



# HIT WICKET



## DREAMS COME TRUE

Road to Qualifiers  
of 2023 ODI World Cup was challenging  
but we did it



# HIT WICKET

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Welcome to **HIT WICKET**, Oman Cricket's exclusive newsletter. This edition will provide all stakeholders, both inside and outside the organization, with an update on Oman Cricket's activities. We hope you enjoy it. Please send your valuable feedback to [media@omancricket.org](mailto:media@omancricket.org) if any!

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# HONGKONG U19- BOYS VISIT TO OMAN



It was a dominating display by the local lads as hosts Oman U19 team made a clean sweep in the four-match bilateral -50over-a-side series against Hong Kong at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Al Amerat recently.

Coached by Adeel Shafique, the hosts won all their matches, played over seven days, by a comfortable margin, underlining their superiority in all departments of the game.

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# ACC U16 TOURNAMENT

Lot of positives to be taken from the regional tournament, says coach Syed Aamir Kaleem



MUSCAT: Oman boys concluded their campaign in the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Men's Under16- West

Vision Cricket Centre Grounds in Sharjah, UAE, recently. Skipper Jeet Shah's brilliant 75 was the highlight of Oman's -106run win over Saudi Arabia, only their second success in the tournament, which began on March 24.

Hosted by the Bahrain Cricket Association and played in Sharjah, the West Zone Cup top honours went to the UAE, who stayed perfect throughout to collect the maximum 10 points with five out of five victories. Bahrain finished second with six points but with better net run-rate (1.349+) as compared to Kuwait, who also collected six points (1.161+) with three victories.

Oman were fourth with four points (0.547-) edging Qatar on net run-



rate (2.903-), who too had four points with two wins. Saudi Arabia failed to open their account.



Zone Cup on a winning note to finish fourth in the six-nation event at the

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# ACC PREMIER CUP 2023



Individual brilliance stood out for Oman despite the national team narrowly missing out a place in the final of the recently-concluded

The qualification for the Emerging Asia Cup is a small consolation for Oman as the team had the potential to go all the way in the Premier Cup, according to Mendis, the team's chief coach.

The former Sri Lankan Test captain said that "his boys returned with a lot of positives from the Nepal tour."



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inaugural ACC Men's Premier Cup in Kathmandu, Nepal.

A third-place finish for Duleep Mendis coached team did secure the Men in Red a spot in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup, along with Premier Cup champions Nepal and runner-up UAE.

The three Associate nations will vie with the A teams from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh in the fifth edition of the event in July.





# ICC WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS







Oman timed a tricky chase to perfection against Ireland to get up and running in style. Having opted to bowl, Oman produced a quickfire double breakthrough when both Irish

openers fell in successive deliveries, Paul Stirling (23) pulling to mid-wicket before Andy McBrine (20) chipped to mid-off.

Harry Tector and Andy Balbirnie were tasked with the rebuild and while Tector survived a let-off on four when he almost played on to his stumps, Ireland's skipper was not so fortunate as he edged behind to depart for seven.

### **Oman beat Ireland at Bulawayo Athletic Club, Bulawayo by five wickets**

Ireland 7/281 in 50 overs (George Dockrell 91\*, Harry Tector 52; Bilal Khan 64/2, Fayyaz Butt 65/2)  
Oman 5/285 in 48.1 overs (Kashyap Prajapati 72, Zeeshan Maqsood 59; Josh Little 47/2, Mark Adair 61/2)



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Oman followed up a disciplined bowling performance with confident batting display to make it two in two in the World Cup Qualifier group stage. Jay Odedra, Bilal Khan and Fayyaz Butt helped restrict UAE to 227 before half-centuries from Aqib Ilyas, Shoaib Khan and Mohammad Nadeem and a nifty knock from Ayaan Khan helped them seal victory with four overs to spare.









# SUPER 6 QUALIFICATION WAS GREAT SUCCESS



With four Test-playing nations in fray and few other Associate nations having previous World Cup experience, Oman's showing at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier received a thumbs up from none other than their coach Duleep Mendis.

Team Red, skippered by Zeeshan Maqsood, stunned the cricketing world in their opening match of



the Qualifier when they upset Test-playing and fancied Ireland side to begin their campaign on a rousing note. The Qualifier concludes on Sunday with a final match between Sri Lanka and Netherlands with both teams already securing a spot in the ODI World Cup to be played later this year in India.

