

Sensational Tiger Cubs conquer the world

Dethrone India in a thrilling final as Akbar guides the team home; Jaiswal and Bishnoi's efforts go in vain

U-19 WORLD CUP

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POTCHEFSTROOM**
A sprightly bunch of Bangladesh boys created history by winning the country's first global title, shocking defending champion India by three wickets in the summit clash of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

In a low-scoring final, Bangladesh restricted India to 177 in 47.2 overs and did well to score the revised target of 170 in 42.1 overs under the DLS method.

Once play resumed after a rain break, the target was revised to 170 and with seven runs to get and three wickets in hand, it became a cake-walk for the Tiger Cubs as they scripted a golden chapter in their country's cricket history.

Calm and collected

Credit should go to Bangladesh's 18-year-old captain Akbar Ali, who showed nerves of steel while making a patient unbeaten 43 off 77 balls. His effort outshone Yashasvi Jaiswal's 88 off 121 balls for India.

Akbar's cool quotient was there for everyone to see as he marshalled his resources brilliantly and then batted responsibly, seeing out India's threats from leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi and fast bowler Kartik Tyagi.

There were two things that cost India dear. While batting, it lost its last seven wickets for 23 runs

ets for 23. Once Jaiswal was out, the lack of match-time for the other Indian batsmen was evident. While defending a sub-par total, the number of extras (33) mattered a lot in the final context of the game.

Bangladesh's chase started in earnest with Parvez Hossain Emon (47 off 79 balls) and Tanzid Hasan (17) adding 50 in quick time.

However, things changed once leg-spinner Bishnoi (4/30 in 10 overs) came into the attack, bamboozling the batsmen with his googlies. But Emon, who came back to the crease after retiring with a hamstring injury, and Akbar took the team closer to the target before the latter finished things in style.

Earlier, India's batting wilted under pressure against a superb Bangladesh attack. Jaiswal (88 off 121 balls) was once again the standout performer even as the new ball bowlers Shoriful Islam (2/31 in 10 overs) and Tanzim Hasan Shakib (2/28 in 8.2 overs) stifled the batsmen. Seamer Avishek Das (3/40 in 9 overs) was the most successful bowler, but it was Shoriful's opening burst that put the Indians on the backfoot at the outset. That proved vital in the end.

India lost its last seven wickets for 23 runs

Defending a sub-par total, the team gave away 33 extras



The dazzlers: Bangladesh won its maiden U-19 World Cup, overcoming the odds and favourite India. •PTI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Tanzid b Shoriful 88 (121b, 8x4, 1x6), Divyaansh Saxena c Mahmudul b Avishek 2 (17b), Tilak Varma c Shoriful b Tanzim 38 (65b, 3x4), Priyam Garg c Tanzid b Rakibul 7 (9b), Dhruv Jurel run out 22 (38b, 1x4), Siddhesh Veer lbw b Shoriful 0 (1b), Atharva Ankolekar b Avishek 3 (7b), Ravi Bishnoi run out 2 (6b), Sushant Mishra c Shoriful b Tanzim 3 (8b), Kartik Tyagi c Akbar b Avishek 0 (5b), Akash Singh (not out) 1 (7b); Extras (lb-1, w-10); 11; Total (in 47.2 overs):

177.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Divyaansh, 6.4 overs), 2-103 (Tilak, 28.6), 3-114 (Garg, 31.3), 4-156 (Jaiswal, 39.5), 5-156 (Veer, 39.6), 6-168 (Jurel, 42.2), 7-170 (Bishnoi, 43.5), 8-170 (Atharva, 44.1), 9-172 (Tyagi, 44.6).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Shoriful 10-1-31-2, Tanzim 8.2-2-28-2, Avishek 9-0-40-3, Shamim 6-0-36-0, Rakibul 10-1-29-1, Hridoy 4-0-12-0.

