



Sri Lanka opener Dinesh Chandimal's wild swipe against South Africa's Aaron Phangiso meets nothing but air while the ball disturbs his off stump during their World Twenty20 Super 10 match at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Taskin begins work to iron out kinks

SPORTS REPORTER



After returning to Dhaka, most of the national players have preferred to spend quality time with their families, an understandable move considering that they have been on the move for the last three months or so because of the ICC WorldTwenty20, the Bangladesh Premier League and the national camps.

The break in the international schedule has helped them take a bit of a breather. That was exactly what most of the players did, except for Taskin Ahmed.

The tall fast bowler, who was deemed by the ICC to possess an illegal bowling action, was busy sweating it out alongside bowling coach Heath Streak at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

This was Taskin's first bowling session ever since he was banned from bowling in international cricket. Considering the enormity of the scenario, the team management have decided to waste no time and have immediately started working closely with Taskin's bowling.

The young pacer will have to undergo another test and pass that in order to be able to bowl in international cricket again.

"He has already started working with Streak. However, we haven't decided when we will ask him to take the test. The thing is we don't have any international series soon and there's plenty of time for him to get ready,"

said Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) cricket operations chairman Akram Khan.

"The next assignment for the players will be the Dhaka Premier League. But as far as bowling in domestic cricket goes, Taskin can bowl since the ICC has no issues regarding that. So we don't have any immediate worries," he added.

Akram though reiterated the statement made by BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon a few days ago and said that the board will form a committee that will observe the actions of bowlers in domestic cricket.

"The committee will work on identifying the illegal actions in the domestic circuit and measures obviously will be taken against them," said Akram.

The former national captain has also said that the board is planning to organise an extra series before England arrive in October since the Tigers have plenty of free time in their calendar this year.

"We are thinking of arranging a series during the gap. We are in touch with around five teams. The discussions are still in the primary stage. Let's see what happens," said Akram.

"I am actually also concerned about my A team. We have to organise series for them. The last time we formed the A team there were many national players in it. We need to form a new team," he added.

Bangladesh's next international assignment is expected to take place in August when they are scheduled to travel to India to play a one-off Test, their first in the country.



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## 73-year-old man behind Eden floodlight fiasco

IANS, Kolkata



Ruling out any conspiracy in the floodlight failure at the Eden Gardens, Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) stadium committee chairman Chittrak Mitra on Monday insisted it was the carelessness of a single person which led to the debacle.

On Saturday, one of the giant light towers at the Eden malfunctioned which led to a 15-minute stoppage during a World Twenty 20 Group 1 encounter between New Zealand and Bangladesh.

The CAB held a meeting on Monday evening with 30 officials including members from the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC), Public Works Department (PWD) and GARUDA (company in charge of the generators) to sort out the issue.

Questions were asked if a factional feud between CAB members had led to the blunder. But Mitra stated otherwise.

"It happened because of a human error. The man who did it has sought an apology. There was no conspiracy behind this. The media is trying to highlight the incident by bringing in the question of sabotage. There was nothing like it. And since he has owned up there is no need for an investigation," Mitra told reporters here.

The man being blamed for the fiasco is 73 years old and is said to have forgotten to switch over power supply from the CESC cables to the generator during the mid-innings break on Saturday. Later when he tried doing that in the 11th over of the second innings, the line tripped.

To ensure this does not happen again in the future, the CAB has decided to station four people at each tower, as against the solitary personnel posted till Saturday's match.

"This is one of the best systems (the supply line switch over to generator) in the world. Just because one of the officials has failed to do it in the nick of time does not mean there is a fault with the system." CAB joint secretary Avishek Dalmiya said.

## Cricket world salutes Kohli

AGENCIES, Undated



The cricket world was abuzz with talk of Virat Kohli's latest and arguably best chasing masterclass led India to an improbable victory over Australia on Sunday and sealed a 1998 one-day at Sharjah dubbed "desert storm".

Not for the first time in the tournament, it was on Kohli's shoulders to get India across the line which is what he did as he remained unbeaten after a sublime 82, burnishing his reputation as arguably the best chaser in limited-overs cricket with his knock reminding many of Tendulkar's 143 against Australia in a 1998 one-day at Sharjah dubbed "desert storm".

Shane Warne was at the receiving end of Tendulkar's wrath in that match and 18 years since the contest, the Australian spin great saw Tendulkar's shadow in Kohli's latest knock.

Former Australia captain Ian Chappel even admitted that he 'had always thought of Brian Lara as the best placer of the ball,' now however he believes 'Brian is in second spot'.

