

Roy praises bowlers for England's second win

Batsman smashed 61 off 38 as England romped to victory in T20 World Cup



ABU DHABI: England's Jason Roy (center) plays a shot as Bangladesh's wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan watches during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup cricket match between England and Bangladesh at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

ABU DHABI: Opening batsman Jason Roy yesterday credited the England bowlers for helping set up a second successive victory at the Twenty20 World Cup with an eight-wicket drubbing of Bangladesh. Roy smashed 61 off 38 balls as England romped to their victory target of 125 in 14.1 overs in the Super 12 clash in Abu Dhabi.

He reached his seventh T20 half-century with a straight six in his 50th match during a partnership of 73 with Dawid Malan, who made an unbeaten 28. "We bowled extremely well. Take nothing away from the bowlers," Roy told reporters after his man of the match performance. "We took our catches and fielded and bowled really well. We got off to a great start with the bats and then just capitalized on a lower total."

England left-arm quick Tymal Mills took three wickets and combined with spinners Moeen Ali and Liam Livingstone to restrict Bangladesh to 124-9 in the two nations' first ever meeting in the format. Eoin Morgan's England, the world's number one-ranked T20 team, top Group 1 with two big wins after a six-wicket thrashing of holders West Indies in their tournament opener.

Roy said England's loss to Bangladesh in the 2015 50-over World Cup knocked them out of that tournament but helped build a strong bond between the players and change their brand of cricket.

"Our camp has been together since 2015," he said. "We've created bonds outside of cricket and on the field, which I think plays a huge part in travelling the world and playing good cricket. We understand our roles in the team as individuals and as teammates."

Bangladesh, who lost their opening Super 12 match to Sri Lanka, lost regular wickets after electing to bat first.

Spin attack

After giving away 10 runs in the opening over, Moeen hit back and was on a hat-trick in his second over, only to be denied by Mushfiqur Rahim,

who top-scored with 29. Moeen, an off-spinner, had Liton Das caught at deep square leg for nine and then sent Mohammad Naim trudging back to the pavilion for five.

Bangladesh found themselves in trouble at 26-3 when Chris Woakes claimed Shakib Al Hasan's key scalp with Adil Rashid taking a good catch running backwards. Shakib fell for four. Mushfiqur and skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who made 19, tried to repair the damage in a 37-run partnership before Livingstone broke through.

Livingstone trapped Mushfiqur lbw, but England had to use the umpire referral after the onfield official ruled it not out. Bangladesh kept faltering as a run-out cost Afif Hossain his wicket for five and Mahmudullah departed, for 19, soon after as Livingstone's second wicket.

"Definitely, we were disappointed with the batting, it was a good wicket but we didn't start well and didn't have any partnerships in the middle either," said Mahmudullah. "We are more skilled hitters than power hitters, we don't want to change that because we believe we can post good totals. We need to reassess and come up with a good plan."

Bangladesh's batting effort was well below par and the England batsmen having little trouble in their batting reply despite losing Jos Buttler for 18. Roy smashed five fours and three sixes in an attacking knock that took the steam out of the Bangladesh bowling. Malan, who did not bat in the first match, got useful batting time

Both team stook the knee before the start of the game with much focus on the anti-racism gesture after South Africa's Quinton de Kock pulled out of a match against West Indies on Tuesday because he refused to obey the national cricket board's orders. Roy said, "Our team is extremely diverse with people from all over the world. It's only right that we support that and we support what they are going through." — AFP

“ We understand our roles as individuals, teammates ”

UEFA hope for record-breaking women's Euro 2022

MANCHESTER: A year later than planned, the countdown to the women's European Championship begins today when the draw for Euro 2022 takes place in Manchester. England will play host to the tournament from July 6-31, which hopes to smash attendance records for women's football with Manchester United's Old Trafford the setting for the opening game before a Wembley final.

The hosts are hoping home advantage will help them win a major women's international tournament for the first time. The Lionesses have fallen at the semi-final stage in each of the last two World Cups and Euro 2017. England are guaranteed to kick the tournament off at Old Trafford with organizers hoping for an attendance that will break the 41,300 record for a women's European Championship match.

Holders the Netherlands, France and

Germany are the other top seeds and contenders for the tournament, along with Olympic silver medalists Sweden and a rapidly improving Spain side filled with Champions League winners who play their club football for Barcelona.