BANGLADESH

Parvez Hossain c Akash b Jaiswal 47 (79b, 7x4), Tanzid

Hasan c Tyagi b Bishnoi 17 (25b, 2x4, 1x6), Mahmudul Hasan Joy b Bishnoi 8 (12b, 2x4), Towhid Hridoy lbw b Bishnoi 0 (2b), Shahadat Hossain st Jurel b Bishnoi 1 (10b), Akbar Ali (not out) 43 (77b, 4x4, 1x6), Shamim Hossain c Jaiswal b Sushant 7 (18b), Avishek Das c Tyagi b Sushant 5 (7b, 1x4), Rakibul Hasan (not out) 9 (25b, 1x4); Extras (b-8, lb-4, nb-2, w-19); 33; Total (for seven wkts. in 42.1 overs): 170.

Revised target: 170 in 46 overs

FALL OF WICKETS

1-50 (Tanzid, 8.5 ov), 2-62

(Mahmudul, 12.5), 3-62 (Hridoy, 14.1), 4-65 (Shahadat, 16.1), 5-85 (Shamim, 20.1), 6-102 (Avishek, 22.6), 7-143 (Parvez, 31.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Tyagi 10-2-33-0, Sushant 7-0-25-2, Akash 8-1-33-0, Bishnoi 10-3-30-4, Ankolekar 4-1-0-22-0, Jaiswal 3-0-15-1.

Toss: Bangladesh.

Man-of-the-Match: Akbar Ali.

Man-of-the-Series: Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Bangladesh won the ICC U-19 World Cup final by three wickets with 23 balls remaining.

Gill hits unbeaten century

INDIA-A IN NZ

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LINCOLN (NEW ZEALAND)**
Shubman Gill struck an unbeaten 107 as India-A made 234 for one in reply to New Zealand-A's 386 for nine declared on the third day of their four-day 'Test' here on Sunday.

Opening the batting alongside skipper Hanuma Vihari (59), Gill scored his runs off 153 balls with the help of thirteen 4s and one 6. Middle-or-

der mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara was with Gill at the crease on 52 off 99 balls at draw of stumps.

Earlier, New Zealand declared at 386 for nine in 131.5 overs after the second day's play was washed out on Saturday. Daryl Mitchell remained unbeaten on 103 off 222 balls during which he struck ten 4s and a 6.

Besides, Glenn Phillips made 65, while wicketkeeper Dane Cleaver scored 53. For India, Sandeep War-

rier (2/50), Mohammed Siraj (2/75), Avesh Khan (2/82) and veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (2/98) shared eight wickets.

India-A now trails by 152 runs with just a day's play remaining.

The scores: New Zealand-A 386/9 decl. in 131.5 overs (Hamish Rutherford 40, Glenn Phillips 65, Tim Seifert 30, Dane Cleaver 53, Daryl Mitchell 103) vs India-A 234/1 in 53 overs (Shubman Gill 107 batting, Cheteshwar Pujara 52 batting).



Hitting back: Shubman Gill had an answer to everything New Zealand-A threw at him. •GETTY IMAGES

Australia meets India

TRI-SERIES

MELBOURNE: Left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux's spell of three for 19 helped Australia defeat England by 16 runs and reach the final of the tri-series here on Sunday.

Australia will meet India in the final on February 12.

Chasing Australia's 132, England lost its way in the face of some accurate bowling from medium-pacer Tayla Valeminck (two for 18) and Player-of-the-Match Sophie (three for 19).

England not only failed to chase down the total but also fell short of the 124 needed to stay ahead of India on Net Run Rate after all three teams were tied with two wins each.

Earlier, Beth Mooney's half-century took Australia to what proved a match-winning total.

The scores: Australia 132/7 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 50) bt England 116/7 in 20 overs (Sophie Molineux 3/19).

Final: February 12 (Wednesday), India vs Australia.

England beats SA in final ODI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE JOHANNESBURG

England beat South Africa by two wickets in the third and final ODI on Sunday.

