

Star

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net
DHAKA MONDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2021, KARTIK 30, 1428 BS

SPORT

‘This is huge’ as Australia break
T20 WC TITLE DUCKTWENTY20 WORLD
CUP CHAMPIONS2007: **India**2009: **Pakistan**2010: **England**2012: **West Indies**2014: **Sri Lanka**2016: **West Indies**2021: **Australia**SINGER
LED TVsBuy SINGER TVs
and Get Free
TVs Every Day6 Months
Replacement Guarantee

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND

172 for 4 in 20 overs
(Guptill 28, Mitchell 11,
Williamson 85, Phillips
18, Neesham 13 not out,
Seifert 8 not out, extras
9; Starc 0-60, Hazlewood
3-16, Zampa 1-26)

AUSTRALIA

173 for 2 in 18.5 overs
(Warner 53, Finch 5, Marsh
77 not out, Maxwell 28
not out, extras 10; Boult
2-18)

RESULT

Australia won by eight
wickets.**Player-of-the-match:**
Mitchell Marsh.**Player-of-the-tournament:**
David Warner.

AGENCIES

Mitchell Marsh smashed
an unbeaten 77 as
Australia hammered New
Zealand by eight wickets
to clinch their maiden
Twenty20 World Cup title on Sunday
with captain Aaron Finch describing the
achievement as “huge”.Chasing 173 for victory, Australia
depended on a 92-run second-wicket
stand between David Warner, who made
53, and Marsh to achieve their target with
seven balls to spare in Dubai.Warner became Trent Boult's second
wicket but Marsh kept up the charge
to power Australia home to their long-
awaited T20 crown and add to their five
50-over World Cup trophies.Glenn Maxwell, who made 28, joined Marsh,
who hit six fours and four sixes in his 50-ball
knock, to put on 66 runs and hit the winning
boundary.“This is huge, to be the first Australian team to
do it. I am so proud of how the guys went about

the campaign,” said Finch.

“[Bangladesh game turning point?] Certainly
was, backs were against the wall. We had to fight
and certainly did that, had some great team and
individual performances,” he added.Australia skipper also highly praised the
performance of David Warner, Adam Zampa,

Matt Wade and Mitchell Marsh.

“Can’t believe people wrote Warner off
a couple of weeks ago, it was almost like
poking the bear. Zampa was the player of
the tournament for mine, controlled the
game, got big wickets, super player. Mitch
Marsh, what a way to start, put pressure on
from the start. Matt Wade came in under
an injury cloud and got the job done. He
came in the semi-final alongside Marcus
Stoinis and did the business,” said Finch.New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson
hit a valiant 85 in New Zealand's 172-4
after being invited to bat first in a crucial
toss won by Finch. Teams bowling first
won 12 of 13 matches played at the Dubai
International Stadium.Australia, whose previous best was a
runners-up finish in 2010, came into this
edition's semi-final with one loss to England
and beat Pakistan in the final-four clash with a
chase of 177.Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood
returned figures of 3-16 and leg-spinner Adam
Zampa had 1-26.

WHAT THEY SAID

» “These are a great bunch of guys, great support staff and great support
around the world, especially back home. Always pumped, wanted to
put on a spectacle. There were some nerves around as always in a final
but great to see the guys deliver.” **DAVID WARNER**» “I don’t really have words, what an amazing six weeks with this group.
Love them to death. World champs.” **MITCHELL MARSH**» “It’s huge. We felt like a lot of people wrote us off but we spoke about
being the first team to do this for Australia
and it feels really special.” **MATTHEW WADE**» “Kane’s a superb player.” It was another classical
innings, runs all around the ground and he hurts you
when you bowl poorly.” **JOSH HAZLEWOOD**» “The key... this group of boys, we absolutely,
we actually love each other. It is beautiful. I
can’t wait to keep playing with this team. I’m
so proud of them. You won’t find bigger sup-
porters of Mitch Marsh than right here [except
for] probably his family.” **MARCUS STOINIS**» “They’re (Australia) a fantastic side, had a brilliant
campaign and came out and turned it on. We weren’t
far away. Credit to the way Australia chase it, they didn’t give
us an inch. Wasn’t to be today, but proud of how we’ve operated.
Guys committed to what we tried to do in venues that varied a lot. There
was a lot of heart shown, always nice to get to the big dance. But credit
to Australia again. Some high hopes coming in, some good cricket played,
so we’re feeling it a bit. There are only two possible outcomes, shame we
couldn’t get the job done.” **KANE WILLIAMSON**Tamim ‘disappointed’ to sit
out Pakistan series

SPORTS REPORTER

After the latest T20 World Cup
debacle, Bangladesh are already
struggling to regroup as they prepare
to face a stern test in their upcoming
series against Pakistan, which
includes three T20Is and two Tests,

later this month.

