



SHAKIB becomes leading wicket-taker in T20Is

Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan became the highest wicket-taker in T20Is when he dismissed Scotland's Michael Leask in yesterday's ICC T20 World Cup match. The left-arm spinner overtook Lasith Malinga's tally of 107 wickets and now has 108 wickets in 89 T20Is. Shakib ended his four-over spell by taking two wickets for 17 runs. When he claimed his 100th wicket against Australia earlier this year, he became the first cricketer in T20Is to score 1000 runs and take 100 wickets.

TOP 5 WICKET-TAKERS IN T20I

PLAYER	M	WKTS	AVE	ECON	BEST
Shakib Al Hasan (BAN)	89	108	20.46	6.70	5/20
Lasith Malinga (SL)	84	107	20.79	7.42	5/6
Tim Southee (NZ)	83	99	25.17	8.39	5/18
Shahid Afridi (ICC/PAK)	99	98	24.44	6.63	4/11
Rashid Khan (AFG/ICC)	51	95	12.63	6.21	5/3

'We still need to be positive'

SPORTS REPORTER from Muscat

Winning momentum gathered on tailor-made home against Australia and New Zealand did not work in Bangladesh's favour as a batting failure horribly exposed the Tigers, who were unable to chase down 141 runs against Scotland in their opening game of the ICC T20 World Cup at the Al Amerat Cricket Stadium in Muscat yesterday.

Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah Riyad was left to lament multiple mistakes in the batting department.

"The wicket was quite good, 140 was gettable. We were missing that one big over in the middle. Bowlers did their job really well but the batting unit wasn't good enough. Credit goes to their batters (for



coming back from 53 for 6). They had a good finish. We still need to be positive and figure out where we made mistakes, and try not to

repeat them," Mahmudullah said at the post-match presentation ceremony yesterday.

On the other hand, Scotland skipper Kyle Coetzer said that he had faith in his side and said that it was the result of a collective approach.

"To get into that position, we have to give credit to the Bangladesh bowlers, they showed high-class skills and blew us away, to be honest. It's a huge confidence-builder. We believe even more now that we can keep on pushing and challenging teams," said Coetzer.

Man of the match Chris Greaves, who top-scored with 45 and also bagged two crucial wickets, said: "It was my day today I think. There will be many other days that any one of us in the squad could be a part of. I'm just glad I could contribute the way I did."



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SCORES IN BRIEF

SCOTLAND

140 for 9 in 20 overs (Munsey 29, Greaves 45, Watt 22, extras 9; Taskin 1-28, Mustafizur 2-32, Saifuddin 1-30, Shakib 2-17, Mahedi 3-19)

BANGLADESH

134 for 7 in 20 overs (Liton 5, Soumya 5, Shakib 20, Mushfiqur 38, Mahmudullah 23, Afrif 18, Nurul 2, Mahedi 13 not out, Saifuddin 5 not out, extras 5; Wheel 3-24, Davy 1-24, Watt 1-19, Greaves 2-19)

RESULT

Scotland won by 6 runs.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH
Chris Greaves.



Oman thrash PNG in opening match

AFP, Muscat

Skipper Zeeshan Maqsood returned bowling figures of 4-20 to set up a 10-wicket win for hosts Oman in the Twenty20 World Cup opener against debutants Papua New Guinea on Sunday.

Maqsood's four wickets, including three in one over, kept PNG to 129 for nine in the first round match at the Al Amerat ground outside Muscat.

Openers Aqib Ilyas (50 from 43 balls) and Jatinder Singh (73 from 42) then clattered the PNG bowlers around the ground without being parted to steer Oman home with 6.2 overs to spare, handing Papua New Guinea a tough lesson in their first ever World Cup outing.

Maqsood remained the hero with his left-arm spin as he struck thrice in one over to rattle PNG who had lost both their openers for nought.

PNG captain Assad Vala, who made 56 off 43 balls, and Charles Amini, who smashed 37, hit back with an attacking third-wicket partnership of 81.

But Mohammad Nadeem ran out the left-handed Amini with a direct throw at the non-striker's end to break the stand and that opened the door for Maqsood.

New-ball bowlers Bilal Khan and Kaleemullah, who goes by just one name, took two wickets each.



