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CITY

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP



ENGLAND
CALLING

S3

BEST QUOTE

ঘরে বসে পছন্দের
আইসিক্রিম পেতে



Shakib's presence is really helping us to take our whole game forward. Shakib is a legend, no doubt. It is a source of great pride that we have a player like that in the Bangladesh side. He is Mr Consistent for us be it with the bat, the ball or in the field. His presence is really helping us to take our whole game forward.

Sunil Joshi
Bangladesh
bowling coach

The Germany of cricket

MAZHAR UDDIN

Since 2017, England had won ten out of twelve ODIs against Australia -- including a whitewash in the five-match ODI series at home last year -- and the hosts came into the 2019 World Cup with genuine hopes of clinching their maiden World Cup title.

Following a commanding start to the flagship event -- winning four of their first five games -- Eoin Morgan's side lost their way after a 20-run defeat against Sri Lanka. The equations became less flexible after that loss, especially with their last three fixtures against Australia, India and New Zealand -- the teams at the top three spots in the table and undoubtedly the three title contenders.

Arguably the toughest test for England on their way to the semifinal only served to make things more difficult as the hosts succumbed to a 64-run defeat against the mighty Australians in what was predicted to be a classic encounter between the two arch-rivals.

There was a fighting hundred from Australia skipper Aaron Finch, a brilliant comeback with the ball from England, an outstanding display of left-arm fast bowling from Jason Behrendorff and Mitchell Starc and lastly Ben Stokes' valiant fight for the hosts which eventually went in vain as the Aussies ended up as the better team.

Once again England just couldn't hold on to the courage in the biggest stage against the five-time World champions, who were simply clinical. Australia's attitude could easily be compared with that of German football team -- recency bias notwithstanding -- based on their ruthless approach on the field on the big

stage.

It was the famed killer instinct from Australia which was once again replicated in the World Cup, as they climbed to the top of the points table and became the first team to ensure their semifinal spot in the ongoing tournament.

After a magnificent hundred from skipper Finch -- his 15th ODI ton and second in the ongoing World Cup -- Australia looked all set to cross the 300-run mark. But a middle-order collapse saw Australia not living up to expectations as they went on to post a challenging 285 for seven.

It was a make-or-break situation for England and the hosts just couldn't live up to the expectations. A win against Australia

yesterday could have led the way to breaking the mental barrier

for England and catapulted them into becoming genuine title contenders but the English side just were not able to hurdle the challenge.

England, coming in to chase, faced some fierce fast bowling from the two Aussie left-arm seamers in the form of Behrendorff and Starc. The duo rattled through the English batting line-up by scalping eight wickets among themselves.

Whether it was Behrendorff's perfect in-swinging delivery to hit the middle stump of James Vince or Starc's unplayable yorker to get Stokes bowled -- arguably the best delivery of the tournament so far -- Australia were the side with the champion attitude.

It was Australia who showed how to absorb pressure in a big game and it seems pretty tough for England to make a comeback in the tournament.

THIRD EYE

for England and catapulted them into becoming genuine title contenders but the English side just were not able to hurdle the challenge.



Australia's Glenn Maxwell (L) and Aaron Finch combine to complete a catch to dismiss England's Chris Woakes during their World Cup match in Lord's yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



England football team coach Gareth Southgate witnessed his nation's game against Australia. He failed to bring the FIFA World Cup home, and watched hopes of the cricketers managing to do so with the ICC World Cup took a hit.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Morgan stays positive

AFP, London

Eoin Morgan said England were still in charge of their World Cup destiny after the hosts slipped to a heavy defeat on Tuesday against defending champions Australia, who booked their place in the semifinals.

Aaron Finch's team lost the toss but managed to score 285 for seven in their 50 overs, with man-of-the-match Finch top-scoring with 100.

England lost wickets at regular intervals in their reply and despite a battling 89 from Ben Stokes, were all out for 221 in the 45th over, losing by 64 runs.

"I thought for a lot of today we were outplayed," said England captain Morgan. "I thought we bowled well up front and were a little unlucky."

"They played and missed a lot. The wicket got a little better but it was still challenging. Losing early wickets was not ideal and we were not able to contribute to a substantial partnership to win the game which is why we were outplayed."

"The wicket was soft when we first started. Winning the toss and batting would have been a horrific decision."

"Given the circumstances it is not hugely disappointing. Our fate is in our own hands."

"We're not feeling the pressure of being favourites," he added. "We are in charge of how we go from here on in. We win two games, we definitely go through. It's a matter of producing that performance in one, if not both of those."

Morgan said England's confidence had taken a knock after their third defeat of the tournament following previous losses to Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"Confidence isn't where it was at the start of the tournament, simply because we started really, really well. It's a matter of rebuilding it, going back to our strengths and hopefully sticking to it," he told the BBC.

Finch was delighted after Australia became the first side to qualify for the semifinals.