And as if to send a message that the win over Ireland was no fluke, Oman defeated neighbouring UAE team for making it two wins in a row. Following those successive victories, Oman managed to earn a place in the Super Six, "an achievement to be proud of" in the words of former Sri Lankan great Mendis.



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# ACC EMERGING TEAMS ASIA CUP 2023



Following a top-six place in the recently concluded ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, Oman cricketers are all set to compete in the 2023 Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Emerging Teams Asia Cup in Sri Lanka from July 23-13.

The Oman A squad reached Sri Lankan capital Colombo on Monday evening for the fifth edition of the eight-nation continental tournament.

The tournament will feature U23 sides of defending champions



Pakistan A alongside four other full member ACC nations – India, Bangladesh, hosts Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. They will be joined by the top-three teams from the inaugural edition of the ACC Men's Premier Cup [Nepal, UAE and Oman], which was held in Nepal in April-May 2023.

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### Women's League 2022-2023



**Winner: PSM Women's Cricket Team**



**Runner up: Indian Social Club Women's**

### All Omani T20 Tournament 2022-2023



**Winner: OCT Ruwi**



**Runner up: OCT Mabela**



### Senior Knockout Tournament 2022-2023



Winner: Israr Ghala



Runner up: Vanderlande

### Junior Knockout Tournament 2022-2023



Winner: Earn Trust



Runner up: Mazoon Dairy



### Oman Cricket Tennex Tournament



Winner: Abu Hatim



Runner up: SARCO

### OC D20 Series 2022-2023



Winner: Darsait Titans



Runner up: Qurum Thunders



# CREDIT OMAN PARTNERSHIP



Oman Cricket (OC) has been keen to rope in corporate support for the development of the game in the Sultanate of Oman. The untiring efforts of OC has met with success and the latest partnership agreement between the cricket governing body of Oman and Credit Oman will give further boost to the domestic league.

OC recently unveiled Credit Oman as the sponsors of the C, D and E

Division leagues for the 23-2022 season.

Credit Oman is a Muscat-based three-decade old company and over the years has shaped domestic trade and catalyzed exports from Oman to regional and international markets as a leading credit insurer, fully owned by the government.

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# OMTEX SIGNING CEREMONY



As Oman Cricket (OC) gears up for more international tournaments ahead with the national men's team aspiring to make it to the ICC Men's World Cup later this year in India, there has been a growing collaboration with some of the top sports-related companies.

Recently Oman Cricket signed a two-year deal with one of India's top sportswear companies, Omtex Sports as its official clothing partner.

Omtex Sports is a well-known name in manufacturing sports apparels and is a partner to many professional teams including national cricket associations.

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# TFM PARTNERSHIP AS OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER



## OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER

Oman Cricket is exhilarated to announce TFM as its official radio partner for 24-2023 as the voice of Oman Cricket to popularize the game of cricket in Oman through its channel engaging the fans and

the local community through a dimensional medium. TFM will bring exclusive coverage and interviews from events happening at the Home of Cricket in Oman and everything you need to

know about Cricket in Oman! Oman Cricket extends its thanks to TFM to come on-board and extend their support and welcomes them to the Oman Cricket Family!



# GARY KIRSTEN HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP



Oman Cricket (OC) got a thumbs up from none other than a World Cup-winning coach and South African great Gary Kirsten.

Following the conclusion of the second Gary Kirsten Cricket (GKC) camp at the Oman Cricket Academy in Al Amerat on Saturday, Kirsten said that he "was really encouraged with the talent at the Oman Cricket Academy."

GKC in cooperation with OC successfully organised the second ever camp in Oman after hosting the inaugural camp last year.



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# U15 & U19 OCA TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA



Oman Cricket conducted its first Tour of the Academy Boys to South Africa from 09th July 2023 to 19th July 2023.

There were 11 U15 Boys and 9 U19 Boys, the coaches accompanying them were Amir Kaleem, Amir Ali, Parviz Al Balushi and Vinod Mathews as the Manager.

The Last 2 days of the tour was

spent on sight seeing trip to Kruger National Park.

