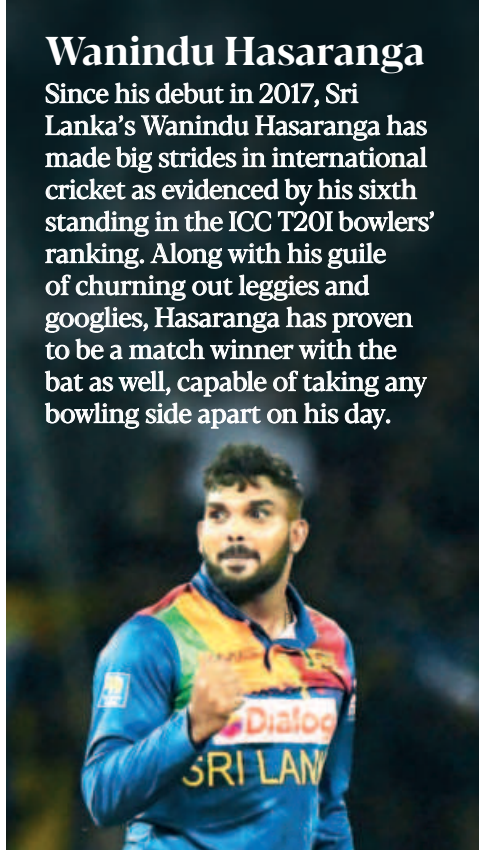# Five five-star players to watch

Rashid Khan

Rashid Khan was named ICC's T20I Player of the decade in 2020 and it is a testament to how he has carried forward the art of leg-spin in the modern era. Having played in T20 games across the globe, Rashid, through his many variations, is the flag-bearer of how leg spin continues to shape the shortest format of the game.
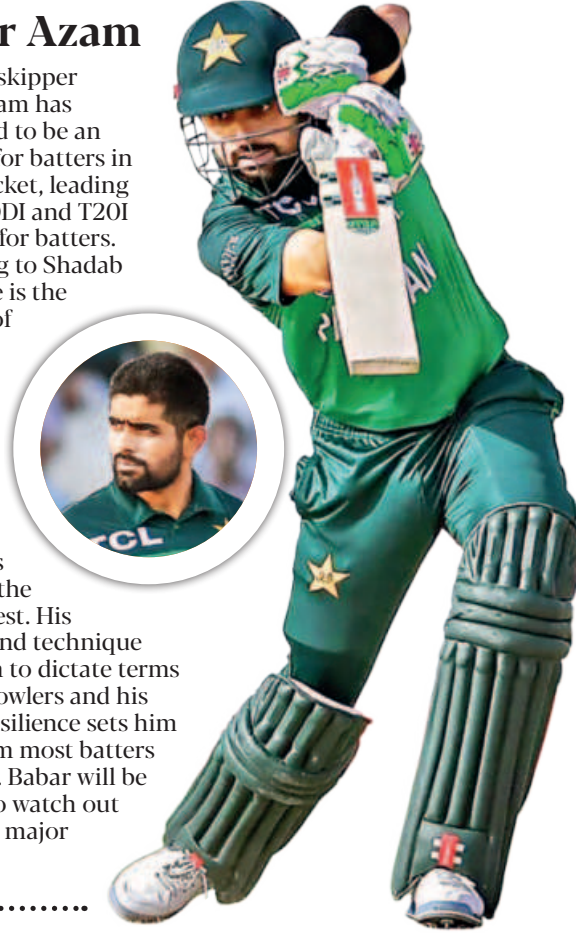
Wanindu Hasaranga

Since his debut in 2017, Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga has made big strides in international cricket as evidenced by his sixth standing in the ICC T20I bowlers' ranking. Along with his guile of churning out leggies and googlies, Hasaranga has proven to be a match winner with the bat as well, capable of taking any bowling side apart on his day.

Babar Azam

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has continued to be an example for batters in world cricket, leading the ICC ODI and T20I rankings for batters. According to Shadab Khan, "he is the mixture of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi" in cricket. And in current form, he's arguably the world's best. His balance and technique allow him to dictate terms against bowlers and his mental resilience sets him apart from most batters of his era. Babar will be the one to watch out for in any major event.

