

Star

CRICKET

WORLD CUP SPECIAL

S1

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2015

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.com

6s

30

4s

138

WHACK 0 METER

SHAH CEMENT

MOST 6s HIT BY A PLAYER

David Miller

South Africa

09

MOST 4s HIT BY A PLAYER

Aaron Finch

Australia

12

Cup's

firsts

STAR SPORT DESK

VIRAT KOHLI HIT A LANDMARK 107 IN INDIA'S 300 FOR 7 IN THE WORLD CUP MATCH AGAINST PAKISTAN AT THE ADELAIDE OVAL ON SUNDAY. HIS WAS THE FIRST CENTURY BY AN INDIAN IN WORLD CUP MATCHES AGAINST THE ARCHRIVALS. HE SURPASSED SACHIN TENDULKAR'S 98 AT CENTURION IN 2003 WHERE PAKISTAN OPENER SAEED ANWAR SCORED 101.

SOUTH AFRICA'S DAVID MILLER AND JP DUMINY SMASHED FIGHTING HUNDREDS TO PUT IN A RECORD-BREAKING STAND IN THEIR WORLD CUP OPENER AGAINST ZIMBABWE ON SUNDAY. MILLER HIT 138 NOT OUT FOR HIS HIGHEST ODI SCORE AND DUMINY BLASTED 115 NOT OUT AS THEY RAISED A PARTNER OF 256 RUNS, WHICH ITSELF IS A NEW ODI RECORD FOR THE FIFTH WICKET, LET ALONE THE WORLD CUP.

PAKISTAN CAPTAIN MISBAHUL HAQ BECAME THE FIRST PLAYER TO FEATURE AT A WORLD CUP FOR A TEST-PLAYING NATION AT THE AGE OF 40-PLUS SINCE SOMACHANDRA DE SILVA, WHO PLAYED FOR SRI LANKA IN 1983.

CLEAR

SHAVE

NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCH

Ireland v West Indies

Time: 4:00am

Men of Steel

VIRAT KOHLI

You can describe him as the 'typical-Delhi' boy, you may as well criticise him for being overtly aggressive in press conferences, but one thing that you can't take away from this maestro in the making is his ability to raise the bat under pressure. Kohli not only became the first Indian to score a century against Pakistan in a World Cup, he also became the fastest player to score 22 ODI centuries yesterday. His 107 off 126, guided India's top order right until the end.

DAVID MILLER

At 83 for 4 after 20 overs, in a small Seddon Park, the signs were ominous for South Africa. Would they bow down to their neighbours in a World Cup yet again? Miller didn't think so. Where the top four struggled, he caressed his way to his second century. With the wicket slow and the ball barely coming to the bat in the morning, Miller negotiated that phase well. However, soon after that he broke Zimbabwe's back with nine sixes and seven fours. His career-best score of a 138 came off just 92 deliveries.

শেখড় থেকে শিখরে

KSRM

KABIR STEEL SINCE 1984

COOLEST PARTNERS IN TOWN: David Miller (L) and JP Duminy shared 256 runs -- the highest stand for the fifth wicket -- to spoil Zimbabwe's chances of an upset at Hamilton yesterday. The pair rescued the Proteas from a precarious 83 for 4.

PHOTO: AFP

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India's complete game

AFP, Adelaide

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni hoped Sunday's World Cup win over Pakistan will serve as a "benchmark" for his team, but refused to gloat over the unbeaten tournament record against their arch-rivals.

"This was a complete game and should serve as a benchmark for the rest of the tournament," Dhoni said after the defending champions' emphatic 76-run win in their opening Pool B encounter at the Adelaide Oval.

"We will play tougher sides in the tournament where we need to replicate this performance."

Dhoni, however, declined to read too much into the 6-0 tournament record against Pakistan and reminded reporters of their rivals' superior overall one-day record (72-51).

"This World Cup record is good and we are proud of

SCAN CEMENT

HEIDELBERGCEMENT

it," he said. "But a time will come when we will lose to them. This record won't stay for the rest of our lives.

"We should not forget that Pakistan has a better overall record than us.

"We should not forget that Pakistan has a better overall record than us.

They are a fantastic side and it is never easy to beat them.

"It certainly is not a normal game when India and Pakistan play. It is emotionally draining for everyone. But we can't afford to rest on one win. There is a lot of room for improvement."

Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq wanted the players to forget the embarrassing record and look ahead to their remaining games.

"We can't think of the India loss anymore," said Misbah. "If you just keep brooding over it then it will be really difficult to perform well. So I think we need to

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One of greatest Kohli moments

AFP, Adelaide

Virat Kohli, the man regarded as the natural heir to Sachin Tendulkar, blasted India past Pakistan at the World Cup on Sunday and described it as one of his greatest moments.

