



New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming works the ball towards mid-wicket off wily Bangladesh left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique (not in picture) as Tamim Iqbal (L) looks on during their World Cup Super Eights game at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Monday.

'We were too careful'

AFP, St John's



Bangladesh captain Habibu Bashar said his side had still to find the right approach to building a score after

their nine-wicket World Cup Super Eights defeat against New Zealand on Monday.

During their 10-wicket reverse in their second round opener against world champions Australia, Bangladesh collapsed to 65 for five on the way to a total of 104 for six in a match reduced by rain to 22 overs per side.

However, against New Zealand, Bangladesh enjoyed an opening stand of 55.

Tamim Iqbal made 29 and Javed Omar, in for the out-of-form Shahriar Nafees, 22. But on a good pitch their runs came at a sedate pace of under four an over.

And after they exited, Bangladesh collapsed to 174 all out at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Looking ahead to Saturday's match against South Africa, another major power, Bashar said his largely youthful side needed to strike a balance between their natural attacking instincts and excessive caution.

"The team plan is not to lose too many early wickets to the new ball," Bashar told reporters after New Zealand had won more than 20 overs to spare here Monday.

"It means we need to be careful, but I think maybe we were a little bit too careful."

"We need to do something in between -- either we're hitting too much, or blocking too much."

All four of Bangladesh's top order made it into the 20s against the Black Caps but none of them were able to press on and Bashar added: "Our top four batsmen got a start and didn't finish it; if one of them could bat for 30 to 40 overs we can put some good runs on the board."

"It is a little bit frustrating -- but I still believe in my players. They have shown they have the talent and the capabilities to get top runs," said the Bangladesh skipper, whose side beat New Zealand in a warm-up match before enjoying a group victory against India.

"We've had a pretty difficult first two matches in the Super Eights."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

LADESH V NEW ZEALAND SCOREB

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Eights match between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Monday:

BANGLADESH	R	M	B	4s	6s
Javed Omar c McCullum b Oram	22	79	51	3	0
Tamim Iqbal st McCullum b Oram	29	69	54	4	0
Aftab Ahmed c sub (Gillespie) b Styris	27	43	39	3	0
Shakib Al Hasan b Bond	25	61	41	1	0
Habibul Bashar run out	9	16	21	0	0
Mohammad Ashraf b Styris	3	19	8	0	0
Mushfiqur Rahim b Bond	0	2	5	0	0
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza b Styris	2	23	16	0	0
Mohammad Rafique not out	30	42	36	1	2
Syed Rassel b Oram	0	1	2	0	0
Extras: (b-5, lb-10, w-2)	17				
Total: (All out in 48.3 overs)	174				
Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-62, 3-105, 4-122, 5-127, 6-127, 7-129, 8-140, 9-140, 10-174.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	NB/W
Mason	1.3	1	4	0	-
Bond	10	4	15	2	-
McMillan	1.3	0	6	0	-

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

2011 WC hosts to sit next month

PTI, Karachi

The Pakistan, Indian, Sri Lankan and Bangladesh cricket boards chiefs will meet in the summer resort of Bhurban in Pakistan next month to constitute the organising committee for the 2011 World Cup, to be co-hosted by the four South Asian Test playing nations.

Saleem Altaf, who has taken over as in charge of the cell for the organisation of the 2008 Champions Trophy and 2011 World Cup in Pakistan, on Tuesday said the May 18-19 meeting was important as it would signal the start of serious preparations for the mega event.

"All formalities and arrangements have been completed for the meeting which will be the first for the heads of the four boards to purely discuss the World Cup and form the joint organising committee and other committees," he told PTI.

The International Cricket Council has awarded the hosting rights of the 2011 World Cup to the Asian nations against a strong joint bid from Australia and New Zealand.

Altaf said the four nations were very keen to make the 2011 World Cup one of the best in the tournament history and would discuss in detail preparations to be made for the event.

It has already been decided that the World Cup final would be held in India with Pakistan and Sri Lanka hosting the semi-finals and Bangladesh the opening ceremony.

