



SCORES IN BRIEF

**Ireland vs England**  
**Ireland:** 157 in 20 overs  
(Balbirnie 62, Tucker 34;  
Livingstone 3-17, Wood 3-34)  
**England:** 105 for five in 14.3  
overs (Malan 35, Moeen 24 not  
out; Little 2-16, Dockrell 1-5)  
**Result:** Ireland won by 5 runs  
(D/L method)  
Player-of-the-match: Andy  
Balbirnie

**Afghanistan vs New Zealand**  
**Result:** Match abandoned  
without a ball bowled  
(Points shared)



Bangladesh's pace department played a key role in their opening Super 12 victory over The Netherlands and they are likely to be called into action heavily when the Tigers take on South Africa in today's match in Sydney. (Bottom) The Proteas, meanwhile, cannot afford any slip-up following a wash-out against Zimbabwe.

PHOTO:  
BCB/TWITTER

What to  
WATCH

- GTV & T SPORTS**  
T20 World Cup  
Bangladesh vs South  
Africa  
Live from 09:00 am  
India vs Netherlands  
Live from 01:00 pm  
Pakistan vs Zimbabwe  
Live from 05:00 pm
- SONY TEN 1**  
UEFA Europa League  
HJK vs AS Roma  
Live from 01:00 am  
(Friday)
- SONY TEN 2**  
UEFA Europa League  
PSV vs Arsenal  
Live from 10:45 pm  
Man United vs Sheriff  
Live from 01:00 am  
(Friday)
- SONY SIX**  
UEFA Europa League  
Lazio vs Midtjylland  
Live from 10:45 pm  
Freiburg vs Olympiacos  
Live from 01:00 pm  
(Friday)

Shakib wants calm as  
mind games ensue

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan was in a confident mood during the press conference yesterday, a day ahead of the Tigers' second Super 12 game of the T20 World Cup against South Africa in Sydney. The mind games were at play from both sides, with Lungi Ngidi of South Africa also having his say before the game.

"It is a very important game for us because we will go out to win the match. But for South Africa, it is an even more important match since they expected to get one more point than they did in the previous game," Shakib continued.

"Since they didn't, it is a life and death game for them and, if not anything else, they will be under a bit of pressure. In that regard, we have won a match.

"Sydney is a ground where we would like to play any opponent. Among wickets in Australia, there is a bit more help for spinners [in Sydney] than the other grounds, although the ICC produces true wickets for World Cups so that there is some balance," the Bangladesh skipper went on the front foot, playing up South Africa's difficulty in the game and reminding them that they do, in fact, need a result.

Bangladesh usurped Netherlands in their first game

on Monday and the confidence-boost would work its way to having a level-headed approach in the South Africa game today. The bowlers turned up and were well backed by the fielding department. However, the batting is still a concern for Shakib's side with a lot more expected off the middle-order. Whether Bangladesh continue to feature

Tigers will be hoping to start on the front foot.

"It's not important for us how many runs are on the scoreboard, rather the approach is important. Everyone should play with an open mind and perform. Whoever is in the team, if they can play to their potential then something good can happen," a confident Bangladesh skipper further said.



the same setup -- comprising four specialist bowlers against the Proteas -- remains to be seen but Shakib was in favour of going in with an open mind.

Soumya Sarkar and Najmul Hossain Shanto gave the required start in the last match, and the

Meanwhile, Ngidi reminded the pressure 'was equal' for both sides when the pacer was asked to remark on Shakib's statement in the earlier press conference.

"I think everyone is under pressure in this tournament if you are looking to win. Their claim

that we will be hungry to win, that's definitely true. Obviously, we would have loved a win in the first game and we know now what pressure we have in terms of going forward in the tournament.

"But to say we are under more pressure, I would say it's pretty equal if you are looking to win the World Cup. So you know, may the best team win," Ngidi said.

Previously, Bangladesh won the 2019 World Cup fixture against South Africa and also won the recent ODI series in South Africa. While Shakib wanted to take confidence from those instances, Ngidi revealed that the Proteas look to dismantle the Tigers' top order.