Kohli became the first Indian to make a hundred against arch-rivals Pakistan in a World Cup game, with his 107 the cornerstone of the defending champions' 300 for seven from their 50 overs.

In reply, Pakistan were bowled out for 224 as India claim a 76-run win in what was an opening Pool B match for both the Asian giants.

"It's one of the biggest wins of my career. It's amazing to start like this," said Kohli after his 22nd one-day international century came on the same Adelaide Oval ground where he made two hundreds in a Test match against Australia in December.

"Expectations of me will rise but I just look to stand up to it. I hate losing. I love to win and play for my country. My role is to play a long innings so that the power hitters can play with freedom."

India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the performance was based on a good start and a patient approach.

"It's necessary to put runs on the board and give the bowlers the cushion of that extra 20 or 30 runs. Over here the first 10 overs aren't that easy as the ball varies in pace and bounce," explained Dhoni.

Pakistan skipper Misbahul Haq hit his team's top score of 76 but that was little consolation after seeing his team lose for the sixth successive time against India at a World Cup.

"They played well, posted a good total and bowled well. When we lost wickets in the middle it made it hard," said Misbah.

"The pitch was very good, and our bowlers pulled them back well in the last 10 overs. They might have scored more. Two or three of our batsmen didn't get in and you can't say much about that. I thought 300 was gettable."

ATIQUE ANAM

So now we know that a middle-aged man in Karachi, with hair greying by the sides and tummy protruding from under the t-shirt, will have to wait for at least another four years – unless of course India and Pakistan meet again at some stage of this World Cup – for fulfilling his dream of letting his long-preserved fire-crackers go off.

For the sixth time in six different editions of the World Cup, Pakistan have failed to live up to the Indian challenge. It's not as if they have been any less fancied side than the Indians in any of these tournaments; because we all know that after losing against India the very first time in 1992, Pakistan went on to win their first global title and they managed to reach the final yet again in 1999 after suffering the same fate in the Super Six stage. Pakistan also hold a considerable edge in terms of head-to-head record in ODIs overall (72 to 51). So is there a psychological edge that the Indians enjoy over the Pakistanis when playing their 'most important match' at the biggest stage of ODI cricket? Or is it something else which still has not been traced?

Some people felt that since Sachin

AB's Zim caution

AFP, Hamilton

Relieved South Africa captain AB de Villiers forecast Zimbabwe will cause upsets in the World Cup after his team upstaged their African rivals in a nervy start to the tournament on Sunday.

South Africa were indebted to a brilliant career best 138 not out by David Miller and JP Duminy's unbeaten 115 for a commanding total of 339 for four before restricting Zimbabwe to 277 all out in a 62-run win at Hamilton's Seddon Park.

Miller and Duminy lifted the Proteas from a nervous 83 for four during a new one-day international record stand for the fifth wicket of 256.

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"I am very happy at the performance, we had a really good game today," said de Villiers as South Africa, bidding for a maiden World Cup title, made a winning start to their Pool B campaign.

But de Villiers warned Zimbabwe could upset one of the more fancied sides before the end of the tournament.

"They [Zimbabwe] played some excellent cricket and I will not be surprised if they upset a couple of teams in this World Cup," the Proteas captain instead.

Reflecting on Sunday's match, de Villiers said Zimbabwe had made the most of winning the toss.

"There is no doubt that played a good part in getting them ahead early on as it was a really difficult wicket to bat on in the first 15 to 20 overs.

"It got easier and luckily David and JP made full use of that and played exceptionally well in that great partnership that won us the game today.

"We have seen David demolish the attacks like that and he is capable of that," said de Villiers, himself one of the most feared ball-strikers in world cricket.

"To see at this high level and in this biggest tournament is great and it shows where this guy is going in his career."

De Villiers paid tribute to Duminy as well by saying: "JP also showed good form, he was a bit out of touch with his injuries but seeing him bat like that is very pleasing."

In reply, Zimbabwe were cruising along nicely with Hamilton Masakadza (80) and Chamu Chibhabha (64) adding a brisk 105 runs for the second wicket to give South Africa a scare.

But leg-spinner Imran Tahir dismissed both Chibhabha and Masakadza to finish with three for 36 in his 10 overs, a feat de Villiers said was exceptional.

"Imran did well right from when he came to bowl, but

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Sachin, Virat and a new Zimbabwe

GPH

GPH ispat

Tendulkar -- the one constant thorn in Pakistan's side right from 1992 till 2011 -- has already retired, there may be a positive swing in Pakistan's fortune. But alas! A new avatar of Tendulkar, perhaps a bit more modern and even hungrier one, has arrived in the form of Virat Kohli.

While the India versus Pakistan encounter at the Adelaide Oval was catching the imagination of cricket lovers around the world, a heart-warming story all but made its way out of the Seddon Park in Hamilton, just across the Tasman Sea a few hours earlier, as Zimbabwe were making a game of a mammoth 340-run chase against South Africa.

