



Angry Indian cricket fans in Ahmedabad burn posters of their cricketing heroes the day after their team's defeat against Bangladesh. PHOTO: AFP

This win

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It was their third victory in the tournament since making their Cup debut in 1999 and only the second against a Test-playing nation after beating Pakistan in England. They failed to win a match in the next edition in South Africa.

The Bangladeshi captain said coming early to the West Indies helped the team get used to the conditions.

"Coming early here had a huge impact. It helped us know the conditions, including pitches. A win against New Zealand gave us a lot of confidence. We realised if we do the job properly, we can beat the big guns," he said.

The Bangladeshi skipper was referring to his team's two-wicket victory over Stephen Fleming's New Zealanders in a warm-up game at Bridgetown in Barbados.

Bashar said the victory over India had boosted the team's confidence, but they would have to play good, competitive cricket in the remaining two games against Sri Lanka and debutants Bermuda to book a berth in the next round.

"As a team, we have put up a good show. This means a lot and now we can hope to go into the second round. We have a young team and we fielded well. I hope they continue," he said.

"Beating India is not an easy thing. It is a very important group and we have got to play hard in every game."

It was Bangladesh's second win over India in 15 one-day internationals.

Bashar was all praise for his bowlers, saying paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and left-arm spinners Abdur Razzaq and Mohammad Rafique did extremely well to contain the famed Indian batting line-up on a good wicket.

"Mortaza was terrific. If your bowler takes wickets in his first spell, then you can hope to bowl the opposition out for less than 200," said the Bangladeshi captain.

The fast bowler did the early damage when he jolted India with two early wickets and went on to finish with 4-38. He was named man of the match. Razzaq and Rafique then grabbed three wickets apiece.

"It is not easy bowling against this Indian batting line-up in middle overs, but the spinners did very well," said Bashar.

The Bangladeshi skipper dedicated the win to compatriot Manjul Islam, who died in a road accident near Dhaka on the eve of the match.

"We dedicate this victory to Manzurul Islam," Bashar said of his teammate who played six Tests and 25 one-day internationals.

Mortaza also dedicated his man-of-the-match award to "my best friend".

Kapali slams

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8th National Cricket League match against Barisal at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

After Kapali won the toss and elected to bat first, Sylhet reached 288 for 5 when the stumps were drawn.

But it was not all plain-sailing for Sylhet as they lost their top three batsmen with the score only on 70 runs. Barisal seamer Arafat Salihuddin took the wicket of Golam Rahman while spinner Monir Hossain removed Imtiaz Hossain cheaply.

But when Kapali came to the crease, he forged a lone battle as he stroked the ball beautifully to score 141 off 273 balls. He struck 20 boundaries and a six in his brilliant knock which came to an end when he was caught behind off Salihuddin in the day.

Saif Mahmud was unbeaten on 51 along with Rezaul Haque who is yet to open his account.

BRIEF SCORES

SYLHET: 288-5 in 90 overs (Imtiaz 29, Rahman 4, Mabud 22, Kapali 141, Mowla 22, Sait 51*, Rezaul 0*, extras 19, Arafat 2-47, Tariqul 1-89, Monir 1-50, Arman 1-46).

Result: Bangladesh won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Man: India

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and SJ Davis (Australia)

Match referee: AG Hurst (Australia)

Pakistan in pain

APP, Islamabad



The Pakistan cricket team's dismal performance and ouster from the World Cup at the hands of Ireland has shocked the nation and drawn criticism at home.

Ireland clinched a sensational three-wicket victory over Pakistan to send the former champions crashing out of the World Cup at Sabina Park, Jamaica, on Saturday.

Pakistan Cricket Board chief Nasim Ashraf will likely be the first head to roll when he faces a senate standing committee next week.

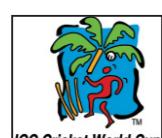
"We will ask for his (Ashraf's) resignation in the meeting which is due to take place before March 28," Senator Mohammad Enver Baig, a member of the senate standing committee on culture, sports, youth affairs and tourism, said.

"The captain, coach and the entire team should be held accountable," he said.

Nawaz demanded that those responsible for defeat must be "fired".

Gilly predicts six show

APP, Basseterre



Adam Gilchrist believes the World Cup six-hitting show, so spectacularly headlined by record-breaking Herschelle Gibbs, will reach even greater heights as the tournament progresses.

The Australian vice-captain says that a combination of small grounds, short boundaries and the power game of the world's leading teams, will see totals get bigger and bigger.

"Most of the top teams have got power hitters in one-day cricket," said Gilchrist.

"Most of the grounds in this region are pretty small. Such is the way that batsmen approach the closing overs in one-day cricket, there are going to be a lot of sixes it's evening up the contest."

Australia are already looking beyond Sunday's Group A game against the Netherlands who were crushed by 221 runs by South Africa on Friday, the game in which Gibbs smashed his six sixes in an over.

The big match in Group A comes next Saturday when the defending champions play South Africa for top spot and the two extra points which will be carried through to the second round Super Eights.

Gilchrist, whose Australian team brushed aside Scotland by 202 runs in their first game, said South Africa's brutal destruction of the Netherlands was not surprising.

"To be honest it was expected. They got a lot of runs and like our first game their batsmen got good hits and the bowlers got to bowl a few," said the 35-year-old Gilchrist who has 8,631 runs in 258 one-day internationals and 14 centuries.

He also has 423 dismissals behind the stumps -- the most in limited overs cricket.

"We've got to be able to hit a good yorker, try not to be predictable in what we're delivering. I guess that's what all teams are doing."

"Batsmen are being innovative. Try not to be predictable and then whatever it is you are trying to do, do it well."

Gilchrist admitted that the slow

pitch in the Caribbean are giving teams plenty to think about and that taking the pace of the ball can put pressure on batsmen.

"Some of the wickets here are going to provide assistance to slower bowling, and that brings everyone into the game a bit more than an absolute flat track does where batsmen can swing freely, so it's evening up the contest."

Playing only his fifth one-day international how a 17-year old batsman, Tamim Iqbal, shattered one of big giants' attack in the competition remains a big surprise for many outside the world while Shakib, an example of coolness only at the age of 19, holds a stunned average of 55.07 after 21 ODIs.

They are of a generation groomed under different circumstances by getting more opportunities than their predecessors but also have gone through a disciplined programme which made them mentally tough.

"I must thank Richard McInnes because he did a tremendous job with these boys to make them not only physically, but also mentally, prepared to compete in the highest level. He actually modelled this programme," Mahabub praised the Australian coach.

But unfortunately, it seemed that the programme has got stagnant in recent times although the BCB general secretary demanded that they have expanded it after the making of the Netherlands was not surprising.

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immense," he added.

Many was surprised how it was possible for a 18-year old wicketkeeper-cum-batsman, Mushfiqur Rahim, to keep cool in the middle not only behind the stumps but also with the bat during his 56-run unbeaten knock. It was not only his first World Cup match but also only the 12th one-day appearance.

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