



What to WATCH

GTV AND T SPORTS
ICC Cricket World Cup
Australia vs Sri Lanka
Live from 2:30 pm
SONY SPORTS 2
European Qualifiers
Azerbaijan vs Armenia

Live from 10:00 pm
Portugal vs Bosnia and Herzegovina
Live from 12:45 am (Tuesday)
SONY SPORTS 1
Belgium vs Sweden
Live from 12:45 am (Tuesday)

WHO SAID WHAT AFTER INDIA'S PAKISTAN DEMOLITION

The highly anticipated encounter between nemesis India and Pakistan ended in a whimper as the hosts thrashed Babar Azam and Co in a one-sided match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday. The organisers pulled out all the stops to hype up the encounter, but the match itself hardly lived up to its billing. India first bundled out Pakistan for a mere 191 and then chased it down with almost 20 overs in hand to complete a comprehensive seven-wicket victory. The Daily Star Sports takes a look at what the cricketing world had to say in reaction to the underwhelming India-Pakistan match.

“Pakistan got out of jail against Sri Lanka and have now been outplayed by India. Lots of thinking to do, especially with their traditional strength, their bowling.”
HARSHA BHOGLE

“Today, India completely hammered Pakistan. Rohit Sharma was a one-man army. I don't know where was Rohit Sharma in the last couple of years.”
SHOAIB AKHTAR

“Demolition Pro Max. Completely owned the Pakistanis. 72 overs were enough for a result and what a win. Rohit spectacular, Bumrah, Kuldeep outstanding and a win to cherish.”
VIRENDER SEHWAG

“Today was not the day to do this [Babar Azam receiving jerseys from Virat Kohli on the field after the match]. If your uncle's son has asked you to get Kohli's shirt – then do it after the game in the dressing room... After your fans are so hurt after a disappointing performance, this should be a private matter, it should not be done in an open ground.”
WASIM AKRAM

“India have a psychological edge over Pakistan. Pakistan have so much talent but they play like a team that doesn't believe they can beat the men in Blue.”
MICHAEL VAUGHN

Rohit brings PLAYSTATION like feel to batting

REUTERS, AHMEDABAD

Umpire Marais Erasmus was not the only one marvelling at Rohit Sharma's six-hitting prowess during India's comprehensive victory in Saturday's World Cup blockbuster against Pakistan.

Watching him dismantle the Pakistan attack at the Narendra Modi Stadium, team mate Hardik Pandya, a formidable hitter himself, said it felt more “like PlayStation” than cricket with Rohit on the rampage.

Pakistan could not manage a single six but Rohit alone clobbered half a dozen as India, turbo-charged by the skipper's 86 off 63 balls, completed a modest chase with nearly 20 overs to spare.

After hitting one of those monster sixes, the opener was seen flexing his muscle in front of a grinning Erasmus, an action he later explained to Pandya in a video released by the team.

“He was asking me the secret behind my big sixes, and if it had anything to do with the bat I use,” Rohit told Pandya.

“I was just telling him it was not my bat, but my power.”

The elegant right-hander overtook West Indian Chris Gayle's record of 553 sixes in international cricket heading into the match against Pakistan. After Saturday's match, Rohit also became only the third batter – after Gayle and Pakistan's Shahid Afridi – to smash 300 sixes in one-day

internationals.

“I have been trying to bat like this in the last two years,” Rohit said of his batting approach in the World Cup.

“Wickets are so good these days, I want to play my shots. I know I missed out on a hundred today.”

Rohit has three double hundreds in ODIs, only batter to have more than one, and his 264 against Sri Lanka in 2014 remains the highest individual score in this format.

His 11 sixes from three matches in the ongoing World Cup is second only to Sri Lankan Kusal Mendis' 14 from two matches.

Former team mate Dinesh Karthik was in awe of Rohit's effortless shot-making, especially his pull shot, against Pakistan.

“Whenever you talk about Rohit Sharma, there's always a lazy elegance attached to him,” Karthik told Sky Sports.

“If you bowl anything slightly short, forget it, go and pick it up from the stands.”

India top the points table after a hat-trick of wins and they face Bangladesh in their next match on Thursday in Pune.



Bumrah-Man Utd connection in World Cup



AFP, Ahmedabad

India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah said he was surprised to see his World Cup “temple point” gesture go viral especially as he's usually “too tired to celebrate”.

The 29-year-old was man of the match in Saturday's seven-wicket rout of Pakistan.

Along with New Zealand pair Matt Henry and Mitchell Santner, he is the tournament's leading wicket-taker with eight in three games.

Bumrah's eight wickets have cost just 93 runs.

His performance in the 132,000-seater Ahmedabad Stadium on Saturday also saw him bring out his distinctive celebration – pointing his right index finger to his temple.

It's a gesture used by England footballer Marcus Rashford, a player at Bumrah's favourite club Manchester United. Three-time tennis Grand Slam title winner Stan Wawrinka also utilises it at key moments. “I had no intentions of making it viral or spreading it everywhere,” Bumrah told the ICC Digital Insider on Sunday.

“It just came to my mind. I'd seen

Rashford do it as well. I thought it was cool. There's no particular big back story behind it. At the end I decided to do it.

“Usually I'm too tired to celebrate. But that is one occasion where I did celebrate.”

