



SCORES IN BRIEF

NETHERLANDS VS SOUTH AFRICA
NETHERLANDS
158-4 in 20 overs (Ackermann 41 not out, Myburgh 37; Maharaj 2-27)
SOUTH AFRICA
145-8 in 20 overs (Rossouw 25; Glover 3-9, Klaassen 2-20)
RESULT
Netherlands won by 13 runs
PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH
Colin Ackermann

BANGLADESH VS PAKISTAN
BANGLADESH
127-8 in 20 overs (Shanto 54; Shaheen 4-22, Shadab 2-30)
PAKISTAN
128-5 in 18.5 overs (Rizwan 32, Haris 31; Nasum 1-14)
RESULT
Pakistan won by five wickets
PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:
Shaheen Afridi

INDIA VS ZIMBABWE
INDIA
186-5 in 20 overs (Suryakumar 61 not out, Rahul 51; Williams 2-9)
ZIMBABWE
115 all out in 17.2 overs (Burl 35; Ashwin 3-22, Shami 2-14)
RESULT
India won by 71 runs
PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH
Suryakumar Yadav



Losing skipper Shakib Al Hasan to a controversial decision was a big blow to Bangladesh but they were expected to regroup fast, given a historic last-four progress was at stake in T20 World Cup. Afterwards, the impetus at key stages remained missing as the likes of Mosaddek Hossain suffered an untimely dismissal at the back-end of innings and, later, wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan Sohan dropped a regulation catch of Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan to deny the Tigers getting momentum in their defence of a meagre 128.

PHOTO: AFP



Downplayed expectations couldn't fix old ailments

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh failed to capitalise on a golden opportunity to make their T20 World Cup campaign truly momentous as they succumbed to a five-wicket defeat against Pakistan in their final Super 12 encounter of the T20 World Cup at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

Both the Tigers as well as Pakistan were thrown a lifeline for the final-four qualification after the Netherlands stunned a superior South Africa, who were the favourites to reach semis.

But as is the case, Bangladesh failed to grasp their opportunity as they again faltered with the bat. The bowlers then had an uphill task to defend a meagre 128-run target which Pakistan, despite some jitters, inevitably chased down with 11 balls to spare.

From the T20 World Cup's build-up, Bangladesh had successfully downplayed any kind of expectations for the marquee event, which made sense following the T20 World Cup debacle in the Middle East last year.

Bangladesh, who are still trying to come to terms with the shortest format of the game, had both their captain and team management curtail any real ambitions for the tournament, while fans and experts alike had difficulties keeping Bangladesh ahead against the likes of Netherlands and Zimbabwe.

And despite Shakib Al Hasan's troops edged past the two aforementioned teams to make their campaign the most successful ever for Bangladesh, the Tigers suffered a hammering against South Africa and failed to cross the line against India in a tight affair,

Tigers' T20 WC 2022 campaign highlights

Liton Das, during his 27-ball 60 blitz against India, registered the second-fastest T20I fifty, off 21 balls, by a Bangladesh batter and the third-fastest fifty of the ongoing event.

Najmul Hossain Shanto became the fourth Bangladesh batter to register two fifties in T20 World Cups, having scored 71 and 54 against the Netherlands and Pakistan, respectively.

Spinner Nasum Ahmed, in his maiden T20 World Cup match, recorded the best economy-rate of 3.50 for the Tigers in this event with figures of 1-14 against Pakistan, while fast-bowler Mustafizur Rahman ended up with 5.60 economy-rate but could only scalp three wickets.

Speedster Taskin Ahmed was Bangladesh's most impactful bowler in this event, with eight wickets at an impressive economy-rate of 7.27.

leaving lot of questions aimed towards their capacity to achieve success in the 20-over format.

"In terms of results, this is the best performance we had in T20 World Cups," Shakib told reporters yesterday.

"We could've done better. But having said that, with the new guys coming in, with the

changes, this is the best we could expect."

On Sunday against Pakistan, Bangladesh were lucky to have a few half-chances go their way as they reached 70 for one in 10 overs but they lost two wickets on back-to-back deliveries to lose serious momentum. After Soumya Sarkar departed to Shadab Khan, Shakib was wrongly given out as leg-before by third-umpire after replays showed he had gotten an inside edge on to his pads.

Meanwhile, Najmul Hossain Shanto, who was anchoring the innings with a 48-ball 54, threw his wicket away while trying to up the ante. Shanto's untimely dismissal, the innings' fourth, then resulted in the Bangladesh middle-order misfiring to score only 36 off the remaining 40 deliveries.

The middle-order of Alif Hossain, Nurul Hasan Sohan, and Mosaddek Hossain all finished their Australia campaign with strike-rates of under 100, which tells a lot about Bangladesh's inability to use a launching platform in the death overs despite having wickets in hand.

In the bowling department, barring the hammering against South Africa, Bangladesh have fared nicely with Taskin, Mustafiz, and Hasan Mahmud doing their bit. But a dismal collective batting asked a lot from the bowlers and things might've been different for Bangladesh in those close contests had the batters rose to the occasion.

