

# Double-ton Maxwell downs Afghanistan as Australia reach World Cup semis

Glenn Maxwell's record-breaking 201\* rescues Australia from the brink to defeat Afghanistan

● Australia snatch a dramatic three-wicket victory from Afghanistan in Mumbai

AFP | Mumbai

Glenn Maxwell's stunning 201 not out guided Australia into the semi-finals of the World Cup as the five-time champions snatched a sensational three-wicket victory from the jaws of defeat against Afghanistan in Mumbai yesterday.

At 91-7, chasing 292, Australia were all set to join title-holders England, 1996 champions Pakistan and 1992 winners Sri Lanka as yet another notable Afghanistan scalp at this World Cup.

Crucially, however, recalled all-rounder Maxwell was dropped soon afterwards on 33 when Mujeeb Ur Rahman somehow floored a simple chance at short fine leg off fellow spinner Noor Ahmad.

"It would've been nice if it was chanceless, I've lived a very charmed life out there," said Maxwell, appropriately nicknamed 'The Big Show'.

He made Afghanistan pay with an astounding 128-ball innings featuring 21 fours and 10 sixes as he became just the third



Marnus Labuschagne of Australia reacts after being dismissed

batsman after New Zealand's Martin Guptill and West Indies' Chris Gayle to score a World Cup double century.

Maxwell ended the match in style with nearly three overs to spare when he slammed Mujeeb for another six.

The 35-year-old Maxwell's highest one-day international score was just his fourth century in 136 matches at this level, but second of the tournament after he scored the fastest hundred in men's World Cup history, off just 40 balls, against the Netherlands.

Australia captain Pat Cummins was 12 not out but played his part by holding firm in an unbroken eighth-wicket stand

of 202. There was one more twist late on in a dramatic encounter when Maxwell, on 146, suffered a violent attack of cramp as he hobbled through for a single.

But following on-field treatment a still-struggling Maxwell continued to pulverise Afghanistan's attack with a dazzling array of shots.

These included an extraordinary reverse hit for six off paceman Azmatullah Omarzai -- earlier

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Glenn Maxwell's incredible 201\* is only the third double century ever scored in a Cricket World Cup, joining the ranks of Martin Guptill and Chris Gayle

denied a hat-trick by Maxwell. Afghanistan, despite this defeat, remain in last-

four contention but they will need to beat second-placed South Africa and hope other results go their



Glenn Maxwell plays a hot

## Scorecard

Australia 293 for 7 (Maxwell 201\*, Rashid 2-44) beat Afghanistan 291 for 5 (Ibrahim 129\*, Rashid 35\*, Hazlewood 2-39) by three wickets

way to qualify for the knockout phase.

It had seemed the night would belong to Ibrahim Zadrán, whose 129 not out in a total of 291-5 was the first hundred by an Afghanistan batsman at a World Cup.

That left Australia needing to better their previous highest winning score to win a World Cup match of 287 against New Zealand in a 1996 quarter-final in Chennai

But opener Travis Head fell for a duck, caught behind off a superb Naveen-ul-Haq delivery that seamed away sharply, with the pacer also having Mitchell Marsh lbw for 24.

Australia's 43-2 then became 49-4 as Omarzai struck with successive deliveries, clean bowling veteran opener David Warner following the left-hander's ugly heave across the line before Josh Inglis edged to first slip.

Maxwell survived the hat-trick, nicking short of wicket-keeper Ikram Alikhil.

Australia were 69-5 when a mix-up with Maxwell saw Marnus Labuschagne run out by Rahmat Shah's direct hit from midwicket before leg-spinner Rashid Khan removed Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Starc as the crowd roared Afghanistan on.

But then came Maxwell's big reprieve, with Australia 112-7.

Earlier, opener Zadrán took Afghanistan to their highest World Cup total as they topped their 288 they made against the West Indies at Headingley in 2019.

Australia initially kept Afghanistan in check after losing the toss, albeit they struggled for wickets with Zadrán completing his fifth hundred in 27 ODIs, off 131 balls, including seven fours.

Zadrán, however, accelerated after going to three figures with Rashid making a dashing 35 not out during a quickfire unbroken stand of 58.

## World Cup 'timed out' dismissal row divides cricket

AFP | New Delhi

Cricket's "timed out" controversy split the game yesterday as Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan headed for home nursing a broken finger and battered reputation.