England leg-spinner Adil Rashid took three wickets in his 100th ODI as South Africa was restricted to 256 for seven.

The visitors' chase was orchestrated by Jonny Bairstow (43), Joe Root (49) and Joe Denly 66.

The scores: South Africa 256/7 in 50 overs (Quinton de Kock 69, David Miller 69 n.o., Adil Rashid 3/51) lost to England 257/8 in 43.2 overs (Jonny Bairstow 43, Joe Root 49, Joe Denly 66, Lungi Ngidi 3/63, Beuran Hendricks 3/59). **Three-match series shared 1-1.**

Leon Bailey torments Dortmund

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BERLIN

Substitute Leon Bailey scored a late goal and made another as Bayer Leverkusen sealed a stunning 4-3 win over Borussia Dortmund to deny the visitors the chance to go second in Bundesliga on Saturday.

In Serie A, Cristiano Ronaldo became the first Juventus player to score in 10 successive games but the team lost 2-1 at Hellas Verona.

The results: Sunday: LaLiga: Espanyol 1 (Tomas 58) bt Real Mallorca 0; Real Osasuna 1 (Garcia 14) lost to Real Madrid 4 (Isco 33, Ramos 38, Lucas Vazquez 84, Jovic 90+2).

Serie A: SPAL 1 (Bonifazi 24) lost to Sassuolo 2 (Caputo 65-pen, Boga 90); Napoli 2 (Milik 48, Callejon 90) lost to Lecce 3 (Lapadula 29, 61, Mancosu 82); Brescia 1 (Bisoli 81) drew with Udinese 1 (De Paul 90+2); Genoa 1 (Pandev 43) bt Cagliari 0; Parma 0 lost to Lazio 1 (Caicedo 41).

Bundesliga: Moenchengladbach vs Cologne — postponed; Bayern Munich 0 drew with Leipzig 0.

EPL: Sheffield United 2 (Sharp 45+2, Lundstram 84) bt Bournemouth 1 (Callum Wilson 13); Manchester City vs West Ham — match abandoned

Saturday: LaLiga: Atletico 1 (Correa 6) bt Granada 0.

Serie A: Hellas Verona 2 (Borini 76, Pazzini 86-pen) bt Juventus 1 (Ronaldo 65).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Volland 30, 43, Bailey 81, Bender 82) bt Borussia Dortmund 3 (Hummels 22, Can 33, Guerreiro 65).

Vesely outlasts Gerasimov, ends drought

The Czech's previous title had come at Auckland in 2015



Cry of delight: Jiri Vesely gives vent to his emotions after winning the title. •R. RAGU

TATA OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN PUNE

Jiri Vesely ended a five-year ATP Tour title-drought after beating Egor Gerasimov 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-3 in the final of the Tata Open Maharashtra on Sunday.

The Czech, who last won a title at Auckland in early 2015, is the first player outside the top-100 to win India's only ATP Tour event in its 25-year history. Come Monday, he is set to gain more than 30 places and find a position in the high 70s.

"A week ago I would not have thought of this," the 26-year-old said after the triumph. "It's only February and having a title already feels great. In every single year I had big successes, highlights, like playing the fourth round at Wimbledon in 2016 and 2018. But I was never able to push on. So now I need to stay focused in

the next tournaments."

For the 27-year-old Gerasimov, who played his first final, the week gone by was like an audition and at the end of it there was no doubting his talent. Against Vesely, he looked a tad subdued compared to his earlier matches. But he made Vesely play his best match of the tournament.

Vesely started the evening with two crunching forehand winners — a significant improvement from his last two matches — and broke Gerasimov in the very first game. Even as the Belarusian restored parity immediately, Vesely kept up the pressure.

In the third and the ninth games, he had Gerasimov at 0-30 but the latter held on admirably. In the tie-break, though, from 3-2, Vesely reeled off four straight points to take a one-set lead.