Shakib has placed the onus on putting up performances as a unit, but the Tigers were a disjointed unit in this World Cup as the same old problems, which held Bangladesh back time and again, was there for all to see.

Tigers all but certain for 2024 WC direct qualification

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the five-wicket defeat to Pakistan in their last Super 12 match which extinguished Bangladesh's chances of making it to the semi-final of the ongoing T20 World Cup in Australia, Bangladesh are all but certain to make the automatic qualification slots for the 2024 T20 World Cup in USA and West Indies.

Bangladesh missed out on a top four finish in Group 2, having finished fifth in the table behind Netherlands who, courtesy of their win over South Africa, grabbed the automatic qualification places to make the next World Cup as one of the top eight teams in the 2022 edition. West Indies, who failed to reach Super 12 this time, have gained automatic qualification along with USA as hosts of the next World Cup.

As far as Bangladesh and Afghanistan are concerned – currently placed 9th and 10th, respectively, in ICC T20 rankings – they are set to grab the two remaining automatic qualification spots based on the updated rankings on November 14, the cut-off date for qualification.

The remaining eight teams will gain entry through the ICC regional qualifiers to make a total of 20 teams in the tournament proper for the next edition of the T20 World Cup. Bangladesh and the other 19 teams will be divided into four groups of five and the top two teams will go through to the Super 8s, which will comprise two groups of four before the knock-out stages.



'I leave with a job well done'

REUTERS, Barcelona

Retiring Barcelona defender Gerard Pique said he felt liberated when coach Xavi Hernandez took him off in the 83rd minute of the 2-0 win over Almeria on Saturday as he walked off in tears to a standing ovation from a packed Camp Nou.

The 35-year-old Pique announced on Friday that this would be his last game in the historic stadium as he decided to retire from soccer when LaLiga breaks for the World Cup next week.

"It was like taking a heavy burden off my back when I walked off the pitch," Pique told DAZN. "The last few months were really difficult and today I felt liberated. It was a lifetime experience that I'll take forever with me."

"I'm happy for giving it all for this club. There were good and bad days, but I'm proud of it. I think I leave with a job well done."

Pique started the game as captain on Saturday in a season where he faced heavy criticism for his poor form and fell out of favour with coach Xavi Hernandez who reportedly asked him in the close season to leave or retire.

"This is my home. I was born here and I will return. But now it's time to enjoy the family, I'll go on vacation for a while."

Dutch delight writes the script for India, Pakistan

AFP, Melbourne

India will face England and New Zealand play Pakistan in the semi-finals as a Twenty20 World Cup full of shocks wrapped up its Super 12 stage in suitably scintillating fashion on Sunday.

South Africa had been fully expected to seal their place in the final four in Australia as they met the Netherlands at the Adelaide Oval on the last day of the group stage.

But the Dutch refused to read the script, Colin Ackermann blasting 41 off 26 balls as the Netherlands stunned the heavily fancied Proteas by 13 runs.

South Africa had been touted as dark horses for the title but instead it extended their wretched run in white-ball World Cups and saw Mark Boucher's reign as coach end in bitter disappointment.

The Dutch finished a heady fourth in Group 2 and so will not need to go through qualifying for the next World Cup.

Dutch delight changed the complexion of Group 2.

It sent top-ranked T20 side India into the semi-finals before they even played Zimbabwe and turned Pakistan versus Bangladesh into a virtual quarter-final.



SEMIFINAL FIXTURES

November 9: New Zealand v Pakistan, Sydney (2.00pm, BST)

November 10: India v England, Adelaide (2.00pm, BST)

FINAL

November 13, Melbourne, 2pm (BST)

Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi then put three months of injury misery behind him with his career-best T20 figures of 4-22 to lead Pakistan into the last four.

Pakistan's World Cup campaign had looked dead and buried after an agonising last-ball defeat to India in their opener and then a shock loss to Zimbabwe.

Now they will face last year's beaten finalists New Zealand on Wednesday in Sydney for a place in the November 13 final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Rampant India thrashed Zimbabwe by 71 runs in the final group game to ensure they topped Group 2 ahead of arch-foes Pakistan and now face Jos Buttler's England at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

Suryakumar Yadav hit a blazing unbeaten 61 and KL Rahul 51 as India piled on 186-5 against Zimbabwe, then bowled them out for 115 front of 82,507 mostly Indian fans at the MCG.

It was an ominous warning of intent from the 2007 champions.

"The fans have been brilliant all this while," said India skipper Rohit Sharma.

"Almost everywhere we've gone we've got a full house and we expect the same in the semi-finals as well. "On behalf of the team, I'd really like to thank them."

New Zealand, England and defending champions Australia all finished on seven points in Group 1, but the hosts missed out because of their vastly inferior net run rate. The Black Caps beat England to top spot.

Aside from plenty of rain, this World Cup has earned a reputation for one of shocks.

It all started on day one, in the preliminary round, when Asian champions Sri Lanka were hammered by Namibia by 55 runs.

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Application Deadline
Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 3:00 pm

Admission test
Saturday, November 12, 2022, 10:30 am

Classes Commence on
Sunday, January 22, 2023

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