wearing a limited edition pink kit when the two teams play each other in the third one-day international (ODI) in Johannesburg on Sunday.

It will be the ninth time that South Africa have played in their traditional home 'Pink Day' match, but the first time their opponents have also pledged their support to the charitable initiative by sporting similar kits.

Funds raised from the ODI will go towards the Breast Care Unit at the Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital in Johannesburg.

"We've been proud to supply South Africa with pink jerseys for the past four years and to have both teams stepping out in special jerseys for the first time will be a special moment," kit supplier New Balance's head of cricket Liam Burns said

Fans will be also able to purchase the limited edition England kits from the England and Wales Cricket Board store, where it will be available from Friday.

South Africa lead the three-match series 1-0 after winning the first ODI in Cape Town by seven wickets on Tuesday. The second ODI is on Friday in Durban. -- Reuters

Archer out of SL tour & IPL

Fast bowler Jofra Archer was Thursday ruled out of England's Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Indian Premier League season due to a stress fracture in his right elbow.

The England and Wales Cricket Board said the 24-year-old underwent further scans on his injured right elbow on Wednesday, which confirmed a low grade stress fracture.



"He will now commence an injury rehabilitation programme with the ECB medical team with a view to be ready for the international summer campaign starting in June against the West In in a three-match Test series," the ECB statement said.

Archer, who made his international debut last year, played just one Test during England's recent tour of South

England, who beat South Africa 3-1 in the four-match series, are due to play two Tests against Sri Lanka in March.

Bushfire Bash moved to Melbourne

A star-studded charity game to aid Australian bushfire relief was on Thursday moved from the Sydney Cricket Ground to Melbourne due to forecast torrential rain, forcing some players to drop out.

Shane Warne and Ricky Ponting were to come out of retirement to skipper the teams on Saturday to raise money for victims of the blazes which began in September and have left at least 33 people dead and thousands of homes destroyed.

It was scheduled as a curtain raiser to the Twenty20 Big Bash League final, but with downpours expected, Cricket Australia (CA) said it would no longer be possible at the SCG.

Instead, it will be played on Sunday at the smaller Junction Oval in Melbourne following a T20 clash between the Australia and England women's teams.

Warne, Michael Hussey, and Michael Clarke were among those forced out due to prior commitments.

"We have moved the Bushfire Bash from the SCG because we want to provide every opportunity for the BBL final to be played on Saturday night," said CA chief Kevin Roberts, amid concerns that the pitch could be damaged if there was a game beforehand

Adam Gilchrist will now captain one of the teams in Warne's absence with Australian Test skipper Tim Paine acting as coach. The Ponting team will be coached by Sachin Tendulkar.

Other international stars taking part include Wasim Akram, Brian Lara, Courtney Walsh, and Justin Langer.

Match profits will go to the Australian Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund

The Sydney Sixers will face either the Melbourne Stars or Sydney Thunder in the BBL final, weather permitting.

Mushy back as 2nd round starts today

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The second round the ongoing of League (BCL) will kick

off today with East Zone taking on BCB-run South Zone at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium Academy Ground in Cox's Bazar while the other board operated team, North Zone, will square off against Central Zone at the Sylhet International Stadium today.

The second round of the firstclass tournament will see more than just a change in venues, after the opening round fixtures were played in Dhaka and Chattogram. Bangladesh stalwart Mushfiqur Rahim, who missed the opening round due to a hamstring injury, is set to feature for North Zone in this round. Mushfiqur, who opted out of the Pakistan tour due to security concerns, was earlier declared fit following a fitness test on Tuesday.

Imrul Kayes, who was suffering from a calf muscle injury and missed the first round, was also declared fit ahead of this round. The left-hander is also expected to



feature for East Zone today.

The second round will not feature the 14 members of the national side who travelled to

Pakistan to play the first of their two World Test Championship fixtures, also scheduled to begin from today

The opening round was lit up reduces in this round.

mostly by performances of the national players, so it remains to be seen whether new performers will step up or the competitiveness

Shapoor recalled

AGENCIES, Kabul

Afghanistan have recalled fast bowler Shapoor Zadran for the upcoming threematch T20I series against Ireland.

Zadran makes a comeback in national colours after almost one and a half years. The pacer last played a T20I in June 2018 against Bangladesh.

The 15-member squad announced by the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) selection committee also consists of young all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai. Opening batsman, Usman Ghani, who was not included in Afghanistan's series against West Indies in October 2019, is back in the squad as well.

"We have selected the current best T20 players and hopefully will do better against Ireland," said chief selector Andy Moles.

The best team lost, says Jose

AFP, London



Jose Mourinho admitted Tottenham got lucky after Son Heung-min's penalty secured a 3-2 win against Southampton in Wednesday's FA Cup

fourth-round replay. Mourinho's side were 12 minutes away from being knocked out after squandering the first-half lead given to them by Jack Stephens' own goal.

Shane Long and Danny Ings scored as Southampton hit back to take the lead at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. But Lucas Moura equalised before Son won and converted the

penalty with just two minutes left. "I have to be honest and say I think the best team lost on the pitch but my team were the ones with more heart and went to their limit," Mourinho said. "We suffered but we deserved to win because we were in our limits. Southampton were fresher than us but we played with our souls and heart

and gave absolutely everything." Tottenham will host struggling Norwich in the fifth round in the first week of March.

Aiming for the first trophy of his difficulties. The priority is to survive. reign, Mourinho, will be relieved We have lots of difficulties. I'm not Tottenham avoided a surprise exit.

Taking credit for the win in classic

speaking just about Harry Kane, I'm speaking about injuries to Giovani Mourinho self-promoting style, he lo Celso and Erik Lamela. Today was said: "I think I did very well because a team completely unbalanced, really



Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-Min celebrates after scoring the winning goal following a frantic finish against Southampton yesterday.