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## Multi Expert Moment of the day

PHOTO: AFP  
Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim makes a desperate dive to avoid being run-out during the first T20 against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday. Mushfiqur survived the incident but failed to take the Tigers home.

## Panicked Tigers throw it away

SAKEB SUBHAN from Bulawayo



The tour did not get easier for outgoing captain as Bangladesh lost their nerve to lose the first T20 by 6 runs at the Queens Sports Club here yesterday. It was a game that Bangladesh seemed to be winning for 35 of the 40 overs, but after the dismissal of Shakib Al Hasan, Bangladesh panicked and lost six wickets for just 42 runs -- two of them to needless run-outs.

Only 49 were needed from 33 balls when Shakib holed out to long on a ball after keeper Brendan Taylor

missed a stumping chance and gave Shakib a life. But all hell broke loose thereafter. One ball later Shamsur Rahman top-edged a slog sweep after hitting a boundary the previous ball to leave Bangladesh at 124 for three. The duo of Shakib and Shamsur put on a sparkling 118-run partnership for the second wicket after Tamim Iqbal's old nemesis Brian Vitori broke the left-hander's middle stump on the second ball of the innings.

Then the run-outs happened, two in one over, the 15th. Off the first ball, which went to long-off, Mushfiqur's bat, Nasir Hossain failed to complete the second run. The other crisis in a

Mahmudullah also headed back when off the last ball, he was slow to respond to Mushfiqur's call for a single after the skipper had dabbled the ball to the off-side. There were some run-out chances during the only big partnership of the innings too, with Vitori missing the stumps at the non-striker's end to reprise Shakib after both batsmen were stranded at one end.

Ziaur Rahman then came in and could not connect with three consecutive deliveries from Tensai Chatara, piling on the pressure, which was released somewhat with a pulled six by Mushfiqur off the last ball.

Earlier, Zimbabwe won their fifth toss in a row and got off to a bad start

when Vusi Sibanda pulled the third delivery of the innings from Shohag Gazi straight to Sajidul Islam at square leg. Then it was the firm of Hamilton Masakadza and skipper Taylor who provided the fire-power for Zimbabwe, putting on a 74-run second wicket stand in only eight overs.

Taylor looked in sublime form -- a pick-up six over long leg off Sajidul being the standout shot. When he reached 40 from 30 however, he fell to a down-the-wicket chip off Shakib to long off. 17 runs later, Mahmudullah Riyad lured Sean Williams down the wicket and fired it wide for keeper Mushfiqur to do the rest. Despite

the loss of wickets, Zimbabwe through Masakadza motored along. The opener brought up Zimbabwe's hundred with a six over midwicket off Gazi in the 13th over. Off the last ball of the 15th over Shakib took a juggling catch at long on to dismiss Sikandar Raza.

Shakib got his second wicket when he got Masakadza to slog high to square leg, where Gazi took a hard catch as he was looking into the sun. That was the last Zimbabwe wicket to fall and Malcolm Waller finished things off in style by hitting Shaiful Islam for a six off the last ball of the innings, slogged over cow corner.

## Abahani fail again

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani failed for the fifth time in their endeavour to reach the AFC President's Cup finals as they lost their last qualifying match of Group A against Erchim FC at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu yesterday.

Abahani were heavily tipped to make it through this time, especially after drawing 1-1 against both Three Star Club of Nepal and Taiwan Power Company, needing only a win against Erchim, who were thought to be the weakest side of the group.

But the 2011 Premier League champions, who took the field under assistant coach Amalesh Sen after head coach Ardesir Purnemad had left for Iran earlier in the day for the club's disastrous performances, failed to put on a decent performance, losing the through a 59th minute goal from Erchim midfielder Babilguun Ganbaatar.

The result meant Abahani finished bottom with two points while Three Star and Erchim qualified from the group. Defending champions Taiwan Power Company also failed to qualify after finishing third.

Ardesir failed to win a single silverware for Abahani this season.

## Dulal, Zamal's top ten finish

SPORTS REPORTER

The three Bangladeshi golfers -- Dulal Hossain, Zamal Hossain Mollah and Shakhawat Hossain Sohel -- made late flourish to finish respectably in the Surya Nepal Masters which concluded at the Gokarna Forest Resort in Kathmandu yesterday.

Dulal was the best of the lot as he finished on joint sixth position after playing three-under-par (69) in the last round for an aggregate of 12-under-par (276). Dulal received 99,450 Indian rupees for his exploits.

Zamal was the best performer on the last day as he carded five-under-par (67) for and aggregate of 11-under-par (277). Zamal finished on joint eighth position to grab a paycheque of 66,450 Indian rupees.