Bumrah took two wickets in India's opening win of the World Cup against Australia and added four more in the win over Afghanistan.

On Saturday, he dismissed dangerous Mohammad Rizwan and then Shadab Khan before finishing the match with 2-19.

Despite a 100% record, India are not thinking yet of a third World Cup title to add to triumphs in 1983 and on home soil in 2011. “We're not thinking about the momentum. The team is right now thinking about recovery,” Bumrah said as India head for Pune and their fourth game against Bangladesh on Thursday.

“We've played three games back-to-back and the result has been on the good side because our preparation has been good. “The team vibe is also good. People are pretty relaxed. They're looking to execute, they're looking to have fun with each other. It's a good place to be now.”

New gymnastics body focuses on school competition

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly elected body of Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation (BGF) set its sights on school gymnastics competition to make the sport more popular and bring more gymnasts to the pipeline of the national team.

Introduction of school gymnastics competition was discussed at the first meeting of the new body of the federation and was presided over by long-serving BGF president Bashir Ahmed, also the vice-president of Bangladesh Olympic Association.

Young businessmen Habib Ullah Dawn and Tanvir Ahmed have been elected as vice-presidents of the 23-member committee, in which former gymnast Habibur Rahman Jamil was elected as the general secretary.

“On Saturday, the meeting discussed holding school gymnastics within next six months in a bid to spread it out and make it popular among the people, so that the national team has a strong pipeline. The meeting also decided to increase the number of coaches and judges at international level,” said Jamil.

Meanwhile, the game's local governing body has appointed a high-profile Korean coach – Cho Sung Dong – in April last year for four years in a bid to get positive results at international stage. Dong is working with young gymnasts with an aim to deliver in the 2028 Olympics.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Giacomo Bonaventura celebrates with teammates after his debut goal for Italy in their Euro 2024 Qualifiers against Malta on Saturday.

Nat'l swimming starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Max Group 32nd national Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Championships get underway today at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex.

A total of 550 swimmers from 52 teams are expected to compete in 38 events – 19 each in men's and women's sections, while three diving events and one water polo event will also be decided during the four-day meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel will inaugurate the championships today while Bangladesh Swimming Federation president and Navy chief, Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, will be present at the chief guest on the concluding day.

A stroll through cricket memorabilia haven

EKUSH TAPADER from Pune

Looking in from the outside, it seemed like just another apartment building in the posh residential neighbourhood in Pune. “You are probably wondering, is the cricket museum really here?” said Phil Daniel, a Trinidadian pitch curator, as he greeted this reporter outside.

Seeing my nod of acceptance, he replied, “I'm sure, your doubts will disappear once you step inside.”

He was right as in the next two hours, I was amazed by what I saw inside the Blades of Glory Cricket Museum in Pune.

The entire apartment is like a treasure trove for cricket geeks, full of cricket memorabilia.

From signed bats of all batters who have accumulated over 10,000 runs in Tests and ODIs to the signed bats of all World Cup winning captains – the museum had it all.

Cricketing gears used by past greats such as Geoffrey Boycott, Allan Border and even Viv Richards, the bat the great Don Bradman had gifted to South African batter Daryll Cullinan and even Shane Warne's jersey on his debut Test are now property of the Blades of Glory Cricket Museum.

Bangladesh is also present in the museum. A jersey signed by all members of Bangladesh women's cricket team's squad of the 2018 Women's Twenty World Cup is on display, so are the jerseys of Shakib Al Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman.

Rohan Pate, the founder of the museum, revealed that more Bangladesh cricket memorabilia, such as Tamim Iqbal's jersey and the bat with which Mushfiqur Rahim scored a double hundred in Tests, will soon be put on display inside the museum.

Mushfiqur had put up his bat for auction for charity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Pakistan legend Shahid Afridi has bought it and now Rohan has acquired it and will soon put it up for display.

Seeing one man put together a museum entirely dedicated to cricket begs the question of why the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has not been able to create a cricket museum.

However, Rohan gave some hope on that front, saying he has contacted the BCB about founding a museum in the soon-to-be-built Sheikh Hasina International Cricket Stadium in Purbachal.

“Given the chance, I want to be a part of building a museum like this in Bangladesh. I've heard that a new stadium is being built in Bangladesh; a museum can be established there,” said Rohan.

The museum was inaugurated in 2012 by Sachin Tendulkar

There is a corner dedicated to Sachin in the

museum, where the elbow guard and chest guard he used while scoring his 50th Test century, World Cup jerseys worn by him and other such memorabilia are among the exhibits.

There is also a Virat Kohli corner, where there is a scorecard which gets updated every time the talismanic batter scores runs.

The museum's founder was a cricketer himself but is now a contractor. Even though he couldn't make it big as a cricketer, he has now become a world renowned sports memorabilia collector.

“This is the biggest cricket museum in the world as it has a collection of over 70,000 cricket memorabilia. The journey began with a bat Sachin gifted in 2010,” Rohan informed.

Rohan is working to enrich his collection in the ongoing World Cup as well. He has already collected bats signed by all members of the Bangladesh and New Zealand squads.

He collected the signatures of the Bangladesh players from the team hotel on Saturday night, and invited the Tigers to pay a visit to his museum.

“Many famous cricketers from across the world have visited the museum. I hope that the Bangladesh team will come to the museum in the next few days,” Rohan hoped.

