



SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh vs Netherlands
BANGLADESH
 144 for eight in 20 overs (Afif 38, Shanto 25; van Meekeren 2-21, de Leede 2-29)
NETHERLANDS
 135 all out in 20 overs (Ackermann 62, van Meekeren 24; Taskin 4-25, Hasan 2-15)
RESULT
 Bangladesh won by nine runs
 Player-of-the-match: Taskin Ahmed

Zimbabwe vs South Africa
ZIMBABWE
 79 for five in nine overs (Madhevere 35, Shumba 18; Ngidi 2-20, Parnell 1-6)
SOUTH AFRICA
 51 for nought in three overs (de Kock 47 not out, Bavuma 2 not out)
RESULT
 No result



Skipper Shakib Al Hasan and other teammates congratulate pacer Taskin Ahmed, who took four wickets to bowl out Netherlands for 135 in a chase of 145 during Bangladesh's first Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart yesterday. (Bottom) Bangladesh fans turned up in numbers to support their team. PHOTO: BCB

Glimpses shown but concerns remain

SPORTS REPORTER

It was proved yet again that early momentum helps Bangladesh as a decent opening stand on Monday prevented any batting mishaps for the Tigers in their Super 12 clash against the Netherlands, which they won by nine runs at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart to kick off their T20 World Cup campaign.

After months of experiments, Bangladesh thinks tank finally went with a conventional opening pair consisting specialist openers Najmul Hossain Shanto and Soumya Sarkar against the Netherlands yesterday and the tactic eventually worked well.

Interestingly, the Soumya Shanto duo was the tenth pair that the Bangladesh team management tried this year in 17 games.

And the 43-run opening stand against the Netherlands was the highest opening partnership for Bangladesh in the last 30 T20s. Bangladesh did suffer a mini-collapse in the middle but eventually coasted to a competitive 144 for eight in 20 overs.

Soumya was the first to depart, falling after a run-a-ball 14 in the sixth over. Shanto, who looked good during his 20-ball 25, soon followed suit as he departed in the very next over.

The Tigers endured a tumultuous period as they lost a total of five wickets in between 5 to 11 overs and were reduced to a precarious 76 for five.



What to WATCH

- T SPORTS & GTV**
 T20 World Cup
 Australia vs Sri Lanka
 Live from 05:00 pm
- TEN 1**
 UEFA Champions League
 Dynamo Zagreb vs Milan
 Live from 01:00 am
 (Wednesday)
- TEN 2**
 UEFA Champions League
 Salzburg vs Chelsea
 Live from 10:45 pm
 B. Dortmund vs Man City
 Live from 01:00 am
 (Wednesday)
- SONY SIX**
 UEFA Champions League
 PSG vs M. Haifa
 Live from 01:00 am
 (Wednesday)

A realisation on pace unit that strikes a chord

SPORTS REPORTER

Taskin Ahmed's first two deliveries hit a length and while the first went away from the left-handed Vikramjit Singh, the second went away just slightly off the deck from the right-handed Bas de Leede and both deliveries made the batters play and got the nick off the bats. Most importantly, both catches were taken, with Yasir Ali diving forward to take a low catch at slips and wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan diving to his right to take the next one as Netherlands were down to two in two deliveries in chase of 144 made by Bangladesh. The tone had been set, and the fielders had their tails up as Bangladesh made up for any lacking with the bat in the first innings.

The bowling unit held up their end and this time the fielding unit was immense in support of their common cause. The effort and determination went a long way into giving the Tigers a much-needed victory in just the right time -- the very first Super 12 game at this World Cup, defeating Netherlands by 9 runs at the Bellerive Oval yesterday.

"We want to be the best fielding side given we have a young team. We have the belief that we can



save 5-10 runs which can make a big difference," skipper Shakib Al Hasan said at the post-match presentations.

Alif Hossain, running all the way from square-leg after Max O'Dowd had placed the ball in the vacant mid-on region and was going for a double, produced a throw so fast that O'Dowd was caught out in the middle during the ensuing confusion and Shakib did the rest, collecting the ball to take the bails off as Netherlands lost their third wicket. One delivery later in the

same Shakib over, it was Najmul Hossain Shanto who attacked the ball and stopped it from going for four in the cover region. He quickly got back to his feet following the slide and produced a flat throw with Tom Cooper out of his crease trying to run a three.

Shanto did miss a good chance at point but Hasan Mahmud disturbed Tim Pringle's stumps in the next delivery to ensure the dropped chance did not matter much. Taskin ensured Colin Ackermann's departure to end with career-best figures of four

for 25 in T20Is.

Bangladesh have so long put focus on their spin-centredness that fast bowlers were often neglected. The Test matches in recent times showed how crucial pace was to success. Taskin later said the Tests were helpful in his approach from the very first over where he was on a hat-trick.

"I stuck to my basics, saw there was movement in the first innings. So, I bowled Test-match lengths," he said. "It's a good win for us and we needed it. We played well as a team, happy to have contributed."

Asked on his work with pace bowling coach Allan Donald, Taskin said working on wrist positions was paying dividends.

"I can move the ball both ways, that was the main focus. I worked on that coming into the World Cup," Taskin added as Bangladesh made the start they were looking for.

"We've found talent, Hasan's new, Taskin's developed well in the past few years. We understand the importance of fast bowling now, across formats," Shakib said at the presentation ceremony as Bangladesh now look to make their fast-bowling department come alive.

'Aus hard to stop despite NZ defeat'

AFP, Perth

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh said Monday that defending champions Australia were confident of bouncing back from their opening defeat at the T20 World Cup declaring: "Our best is the best in the world".

The hosts suffered a crushing loss by 89 runs to New Zealand in the tournament opener on Saturday and face Sri Lanka, who won their first match of the Super 12, in Perth on Tuesday.

Marsh said Australia would keep faith with the same eleven to turn their fortunes around.

"I think that we've got a lot of confidence in our group that once we get on a roll we're going to be very hard to stop," Marsh told reporters.

"Obviously we didn't start well the other night, but we've got great self-belief.

"We know our best is the best in the world. So hopefully, we can turn it around against Sri Lanka.

"(It's) the nature of the tournament. You lose one game, your back is up against the wall. Hopefully we play well, get past that. Then we move on to England."

The Perth-born Marsh said conditions on his home ground would give Australia an edge over Sri Lanka, who are largely dependent on their spin attack.

"We know these conditions very well. And the stadium should suit us more than them," said Marsh.

Sri Lankan spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga played a key part in the team's opening nine-wicket cruise past Ireland on Sunday.

The pair troubled the Australians when they toured Sri Lanka in June but conditions are likely to be different in Australia.

"Hopefully spin doesn't play a huge factor in Perth and we can look to really attack them," said Marsh.

"They're two key bowlers and if we can get on top of them then I think we'll be ahead of the game."

Theekshana said Sri Lanka are oozing confidence after their thumping win over Ireland but were wary of the wounded hosts.

"They lost to New Zealand and we won, so we have got the confidence more than the Australian team," Theekshana, who returned impressive figures of 2-19 on Sunday, told reporters.

"Always nice to win a game and our hope is always to go for the four teams, so we have to beat them.

"They have very good fast bowlers and spinners also. They are last year's champions, so they have to bounce back if they want to be in the tournament."



Paris Saint-Germain stars Lionel Messi and Neymar have their eyes firmly on the ball during a training session at the club's Camp des Loges training ground near Paris on Monday, the eve of their UEFA Champions League Group H fixture Maccabi Haifa. The Parisian giants lead the group with eight points, level with Benfica while Juventus and Maccabi Haifa have three points each after four matchdays. PHOTO: AFP