Shakhawat Hossain finished joint 16th with eight-under-par (280) in the event won by local favourite Shivarman Shrestha with a score of 18-under-par (270).

## 'Tough pill to swallow'

SPORTS REPORTER from Bulawayo



It was a game replete with errors from Bangladesh while Zimbabwe made as few

as possible. In compiling 168 for five, Zimbabwe did the small things well, converting singles into couples and then fielded well when defending, effecting two crucial run-outs.

Bangladesh were guilty of panicking after Shakib Al Hasan and Shamsur Rahman Shuvu had put on a stellar partnership to take the team to 120 for one in 14.2 overs, but in the next ten deliveries they lost four wickets.

"As a team there were times when we did not do the three disciplines too well. We lost four or five wickets in two overs," coach Shane

Jurgensen identified the turning point. "I think we panicked at the end there. At the start of the game we thought 160 to 170 was a par score. The batters were very good, getting themselves off to a good start. It was an improved performance, but I thought we should have won."

"It's a tough pill to swallow, but we are not defeated yet. We still have a game and if we can polish off a few areas I think we will bounce back well," said the coach about today's second T20I.

Leading into the game, the team lost two ODIs, but the boys were in high spirits and eager to do well. WE just could not finish it off."

It has been a tour marred by misfiring performances and most damagingly, the resignation of a captain. Today will be the team's last chance to give him a proper sendoff.

The second and last T20 International will be played at the same venue today.



Mumbai Indians speedster Lasith Malinga exults after seeing the back of Robin Uthappa of Pune Warriors in their Indian Premier League match at the Subrata Roy Sahara Stadium in Pune yesterday.

## TT team off to France

SPORTS REPORTER

A ten-member Bangladesh squad departed for France last night to take part in the Table Tennis World Cup as well as the World Congress of the International Table Tennis federation.. Mahbub Ullah, Manash Chowdhury, Moumita Alam and Sonam Sultana will participate in the World Cup which will be held from May 13 to 20 in the French capital Paris. Former player Zobera Rahman Linu will lead the team as the manager.

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## Wins for MI, Hyd

AGENCIES, Pune



In a crucial match for a spot in the knockout stages, Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Kings XI Punjab by 30 runs at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium at Mohali.

The victory has essentially knocked out Kings XI from the tournament. Sunrisers on the other hand are placed fifth and are level on points with Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Batting first the Sunrisers revived from a precarious 52 for 5 to post 150 in the first innings. In reply, Kings XI were restricted to 120 for 9.

Half-way through the first innings it seemed as though the visitors were going to struggle to cross the 120-mark. However, Parthiv Patel's 47-ball 61 combined with a late blitz from Thisara Perera (32) led the visitors to a formidable total. Punjab's Sandeep Sharma, who finished with figures of 3-21 was the pick of the bowlers.

Chasing a target of 151, the hosts lost opener Mandeep Singh in the very first over of the innings. The wickets continued to tumble as Darren Sammy continued his good run in the IPL. He was the pick of the bowlers and finished with figures of 4 for 22.

In the day's other game Mumbai Indians inched closer to earning a play-off berth as they rode on a disciplined bowling performance to eke out a five-wicket win over Pune Warriors yesterday.

Mitchell Johnson led the way with figures of 2 for 8 before skipper Rohit Sharma's patient knock of 37 off 41 balls guided Mumbai to a win with seven balls to spare at the Subrata Roy Sahara International Stadium.

Chasing a modest total, Mumbai were off to a disastrous start, losing opener Dwayne Smith in the innings' first delivery. Sachin Tendulkar helped himself to a few boundaries before Ajantha Mendis had him caught at long-on by Manish Pandey.

With Mumbai needing 13 off the last three overs, Glenn Maxwell, playing in his first match, hit Dinda for a four and six to make the scores level.

Earlier, electing to bat, Pune Warriors were off to a poor start as both their openers, Robin Uthappa and skipper Aaron Finch, departed in quick succession.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD:** 150 for 7 in 20 overs (Patel 61, Thisara 32; Sandeep 3-21)

**KINGS XI PUNJAB:** 120 for 9 in 20 overs (Pomersbach 33; Sammy 4-22).

**Result:** Sunrisers Hyderabad won by 30 runs. **Player of the match:** Parthiv Patel.

**PUNE WARRIORS:** 112 for 8 in 20 overs (Yuvraj 33, Pandey 29; Johnson 2-8, Ahmed 2-27, Malinga 2-27)

**MUMBAI INDIANS:** 116 for 5 in 18.5 overs (Sharma 37, Rayudu 26; Dinda 2-35)

**Result:** Mumbai Indians won by 5 wickets. **Player-of-the-match:** Mitchell Johnson.

PHOTO: CRICINFO