Shakib Al Hasan

Even during dismal times for the Bangladesh national team in the T20I format, Shakib Al Hasan – the newly appointed T20 skipper for the Tigers – has continued to evolve his own game. The Tigers will be hoping for an inspiring Asia Cup tournament from their skipper to get through a tough group stage.

Rishabh Pant

The 'punter' in Ricky Ponting hailed Rishabh Pant as a 'young man who has the world at his feet' and who can disagree with the Australian great? Pant's bat speed and his approach to remain on top of bowlers are both dangerous for the opposition and a mark of strength for his side. His form makes him a force to reckon with in the Asia Cup.

FIXTURES

GROUP A: India, Pakistan, Hong Kong
GROUP B: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan

GROUP STAGE

Match	Group	Venue	Date	Time (BST)
Sri Lanka-Afghanistan	B	Dubai	27 August	8:00 pm
India-Pakistan	A	Dubai	28 August	8:00 pm
Bangladesh-Afghanistan	B	Sharjah	30 August	8:00 pm
India-Hong Kong	A	Dubai	31 August	8:00 pm
Bangladesh-Sri Lanka	B	Dubai	1 September	8:00 pm
Pakistan-Hong Kong	A	Sharjah	2 September	8:00 pm

SUPER FOUR

Match	Venue	Date	Time (BST)
B1-B2	Sharjah	3 September	8:00 pm
A1-A2	Dubai	4 September	8:00 pm
A1-B1	Dubai	6 September	8:00 pm
A2-B2	Dubai	7 September	8:00 pm
A1-B2	Dubai	8 September	8:00 pm
A2-B1	Dubai	9 September	8:00 pm

FINAL

Match	Venue	Date	Time (BST)
1st Super Four-2nd Super Four	Dubai	11 September	8:00 pm

The 15th edition of the Asia Cup is set to be played in the T20 format in the UAE. The only other time the continental tournament was played in the shortest format of the game was back in 2016. Here, let's take a look at the top run-getters and highest wicket-takers from that edition of the tournament:

MOST RUNS IN 2016 ASIA CUP (TOP FIVE)					
PLAYER	MAT	RUNS	AVG	SR	50	HS
Sabbir Rahman (BAN)	5	176	44.00	123.94	1	80
Virat Kohli (IND)	5	153	76.50	110.87	1	56*
Dinesh Chandimal (SL)	4	149	37.25	109.56	2	58
Rohit Sharma (IND)	5	138	27.60	132.69	1	83
Tillakaratne Dilshan (SL)	4	132	44.00	121.10	1	75*

MOST WICKETS IN 2016 ASIA CUP (TOP FIVE)					
PLAYER	MAT	WKTS	AVG	ECON	BEST
Al-Amin Hossain (BAN)	5	11	12.18	7.96	3/25
Amjad Javed (UAE)	4	8	14.12	8.07	3/25
Mohammad Amir (PAK)	4	7	11.57	5.06	3/18
Nuwan Kulasekara (SL)	4	7	13.57	6.33	3/10
Hardik Pandya (IND)	5	7	14.71	5.88	3/8

The last time that the Asia Cup was played in the T20 format, Bangladesh batter Sabbir Rahman was adjudged player of the tournament for ending as its highest-run getter.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year: 1984
Host: UAE
Winner: India

Year: 1986
Host: Sri Lanka
Winner: Sri Lanka

Year: 1988
Host: Bangladesh
Winner: India

Year: 1991/92
Host: India
Winner: India

Year: 1995
Host: UAE
Winner: India

Year: 1997
Host: Sri Lanka
Winner: Sri Lanka

Year: 2000
Host: Bangladesh
Winner: Pakistan

Year: 2004
Host: Sri Lanka
Winner: Sri Lanka

Year: 2008
Host: Pakistan
Winner: Sri Lanka

Year: 2010
Host: Sri Lanka
Winner: India

Year: 2012
Host: Bangladesh
Winner: Pakistan

Year: 2014
Host: Bangladesh
Winner: Sri Lanka

Year: 2016
Host: Bangladesh
Winner: India

Year: 2018
Host: UAE
Winner: India