Dungarpur stands by Chappell

PTI, New Delhi

Former Cricket Board President Raj Singh Dungarpur says no Indian is fit to coach the national team.

Dungarpur says, the World Cup flop show notwithstanding, either incumbent Greg Chappell should be retained or his predecessor John Wright should be brought back.

"I do not think that in India, with due respects to all great players, there is any single person to serve as the coach," Dungarpur told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"Chappell has not done anything wrong. He speaks from a high position since he was one of the best players in the history of the game."

"There is nothing wrong in having a foreign coach and Greg will be my first choice if he is available," he said.

Dungarpur said that should the former Australian captain decline to renew his contract with the Indian team, he would prefer Wright, although the New Zealander lacked Chappell's stature, as the coach.

"John (Wright) is the best suited to our system. He is very methodical and clean, and not affected by anybody."

"But he has not got that sort of a high position like Greg. If he (Chappell) tells somebody, even Tendulkar or Rahul Dravid would agree with him," he said.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

NZ now want Aussies

AFP, St John's



New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming cannot wait to play Australia after his side drew level on points

with the reigning champions in the second round of the World Cup following a crushing nine-wicket victory against Bangladesh.

Both Australia, bidding for an unprecedented third successive World Cup title, and New Zealand have six points after a pair of Super Eights wins plus the two points they each received for beating their fellow qualifiers during the pool phase.

Australia, who top the standings on run-rate, have looked in ominous form during a run of five wins from five games and have yet to be held to a total under 300 in a match at this tournament.

But in February the Black Caps thrashed Australia 3-0 at home during the Chappell-Hadlee series albeit the visitors were without the rested duo of skipper Ricky Ponting and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist while top-order batsman Michael Clarke had a hip injury.

All three are back in the team now with Australia determined to prove that a run of five one-day defeats in a row (England beat them 2-0 in Australia during the finals of the CB Series) was no more than a blip.

New Zealand play Australia in Grenada on April 20 and left-

handed opener Fleming, who struck 102 not out against Bangladesh, believes recent experience could work in his side's favour.

"It's going to take a number of things to stop Australia winning the World Cup. It's assessing conditions, then playing as well as you can," he said.

"We've done that in the past, and we're more familiar with them now because we've faced them a lot which helps. We're looking forward to playing them because they are the best."

New Zealand's latest victory was set up by another disciplined all-round bowling performance which saw Bangladesh bundled out for 174.

Jacob Oram led the way with three for 30 while fast bowler Shane Bond turned in another impressive display in taking two for 15 from 10 overs as New Zealand exacted revenge for their surprise two-wicket warm-up loss to Bangladesh.

Fleming and Hamish Marshall (50 not out) then saw them home with an unbroken second-wicket stand of 134 in a win achieved with more than 20 overs to spare.

New Zealand's display in the field was all the more creditable as quicks Michael Mason (calf strain) and James Franklin (migraine) managed just three overs between them before leaving the field.

"It was a great performance with the ball, not a lot in the pitch so to restrict a team to around 170 was where the game was won," said Fleming.

Bond, who has taken eight

wickets in four matches at this World Cup at an average of just over 10 apiece, once more looked in fine form and Fleming was as impressed as anyone else.

"The way's he's been doing it is with subtlety, changes of pace, a little reverse swing and the length that he's hitting is top-class."

Fleming's hundred against Bangladesh was only the 34 year-old's eighth in 275 one-day internationals.

But he believes his current form is as good as it has ever been.

"My form in this World Cup has been outstanding, I've just been running myself out. But I'm in some of the best form I've ever had, striking the ball well, and it was nice to push on."

New Zealand, apart from a brief wobble during their opening group victory against England, have yet to be truly tested at this World Cup but Fleming didn't believe his side were at a disadvantage.

"We're doing everything we've had to do but we are looking forward to being put under pressure," said the captain, whose side beat hosts West Indies by seven wickets at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here Thursday.

"The Windies was a pressure game and we responded well."

