

# SPORT

## ICC NAMES WORLD T20 XI

# Mustafizur the 12th man?

SPORTS REPORTER



The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its team of the tournament yesterday with Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman included as the 12th man.

The team, which includes five batsmen, two allrounders and four bowlers, has four players from England. Jason Roy, Joe Root and Jos Buttler made the cut. South Africa's Quinton de Kock and India's Virat Kohli filled the two other batting positions, with the latter being named the captain of the side. Australian Shane Watson and West Indian Andre Russell are the allrounders who were selected.

England's best bowler of the tournament, David Willey, who scalped 10 wickets at an average of 15.90, also made it through. Samuel Badree, Ashish Nehra and Mitchell Santner were the other bowlers to be included.

While most of the selections seemed logical, the ICC's decision to include Ashish Nehra, could be contested. A glance at the stats makes it obvious that the ICC were more focused on the economy rate of the



ICC XI (MEN)

Jason Roy (England), Quinton de Kock (South Africa, wicketkeeper), Virat Kohli (India, captain), Joe Root (England), Jos Buttler (England), Shane Watson (Australia), Andre Russell (West Indies), Mitchell Santner (New Zealand), David Willey (England), Samuel Badree (West Indies), Ashish Nehra (India), 12th man: Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)

that India played on were on wickets that turned and helped the bowlers. India themselves could not chase a low score against New Zealand.

While he bowled superbly with the new ball, the same cannot be said about his bowling at the death. He consistently bowled one over at the end of each match. While he did well against Australia, he gave away more than ten runs in each over in the rest of the games.

The fact that he scalped five wickets also shows that he did not strike as well as some of the other bowlers.

Take the case of Mustafizur. A specialist death bowler for Bangladesh, the left-arter was also used in the Powerplays. He scalped nine wickets in the three Super 10 matches that he played in and also recorded the best bowling figures of the edition. His economy rate of 7.21 might be significantly higher than Nehra's, but that has a lot to do with the fact that he bowled a lot more overs at the death. More importantly, he managed to remove the 'impact players' in almost every game. Against Australia, he got Steven Smith; against New Zealand, Kane Williamson and then he struck early to get Rohit Sharma against India. To a certain extent, he was the reason why Bangladesh's opponents could never go berserk.

With an array of variations and an ability to bowl successfully both at the death and in the Powerplays, Mustafizur

bowlers, which is obviously important in the shortest format of the game.

However, there also needs to be balance between the number of strikes that a bowler makes and the number of runs he gives, for it is also crucial for bowlers to take wickets.

Nehra scalped five wickets in five matches at an economy-rate of 5.94, which is undoubtedly a brilliant stat. However, one also needs to take into consideration that the first two games



West Indies' cricket captains Stafanie Taylor (L) and Darren Sammy pose for a photograph in front of the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata with their respective World T20 trophies yesterday, a day after West Indies won the women's and men's finals.

PHOTO: AFP

## Tamim gets \$5000 reward

SPORTS REPORTER

Peshawar Zalmi, the franchise that Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal plays for in the Pakistan Super League has announced a reward of 5000 US dollars for the left-hander in a show of appreciation for his performance in the ICC World Twenty20.

With 295 runs in six matches, Tamim finished as the highest run-getter of the ICC World Twenty20.

Owner of Peshawar Zalmi Javed Afridi revealed his announcement through a tweet directed towards Tamim.

It read: "I here by announce a sum of USD:\$ 5000 for @TamimOfficial28 from Peshawar Zalmi platform 4 being a highest runs scorer in #T20wc16 #zalmicare."

Tamim seemed overwhelmed by the news. He acknowledged the tweet by retweeting it and also replied to Afridi by tweeting: "Very humbled by your gesture&appreciation @JAFridi10 Not every1 appreciates achievements. Glad 2 hav been acquainted with you.#peshawarzalmi."

Tamim's unbeaten 103 against Oman in the qualifying round of the global event last month had made him the first Bangladeshi player to score a century in T20Is.

# 'We are headed in the right direction'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has said that the Tigers are heading in the right direction as far as performing in T20 cricket is concerned.