"The last time we played Bangladesh, their batsman came out very aggressive against us so we are very cognisant of that fact. So, we will definitely be targeting the top-order.

"As a bowling unit, we are definitely looking to cut the head of the snake, which is to take out their top-order and restrict them to as low a total as possible," Ngidi added.

Both teams are set to approach the game with their own plans but it will be execution and a bit of luck that can make the difference following the pressure-passing attempts from the two camps yesterday.

India take on  
Dutch, Pakistan  
eye first win

AGENCIES

After an inspiring victory in their opening fixture of the T20 World Cup against Pakistan, India will look to make it two-in-two against the only associate member in the Super 12 -- the Netherlands -- at the SCG in Sydney, while Pakistan will look to bounce back from their India heartbreak and register their first win against Zimbabwe, who have never managed to beat Pakistan in an ICC event, at the Optus Stadium in Perth today.

India would have all the momentum following their triumph against arch-rivals Pakistan as fans witnessed the genius of Virat Kohli, who produced one of his finest on a grand stage to take India home. The bowlers also pulled their weight; Arshdeep Singh in particular, with his 3-32, starred the prized wickets of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and their batting lynchpin Mohammad Rizwan.

With all these things coming together for India, their opponents, the Netherlands can only do so much to cause jitters in the Indian camp.

India are able to breathe a bit easier after



getting their T20 World Cup opener against Pakistan out of the way but bowling coach Paras M h a m b r e y says there is no scope of letting the intensity drop against the Netherlands.

"Every game from here is important," the

former India bowler said.

"Every team that's part of the tournament has worked its way up, has done something good and that's the reason they are here, and we take it like that."

Moving onto Perth, Pakistan, on the back of the anguish of losing points in the last over against India, will look to maximise their pace battery against Zimbabwe, who faltered facing the South African fast bowlers in their opening Super 12 fixture.

Skipper Babar would be at ease about the resurgence of Pakistan's middle-order, especially after he and fellow opener Rizwan failed to lay a foundation in their India clash.

But it might be a tricky affair as the African side have got the better of Pakistan on two occasions in the past couple of years, once in Rawalpindi and then in Harare. Craig Ervine's side already have the confidence of the gift of point they got against the Proteas due to the match being washed out, and considering some of the results so far in this World Cup, an upset is never too far away.

Buttler demands reaction  
from 'hurt' England

REUTERS, Melbourne

England captain Jos Buttler refused to blame the rain for the shock loss to Ireland at the T20 World Cup on Wednesday and demanded his team feel the "hurt" before rebounding for the crunch match against champions Australia.

A rain shower brought a premature end to the clash at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, with England left stranded at 105 for five, five runs short of the Duckworth-Lewis par score with five overs left to bat in their chase of Ireland's 158.

The loss left England on thin ice ahead of Friday's virtual knock-out clash against Australia at the same venue, and Buttler said England had only themselves to blame after being outplayed by the Irish.

"They outplayed us in all three facets of the game. The better team won today," he said.

"Everything was in our favour, winning the toss and electing to field knowing there was weather around. We didn't take



advantage of that.

"We let Ireland get 20 or 30 too many in that first 10 (overs). They showed us how to bowl on that wicket."

Despite rain clouds gathering during their chase, England were unhurried until Moeen Ali, unbeaten on 24 off 12 balls, came in to throw the bat around.

"I think we should let it hurt, to be honest," said Buttler.

"Days like today are really, really disappointing and you've got to feel that.

"We have got to reflect and we have to do it quickly with another game very soon, but today should hurt."

Buttler said England would be able to leave the disappointment behind and lift themselves for the high-stakes game against the hosts.

"I expect a reaction from the team," he said.

"There's a lot of experienced cricketers in our dressing room who will have been set back at certain times in their career.

"So guys certainly know how to deal with the emotions of great disappointment like today."



Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe get into a celebratory huddle following one of their goals in their Champions League fixture against Maccabi Haifa in Paris on Tuesday. Messi and Mbappe scored twice each while Neymar scored one as the Parisian giants ran out 7-2 winners to comfortably book a place in the Round of 16.

PHOTO: TWITTER