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Norway, Russia and Switzerland are the other qualifiers for a tournament UEFA hopes to be the biggest European women's sports event ever in terms of attendance. Premier League stadiums in Brentford, Brighton and Southampton will play host to games, along with more modest venues in Leigh, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Rotherham and Sheffield.

"This was coupled with the need to strike the right balance for the tournament. Setting an ambitious ticket target - with more than 700,000 tickets available for fans - whilst seeking to achieve full venues where possible," said the English Football Association's director of women's football Sue Campbell. "This is a balance we believe we have achieved in the selected venues and cities, with England's Lionesses due to play all of their group stage games at Premier League grounds across the country."

a message aimed directly at Kimmich. "You are a personality with exemplary character. And if you get vaccinated, other people will say, 'then I'll do it too.'"

Kimmich, who captained Germany in a recent World cup qualifier, sparked a fierce debate in Germany at the weekend when he revealed he opted not to get vaccinated, because of "personal concerns". Medical experts have criticized his stance, accusing Kimmich of neglecting his duty as a role model in football-mad Germany.

"Joshua Kimmich is an expert in football matters, not of vaccination and vaccines," fumed Thomas Mertens, chairman of Germany's Standing Vaccination Commission (Stiko). In a video interview for German daily Bild yesterday, Seehofer

Women's football was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic at time when participation and popularity was growing rapidly after a successful 2019 World Cup in France. As governing bodies scrambled to restart the men's competitions as soon as possible to secure lucrative broadcast income, even the elite end of the women's game was treated as an afterthought.

The Lionesses did not play a game for nearly a year between March 2020 and February this year, while the 2019/20 Women's Super League season was terminated with nearly a quarter of the games still to play. UEFA also moved the women's Euro back a year to allow the men's Euro 2020 to go ahead earlier this year. But UEFA's chief of women's football Nadine Kessler defended that decision to give "maximum exposure for women's football and the goal to provide the tournament with the centre stage it deserves."

That call was aided by a rare space in the men's football calendar due to the later start to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. After being shunted into the shadows for too long, Europe's best female players will again have a stage on which to shine. — AFP

urged Kimmich to rethink his position as "vaccination is the main weapon in the fight against the pandemic".

Germany has seen a sharp rise in numbers of those testing positive for the coronavirus with 23,212 new cases reported yesterday. Of Germany's population of 83 million, around 66 percent are fully vaccinated.

Kimmich appears to be in the minority as more than 90 percent of footballers and backroom staff in Germany's top two leagues are vaccinated, according to figures released Tuesday by the German Football League (DFL). Bayern head coach Julian Nagelsmann is currently isolating at home after testing positive for the coronavirus last week. — AFP

Preparations ongoing for Kuwait Crown Prince shooting tourney

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Preparations are ongoing at Kuwait Shooting Sport Club's Jahra branch to start the official training and preliminaries on Saturday in the air pistol and rifle events as well as Olympic archery for HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's second annual tournament, which will be held from Nov 4-6, 2021.

Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Manahi Al-Osaimi thanked HH the Crown Prince on behalf of the chairman and board members of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club for his continued support of the sport of shooting in Kuwait. Osaimi said in a press statement that the sponsorship by HH the Crown Prince of an annual tournament that carries his name is a source of pride for the entire shooting community.

Kuwait Shooting Sport Club's Jahra branch is equipped with the necessary equipment to hold this major event and declare the new season open, Osaimi said. Qualification will be carried out for juniors in Jahra governorate, as the Jahra branch was opened for training following the coronavirus pandemic, and is ready to serve Jahra



Obaid Al-Osaimi

residents who can carry out their training under the supervision of the technical and administrative departments.

Osaimi said the aim of the chairman and board members of KSSF in organizing local tournaments at various branches is "to allow Kuwaiti youth to practice the sport of our forefathers and discover promising talent". He concluded his statement by thanking HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government and information and culture minister and state minister for youth affairs for their continued support.

'Get vaccinated' German minister tells Kimmich

BERLIN: Bayern Munich star Joshua Kimmich has been told to get vaccinated against COVID-19 by Germany's acting interior minister after the footballer sparked a lively debate by revealing he had opted out of receiving jabs against the coronavirus.

"Think again and get vaccinated," Horst Seehofer, a senior figure in Angela Merkel's outgoing government, told Bild in