Star
SPORT
DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 2022, KARTIK 14, 1429 BS

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2022

SCORES IN BRIEF

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka

New Zealand

167 for seven in 20 overs (Phillips 104, Mitchell 22; Rajitha 2-22, de Silva 1-14)

Sri Lanka

102 all out in 19.2 overs (Shanaka 35, Rajapaksa 34; Boult 4-13, Santner 2-21)

Result

New Zealand won by 65 runs

Player-of-the-match

Glenn Phillips

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV

T20 World Cup
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
Live from 09:00 am
Netherlands vs Pakistan
Live from 01:00 pm
India vs South Africa
Live from 05:00 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

EPL
Arsenal vs Nottingham
Live from 08:00 pm
Man United vs West Ham
Live from 10:15 pm

MTV INDIA

La Liga
Real Madrid vs Girona
Live from 09:15 pm
Real Sociedad vs Real Betis
Live from 02:00 am (Monday)

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan observes keenly as batting coach Jamie Siddons shares his expertise ahead of the Tigers' T20 World Cup Super 12 fixture against a spirited Zimbabwe in Brisbane on Sunday. PHOTO: BCB

Can batters deliver against unfamiliar Zimbabwe?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will not be facing the same Zimbabwe whom they used to dominate in the past as Shakib Al Hasan and his team will have to be at their very best to overcome the tough hurdle that awaits in their third Super 12 game of the ICC T20 World Cup in Brisbane today.

A spirited Zimbabwe not only passed the preliminary phase with some authority, the African nation also managed to pull off a memorable one-run win over Pakistan in their previous game on Friday. Thus, Craig Ervine and his troops are certain to possess the psychological edge over the Tigers from ball one at the Gabba.

Not so long ago, a popular notion existed among the Bangladeshi fans that involved the cricket board would think of arranging a series against Zimbabwe whenever the Tigers needed to regain confidence.

However, the scenario transformed earlier in July this year after hosts Zimbabwe handed Bangladesh a 2-1 T20I series defeat, outplaying the visitors with a blend of calculative and courageous cricket.

One player who went on to emerge as a revolution for Zimbabwe has been Sikandar Raza, and his impact with both bat and ball has inspired the team to bag a string of victories.

Although he missed out with the bat, Raza spun Pakistan with his off spin in the previous game by picking up three wickets to aid his side defend a small total of 130.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, will be searching to regain some momentum that was shattered following a comprehensive 104-run defeat against South Africa in the previous game. According to Sridharan Sriram, the Tigers technical consultant, the team are well aware of the probable threats from Zimbabwe.

"We have a plan, but we respect Zimbabwe. They had an amazing performance against Pakistan, we watched every ball of it," Sriram said in the pre-match press conference yesterday.

"We can't look at the points table, we can't dwell on what's happened. It's about remaining really calm, being very clear with our plans and focused on execution on the day," he added.

In their disastrous show against South Africa, unforced errors and weakness in handling pace led Bangladesh to getting bundled out for 101 runs. Thus, skipper Shakib will have to galvanise his side so that they negate the batting mishaps, which has long been a serious concern for his side.

The opening pair of Soumya Sarkar and Najmul Hossain Shanto, however, managed to present somewhat of a bright side so far. The duo will be expected to provide a decent start after combining to add 43 and 26 quick runs against Netherlands and the Proteas, respectively.

Sriram seems confident over the two openers and informed that those who get starts would need to make an impact but also added that it's a learning process for Soumya and Shanto.

"I think it's giving them more game time, more experience, and the more they play together, the more they play against different opposition in different conditions, they will learn it's about kicking on, and they will learn that.

"The ones that get a start, they're able to go on and make that impact that we talk about. I think it's a learning process for both Shanto and Soumya, and I think they'll do it," said the new addition to the Bangladesh coaching staff.

Eventually, irrespective of how the openers operate, the onus will be on Shakib, Afif Hossain and Liton Das to step up and make the middle-order function, an aspect that has remained missing in the mega event for Bangladesh so far.