The travel, weather, hostel stay, different pitches, different ground conditions etc., would have provided the boys with memorable incidents. An experience to cherish.

Message to the boys - Just continue learning, enjoying the new experiences and keep growing.





# OMAN, SAUDI ARABIA CRICKET TIES SET TO GET A BOOST

**SACF president Prince Saud bin Mishal al Saud holds talks  
with Oman Cricket chairman Pankaj Khimji**



Bilateral and multi-lateral tours between the Sultanate of Oman and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia could be in the offing in the future as talks on holding the tours were discussed during a recent meeting between the presidents of both Oman and Saudi Arabian cricket federations.

HRH Prince Saud bin Mishal Al Saud, the first president of the Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation (SACF), recently hosted Pankaj Khimji, Oman

Cricket president, at his palace in Riyadh recently.

Speaking after the meeting, Khimji, who is also the vice-president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), said: "The recent meeting with the Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation (SACF) chair, HRH Prince Saud bin Mishal Al Saud, and the other members of the Saudi Arabian cricket board was encouraging and fruitful. I am indebted to Prince Saud for



extending such a warm reception to me and my accompanying delegation at his home."

The Oman Cricket chief said: "Prince Saud, along with his members of his board, has suddenly found new energy in developing the game and the Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation is really making an impact on the domestic stage and at the regional level."

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# H. E. PANKAJ KHIMJI APPOINTED TO ICC COMMITTEES

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket (OC) Chairman Pankaj Khimji's stature as one of the leading cricket administrators continues to grow at the global level.

Less than a year since he became the first Omani to be elected as Associate Member Director of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the world cricket governing body, Khimji has now been named in two ICC committees and one ICC working group.

The appointment in three ICC panels underlines Khimji's growing influence at the world stage, and the Omani cricket boss is humbled by the recognition. "I am extremely honoured by the appointments made by the ICC, and I hope to serve the different committees to the best of my abilities," said Khimji.

Khimji, who is also the vice-chairman of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), has been named as a member of the ICC Development Committee. The committee is chaired by Imran Khwaja of Singapore and comprises 12 members.

The Omani cricket administrator, who serves as advisor for foreign trade and international cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP), has also been appointed to the eight-member HR and Remuneration Committee of the ICC. This committee is chaired by West Indies' Richard Skerritt. Besides the two ICC committees, Khimji has also been named as a member of the ICC Governance

Working Group, the third ICC panel in which he has been entrusted to play a key role.

Khimji said: "I am overwhelmed by the trust and belief of the ICC.

"I hope my 40-30 years of corporate experience will help me in contributing positively to the ICC. There will be useful experiences in the time to come for me. Working with people who have some

fantastic understanding of these committees will be a good learning experience for me initially."

Khimji, who is also director of Muscat-based business conglomerate Khimji Ramdas Group, added: "At some point of time I am confident that I will be able to contribute positively to the various committees and I am looking forward to sharing my experience with the ICC."





# ZEESHAN MAQSOOD RANKED NO.3 IN ODI ALL ROUNDER RANKINGS

Oman veteran and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood, who in May had entered the top-five rankings of ICC ODI all-rounders, moved into the exclusive top-three club on Wednesday.

According to latest rankings from world cricket body (ICC), Maqsood achieved a career-best No.3 rankings for ODI all-rounders following his half-century and a wicket in the opening match of the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe.

Oman had stunned Test-playing Ireland in their opening Group B match in Bulawayo on June 19 with the skipper playing a key role to win the player of the match award.

42

MATCHES

1127

RUNS

109

Hi. SCORE

30.45

AVERAGE



ZEESHAN MAQSOOD

42

MATCHES

339.5

OVERS

55

WICKETS

4.8

Economy



ZEESHAN MAQSOOD

He moved one place up, and is behind only Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi.

Al Hasan has 367 rating points while Nabi has 305. Maqsood has garnered 262 and is followed by Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan with 261. Papua New Guinea's Assad Vala and Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza are joint fifth with 248 points each. The -35year old Maqsood is Oman's long-serving skipper and is a left-handed batter and left-arm orthodox bowler. This is the first time that an Omani cricketer has scaled such heights. He also made progress in ODI batters rankings as he rose six places from 65th to 59th and also gained five places to reach 40th in the bowlers' rankings.

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