

T20 WC: Berrington-Leask partnership leads Scotland to historic victory against Namibia

Bridgetown, (UNI) Scotland achieved a landmark T20I victory against Namibia, thanks to a spectacular partnership between Richie Berrington and Michael Leask. Leask's blistering 17-ball 35, featuring four powerful sixes, alongside captain Berrington's unbeaten 47 off 35 balls, including two fours and two sixes, turned the game decisively in Scotland's favour. The pivotal 17th over, bowled by Namibia's David Wiese, yielded 19 runs, easing Scotland's path to victory.

Namibia's struggle with sloppy bowling in the final overs ultimately cost them the game. Scotland capitalised on these errors, efficiently chasing down the target and securing a memorable win. Despite a challenging start, Scotland's perseverance and strategic gameplay led them to triumph with nine balls to spare.

Namibia set a competitive target of 155, thanks to a stellar performance by captain



Gerhard Erasmus, who scored 52 off 31 balls, including five fours and two sixes. Zane Green supported with a solid 28 off 27 balls.

Scotland's disciplined bowling attack, led by Brad Wheal with three wickets and Bradley Currie with two, kept Namibia in check. The Scots also impressed in the field, holding onto all their chances.

Scotland's chase got off to a shaky start as George Munsey fell early for 7. Michael Jones briefly steadied the ship with 26 off 20 balls, but Namibia's bowlers kept the pressure on, reducing Scotland to 73/4 and raising the required run rate.

This historic victory for Scotland not only marks their first T20I triumph over Namibia but also highlights their growing prowess in international cricket. Fans can look forward to more exciting performances from this determined Scottish side.

Brief scores: Namibia 155/9 in 20 overs (Gerhard Erasmus 52; Brad Wheal 3/33) lost to Scotland 157/5 in 18.3 overs (Richie Berrington 47*, Michael Leask 35; Gerhard Erasmus 2/29) by 5 wickets

Heartbreaking defeat for Bopanna-Ebden duo in French Open semis



Paris, (UNI) In a semifinal clash at the French Open 2024, India's Rohan Bopanna and Australia's Matthew Ebden faced a heartbreaking defeat here. The Indo-Australian pair fell to Italy's Simone Bolelli and Andrea Pavoncelli in a grueling match that stretched nearly two hours, ending with scores of 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

The match was a rollercoaster of emotions. Bopanna and Ebden, usually a formidable duo, struggled to find their rhythm early on. They lost the first set 7-5, despite a spirited fight.

The second set saw a dramatic turnaround as the pair stormed back, overpowering the Italians 6-2 with a display of aggressive and strategic play. However, their resurgence was short-lived.

In the decisive final set, Bolelli and Pavoncelli regained control, ultimately sealing the match with a 6-2 victory.

This defeat is particularly stinging for Bopanna and Ebden, who had previously bested the same Italian duo in January's Australian Open final. That victory, achieved in straight sets 7-6, 7-5, marked Bopanna's second career Grand Slam title and his first in men's doubles.

Bopanna's earlier Grand Slam success came in mixed doubles at the 2017 French Open, where he triumphed alongside Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski.

Despite the current setback, Bopanna and Ebden's journey through the French Open has been a testament to their resilience and skill. Their tenacity on the court has left fans hopeful and eager for future victories.



Sunil Chhetri felicitated by AIFF President after Kuwait game

Kolkata, (UNI): The show didn't go the way it was expected, at least for the huge number of Indian fans present at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Thursday night, but it didn't stop them from showering love and appreciation on Sunil Chhetri, who played his 151st and last international match in the goalless draw against Kuwait.

There were big cheers from the crowd as India's all-time highest scorer in international football walked up the makeshift dias on the pitch to receive a plaque that was handed over to him by the All India Football President Kalyan Chaubey.

The plaque that Chaubey presented to Chhetri on behalf of the Indian Football fraternity, said:

Dear Sunil, You have been a gem in the crown of Indian football and a pride of the nation. Your achievement on the field, complemented by your demeanour off it, holds us spellbound. You have been a star on the Indian Football horizon since the momentous day you stepped onto the field in the Blue jersey.

The star never stopped shining and like a luminous point in the night sky, it dazzled brighter for nearly two decades to accomplish amplified altitudes. We watched in awe as you guided Indian Football past many impediments and inspired generations to embrace the Beautiful Game.

Now, 19 years and 151 International caps later, as you have decided to enter a new life post-international football today, we remain firmly gripped by nostalgia. You have filled our hearts with extraordinary emotions that we will share with our family and friends until our last days.