India, SA square off; Pakistan risk early exit

AGENCIES

Group 2 leaders India face South Africa in a top-of-the-table tussle on a pacey pitch at the Optus Stadium in Perth today, while a downtrodden Pakistan side have no option but to win against the Netherlands in order to keep semifinal hopes alive at the same venue.

India, on the back of consecutive wins, have all the momentum and would be at ease as all three departments have so far clicked for Rohit Sharma's side.

The top-order with the exception of opener KL Rahul has come to the party, with the skipper scoring a fifty against Netherlands and Virat Kohli being in supreme form.

A rollicking batting effort against the Dutch, where even Suryakumar Yadav starred, reinforced with clinical bowling has all but polished their semifinal ambitions but they face a hefty challenge against an on-song South African side that have a point to prove after failing to make the final four the last time around.

Boasting one of the strongest bowling line-ups in the tournament, the Protea pacers will look to capitalise on all the help the Perth pitch has to offer. The pace attack of Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, and Wayne Parnell have come through for

South Africa in their opening two matches and will look to do a repeat against India.

Temba Bavuma's men would feel hard done by losing a point against Zimbabwe due to a washout but they battered Bangladesh in a 104-run win in the following match. But against India, the Proteas have to prove their title credentials against the top-side of the group.

Top-order batsman Rilee Rossouw is in red-hot form, scoring back-to-back centuries in T20Is, and will face a familiar foe in India as the two sides met in a white-ball series in India earlier this month.

Opener Quinton de Kock has provided the fireworks up top, while the experienced David Miller in the middle-order is in charge of late surges.

Meanwhile, a struggling Pakistan are yet to register a win in the tournament, losing to India in the opening fixture and then succumbing to an upset against Zimbabwe in the second, and now Babar Azam's troops are on the verge of elimination as they eye a fightback against a relatively feeble Netherlands, who have lost back-to-back matches against Bangladesh and India.

While their bowling has delivered the goods, Pakistan have carried a misfiring middle-order to the tournament and their dependence on Babar and Mohammad Rizwan is putting constraints on their ambitions, an opening that the Dutch pacers would be hoping to exploit.

'I try to entertain as much as possible'

AFP, *Sydney*

Glenn Phillips smashed a powerhouse 104 and Trent Boult grabbed four wickets as New Zealand swept past Sri Lanka by 65 runs in Sydney on Saturday to put them in pole position to make the semi-finals at the Twenty20 World Cup.

New Zealand batted first and posted 167-7 with Phillips unstoppable, rescuing his team after the top order was blown away, losing Finn Allen, Doug Conway and Kane Williamson for 15 runs.

Boult and Tim Southee then reduced Sri Lanka to 4-8 in the chase and there was no way back as they crumbled to 102 all out. Boult ended with a career-best 4-13.

Phillips hit 10 fours and four sixes in his 64-ball knock -- the second century of the tournament, after South African Rilee Rossouw's 109 against Bangladesh, and only the 11th in T20 World Cup history.

"Incredible, any hundred is amazing but the way he worked hard and put pressure on the opposition after our poor start," skipper Williamson said. "The boys executed the plans really well."

Phillips said it was "absolutely indescribable" to score a century at the World Cup.

"I try to entertain as much as possible, and today it worked out well," he added.

Plenty was on the line with Group One wide open after both matches in Melbourne on Friday -- Australia v England and Afghanistan v Ireland -- were washed out.

New Zealand's win gives them a two-point buffer, and a superior run rate, at the top of the table from England, Ireland and Australia with two games to play.

They face a crunch game against England next in Brisbane on Tuesday while Sri Lanka face a must-win clash with Afghanistan on the same day to keep their hopes alive.

"Credit to Glenn Phillips who played an outstanding knock. We also dropped a few catches. 160 is always a tough ask with their bowling attack," said Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka.

"If we get a couple of wins, we're still in with a chance of qualifying, so just looking forward to that."

Metro Express Barishal players celebrate Mohamad Akhimullah's winning goal against Walton Dhaka during the first match on the second day of the Hockey Champions Trophy at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. The Barishal franchise won the match 2-1. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED