

While Comilla Victorians opener Tamim Iqbal played a sensible, unbeaten knock of 54 runs off 51 balls to see his side successfully chase a low total, it was all-rounder Shahid Afridi (Inset) who orchestrated Chittagong Vikings' downfall yesterday. Afridi's miserly bowling figures of two for 10 in four overs landed him the player-of-the-match award.



Life in Fast Track
Don't Miss the Ride

Didn't do anything with Taskin: Waqar

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed, who last featured in Bangladesh's Test and ODI sides during the September-October 2017 tour of South Africa, was recalled to the national team following his exploits in the Bangladesh Premier League.

Currently the pacer is the highest wicket-taker in the T20 tournament with 20 wickets, surpassing the likes of Shakib Al Hasan and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who are in joint second position in the wicket-takers' with 17 each. That local bowlers have shined is a good sign for the Tigers before the series against New Zealand and Sylhet Sixers coach Waqar Younis said that Taskin was very eager to perform in order to get into the team.

Waqar Younis helped me out a lot. The main thing is rhythm and confidence. I talk to him regularly when I get the chance. He told me to keep it simple so that the pace doesn't drop.

TASKIN AHMED SYLHET SIXERS PACER

pacer's technique, the Pakistan legend had merely guided him in identifying what he was already doing right while pointing out small deficiencies.

"Our Sylhet coach Waqar Younis helped me out a lot. The main thing is rhythm and confidence," Taskin said on his recent success.

"He [Waqar] said that I am in shape when he saw me bowl in the first net session. I talk to him regularly when I get the chance. He



Sylhet Sixers pacer Taskin Ahmed (L) has regained his rhythm in this BPL, heeding the advice of coach Waqar Younis -- one of the feared bowlers of his time.

PHOTO: STAR

"I didn't do anything with Taskin [to improve him]. Taskin did it on his own. He is a hard-working kid and he is a good learner. He wanted to get into the Bangladesh team and if you want something like this badly and if you put in the hard yards, there is every chance you will get it; that's what exactly happened," Waqar said.

"I did not change anything," he reiterated when asked to comment on Taskin's BPL form.

Taskin however said that Waqar's role was crucial as instead of changing the

told me to keep it simple so that the pace doesn't drop."

Taskin would like to perform well enough to go to the World Cup in England this summer. There is a long way to go but, having gotten his foot back in the door through inclusion in the Test and ODI squads for the New Zealand tour, he has a realistic chance if he keeps up his BPL performance.

"Inshallah if I am included in the World Cup squad, I will try to do well," Taskin concluded.

Rangpur, Comilla thru' to playoffs

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Chattogram

While Rangpur Riders and Comilla Victorians have gathere

momentum at the business end of the group phase, Chittagong Vikings failed to fire in front of their home crowd, losing their third game on the trot at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

AB de Villiers delivered and he was partnered by Rangpur Riders' ever-present Rilee Rossouw as they ensured a top-four finish with a six-wicket win over Rajshahi Kings in the second game yesterday that took their points tally to 14. The Riders recaptured top spot, followed closely by Comilla Victorians, who beat Chittagong Vikings by seven wickets in the first game. In the process, both teams have gone through to the four-team playoffs because, as the table currently stands, only two other

teams can reach or exceed 14 points - Dhaka Dynamites and the Vikings.

Rajshahi Kings' batting order saw a few starts but a side largely built on local talent did not fire against Rangpur, who are finding momentum at the right time.

Forhad Reza, Shahidul Islam and Nazmul were amongst the wickets before Rilee Rossouw, who struck a 43-ball 55 to take his tournament haul to 514 runs -- becoming the first batsman in the BPL to have scored 500 runs in one edition -- and ensuring victory for the Riders.

Rossouw and de Villiers (37 off 27) starred in a 71-run partnership but

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHITTAGONG VIKINGS v COMILLA VICTORIANS
CHITTAGONG: 116 for 8 in 19 overs (Mosaddek 43 not out, Shahzad 33; Afridi 2-10, Saifuddin 2-23, Wahab 2-23)

COMILLA: 117 for 3 in 16.4 overs (Tamim 54 not out, Shamsur 36; Javed 2-25, Khaled 1-25)

Result: Comilla won by 7 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI KINGS v RANGPUR RIDERS
RAJSHAHI: 141 for 8 in 20 overs (Evans 35, Mahmud 18, Qais 22; Nazmul 2-39, Reza 3-30, Shahidul 2-28)

RANGPUR: 145 for 4 in 18.4 overs (Rossouw 55, De Villiers 37; Mehedi 1-24, Kamrul 1-25)

Result: Rangpur won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Farhad Reza

Tanzim fires again as U-19s go 1-0 up

SPORTS REPORTER

Bowling remained the main strength for the home side as Bangladesh Under-19 won the first of three youth ODIs against the visiting England Under-19 team by a comfortable five-wicket margin to establish a 1-0 lead at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Following his four-wicket haul to seal Monday's lone T20I against England, right-arm seamer Tanzim Hasan Sakib was once again the man of the hour, bagging three wickets to restrict the visitors to a modest 209 for seven in 50 overs. In reply, the young Tigers rode on left-hander Parvez Hossain's 80 to reach the target with 26 balls to spare.