Mexico ready for Copa America despite form slump: Alvarez

Mexico City, (UNI) Mexico captain Edson Alvarez has guaranteed El Tri will be prepared for the upcoming Copa America in the United States despite the team's faltering recent form. The comments followed a 4-0 friendly defeat to Uruguay in Denver on Wednesday, Mexico's fourth defeat in seven games.

"We know that we have to be patient and unite like a family," the West Ham defensive midfielder said. "It's difficult because we don't like to lose. But these games are what makes you grow; you compete against elite players, you measure yourself against who you want to be." Mexico will finalize their Copa America preparations with a friendly against Brazil at Kyle Field in College Station, Texas, on Saturday.



Jaime Lozano's men will begin the continental tournament against Jamaica on June 22 before also meeting Venezuela and Ecuador in the group stage.

ICC reveals Player of Month nominees for May

Dubai, (UNI) The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday revealed the shortlists of nominees for the ICC Player of the Month awards in celebration of the outstanding performers from international competition in May.

The ICC Men's Player of the Month contenders feature three familiar faces competing at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies. Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi enjoyed a prolific wicket-taking month in his side's T20I tours of Ireland and England last month. Similarly, Gu-daksh Motie of the West Indies earns a nomination after his



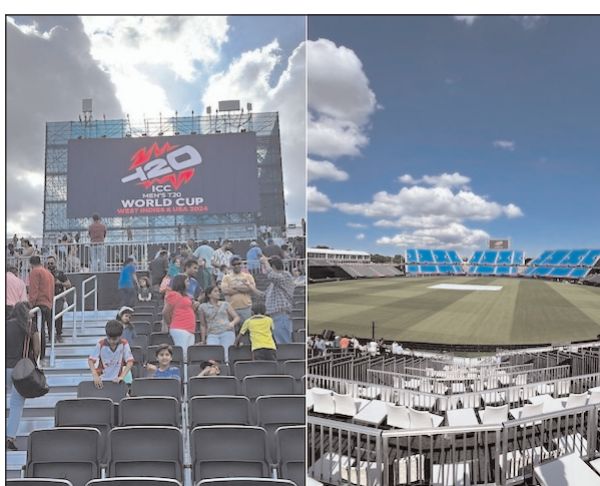
Player of the Series exploits in their whitewash series triumph over South Africa. Completing the lineup is Ireland's Lorcan Tucker - the wicketkeeper batter recording consistent scores against Pakistan, Netherlands and Scotland in his side's preparations for the T20 World

Cup, according to ICC media release. Two stars from the recently concluded ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier in the UAE are nominated in the Women's Player of the Month category, alongside an England spin sensation. Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu is nominated for the second month in a row after topping the run-scoring charts in Abu Dhabi and hitting a sparkling century in the final match. She is joined by Scotland skipper Kathryn Bryce, who led her side to an historic first qualification for a women's World Cup event thanks to memorable individual contributions. England's Sophie Ecclestone is the third name in contention, nominated for more wicket-taking feats as her side overcame Pakistan in both shorter formats last month.

Diamond Club seats at Rs 8 lakh plus for India-Pakistan T20 WC match

New York, (UNI) Cricket enthusiasts around the globe are buzzing with anticipation as the Nassau County International Stadium in New York prepares to host a high-voltage T20 World Cup showdown between arch-rivals India and Pakistan on June 9. However, the excitement comes with a hefty price tag.

Former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu recently stirred the pot with a shocking revelation during a commentary segment. He claimed that fans planning to drive to the stadium would face an astronomical parking fee of \$1,200 (approximately Rs 1,00,000), a figure he attributed to information from his driver. This staggering



cost is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the expenses associated with this much-anticipated match. Ticket prices for the event have reached unprecedented heights, with a single ticket costing a jaw-dropping \$10,000 (over Rs 8.34 lakh). The stadium, with a seating capacity of

34,000, promises an unforgettable experience for those willing to pay the premium. For the ultimate cricket experience, the Diamond Club seats are the pinnacle of luxury. Positioned right behind the wicket, these air-conditioned lounges offer more than just a prime view of the game. Guests will have the opportunity to meet cricket legends and access the field before the match. Each of the four categories of Diamond Club tickets is priced at an eye-watering \$10,000 (Rs 8,34,323). In addition to the Diamond Club, the stadium offers nine categories of premium club lounges, where fans can enjoy the match in style for \$2,500 (Rs 2,08,585.25) per ticket.

