

Rizwan, Salman guide Pakistan to seven-wicket win over Netherlands



Pakistan's Babar Azam plays a shot

AFP | Rotterdam

Mohammad Rizwan and Agha Salman made unbeaten half-centuries as Pakistan eased to a seven-wicket win over the Netherlands in the second one-day international in Rotterdam yesterday to complete a series victory.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, the world's top-ranked ODI batsman, scored 57 off 65 balls before Rizwan and Salman led the tourists home in their pursuit of 187 with 16.2 overs to spare.

Dutch seamer Vivian Kingma removed openers Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq cheaply as Pakistan stuttered early, but Azam and Rizwan steadied the innings before Salman finished it off by blasting his first ODI fifty.

Zaman, who made 109 in the first ODI, was caught and bowled by Kingma for three and Imam was lured into a loose drive four balls later to

38
fifties have been scored by Babar Azam in 89 ODI innings

reduce Pakistan to 11-2.

Azam passed fifty for the 38th time in 89 ODI innings but top-edged off-spinner Aryan Dutt to Bas de Leede at midwicket, ending an 88-run stand with wicketkeeper Rizwan.

Rizwan adopted a relatively cautious approach as he compiled 69 off 82 deliveries, in contrast to the fireworks delivered by Salman, who clubbed the final ball of the match for six to finish 50 not out in just his second ODI.

Haris Rauf and Mohammad Nawaz took three wickets apiece to dismiss the Netherlands for 186 in the second of a three-match series.

De Leede (89) and Tom Cooper (66) struck battling half-centuries to lift the Dutch from 8-3 but only one other batsman passed double figures for the hosts.

Naseem Shah removed Vikramjit Singh in the second over as the teenage opener edged behind and Max O'Dowd followed when he drove Rauf straight to Azam at mid-off.

Bahrain all set for Asian U20 volleyball

Seventeen nations from across continent set to vie for glory in 21st Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship starting Monday

● Bahrainis lose to Japan in straight sets in friendly match

● Kingdom's national team enter internal training camp

TDI | Manama

Bahrain is only days away from hosting one of the biggest competitions on the continental volleyball calendar.

The 21st Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship gets underway on Monday at the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa with 17 nations from across Asia taking part.

The Kingdom's youth national team stepped up their preparations for the event and entered an internal training camp at a local hotel.

The nationals also played a friendly game against their counterparts from Japan, with the home team losing to the visitors 0-3 (19-25, 16-25, 21-25).

Meanwhile, Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa visited the Bahrainis yesterday during their training session. He was received by BVA secretary general and tournament executive director Feras Al Helwachi, along with a number of BVA board members.

HH Shaikh Isa met with head coach Saber Abdulwahed from Tunisia and the national team's players. He encouraged them to



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, centre, watches the national team's training during his visit

give their best effort and wished them all the best for the competition.

As part of the lead-up to the championship, the supreme organising committee held a meeting this week at the BVA headquarters, headed by Al Helwachi and attended by tournament director Habib Mohamed and the heads of the working committees.

They followed up on all matters related to the hosting of the event, which will be the third time it is being held in the Kingdom.

Bahrain are in Pool A for the preliminary round alongside

Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia. Pool B features Iran, Japan and India; Pool C includes South Korea, Qatar and Kuwait; Pool D features Thailand and the UAE; Pool E includes Iraq, Australia and Bangladesh; and Pool F comprises China, Chinese-Taipei and Pakistan.

Kazakhstan were also supposed to take part and were drawn in Pool D, but have withdrawn.

The opening stage is scheduled to continue until August 24, after which a drawing of lots for Classification one to 12 (top two teams from each pool) will be conducted.



This year's tournament will mark the third time Bahrain is hosting the Asian under-20 event. The Kingdom also previously held the competition in 2014 and 2018

The teams which have already played each other in the preliminaries will not meet again in the one-to-12 classification, while the third-ranked teams of each pool will be relegated to contest the 13-to-18 classification.

The last edition of the competition was held in 2018, also held in Bahrain. Iran were crowned champions after beating South Korea in the final. Bahrain had an impressive campaign, finishing ninth overall amongst the 23 participating teams.

The 2020 event was cancelled due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.



Bahrain and Japan players and officials pose for a photograph together before their friendly match

Opening batsmen Gill, Dhawan star as India crush Zimbabwe in ODI

AFP | Harare

Opening batters Shubman Gill and Shikhar Dhawan starred as India cruised to a 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe yesterday in the first of three one-day internationals.

Gill (82) and vice-captain Dhawan (81) were unbeaten as the tourists knocked off a modest target of 190 with 19.1 overs to spare at Harare Sports Club.

The home side were all out for 189 in 40.3 overs, thanks largely to a brave 70-run ninth-wicket stand between Richard Ngarava and Brad Evans.

"I am enjoying batting with young Shubman and today I feel like a youngster too," said Dhawan.

"Once I was set, I went after the bowlers. I wanted to rotate the strike as well and then accelerate."

"My rhythm with Gill has settled nicely. The way he bats and



India's Shikhar Dhawan plays a shot

times the ball is lovely to watch. He has shown the consistency in converting 50s into bigger 50s.

"Our bowlers did well and it was nice to see Deepak Chahar come back from injury and pick up three wickets."

Zimbabwe captain Regis Chakabva said: "India bowled

really well and put pressure on us. I thought we started well but lost our way from the 18-over mark.

"It was good to see Richie and Brad give a good partnership at the back end. They were quite good, but we needed one or two more big partnerships.



My rhythm with Gill has settled nicely. The way he bats and times the ball is lovely to watch. He has shown the consistency in converting 50s into bigger 50s

SHUBMAN GILL

"Our bowlers tried to come hard at them but Shikhar and Gill batted really well and took us out of the game."

Kohli, Sharma rested

Zimbabwe used eight bowlers, but none could claim a wicket as the Indian openers struck a six and 19 fours between them.

Ngarava fared worst with the ball, conceding 40 runs in seven overs, while Luke Jongwe restricted the Indian openers to 11

runs in his two-over stint.

India, third in the ODI rankings and 10 places above Zimbabwe, travelled to southern Africa without several stars, including Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, who are resting.

Head coach Rahul Dravid also took a break after matches in England and the Caribbean with VVS Laxman taking charge.

In trouble at 83-6 after being put in to bat by India, the home side rallied with Ngarava scoring 34 and Evans unbeaten on 33.

Ngarava faced 42 deliveries and smashed a six and three fours before being clean bowled by Prasad Krishna.

Evans also struck a six and three fours, off 29 balls, as Zimbabwe sought in vain to extend a run of nine victories in 11 matches since Dave Houghton became coach in June.

Former batting star Houghton inherited a team demoralised after 3-0 ODI and T20 white-washes by Afghanistan and led Zimbabwe to series triumphs over Bangladesh in both white-ball formats.

The other Zimbabwe batsman to impress was Chakabva, whose 35 runs included four fours.

Axar Patel, Deepak Chahar and Krishna shared the Indian bowling honours with three wickets each.