"I was not really happy with the first set," Gerasimov said. "I didn't push in the beginning. Tie-break is a lot-

tery. There wasn't a big difference between us. Just up and down and I had to execute at the right moment."

Levelling it

That moment arrived in the 11th game of the second set when he stretched Vesely on the forehand side way beyond the tramlines. One of two errors Vesely made thus was on breakpoint and Gerasimov duly served out the set on his first opportunity.

The third was perhaps Vesely's best set all week, making 75% of first serves against 63% the whole match and winning 83% of those. He broke to 2-0 after Gerasimov had gone 30-0 up by displaying the kind of staying power in long rallies that had deserted him earlier in the competition. Up 4-2, he finished on the right side of a nearly 20-shot rally that seemed to suck out every last ounce of energy left in Gerasimov. Serving at 5-3, he

held to love to seal the contest.

"I have to be realistic," Vesely said. "I had a lot of luck during the week, saving so many match points, especially in the quarters and semis."

"It's something that happens maybe once in a lifetime. I had to stay calm in important moments and I am really happy about that."

Rungkat's distinction

Earlier in the evening, Christopher Rungkat became the first Indonesian to win a Tour event when he clinched the doubles title in the company of Swede Andre Goransson, defeating Jonathan Erlich and Andrei Vasilevski 6-2, 3-6, [10-8].

The results: Finals: Singles: Jiri Vesely (Cze) bt Egor Gerasimov (Blr) 7-6(2), 5-7, 6-3.

Doubles: Andre Goransson (Swe) & Christopher Rungkat (Ina) bt Jonathan Erlich (Isr) & Andrei Vasilevski (Blr) 6-2, 3-6, [10-8].

Raptors keep title with top show

Chan-Won duo clinches it against North-Eastern Warriors

PBL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD

Bengaluru Raptors became the first team in the Premier Badminton League championship to win back-to-back titles when it scored a 4-2 win over first-time finalist North-Eastern Warriors in the fifth edition at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Sunday.

Mixed doubles decides

Once again, with scores tied two-all, it was a doubles match which decided the fate of the winner.

And, this time, the mixed doubles pair of Chan Peng Soon and Eom Hye Won, playing the Trump match for Raptors, lived up to the expectations of their team and the lustily cheering fans to outslug G. Krishna Prasad and Kim Ha Na and clinch

the trophy for their team.

Strong comeback

Earlier, in the first singles match, Sai Praneeht, World championship bronze medalist and captain of Raptors, came back strongly after losing the first game to outplay World No. 18 Lee Cheuk Yiu.

It was a performance which should have pleased even World No. 2 and Sai's teammate Tai Tzu Ying.

Though he was erratic in the first game, the crowd favourite stepped into a different zone in the next two games, especially after winning the 39-stroke rally point at the start of second game.

Best foot forward

Then, in the men's doubles, Warriors' pair of Bodin Isara and Lee Yong Dae, playing the Trump match, had to put the best foot forward to

ward off a spirited challenge from Arun George and Rian Agung Saputro to keep their team in the hunt.

In the decider, Saputro, who was brilliant right through, faltered at 13-all with a service error and then messed up a simple net point to hand over the match and a 2-1 lead to the opponent.

For Raptors, Tai Tzu Ying remained unbeaten in this edition with another dominant display to outsmart World No. 10 Michelle Li to take the team to two-all.

The results:

Bengaluru Raptors bt North-Eastern Warriors 4-2 (B. Sai Praneeht bt Lee Cheuk Yiu 14-15, 15-9, 15-3; Arun George & Rian Agung Saputro lost to Bodin Isara & Lee Yong Dae (T) 11-15, 15-13, 14-15; Tai Tzu Ying bt Michelle Li 15-9, 15-12; Chan Peng Soon & Eom Hye Won (T) bt G. Krishna Prasad & Kim Ha Na 15-14, 14-15, 15-12).



Basking in the limelight: The jubilant Bengaluru Raptors team which retained the Premier Badminton League title. •NAGARA GOPAL