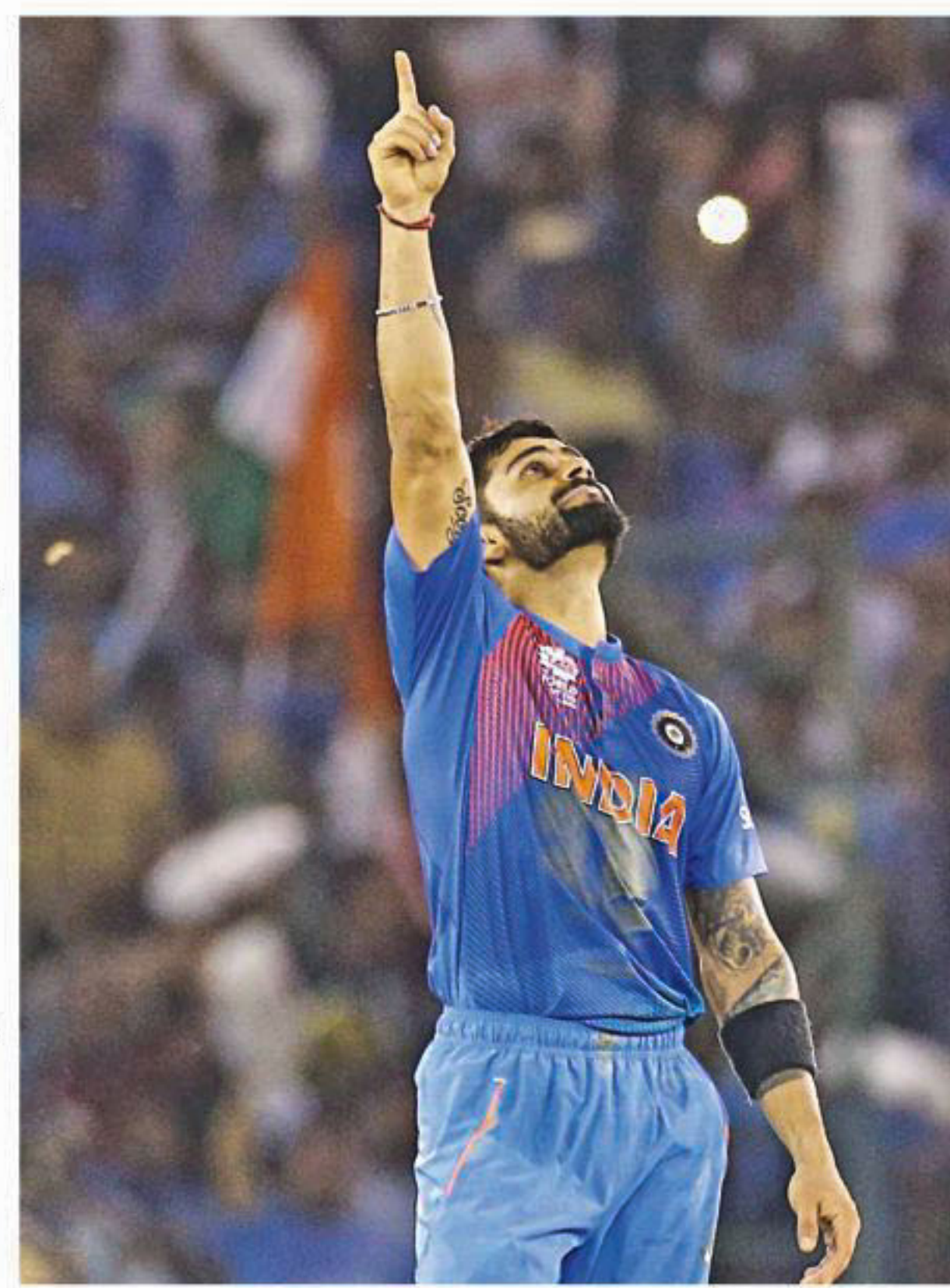
Kapil Dev, who captained India to victory at the 1983 World Cup saw fit to praise Kohli for resisting the temptation to slog, instead playing orthodox shots that would have graced a Test match.

"Hats off to this genius with a bat," Dev wrote in the Mail Today newspaper.

At 27, Kohli stands on the brink of batting greatness with 36 international centuries against his name and averages of 44 in tests, 51 in one-dayers and 55 in Twenty20 matches.

It has been a fascinating transforma-

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tion of a Delhi cricketer perceived initially as yet another brash brat from the streets of a city long accused of inculcating aggression in its youth.

