



Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (R) and Shakib Al Hasan walk off the field dejectedly after the Tigers lost the ICC World T20 match against Australia by three wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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# Taskin seeks review

SPORTS REPORTER



A day after Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon revealed that the BCB was not happy with the ICC's decision to ban Taskin Ahmed from bowling in international cricket, the pacer, according to the BCB, asked for a review.

According to the ICC's regulations for the review of bowlers reported with illegal bowling actions, a bowler is allowed to ask for a review if he contends that the ICC has not followed its own procedures.

Taskin's issue was the talk of the town yesterday and to a certain extent even received more attention than Bangladesh's game against Australia.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury confirmed that Taskin had asked for a review.

"Taskin has asked for a review. The player submitted the petition today. The BCB, meanwhile, is trying to expedite the process. We are hopeful of the hearing of the review being held very soon," Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that the board are in constant discussions with the ICC on the issue.

According to Chowdhury, there is not a fixed timeframe by which time the review process will start. According to the regulations, the process should begin 'within a reasonable time'.

If the review is unsuccessful, the ICC's original decision will stand and Taskin will have to work on his action and go through the test again. While the BCB is trying its level best, not many in the board are confident of a positive outcome.

The decision to deem Taskin's bowling action as illegal received wide-scale criticism across the country.

People from all walks took to the streets yesterday and protested the ICC's decision. Several of them carried placards and demanded justice for Taskin. Thousands of people gathered at Shahbagh yesterday afternoon and made themselves heard.

"One can understand the decision regarding Arafat Sunny, but we demand that Taskin be allowed to play in the World Cup immediately," said Ashfaque Chowdhury, a student of AIUB, who was present at Shahbagh.

Former cricketers Ian Chappell and Shoaib Akhtar also supported Taskin and raised their views online. Akhtar described Taskin's exclusion as a potential loss for world cricket, while

## WHAT THEY SAID

Really feel for Taskin. I hope he gets the clearance from ICC soon because he's an asset for world cricket.

**-- Shoaib Akhtar on Twitter**

I don't understand the logic of that [suspending bowlers mid-tournament]. Surely, if they [ICC] have got to out them, they have to do so before the tournament. I think it's very harsh to chop guys out in the middle of a tournament and I don't understand the logic of that at all. My sympathies are definitely with Bangladesh over that. If you lose two major bowlers in the middle of a tournament that's a lot to overcome.

**-- Ian Chappell in an interview**

# 'Losing Tamim was a setback'

SPORTS REPORTER from Bangalore



At the conclusion of their match against Australia, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's charges will feel disappointed. They will be hurt not because they put in a brilliant show at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday, but they will feel as though they missed a golden opportunity.

Save for a couple of inspiring performances, the rest of the team, for most parts of the game yesterday, looked slightly drained. Yes, there were a number of positives. Mushfiqur Rahim played a few good drives, Shakib Al Hasan found his line with the ball and Mahmudullah Riyad continued with his stunning form and these aspects will probably help the Tigers in their next game against India.

However, the thing that will probably haunt them the most is the fact that their opponents won the game despite not being at their best. The Australians did chase down the total in the end,

but they had only themselves to blame for the rather close finish.

On any other day, considering the amount the Tigers have improved in the last few months, they could have very well gone home. However, the fact that they weren't playing with their top three players in the side, seemed to affect them on the field.

Mashrafe though claimed that the off-field events, the exclusion of Taskin Ahmed, Arafat Sunny and even Tamim Iqbal who couldn't play yesterday's game because of a sickness, weren't in their minds. He blamed the defeat on the 'little mistakes' on the field.

"This ground is a bit high scoring and we couldn't score as much because of our mistakes. Had we avoided them we could have gone a lot further," said Mashrafe at the post-match press conference in Bangalore.

"I think everyone tried their level best, but I guess there were just too many things happening. Losing Tamim before the match was a big setback for us. When three of your main players leave and you don't have your in-form players, then it becomes very difficult. But we still tried to keep

our focus on the game and nothing else," he added.

It was a wicket on which Bangladesh needed to score at least 20 more runs and it therefore wasn't a surprise when Mashrafe described Tamim's absence as a big setback. Bangladesh lost Soumya Sarkar in the very first over, and the top order struggled to score since then.

While Mohammad Mithun and Sabbir Rahman did hit a few boundaries, they were dismissed soon after, something that put more pressure on the middle order.

Tamim, according to Mashrafe, was suffering from a fever since yesterday morning.

"He did feel better in the afternoon and looked good. But once he came to the field and did a few sprints, he felt worse and wasn't fit enough to play the match," Mashrafe explained.

Despite Soumya's bad run, Mashrafe defended the opener. "Batsmen can go through such phases. I feel he just needs one knock to get back. There's a lot of risk in T20 cricket. He just needs his flow back," said Mashrafe.



Fans gathered in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh to protest the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision to ban Taskin Ahmed and Arafat Sunny after an ICC-accredited centre found their deliveries to be illegal. PHOTO: STAR

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**BD-AUS SCOREBOARD**

BANGLADESH	R/B	4/6		
Mithun c Watson b Zampa	23/22	1/1		
Soumya c Maxwell b Watson	1/6	0/0		
Sabbir c Faulkner b Watson	12/17	2/0		
Shakib c Coulter-Nile b Zampa	33/25	3/1		
Shuvagata lbw b Zampa	13/10	1/1		
Mahmudullah not out	49/29	7/1		
Mushfiqur not out	15/11	2/0		
Extras: (lb-7, w-3)	10			
Total: (For 5 wks in 20 overs)	156			
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-25, 3-62, 4-78, 5-105.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Coulter-Nile	4	0	21	0
Watson	4	0	31	2
Hastings	3	0	24	0
Marsh	1	0	12	0
Maxwell	1	0	12	0
Zampa	4	0	23	3
Faulkner	3	0	26	0
AUSTRALIA	R/B	4/6		
Khawaja b Al-Amin	58/45	7/1		
Watson run out	21/15	2/1		
Smith b Mustafizur	14/13	0/1		
Warner c & b Shakib	17/9	1/1		
Maxwell st Mushfiqur b Shakib	26/15	2/2		
Marsh c Shakib b Mustafizur	6/6	1/0		
Faulkner not out	5/3	1/0		
Hastings c Soumya b Shakib	3/4	0/0		
Nevill not out	1/1	0/0		
Extras: (lb-2, w-4)	6			
Total: (For 7 wks in 18.3 overs)	157			
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-95, 3-115, 4-119, 5-135, 6-148, 7-152.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	1	0	9	0
Mahmudullah	2	0	22	0
Al-Amin	2	0	14	1
Mustafizur	4	0	30	2
Shakib	4	0	27	3
Saqlain	3.3	0	40	0
Shuvagata	2	0	13	0
Result: Australia won by 3 wickets.				
Player-of-the-match: Adam Zampa.				

# Pakistan take on rampant Kiwis

AFP, Mohali



A resurgent New Zealand will be eyeing a semifinal berth when they take on a deflated Pakistan in a World Twenty20 group match in Mohali Tuesday. Smarting under a six-wicket defeat to arch rivals India, Shahid Afridi's men need a victory against the table-topping Kiwis to keep their hopes alive of winning the trophy for a second time.

Pakistan won their opener against Bangladesh but things have since gone downhill as they unravelled against the Indians on Saturday, sparking an angry backlash from fans back home. The Black Caps in contrast have been riding high with their horses for courses policy paying rich dividends against India and Australia.



New Zealand are perched on top of Group 2 with four points followed by India and Pakistan on two each from as many games.

Skipper Kane Williamson has won plaudits after he packed his side with unheralded spinners and leaving out tested fast bowlers Trent Boult and Tim Southee in the key opening game against favourites India.

Another win will see New Zealand cruise through to the knockout stage of the tournament which would be a feat for a young side. Afridi, 36, will be under pressure to deliver after taking flak for his tactics.

**HEAD-TO-HEAD IN WT20**

Pakistan	Played	New Zealand
3	4	1
<b>IN ALL T20Is</b>		
8	14	6
<b>LAST MEETING</b>		
January 22, 2016 in Wellington: Pakistan lost by 95 runs.		

# Opening woes clear in Tamim's absence

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh fans were already reeling from the news that pacer Taskin Ahmed and spinner Arafat Sunny would not be playing in the ICC World Twenty20 after their actions were found to be illegal. Then, at the toss before the Group 2 match against Australia, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza dropped the bombshell that in-form opener and one of the leaders of the batting group Tamim Iqbal will miss the match through illness.

That late setback was as debilitating for Bangladesh as the news of their two fallen brethren, and not just because Tamim is a fine player. It was also because without Tamim, the personnel in charge of opening the batting have proven to be inept. Since the heady days of July 2015 when he carried all before him in the ODI series against South Africa, Tamim's opening partner Soumya Sarkar has averaged 16.28 in 14 T20Is at a strike rate of 108.57. Only three of his innings have exceeded 25 during that time, while he has been dismissed for less than 20 in eight of those innings. Tamim's replacement Mohammad Mithun, though he hit some form yesterday, entered the game with an average of 10 from his nine T20Is before yesterday's game.

Apart from the numbers, Soumya has displayed a consummate inability to handle the moving ball; Nathan Coulter-Nile's early movement yesterday had him playing down the wrong line repeatedly, and it was his good fortune that he was not dismissed off one of the two inside-edged shots that went past the stumps in the first over. What makes his struggles especially frustrating is that he seems to have no plan for when, as has become inevitable recently, he cannot find the boundaries.

The opening partnership yesterday seemed to be a mandatory period of struggle that had to be undergone before Bangladesh's effective batsmen came out. Tamim may well be back for tomorrow's match against India, but that solves only half the problem. The team management has shown an acute lack of imagination and flexibility while dealing with the opening problem. The obvious question in such a scenario is who could replace Tamim's misfiring partner at the top if the two seen yesterday have not been up to the mark, which may lead one to wonder how much worse batsmen lower down the order could fare than the incumbents. Re-jigging the batting order has become an essential skill of successful T20 sides. Meanwhile, Bangladesh hold on to their batting sequence as if it is a battle-hardened Test top six.

Apart from Sabbir Rahman and Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad has been the batsman in red-hot form. Yesterday after the Tigers had limped to 62 for three in 9.2 overs, instead of Riyad -- who has had five unbeaten innings the last nine times he walked out to bat -- coming in and taking the innings by the scruff of its neck, Shuvagata Hom was pushed out at number four a day after disembarking a flight to Bangalore. Riyad came in at the fall of the fourth wicket and still managed to hit a peerless 29-ball 49, leaving many wondering, as usual, why he had not come in earlier.

Ask the captain, and he will tell you that Riyad plays well lower down the order, but increasingly it sounds like Riyad is kept in reserve in anticipation of a batting collapse, which in turn raises questions about the self-belief this team proudly proclaims it has.

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**PERFORMER OF THE DAY**  
**AWESOME USMAN**  
 Usman Khawaja got his side off to a flying start against Bangladesh yesterday. With a somewhat challenging chase on the cards, he made his intentions clear by blasting Tigers' captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for a six. He scored 58 runs off 45 balls and lasted 13 overs to set up a solid platform for the Aussies to build on. Khawaja kept things ticking over, but he also showed his quality with some fine strokes, which resulted in seven fours and a six.

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