While speaking at a signing ceremony with a telecom company in the capital yesterday Shakib referred to the immense progress that the team had made in the last few months. In December 2015 and January this year, Bangladesh had lost thrice to Zimbabwe and did not seem confident in the shortest format.

A series of camps in Khulna, Chittagong and Dhaka later brought about a change in their fortunes. They went on to reach the final of the Asia Cup T20 and also gave the hosts quite a scare in the ICC World Twenty20 in India.

While they did go on to lose all four matches in the Super 10 stage of the global event, Shakib reckons that the Bangladeshis had successfully left their mark in India.

"Our take-away from the World Cup was the belief. Because of the world cup we now know our position. We know that we can compete against any team."

"The facts that the best bowling figures and the highest run-getters are Bangladeshis

I think proves that we have done well. I think one of our players [Soumya Sarkar] has taken the best catch in the World T20 as well. The way we are moving ahead, it just shows that we are in the right direction," said Shakib.

Having just returned from India, the left-hander is set to head back today in order to get set for the Indian Premier League which begins on April 9. Shakib's team Kolkata Knight Riders are scheduled to play their first game against the Delhi Daredevils on April 10.

Apart from Shakib, Mustafizur Rahman will also be featuring in the IPL after being signed up by Sunrisers Hyderabad. There is a good chance that the two Bangladeshi players may take on each other on April 16 when the Sunrisers take on the Knight Riders.

Shakib shared a few words on his colleague.

"I have no advice for him. He is one of the best bowlers in the world, especially in the shorter version. All he needs to do is maintain his fitness levels and he will do well," he said.

Regarding his own target in the IPL he said: "My target remains the same as always. Whenever I play for a team I try my best to contribute. I have not always been successful, but I try to give my 100 per cent."



SHAKIB AL HASAN

## Waqar resigns as Pakistan coach

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's head coach Waqar Younis resigned on Monday weeks after his team's humiliating exit from the World Twenty20 tournament at the group stage.

The 2009 champions had been widely blasted by fans following a lacklustre performance with just one victory against Bangladesh and big losses to India, New Zealand and Australia.

"I am resigning from my post today with a heavy heart," he told reporters in Lahore.

Referring to a report written in the aftermath of the World Twenty20 in India that was widely leaked in the Pakistani press, he added: "I want my recommendations to be implemented. They were not acted on when I first made them in 2015."

The 44-year-old took on the job for the second time in 2014, having previously held the post in 2010-11.

In his leaked report, Younis criticised the Pakistan Cricket Board's decision to not give him a say in the selection process and blasted the captaincy of Shahid Afridi.

# WI win the chance to negotiate

ESPNCRICKINFO



By claiming their second World Twenty20 title in dramatic circumstances, West Indies' breakaway T20 players may have finally won themselves the place they have been seeking at the WICB negotiating table.

Reacting to the strong criticism thrown at him and his board, the WICB president Dave Cameron announced that he would meet the players after the IPL at the annual review in June to find a "common ground" where the "best" players can represent the region in all formats.

Cameron was reacting strongly to the critical remarks made by West Indies captain Darren Sammy immediately after becoming the first team to be crowned World T20 champions twice. In his acceptance speech Sammy said it was "very disappointing" to not hear from the WICB on the team's triumph against England on Sunday evening in Kolkata.

While expressing his disappointment at Sammy's "inappropriate" comments, Cameron delivered his most conciliatory message to the players for some time. Previously, he has refused to speak with the group, insisting they must deal with the players association WIPA, whose president Wavell Hinds fell out with them when he agreed to a vastly inferior pay deal in 2014, leading to the disastrous walkout from that year's ODI tour of India. Cameron has now changed his tune.

"Coming up in May this year, the Board will host its annual review (retreat) with the players, WIPA, selectors and the technical

team to review player, management and technical plans. We want to see how we can find common ground in ensuring that the best players in the region are available for selection for West Indies teams," Cameron said in a statement delivered hours after Sammy and his men stunned England in a dazzling last-over finish.