"Three in five days (New Zealand play Ireland in Guyana on April 9, Sri Lanka in Grenada on April 12 and South Africa on April 14) is incredibly tough, but if we keep doing the things we're doing, there's no reason why that won't help us in pressure situations."

Kiwis get into racism row

AFP, St John's

New Zealand on Monday faced accusations that their players racially abused catering staff before last week's World Cup Super Eights match with hosts West Indies.

According to a report in Monday's Antigua Sun, unnamed players were alleged to have said "good morning niggers" to employees of the Goddard Catering Group shortly before the start of last Thursday's match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The Sun's report also said the International Cricket Council (ICC) had begun an investigation after a complaint from a staff member.

However, New Zealand general manager Lindsay Crocker said the Sun's report had been "grossly embellished" although he added he'd investigated the issue with Cricket World Cup operations director Michael Hall.

Crocker explained that catering staff had been interviewed after suggestions they heard the word "nigger" used during a private conversation between three or four squad members.

He added that staff were unable to identify those they thought might be involved and Crocker stressed that no derogatory comments were directed at the caterers.

"We became aware of a rumour circulating among the catering

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

AFP, St John's



Shane Bond has made it clear he wants to be known as the best bowler in the world.

The New Zealand quick, whose career has been blighted by injury,

revealed his personal goal after turning in another impressive World Cup display during the nine-wicket victory against Bangladesh which left the Black Caps level on points in the standings with Australia, the reigning world champions.

"It's driven me since my first tour of Australia (in 2001-02), it's always been a goal to be the number one bowler in the world," Bond, 31, told reporters after taking two for 15 in 10 overs against Bangladesh at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here Monday.

However, the former policeman insisted his side's ambitions came first.

"My personal milestones mean little so long as I can put in performances that help us win. That's all that matters."

During this World Cup Bond, who spent several years on the sidelines with feet, back and knee problems, has been miserly with the new ball before returning for a second spell that has usually yielded at least one key wicket.

"The new ball is the most impor-

tant time to bowl, adjusting to the pitch and making sure you adjust quickly enough," Bond explained.

"I'm just continuing to work hard, my injury problems have been well documented but it has been a good season so far and I've got half a dozen games to get through now."

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming said Bond's form made him an easy man to captain.

"The way's he's been doing it, with subtlety, changes of pace, a little reverse swing and the length that he's hitting, is top-class," said the captain.

Bond, who leads New Zealand's tournament bowling averages with eight wickets at an average of just over 10 apiece, is currently second in the International Cricket Council (ICC) one-day international bowling rankings behind fellow paceman Shaun Pollock.

The South African is on a mark of 906 compared to Bond's 751.

In the Test list Bond is in sixth place on 722, still some way behind Muttiah Muralidaran, the extraordinary Sri Lanka off-spinner, who tops the standings with a rating of 913.

Bond, who was named man of the match on Monday, said he was enjoying the challenge of pitting his pace against the slow Caribbean pitches.

"Things are going well for us at the moment. The challenge will be to keep it going until the business-end of the tournament," he said.

"The wickets are different every time you turn up so it's a question of

adjusting every time and using your variations. The other guys also do a good holding job which makes my work easier."

"Guys like Shaun Pollock and Glenn McGrath are the ones you strive for and even though I'm a quick bowler, on these kind of wickets, I still need to put the ball in the right areas and I've managed to that so far."

Bond will look to boost his one-day position when New Zealand play World Cup surprise package Ireland, shock winners against Pakistan, in Guyana on Monday.

Fleming praises repaired squad

AFP, St John's

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming praised his patched-up side after a commanding nine-wicket win over Bangladesh opened up the path to the World Cup semifinals.

The Black Caps, who have already lost strike bowler Daryl Tuffey and opening batsman Lou Vincent to injury during the course of the tournament, saw seamers Michael Mason and James Franklin forced to leave the field at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Bangladesh captain Habibu Bashar (foreground) fails to grip a catch to dismiss New Zealand opener Peter Fulton as wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim looks on during their World Cup Super Eights match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP