

# SPORT



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal was included in the ICC Team of the Tournament for his 293 runs from four innings in the just-concluded Champions Trophy.

## ICC TEAM

Shikhar Dhawan (India)  
Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan)  
Tamim Iqbal (Bangladesh)  
Virat Kohli (India)  
Joe Root (England)  
Ben Stokes (England)  
Sarfaraz Ahmed (Pakistan, captain)  
Adil Rashid (England)  
Junaid Khan (Pakistan)  
Bhuvneshwar Kumar (India)  
Hassan Ali (Pakistan)  
Kane Williamson (New Zealand (12th))

## 'A superb event'

BISHWAJIT ROY



The ICC Champions Trophy featuring the top eight teams ended with the magic of Pakistan, the pre-tournament underdogs, reaching the summit for the first time in its history by beating pre-tournament favourites India in a one-sided final on Sunday at The Oval. The rain, runs and the mastery of Pakistan bowling have marked the tournament and in the end Pakistan once again revived their inimitable style of 'making the impossible possible'.

"It was a fantastic tournament," Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal came up with a straightforward answer when asked about the just concluded ICC Champions Trophy. "And it ended in amazing style. It was a typical Pakistan campaign, making a brilliant turnaround from their defeat in the first match to become champions. It's very difficult to explain their performance because you never know which Pakistan will show up on a given day. Simply unbelievable," continued the left-hander who was the only Bangladesh player to get a place in the ICC's Team of the Champions Trophy.

"The top eight teams took part in the tournament and no one had any scope to be relaxed, which was the real beauty of this tournament. We feel proud that in such a quality competition we were among the top four sides," said Tamim.

### TIGERS SLIP TO SEVENTH

Pakistan's extraordinary show however took Bangladesh to number seven in the rankings despite a rise in ranking points.

The question about the rankings' relevance however remained after Pakistan romped to victory even though they were the lowest-ranked side coming into the event.

"We cannot demean the rankings only because of Pakistan's turnaround from number eight. The ranking is a result of your consistent performance throughout the year and it has special value as it recognises the consistency in your performance," explained Tamim.

"But as a team we can learn a lesson from Pakistan's success, which is that if they can make it then why not our team? If we can do the right things then it is also possible for us to do something like that," he added.

The ICC's 12-member team was selected by a jury of cricket experts where Tamim got a place in the number three position for his 293 runs in the tournament but still the left-hander was looking forward to much better batting in the future.

"I cannot stop here if I want to go ahead. I believe I will need to improve more if I want to take one step forward from my current form," said Tamim.

The Chittagonian also believed that every member of the Bangladesh team understands the need for further improvement.

"Without any doubt it was a big achievement to get to the semifinals for the first time. But we could have done a little bit better than what we did in the tournament. I believe one thing that all 15 members can understand after the tournament is that we need to learn from this event and that we need to better our performance if we want to go one step ahead," he concluded.

PHOTO: REUTERS FILE

## Betting takes another life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Just over a month after a man was killed over betting on an Indian Premier League match in Lalmonirhat, another man lost his life on Sunday night in Jamalpur over a bet on the India-Pakistan final of the ICC Champions Trophy.

This time, however, the man took his own life, jumping under a speeding train after losing a wager of a substantial amount to another youth.

The deceased, Bidyut, 25, was the son of Anisur Rahman of Station Bazar area of Jamalpur. Known as a regular cricket bettor, Bidyut had allegedly waged a handsome amount over India winning the Champions Trophy final against Pakistan.

As it turned out, India, the overwhelming favourites going into the final, lost by 180 runs against their arch-rivals Pakistan at The Oval on Sunday.

Quoting local people, Nasirul Islam, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Jamalpur Government Railway Police Station, said that after India's defeat, Bidyut was supposed to pay up a huge amount of money yesterday.

Having failed to arrange the money, Bidyut killed himself by jumping under the Dewanganj-bound intercity train at the rail-gate level crossing at around 11:00pm, the OC added. On information police recovered the body, which was in pieces, and had it sent to the Jamalpur General Hospital for autopsy.

## Kohli defends Ashwin

PTI, London

Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been on a downward spiral in one-day cricket but India skipper Virat Kohli feels it's unfair to be critical of him given the challenges of bowling on flat decks in the format.

Ashwin was taken to task by rookie Fakhar Zaman as he conceded 70 runs in 10 wicket-less overs in India's 180-run loss to Pakistan in Champions Trophy final last night.

In fact, he got only a single wicket in three matches that he played, giving away 167 runs from 29 overs.

# Pakistan have the core for more



## MOST RUNS

Player	Matches	Runs	HS	Ave	50s	100s
S Dhawan (Ind)	5	338	125	67.7	1	2
RG Sharma (Ind)	5	304	123*	76	1	2
Tamim Iqbal (BD)	4	293	128	73.25	1	2
J Root (Eng)	4	258	133*	86	1	1

Not the ideal result for us...but proud of our team to have fought hard in this #CT17. Thank you for your support in our quest for glory.

#CT17 was an incredible journey for #TeamIndia. We gave it our best. A complete tea effort. Thank you everyone for the messages & support.

REUTERS, London



Pakistan's Champions Trophy success not only defied the odds but also suggested the mercurial side have found the nucleus of a squad capable of returning to England in 2019 confident of claiming a second 50-over World Cup title.

The South Asians arrived in Britain for the eight-team, one-day international tournament as the lowest-ranked side, packed with players still trying to find their feet at the highest level and given little hope of emerging victorious.

