



The Bangladesh fans have certainly made their presence felt at the 2019 World Cup in the United Kingdom, thronging to stadiums decked in red and green and with the trademark Tiger plushies in tow, while also (R) giving opposition players an earful. PHOTO: AFP/COLLECTED

# 'Bangladesh first, the rest come second'

**ERUSH TAPADER from Cardiff**  
 The Millennium Rugby Stadium is located on the banks of the River Taff in Cardiff. Although it is a rugby stadium, the 2017 Champions League final was held at the venue. We made our temporary abode at The River House, situated on the bank directly opposite. Looking out the window we saw the serene river and the equally peaceful street running alongside. On Saturday morning, however, that street became raucous and the sounds were very familiar. Large groups dressed in green and red, waving flags were noisily passing by. Having not seen many Bangladeshis here, I struck up a few conversations. A majority came from London, some from Birmingham and Bristol. When they learnt that they were talking to a sports journalist from back home, they asked: "Why didn't they

take Rubel [Hossain] against New Zealand? He will be there today, right?" Rubel is no Waqar Younus, but on Saturday his value to the Bangladesh fans was no less. He was the bowler who delivered the famous win over England in the 2015 World Cup match at Adelaide, so not seeing him in the eleven against the same opposition caused a small uproar after the match. "Why wasn't Rubel there? Why did we choose to field? Why such a timid approach?" After Indians, Bangladeshi supporters now form the biggest contingent of supporters wherever a cricket world event is taking place. While they dominated at The Oval, the Bangladesh contingent was not as strong at the Cardiff Wales Stadium where England supporters dominated, but the Bangladeshis did make their presence felt. There was also a businessman from Sylhet, who will

be in the UK till Bangladesh's match against Sri Lanka on Tuesday, and he said that he was heartbroken by the New Zealand loss. There was little to be heartbroken about in the match against England because of how one-sided the contest was. Instead, it only served to anger the fans, as if the team had to answer for the weight of their expectations. "It was remarkable that they fought so hard [against New Zealand] with such a total at The Oval. But could they not have fought harder against England?" said Simin Hossain, a student who travelled from London. For Shumon, a citizen of the UK where he has lived since age 10, it should have been a win-win situation as England is also his country, but he strongly disagreed. "Bangladesh comes first, the rest of the world second. When it comes to Bangladesh playing someone, I don't know anyone else. England is my second team. I am hurt

but more than that, I am angry. We should have lost with a semblance of respect." There was also no end to expert analyses. "England benched Moeen Ali and played Liam Plunkett because of the grass on the pitch, so why did Bangladesh not play Rubel?" Manna Roy from London, who will watch every match Bangladesh will play in the World Cup, asked. During the match against New Zealand, a Tigers fan talked while pacing about outside the gallery during the crunch stages, as if his not watching would help win it for Bangladesh. Such superstitions abound, the thrust being: whether it be Bristol, Taunton, Nottingham or London, they are prepared to paint all venues red and green this summer because they want to see the Tigers in the semifinals in any way possible. *Translated from Bengali to English by Sakeb Subhan.*

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There have been quite a few instances in the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup where, even though the ball hit the stumps, the bails refused to budge. In yesterday's match, it was off the first ball from India's Jasprit Bumrah in the second over of Australia's innings that David Warner's inside edge hit the base of the leg stump following a deflection from his body. Surprisingly, the bails remained where they were, allowing Warner to shoot a wry smile at the bowler. India's fielders and Bumrah were in disbelief but from Warner's point of view, it was indeed a happy moment for the Aussie left-hander.

# 'It is no disgrace that the Tigers lost to England'

**THE EXPERT OPINION**  
 || FROM ABDUR RAZZAK ||

What can you do when you have a player like Jason Roy producing an innings like that? Sometimes you just have to sit back and admire world-class cricket. Bangladesh always knew that a game against England would be their hardest challenge and it's no bad thing that the match has come nice and early in the tournament. England are No.1 in one day cricket, they've got the best conditions as hosts and they will be very hard to stop -- it's no disgrace to lose that one.