Known for his accuracy and swing, Tanzim immediately made an impact by removing the top three English batsman early to leave the visitors struggling on 40 for three after choosing to bat first.

It was Lewis Golsworthy's 99-ball 60, which included two fours and a six, and Luke Hollman's 35 as part of a 70-run seventh-wicket stand that helped England go past the 200 mark.

Tanzim ended up with figures of three for 47 from 10 overs while Rakibul Hasan also took two wickets for the young Tigers.

"Tanzim has been part of the age-level setup from the under-17s and his main strength is accuracy, along with swing. He utilised his strengths very well, which has helped him pick wickets consistently and today [Tuesday] he did exactly that. Parvez is also a promising batsman who likes to play his shots, but today he played according to the situation, which was impressive," Hasibul Hossain Shanto, age-level selector and former national pacer, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In chase, Bangladesh lost opener Tanzid Hasan (9) early but Parvez and Prantik Nowrose added 82 runs for the second wicket before the latter was dismissed on 48 off 56.

Parvez, however, added another 82-run third-wicket stand with Mahmudul Hasan before the latter was dismissed for 33. Parvez was eventually dismissed after scoring 80 off 121 balls with three sixes and five fours, but with the score on 186 he had all but ensured that the home side would finish as victors.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 209 for 7 (Golsworthy 60, Hollman 35; Tanzim 3-47, Rakibul 2-41)

BANGLADESH: 210 for 5 in 45.4 overs (Parvez 80, Prantik 48; Tom 1-17)

Result: Bangladesh Under-19 won by five wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Parvez Hossain.



WT20 fixtures announced

AGENCIES

Hosts Australia will take on Pakistan's men and India's women for the opening fixtures of the Twenty20 World Cups in 2020, organisers said Tuesday as the draw for the tournaments was announced.

The men's competition, from October 18 to November 15, will feature several qualifying matches before Australia kicks off the Super 12 group stages on October 24 against top-ranked Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The 16-team men's tournament will have a new format with the top eight-ranked teams getting automatic entry to the Super 12 stage. Bangladesh, ranked number 10 at the cut-off stage, will have to contest an eight-team group stage with Sri Lanka and six other qualifiers to be one of the four teams to join the Super 12 round.

Australia, Pakistan, the West Indies, New Zealand and two qualifiers make up one side of the draw. India, England, South Africa and Afghanistan and two qualifiers make up the other side of the draw.

10 women's teams will play 23 matches from February 21 to March 8, with reigning champions Australia to clash with India in the opening game in Sydney. Like they did in the 2018 Women's World T20, Bangladesh's women's team will have to be one of two qualifiers to participate in the main tournament.

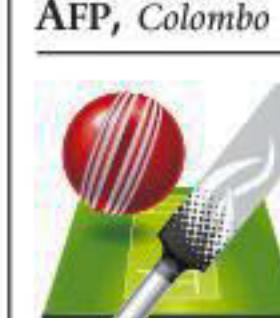
Four-time winners Australia are in Group A with New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka and one qualifier, while West Indies and 2009 champions England join South Africa, Pakistan and a second qualifying team.

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SL urged to come clean

AFP, Colombo



The International Cricket Council has urged Sri Lanka's scandal-ridden sporting community to come forward with information about corruption before an amnesty expires or risk expulsion from the game.

Sri Lankan cricket has been mired in corruption allegations in recent years, including claims of match fixing ahead of an international Test against England last year, and the sport's world governing body is in the middle of a major inquiry into the island nation.

The ICC said it had received a "positive response" after granting a 15-day amnesty this month for players,

coaches or anyone else linked to the sport to come clean, free of the threat of punishment.

Council anti-corruption chief Alex Marshall said new cases had come to light and urged others to come forward before the amnesty expires on Thursday.

"In the final few days, I would request the cricket fraternity to come forward and share any other information concerning corrupt conduct or approaches in the strictest of confidence," he said in a statement issued late Monday.

Those who refuse to share information with ICC investigators could face five-year bans if caught.

The ICC considers Sri Lanka the world's most corrupt cricketing nation and the sport's governance riddled

with graft "from top to bottom", Sri Lankan sports minister Harin Fernando said last month.

The crisis-ridden Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) governing body is expected to hold elections in February after a nine-month delay from the end of president Thilanga Sumathipala's term last May.

Sumathipala has been accused of violating ICC rules by holding office despite alleged links to gambling. He denies the charges.

Sri Lankan fast bowler Dilshan Lokuhettige was the third Sri Lankan player charged for violating the ICC's anti-corruption code, following charges levelled against former captain and ex-chief selector Sanath Jayasuriya, and former paceman Nuwan Zoysa.