Their confidence was dented when they suffered a thumping loss to arch-rivals and neighbours India in their opening match of the campaign and the limp performance put Pakistan's chances of reaching the semi-finals in severe jeopardy.

"After the (first) India match, one thing I said to my boys was 'the tournament hasn't finished yet'," skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed told reporters. "It's a very important boost for us to win this. When we arrived here, we just played like we have nothing to lose."

The country has a tradition of producing exciting fast bowling talent and 25-year-old Mohammad Amir and Junaid Khan, 27, can be expected to spearhead the pace attack at the next World Cup.

Add deadly accurate medium paceman Hasan Ali, the player of the Champions Trophy, and 18-year-old leg-spinner Shadab Ali to the mix, and Pakistan have a bowling unit with enough menace to trouble any side in the world.

With Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman also coming of age, Pakistan's batting lineup appears to have the right blend of youth and experience, boosted by the solidity of former captains Azhar Ali, Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik.

"We've got two years until the 2019 World Cup. We've got the monkey off our back in terms of qualifying. We now have two years to identify a squad we want to take forward and give them enough game time. That's the aim at the moment," coach Mickey Arthur said.

The biggest thing on display today is Pakistan's heart. They played with courage and belief. Just an incredible performance by Pakistan

-Kumar Sangakkara

You little beauty @TheAmirOfficial reminded me of my days. -Wasim Akram



Inconsistent first class structure... No home games for 10 yrs... No expensive Academies... Now #CHAMPIONS Pakistan

## MOST WICKETS

Player	Matches	Wkts	Best	Ave	5w	4w
Hasan Ali (Pak)	5	13	3/19	14.69	0	0
JR Hazlewood (Aus)	3	9	6/52	15.77	1	0
Junaid Khan (Pak)	4	8	3/40	19.37	0	0
LE Plunkett (Eng)	4	8	4/55	24.5	0	1

## Warner threatens BD tour boycott

AFP, Sydney



Australia's cricketers will not back down in a bitter pay dispute, David Warner has warned amid fears their October tour of India is looming as a flashpoint.

As the June 30 deadline for a new memorandum of understanding between Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers Association fast approaches, the Australia vice-captain insisted players won't budge on their demands.

"Well from July 1, we're unemployed," Warner told Channel Nine late Sunday.

"We've been threatened with that. We're hopeful there's going to be an agreement done, it's a sticky situation."

CA has threatened not to pay contracted players beyond the expiry of their current financial deal at the end of the month if they do not accept a new offer, with the governing body determined to scrap revenue-sharing after 20 years.

With a Test squad for an August tour of Bangladesh named last week, Warner was adamant that a lockout was possible.

## 'Fakhar not in syllabus'

AFP, Islamabad



Jubilant photographs of Pakistan cricket fans dancing in the streets were plastered all over national newspapers Monday after their eighth-ranked team produced a thrilling win against arch-rivals India in the Champions Trophy final.

The victory was splashed across most major newspapers, with leading English daily Dawn proclaiming: "Pakistan breaks jinx, trounce India in dream final".

While the country's largest paper, the Urdu-daily Jang, announced: "Pakistan Champions, trounced Indian team."

In an editorial titled "Victory is sweet", the Express Tribune said: "When you are an underdog in a high-octane tournament final and your highly-regarded opponent is the defending champions, hardly anyone has any expectations of

you -- except of course your cricket-mad 200 million plus compatriots."

The News, in a piece headlined "Champions", said: "When

Pakistan were thrashed by India in their opening match of the Champions Trophy, the obituaries were already being written.

"But if there is one thing you can



Cricket fans in Lahore celebrate long into the night on Sunday after Pakistan beat archrivals India in the final to win their maiden Champions Trophy.

PHOTO: AFP

## Afghanistan, Ireland eye Test status

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's fairytale rise in world cricket could this week see them acquire coveted Test status, a massive boost for a nation long divided by war and riven by ethnic rivalries.

No longer rank minnows, Asghar Stanikzai's team are up for consideration following their victories over Ireland in the Intercontinental Cup in March, paving the way for their potential entry into cricket's elite.

Both Afghanistan and Ireland are bidding to become the 11th and 12th nations to join the Test club, nearly two decades after their immediate predecessors Bangladesh, if confirmed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) at a meeting in London.

"A committee is working inside the cricket board, and we will work on our proposal to present it to the ICC in the future, and hopefully full membership and Test status are on the way," chairman of the Afghan cricket board, Atef Mashal told AFP during a recent interview.

"We can not give any time frame at the moment, it is upon the ICC, they will decide when to give Afghanistan the Test status, and it is not in our hands," Mashal said.

say about the Pakistan cricket team, it is that it exists to confound everyone."

In India almost all print media went easy on Kohli and his team, crediting Pakistan's performance though the front-page of the Hindustan Times screamed "Obliterated at the Oval: India humiliated by Pak."

The Times of India proclaimed: "The Unpredictables Rise Again". Cricket-mad Indian fans resorted to humour to sweep away the disappointment. Twitter user Prachi Dasin said "This is cheating, Fakhar Zaman is out of syllabus!"

Top industrialist Harsh Goenka sent a message to India's foreign minister Sushma Swaraj. "11 Indians stranded in Oval, London. Madam Sushma Swaraj please rescue them," he tweeted.

Some news channels showed handful of fans smashing a television in the street after the match -- but the antics appeared to have been staged.