Since Kohli's international debut in a one-dayer against Sri Lanka eight years ago, India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has closely watched the tattooed, blunt-speaking, heart-on-his-sleeve youngster transform into a mature match-winner.

Dhoni said Kohli was now learning how to stay calm in pressured situations while not losing his natural aggression but would remain 'the same'.

"He will be an aggressive character who will be ready to take on challenges and he will be aggressive on the field."

The Australian media on Monday were also full of praise for Virat Kohli's thrilling batting, despite the fact that his heroic 82 sent Steve Smith's team crashing out of the World T20.

"Steve Smith called it the 'Virat show' and he was right," wrote Chris Barratt in The Sydney Morning Herald.

"One man wins it," agreed The Daily Telegraph's Ben Horne who continued to say:

"I think it's safe to say there is no talent in world cricket at the moment quite like Virat Kohli."

Others, such as Geoff Lemon, agreed saying that it was hard to feel disappointed at being knocked out by such an impressive innings.

Writing in The Australian newspaper, Gideon Haigh said Kohli's performance had "made an awkward chase look like simplicity itself".

"Much as the marketers would like to take the cricket out of T20, Kohli keeps putting it back," he wrote.

## WHAT THEY SAID

THEY SAID

"Great knock by @imVkohli Reminded me of one of your many special innings buddy."

-Warne to Tendulkar

"Looked like a class performance from

@imVkohli#T20WorldCup'.

-Michael Clarke

"Wooooow @imVkohli ...special it was... Great win, fighting all the way! #IndvsAus."

-Sachin Tendulkar

"No question @imVkohli is the greatest ever judge of a chase I have ever seen... Cool as you like.. #Timing #Genius."

-Michael Vaughan

"Brilliant chase from the chase master. Great batting mate #TeamIndia."

-Rohit Sharma

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### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA:** 120 all out in 19.3 overs (Chandimal 21, Dilshan 36, Siriwardana 15, Perera 8, Shanaka 20 not out, extras 10; Steyn 1-33, Abbott 2-14, Phangiso 2-26, Tahir 1-18, Behardien 2-15)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 122 for 2 in 17.4 overs (Amla 56, Du Plessis 31, De Villiers 20; Lakmal 1-28)

**Result:** South Africa won by eight wickets.

## Stokes relishes death bowling

AFP, New Delhi



Ice-cool all-rounder Ben Stokes said Monday he was relishing his role as England's death bowler after his nerves of steel once again kept his side in the World Twenty20.

With Sri Lanka needing 15 runs to win and their captain Angelo Mathews hitting England's bowlers around the park in Saturday's crunch match in New Delhi, Stokes was handed the ball at the start of the 20th over.

But after spinners Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid were cluttered for 21 in their final overs, Stokes bowled a string of near perfect yorkers and conceded only four runs to secure England's semi-final against New Zealand on March 30.

While other England bowlers have come unstuck on the global stage -- including Stuart Broad who was hit for six sixes by India's Yuvraj Singh in the 2007 World T20 -- the 24-year-old Stokes is relishing the responsibility.

"I would much rather be doing that last over thing rather than hoping that whoever is bowling it gets us through. I'd rather be the man doing it," he said in the build-up to Wednesday's semi-final against New Zealand.

"Yes, I love being involved in the game and being in high pressure situations. I think it probably brings the best out of me in terms of my cricket. I enjoy getting into the big moments of the game."



BEN STOKES

England's passage to the semis was hampered by defeat to the West Indies in their opening match, meaning they had to win all of their other three games against Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and South Africa.

The West Indies also beat England in 2010 but Paul Collingwood's side went on to win the tournament in the Caribbean, the first time that the team had ever won a major international tournament.

"Colly [Collingwood] actually did say that at the start of the tournament that we got beaten by the West Indies in the first game. It's a good omen because that's what happened to him," Stokes told reporters in New Delhi.

Under the captaincy of Eoin Morgan, a young England side is developing a reputation for aggressive strokeplay which has surprised many observers.

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PERFORMER OF THE DAY  
FANTASTIC PHANGISO  
Tillakaratne Dilshan welcomed Aaron Phangiso by dispatching the slow left-arm's first two deliveries for a four and a six. Phangiso though fought back brilliantly to scalp two wickets in that very over and put Sri Lanka under pressure. He sneaked one past Dinesh Chandimal's bat and deceived Lahiru Thirimanne with a tossed-up delivery. He got the first two wickets and put a break on Sri Lanka's run-scoring which proved to be a crucial turning point in the game. He finished with figures of 2 for 26.