Shakib was branded "disgraceful" by Sri Lanka batsman Angelo Mathews after he became the first player in the 146-year history of international cricket to be given timed out.

Mathews had exceeded the two minutes allowed for a batsman to take strike as he attempted to secure the strapping on his helmet.

Shakib, who on yesterday was ruled out of the rest of the tournament with a broken finger, refused to withdraw the appeal, explaining: "I had to take a decision to make sure that my team wins and whatever I had to do, I have to do it."

"I think Shakib will also be asked the question of whether a batsman like Mathews needed to be dismissed like this at that time," Bangladesh's former ODI captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain wrote in Dhaka's Prothom Alo daily yesterday.

However, India's veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle said the issue was not about cricket's rules.

"Let us leave the spirit of cricket out of this," Bhogle wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

### 'There are laws'

"It is a weak argument often used by those that are ignorant



Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews (R) watches as Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan takes a run

**"I had to take a decision to make sure that my team wins and whatever I had to do, I have to do it"**

SHAKIB AL HASAN

or at the wrong end of a mistake. There are laws and you play within them."

"Beyond that, how to play the game is an individual choice. Mathews and Sri Lankan fans can be disappointed and angry but, as per the laws of the game, he was out."

Ex-Bangladesh captain, turned match referee, Raqibul Hassan backed Shakib.

"Shakib made an appeal and the umpires gave their decision

-- as long as it is within the laws, I don't see any problem," Hassan said.

But former Bangladesh opener Javed Omar criticised Shakib for not withdrawing his appeal.

"The rule was set so that no one could take any unfair advantage," said Javed, who played 40 Tests and 59 one-day internationals for Bangladesh.

"Mathews was not taking any advantage here. Shakib should have avoided this controversy."

Many on social media reminded Mathews how he led his team during the controversial "Mankad" run-out of England's Jos Buttler in 2014 --- where a bowler runs out the non-striker in their delivery stride if the batsman is out of his crease.

Mathews defended his actions at the time, saying it had

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Ironically, Shakib was dismissed by Mathews who marked the breakthrough by pointing at an imaginary wristwatch on his arm

been taken "after two warnings", adding that "even after the warnings it kept happening and clearly they were taking advantage."

But Bangladeshi cricket journalist Manjur Morshed from Jamuna TV, pointing to the 2014 "Mankading" incident, as well as Sri Lanka's refusal to shake hands after the match, said a sense of fair play was missing.

"Mathews is not the right person to give a lecture on sporting spirit," he said.

Chasing 280 for victory, Bangladesh rode on a 169-run stand between Najmul Hasan Shanto (90) and Shakib (82) to reach their target with three wickets and 53 balls to spare.

Ironically, Shakib was dismissed by Mathews who marked the breakthrough by pointing at an imaginary wristwatch on his arm.

## Bahrain to field two teams for FIBA 3x3 World Tour

● Al-Riffa men's team to consist of Mustafa Hussain and professionals Nemanja Draskovic, Milan Skundric and Anže Srebvt

● Al-Manama women's team to field Hessa Al Jaber, Marian Samir, and professionals Julia Jorritsma and Loyce Bettonvil

TDT | Manama



Mustafa Hussain...top local talent

professionals, namely Nemanja Draskovic, Milan Skundric, and Anže Srebvt.

Al-Manama women's team will be composed of players Hessa Al Jaber and Marian Samir, along with two professional players, Julia Jorritsma and Loyce Bettonvil.

Both teams will be coached by experienced coach Abdul Kareem Al-Anzoor, who has previously led our national teams in various international events of this nature.

The tournament will take place at the Harbour North Financial Harbour Square, where dedicated 3x3 basketball courts have been constructed along with grandstands and a series of facilities and tents that provide all logistical services, sales booths, and amenities. The event is open to all citizens, residents, and communities to attend.

The Kingdom of Bahrain will be represented by two teams in the FIBA 3x3 World Tour basketball tournament, which will take place on November 16 and 17 in Bahrain amidst significant participation from various countries around the world.

Bahrain will attract the attention of global basketball fans during these two days.

Bahrain will participate with a men's team named "Al-Riffa" and a women's team named "Al-Manama." The tournament rules dictate that participating teams should be named after cities from the same country.

Al-Riffa men's team will consist of national team Mustafa Hussain and three