The ominous phase for the country’s cricket seems
to be prolonging with Bangladesh ODI skipper
Tamim Iqbal now ruled out of the two Tests against
Pakistan as his injury to the left thumb resurfaced. “I
was desperate to make my return with this series. But I
am very disappointed that this happened
and now I have to sit
out the series against
Pakistan,” Tamim
told The Daily Star
yesterday.The left-hander,
who had opted out
of the T20 World Cup
from which the Tigers
crashed out after
losing six of their eight
clashes, was already
unlikely to participate
in the T20Is against
Pakistan. And now
his exclusion from the
Test series has come
as a major blow for
Bangladesh as the
Tigers will have to
begin their second
season of the World
Test Championship
without the southpaw.Tamim had picked
up the injury while
playing in the Everest
Premier League in
Nepal last Octoberand was on his way to recovery following around a
month of rest.However, the left-handed opener, who began
practising a few days ago as part of his recovery,
seemed to have been struggling while playing fast
bowlers at the nets. That prompted him to undergo
a scan on Sunday which revealed his injury had
aggravated.Bangladesh already have a few injury concerns
in the side with all-rounders Mohammad Saifuddin
and Shakib Al Hasan, both of whom were ruled
out of the T20 World Cup midway, still recovering
from a recurring back injury and a hamstring injury,
respectively.However, the
Bangladesh Cricket
Board (BCB) informed that it will
meet regarding the
injury issues of the
side today.“There are a
number of injury
issues in the side.
After getting the full
injury report from the
BCB medical team, we
will sit for a meeting
tomorrow [Monday].
We can confirm
anything only after
this meeting,”
informed BCB chief
selector Minhajul
Abedin to The Daily
Star yesterday.It was, however,
learned that Tamim,
who last featured for
Bangladesh in July
this year in an ODI
against Zimbabwe,
is considering going
abroad for further
check-up.‘Rebuilding team
morale is key’

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Bangladesh team
will look to regain
lost confidence in
the upcoming series
against Pakistan
following a disastrous
T20 World Cup campaign in UAE
recently. The Tigers had notched
series wins against Australia and New
Zealand at home ahead of the World
Cup but their preparations on slow,
docile pitches left them with obvious
deficiencies while their qualities
proved not to be quite adequate for
the challenges of a World Cup.Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, mentor to
many national team players, spoke to
The Daily Star on the challenges facing
the team for the Pakistan series and
how the team morale can be rebuilt
now.“Given the team morale, I don’t
think they are in a position to do well
in international cricket even though
I don’t know who will feature in
the side. I have said before that the
preparation we took at home, affected
us negatively,” Fahim said.Questions would be asked as to
why the players could not make up for
bad preparation and adjust. The reality
though cannot be escaped regarding
the T20 abilities of the side.“We’re not that good a T20 team.
People may say that Australia have
done well after playing here, and
even though Australia didn’t bring
everyone, had they played here for
over a year they would forget their

own game,” Fahim opined.

The disaster got out of hand and the
team did not show the ability to fight
back after the Sri Lanka game. Fahim
has great experience of handling
national and upcoming stars. He had
his say on the team’s mental state at
the World Cup.“I would say the environment
around the team was one of disrespect
and mistrust with the players on one
side and the management on theother. The players had to overcome the
challenge but they did not find mental
strength. The players were on separate
islands of their own in regards to
mental balance. If the environment
was positive, they could have made a
comeback.“The batsmen had a lack of
confidence after playing on such
surfaces at home while the message
we sent to the bowlers were that they
were terrific. We didn’t tell the bowlers
that those surfaces were not the
real world. Because the home series
were connected to our World Cup

preparations, it created problems.”

Where do the team go from here?

“Right now, rebuilding team morale
is key. We need someone to correct the
individual trust and relationships. The
skill at the moment is secondary,”
Fahim said. The conditions might once
again be in focus but Fahim believes
the focus should be on performing
in adverse conditions. “Pakistan will
have the upper hand even here. We’re
not in a position to take advantage
but more importantly, dependence
on conditions should be removed
altogether from our cricket. We have to
play to compete. We have seen good
wickets in local tournaments (BCB
president’s Cup and Bangabandhu
Premier League) during even the
pandemic. We can’t say good wickets
aren’t possible.”The series will be an opportunity
to find good performers and rebuild
the side. Setting things right is the
first challenge but with talks of big
changes, Fahim said things cannot be
changed overnight.“Change has to come slowly. It
will be risky to change drastically. You
have to understand that we sent these
players to the World Cup because
they were the best of the bunch. If
you change half the team overnight, it
means the vision was wrong heading
to the World Cup. I don’t think the
vision was all wrong. Change has to
be gradual because the replacement
players aren’t ready yet. You can lose a
series but the thing is you have to face
up to losses and rebuild for the longer
term,” Fahim concluded.