Roy is some player, he's a destructive batsman and he can totally change a match on his own. I would imagine lots of teams will be watching that performance and worrying. England have many players who can do that but we have to play as a team, no single player can win a match for us. Every part of the team, bowling, batting and fielding has to do well for us to be successful, as we saw against South Africa. Although it was a super performance by Roy, our bowling let us down today. Bangladesh have to improve their first 10 overs against teams of this quality, we know that's where they are going to attack us and

# Pradeep out of Tigers clash

**AGENCIES, London**

Sri Lanka pace bowler Nuwan Pradeep has been ruled out of the Bangladesh match on Tuesday after dislocating the little finger on his bowling hand. The 32-year-old is likely to regain fitness in a week's time, according to ICC. Pradeep injured himself in the nets while bowling to Kusal Perera. The bowler put his right hand up to protect his face from a straight shot hit back at him and injured himself in the process. He was taken to the hospital after dislocating the finger and sustaining some cuts on his right hand. The injury to Pradeep comes at an unfortunate time for Sri Lanka, who have one win in three matches. Pradeep picked 4 for 31 against Afghanistan and was named the man of the match in Sri Lanka's 34-run win in Cardiff. In a worst-case scenario, Sri Lanka have a ready-made replacement in Kasun Rajitha, who's been travelling with the team in the capacity of a stand-by player.

# ICC also refused Gayle's 'Universe Boss' logo

**PtI, London**

The International Cricket Council has not only rejected Mahendra Singh Dhoni's request for wearing keeping gloves which had a dagger insignia but also refused West Indies opener Chris Gayle permission to use 'Universe Boss' logo on his bat. In both cases the ICC cited equipment regulation violation. Gayle, a self proclaimed 'Universe Boss', had requested the ICC to allow him use it for his bat branding but he was informed that he can't use any clothing or sporting equipment for personal messages. "ICC couldn't have made an exception for Dhoni as no personal messages are allowed on equipment. Gayle wanted it but when he was refused permission, he accepted it and moved on," a source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity. Talking about Dhoni, the official said, "It is not about military symbolism. It is about a simple rule that no personal messages are allowed. If ICC did not make an exception for Gayle, then how come they would make it for Dhoni."

It has also been learnt that even innocuous messages and emojis are not allowed. "Tomorrow, Moeen Ali will again request for wearing a 'Free Palestine' wristband which is a direct political message. We did not allow it then and we won't allow it now. You won't be even allowed to have a word like 'love' embossed on the equipment," the source added. The ICC allowed the Indian team to wear camouflage caps recently during an international match against Australia because it was a bilateral series. "A formal request was made by the BCCI as they wanted to use the match as a fund-raiser for the victims of the Pulwama terror attack. In bilateral series, ICC allows teams to do charity. Just like the 'Pink Test' in Australia for the Jane McGrath foundation that works on breast cancer awareness," the source further added. It has been learnt that Dhoni is yet to get any official reprimand from the ICC for the South Africa game, during which his green gloves had dagger insignia. As per rules, if he sports the insignia again, he will first be warned and then face financial penalties.



Sri Lanka's hopes against Bangladesh suffered a massive blow as pacer Nuwan Pradeep was ruled out of Tuesday's World Cup encounter after suffering an injury to his bowling hand in practice yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

**BEST QUOTE**

ইলসু গোট টেপ্ট-এ লড়ল সন্মোজন মিশ্টি স্বাদে ভল্লবেই মন!

ফেক ভ্যাপিনা

We have to deal with what we have. There is no point complaining. We've had quite a few problems in this tournament with injuries and we've had to work around it. We just need a few things to click... We're looking to turn it around tomorrow.

**Kagiso Rabada, S Africa pacer**