SCORES IN BRIEF

PNG

129 for nine in 20 overs (Assad 56, Amini 37, extras 7; Bilal 2-16, Kaleemullah 2-19, Maqsood 4-20)

OMAN

131 for no loss in 13.4 overs (Aqib 50 not out, Jatinder 73 not out, extras 8)

RESULT

Oman won by 10 wickets.
MAN-OF-THE-MATCH
Zeeshan Maqsood.

Sri Lanka's new generation starts mission today

AGENCIES

Sri Lanka will enter unfamiliar territory today when they take on Namibia in their opening first round match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Abu Dhabi.

It has undoubtedly been a transitional period for Sri Lanka over the past few years. Since the 2015 Cricket World Cup they've seen the likes of Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Rangana Herath, Lasith Malinga, Nuwan Kulasekara and Thisara Perera retire. Given all seven features in the T20 World Cup winning side of 2014, that's a list of departures any nation would struggle to adjust to.

This month, they have the chance to show the world that the transitional phase is coming to an end and that they are ready to conquer cricket again.

Ireland and Netherlands lock horn in the day's first match. The Netherlands, led by Pieter Seelaar, started the warm-up matches with a hefty 31-run defeat at the hands of Scotland. However, they made a comeback by beating Oman in their second practice match on October 14. Ireland, on the other hand, will be going in to the game after back-to-back wins in the warm-ups. They began with a crushing eight-wicket win over PNG after which they beat Bangladesh.

Sri Lankan legend Aravinda de Silva admits there have been "issues with discipline" but the country which won the T20 World Cup seven years ago is on the way back, he says.

Also unable to shrug off corruption scandals, Sri Lanka fell outside the top

eight when qualifying was decided for the upcoming World Cup, condemning them to the preliminaries against outsiders such as the Netherlands, Ireland and Namibia.

But as part of an overhaul, de Silva, vice-captain of the side that won the 50-over World Cup in 1996, was brought in to head Sri Lanka's cricket committee.

Another legend, Mahela Jayawardene, a member of the side that triumphed at the T20 World Cup in 2014, has been drafted in to mentor the team competing in the United Arab Emirates and Oman -- to give "confidence and support".

On the field, all-rounder Dasun Shanaka is the latest to take on the captain's role to bring order. "I think people have to understand it's a very young side," de Silva told AFP ahead of Sri Lanka's opening World Cup fixture.

Tigers find their 12th man in Muscat

SPORTS REPORTER FROM MUSCAT

The first game of the opening day of the ICC T20 World Cup between hosts Oman and Papua New Guinea was still in progress as Bangladeshi fans flooded into the Al Amerat Cricket Stadium to support the Tigers in their evening game against Scotland, scheduled to begin at 6:00pm.

The stadium, located 15 kilometres south-east of the city centre, was engulfed in red and green as 80 per cent of the seats were occupied by Bangladesh fans. The number could have climbed even more, with numerous Bangladesh supporters still waiting outside the premises with flags and placards as they created a festive mood across the venue.

And why wouldn't they? Nearly eight lakh Bangladeshi expats in Oman had been eagerly anticipating for the day when they could witness the Tigers play in front of their eyes for the first time.

Ahead of the start of the game, vehicles started to gather in the parking lot outside the stadium and groups were planning how to best cheer for the Tigers from the stands.

"We are very excited. This is a day we

have been awaiting for a long time. To witness Bangladesh play here in Oman is a special occasion. We don't get to see the Bangladesh cricket team. I can assure you that our team will have the crowd as the 12th man during every game in Muscat," Rashed Alom, who works as a salesman in Muscat, told The Daily Star.

While the life of such expats has never been easy, the T20 World Cup has given them a way to celebrate their love for Bangladesh through cricket.

"We don't get much time off work usually. And if you talk about cricket, I never imagined seeing my favourite player Shakib Al Hasan play in front of my eyes, that too in Muscat," said a beaming Salauddin Ahmed, who works at a construction site.

"I came to see Shakib during the training session the day before the game but the security didn't allow me to enter the premises. Tickets were hard to get online but I still managed to get one at the last moment. Finally, I will be able to see Shakib in front of me and I hope Bangladesh will go on to win all the matches in Oman."