"You don't win the tournament if you don't reach the semis," said man-of-the-match Finch. "That's the first bit ticked off."

"England are a stand-out side, they are a team that can take you apart at stages. We found ways to keep getting wickets."

HAPPY MOMENT



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It was a brilliant delivery from Australia's left-arm seamer Jason Behrendorff which dismissed England opener James Vince with the second ball of the innings. It was a classical fast bowler's dismissal as Vince was invited to drive a fuller length delivery, which went through the gate between the bat and pad to hit the top of the middle stump. It was undoubtedly the moment of the day for the Australians, who got England in trouble after posting 285.

What each team needs to do to qualify



After 31 games and more than half of the World Cup already done and dusted, there are still eight teams fighting for the four semifinal spots. Sri Lanka's defeat of England has thrown the tournament wide open and left nobody, not even top-placed New Zealand, safe. The Tigers are on the hunt, Pakistan are on a trajectory eerily similar to their 1992 World Cup-winning campaign and Sri Lanka have hit their groove at just the right time. England, India, New Zealand and Australia are also in fine form and will be hoping to hold on to their spots in the top four, but major upsets cannot be ruled out. Here is what each team must do to qualify.

NEW ZEALAND: Sitting pretty at the top of the table, New Zealand are almost certain to qualify for the semis. They need to win at least one of their three remaining games but even if they lose all three, they could go through depending on other results.

Remaining fixtures: Pakistan (26/06), Australia (29/06), England (03/07)

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	N/R	PT	NRR
Australia	7	6	1	0	12	0.906
New Zealand	6	5	0	1	11	1.306
India	5	4	0	1	9	0.809
England	7	4	3	0	8	1.051
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	2	6	-1.119
Pakistan	6	2	3	1	5	-1.265
West Indies	6	1	4	1	3	0.19
South Africa	7	1	5	1	3	-0.324
Afghanistan	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634

AUSTRALIA: The five-time champions are back at it and what better time to peak than the World Cup? They need to win one more of their remaining two games to guarantee qualification.

Remaining fixtures: New Zealand (29/06), South Africa (06/07)

INDIA: India started their campaign late, but strongly. They are the only team other than New Zealand that are unbeaten. If India win at least one of their remaining games, they will have a chance to qualify. However, two wins would guarantee qualification.

Remaining fixtures: West Indies (27/06), England (30/06), South Africa (02/07), Sri Lanka (06/07)

ENGLAND: The favorites have had a few hiccups along the way, and that could hinder their semifinals hopes. To

make matters worse, they are marred by injuries and they haven't defeated any of the two oppositions that they are yet to face for 27 years.

England will need to win both of their remaining games, but one win would be enough to see them through on net run rate if other results go their way.

Remaining fixtures: India (30/06, Birmingham), New Zealand (03/07, Durham)

BANGLADESH: The Tigers have performed brilliantly in this tournament, especially after some sublime performances from champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan. They managed to defeat South Africa and West Indies very convincingly and went down fighting against Australia. They will be looking to ram the advantage home in their remaining fixtures.

If England lose all their remaining games, Bangladesh will need to win just one more match to qualify for the semifinals. There are no guarantees for the Tigers though, as they will also need to hope that Sri Lanka do not win all their three remaining matches.

Remaining fixtures: India (02/07, Birmingham), Pakistan (05/07, London)

SRI LANKA: The late bloomers have thrown open the tournament by beating England and have a very realistic chance of making it to the next stage. But they will also be dependent upon the results of the other games.

The Islanders must win all of their remaining matches and hope that England slip up. Even if Bangladesh win both their games, Sri Lanka can topple them with three wins of their own and reach the semifinals.

Remaining fixtures: South Africa (28/06, Durham), West Indies (01/07, Durham), India (06/07, Leeds)

PAKISTAN: Pakistan's unpredictability has been clearer than ever at this World Cup. They have either gone big or bust. They defeated England and South Africa, but lost by huge margins to West Indies and India.

Pakistan have no room for slip-ups; they must win all their remaining matches. That alone would not be enough, as they would need Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and England to slip up.

Remaining fixtures: New Zealand (26/06, Birmingham), Afghanistan (29/06, Leeds), Bangladesh (05/07, London)

WEST INDIES: It's been a sorry tale for the West Indies, who could have very well been ruling the roost. They had their chances against Australia, Bangladesh and New Zealand, but failed to capitalise on them all. Now, their World Cup is virtually all over.

However, despite having three points on the board, they are not completely out of the running.

If they were to win their remaining three matches, they would need a combination of things to qualify: England to lose all their games, Pakistan to beat Bangladesh but lose to Afghanistan and New Zealand, Sri Lanka to lose one game against another opponent and Bangladesh to lose all their remaining games.

As unlikely as all those things happening is, at least there is hope.

Remaining fixtures: India (27/06, Manchester), Sri Lanka (01/07, Durham), Afghanistan (04/07, Leeds)