Rusty Theron accuses Pakistan's Haris Rauf of ball tampering

Bridgetown, (UNI) A storm of controversy has erupted in the cricketing world as former South African pacer Rusty Theron has accused Pakistan Cricketer Haris Rauf of ball tampering during their match against the USA.

Theron, known for his fiery pace and competitive spirit, took to social media to voice his concerns.

"Are we just going to pretend Pakistan aren't scratching the hell out of this freshly changed ball? Reversing the ball that's just been changed 2 overs ago? You can see Haris Rauf running his thumbnail over the ball at the top of his mark," he Xed, tagging both the International Cricket Council (ICC) and USA Cricket.

The match, part of the ongoing T20 World Cup tournament,



saw the ball being replaced just two overs before Theron's allegation. His sharp observation and subsequent accusation have cast a shadow over what was an eagerly anticipated game.

The image of Rauf allegedly running his thumbnail over the ball has sparked a flurry of discussions and debates among fans and experts alike.

The ICC, the sport's governing body, has yet to issue an official response. This incident adds to the mounting pressure on the ICC to enforce stringent measures and uphold the spirit of the game, especially in light of recent controversies that have called into question the integrity of cricket matches.

As the cricketing community waits for an official statement and potential investigation, the incident underscores the ongoing challenges in ensuring fair play.

Will this lead to more stringent regulations and oversight, or will it be brushed under the rug? Only time will tell.

ISL: Chennaiyin FC secures Laldinpuia

Chennai, (UNI) Chennaiyin Football Club on Friday secured their third signing for the 2024-25 season, bringing in defender PC Laldinpuia on a three-year deal.

The 27-year-old from Mizoram, capable of playing both in defense and midfield, joins the Marina Machans after a standout tenure with Jamshedpur FC.

Laldinpuia made his Indian Super League (ISL) debut with Jamshedpur under coach Owen Coyle in 2022 and was part of the team that clinched the ISL League Shield that year. "In Laldinpuia, we have an incredible center-back coming off a great season. Having worked with him briefly, I'm confident he will be well-loved among the



squad," head coach Coyle remarked. Expressing his enthusiasm, Laldinpuia said, "When they told me they were interested, I was very excited to join. It's a big team with a great coach whose system I understand well." In the last three ISL seasons, Laldinpuia has played 35 matches, recording 37 interceptions, 15 blocks, 106 duels won, and 35 tackles.

He began his career with Chhinga Veng FC in the I-League second division in 2019 and later played for Aizawl FC in the I-League.

Ghana edges Mali in crucial FIFA 2026 World Cup qualifier

Accra, (UNI): An injury-time winner from Jordan Ayew saw Ghana beat Mali 2-1 on the third matchday of Africa's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers at the Stade Du 26 Mars in Bamako. The Eagles of Mali outplayed their opponents in the opening 30 minutes of the first half but failed to score despite the incessant pressure on the Black Stars on Thursday. Ghana improved their play in the closing stages of the first half and looked more likely to open the scoring. However, an inswinging cross by Mali into Ghana's area saw Kamory Doumbia's effort deflect off Black Stars defender Alexander Djiku for the first goal on the stroke of halftime. In the second half, the Black Stars kept up their momentum and found an equalizer through Ernest Nuamah in the 58th minute. Despite pressure from Mali, Ghana kept their composure, and three substitutions made by Black Stars manager Otto Addo paid off, as Crystal Palace's Ayew came off the bench to score a last-gasp winner.

Uganda to miss two key players in FIFA World Cup qualifier vs Botswana

Kampala, (UNI) The Uganda Cranes will miss two key players in their Group G FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier tie against Botswana. The Uganda Cranes, who have already collected three points from two matches played, will host the Zebras of Botswana in the refurbished Mandela National Stadium, Nambole on Friday. Head coach Paul Put daid on Thursday that although the team has been preparing well, the two players will not be part because of different challenges. He explained that team captain Khalid Aucho is nursing an injury, while Rogers Mato who features for Brera Strumica in North Macedonia had travel challenges and will only arrive a few hours to the match. "It is unfortunate that some of the key players will miss the match. But we are prepared to organize the players available to get a good result against Botswana," added Put who has now been with the team for six months. He made it clear that his team will have to be



very cautious and make the home advantage count. "It is always good to be playing at home in front of a big crowd. We shall work hard to make sure that we get a good result," added the coach. Isaac Muleme, one of Uganda Cranes defenders who plies his trade with Czech side Viktoria Zizkov said that they are excited to be returning to play at home at the Mandela National Stadium. "As a team we are very excited to be returning to the Stadium after four years, and we call upon the fans to come in big numbers to motivate us," added Muleme.