According to Cameron, the reason the meeting with the players, which would also involve selectors, team management and the West Indies Players Association (WIPA), was planned in June was because many of the senior Caribbean players like Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard and Carlos Braithwaite would be busy with the IPL which will be played between April 9 and May 29.

One of the major stumbling blocks for the players is WICB's insistence that they play in the regional tournaments consistently in order to be eligible for the international engagements in all three formats. The WICB has said that the players who travel around the world playing in the T20 franchise-based tournaments, cannot expect to be picked solely on their experience and stature.

Although Cameron has extended an olive branch, he highlighted that the WICB approach is hardly going to change going forward. "We are fully aware of the financial rewards on offer in the lucrative international T20 leagues, but we believe deeply in the importance of cricket to the people of the region and of West Indies cricket's place in world cricket. It is therefore a priority to have all of our players competing and available for selection. We will also engage the ICC on this so that we protect not only the rich heritage and legacy of West Indies Cricket, but also its future."

### WHAT THEY SAID

Overwhelmed by all the support of everyone after a disappointing last over.....So proud to of represented my country in a World Cup final...  
-Ben Stokes  
@benstokes38 is still my hero !! @englandcricket

-Andrew Flintoff  
Just a hiccup, @benstokes38! Happens to all great players who put their hands up under pressure! You are a STAR! Braithwaite take a bow!  
-Kevin Pietersen  
Much like when Stuart Broad got Yuvraj'ed in 07 Im willing to bet Ben Stokes goes on to do some pretty amazing things on a cricket field too.  
-Scott Styriss  
The bravery is putting the ball in your hands to bowl the last over @benstokes38 ... #Respect.  
-Micheal Vaughan  
Part of the learning curve @benstokes38 ..you'll still go on and become a great of the game in all formats #classispermanent.  
-Herschelle Gibbs  
@benstokes38 top man. Your the man pal,next time it's yours.  
-Darren Gough  
Amazing wow!!!!!! Hard luck England well played West Indies Ben stokes keep your chin up boy hard lines #WT20Final.  
-Phil Tufnell  
Anyway gutted for the England boys but well played WI, very good one day side. Also @benstokes38 is an absolute superstar #simples  
-Graham Onions



RALLY ROUND THE FALLEN: England bowler Ben Stokes was crestfallen after being hit for four sixes in the last over of the ICC World Twenty20 final against West Indies in Kolkata on Sunday, but yesterday cricketers from around the world consoled a fellow victim of the game of uncertainties.

PHOTO: AFP

## ICC CEO wants more teams

PTI, New Delhi



ICC chief executive David Richardson is satisfied with the current format of the World T20 but said he would like to see the inclusion of two more teams in the first and second rounds in future competitions.

"I think, the format itself works. Whether we promoted those first round matches well enough, that is a question we need to answer at a later stage and review it," Richardson told Cricket Radio ahead of the World T20 finals of the men's and women's teams. "The format has worked in that all the matches, first round and second round, it is designed to create even contests between the teams and to that extent it has worked exceptionally well," he added.

"Whether we move to perhaps increasing the size of the tournament by adding one or two teams, or one team to each group in that first round, I think if we can do that, number one, we will provide more opportunities to other teams but, number two, if you do lose two matches, you have still got a chance in a group of five whereas, in a group of four, you are dead and buried," quipped the former Protea wicketkeeper.

"That might be useful and then even maybe increasing, instead of having a Super 10 have a Super 12 maybe which will again increase the number of matches but, I think, it will give more opportunities for the Associate members to participate in the second round of the tournament itself," he elaborated.

## Samuels fined

IANS, Kolkata

Marlon Samuels of the West Indies has been fined 30 percent of his match fee for using abusive and offensive language directed at Ben Stokes during the World Twenty20 final against England at Eden Gardens.

Samuels, on Sunday, was found to have breached Article 2.1.4 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during an International Match," an ICC media release said.

The incident happened in the final over of West Indies' run-chase when Stokes was the bowler.

Samuels admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Ranjan Madugalle, and so there was no need for a formal hearing.