What would have made a victory for Zimbabwe so spectacular is the lopsided nature of this completion, not only due to the gulf of difference in cricketing prowess but also due to the vastly different environment that these two teams go through. Despite never winning cricket's showpiece event, South Africa remain

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SCOREBOARD									
IND-PAK					R	B	4s	6s	
INDIA	R Sharma c Misbah b Sohail	15	20	2	0				
	Dhawan run out	73	76	7	1				
	Kohli c Akmal b Sohail	107	126	8	0				
	Raina c Harris b Sohail	74	56	5	3				
	Dhoni c Misbah b Sohail	18	13	1	1				
	Jadeja b Riaz	3	5	0	0				
	Rahane b Sohail	0	1	0	0				
	Ashwin not out	1	1	0	0				
	Shami not out	3	3	0	0				
	Extras: (lb-2, w-3, nb-1)	6							
	Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	300							
	Did not bat: Yadav, M Sharma.								
	Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-163, 3-273, 4-284, 5-296, 6-296, 7-296.								
Bowler					O	M	R	W	
	Irfan	10	0	58	0				
	Sohail	10	0	55	5				
	Afridi	8	0	50	0				
	Riaz	10	0	49	1				
	Yasir	8	0	60	0				
	Haris	4	0	26	0				
PAKISTAN					R	B	4s	6s	
	Shehzad c Jadeja b Yadav	47	73	5	0				
	Younis c Dhoni b Shami	6	10	1	0				
	Harris c Raina b Ashwin	36	48	3	0				
	Misbah c Rahane b Shami	76	84	9	1				
	Maqsood c Raina b Yadav	0	2	0	0				
	Akmal c Dhoni b Jadeja	0	4	0	0				
	Afridi c Kohli b Shami	22	22	1	1				
	Riaz c Dhoni b Shami	4	2	1	0				
	Yasir c Yadav b M Sharma	13	23	1	0				
	Sohail c Yadav b M Sharma	7	10	1	0				
	Irfan not out	1	5	0	0				
	Extras: (lb-1, w-10, nb-1)	12							
	Total: (All out in 47 overs)	224							
	Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-79, 3-102, 4-102, 5-103, 6-149, 7-154, 8-203, 9-220.								
Bowler					O	M	R	W	
	Yadav	10	0	50	2				
	Shami	9	1	35	4				
	M Sharma	9	0	35	2				
	Raina	1	0	6	0				
	Ashwin	8	3	41	1				
	Jadeja	10	0	56	1				
	Result: India won by 76 runs.								
	Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.								
	Toss: India.								
SA-ZIM									
SOUTH AFRICA					R	B	4s	6s	
	De Kock c Ervine b Chataara	7	16	1	0				
	Amla b Panyangara	11	26	1	0				
	Du Plessis c Taylor b Chigumbura	24	32	0	1				
	De Villiers c Ervine b Kamungozi	25	36	1	1				
	Miller not out	138	133	7	9				
	Duminy not out	115	100	9	3				
	Extras: (lb-1, w-16, nb-2)	19							
	Total: (For 4 wks in 50 overs)	339							
	Did not bat: Behardien, Philander, Steyn, Tahir, M Morkel.								
	Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-21, 3-67, 4-83.								
Bowler					O	M	R	W	
	Panyangara	10	2	73	1				
	Chataara	1	0	71	1				
	Mire	6	0	61	0				
	Chigumbura	4	0	30	1				
	Williams	8	0	44	0				
	Kamungozi	8	0	34	1				
	Raza	3	0	19	0				
	Masakadza	1	0	6	0				
ZIMBABWE					R	B	4s	6s	
	Chibhabha c Duminy b Tahir	64	82	10	0				
	Raza b Philander	5	13	1	0				
	Masakadza c Amla b Tahir	80	74	8	2				
	Taylor c Philander b Morkel	40	40	4	1				
	Williams c De Kock b Duminy	8	13	1	0				
	Ervine c De Villiers b Steyn	13	21	0	1				
	Chigumbura run out	8	7	0	1				
	Mire c De Villiers b Philander	27	25	2	2				
	Panyangara c De Villiers b Tahir	4	4	1	0				
	Chataara c b Morkel	6	11	1	0				
	Kamungozi not out	0	0	0	0				
	Extras: (lb-13, w-9)	22							
	Total: (All out in 48.2 overs)	277							
	Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-137, 3-191, 4-214, 5-218, 6-236, 7-240, 8-245, 9-272.								
Bowler					O	M	R	W	
	Philander	8	0	30	2				
	M Morkel	8.2	1	49	2				
	Steyn	9	0	64	1				

Hesson finds loopholes

AFP, Christchurch

New Zealand coach Mike Hesson believes he has found "areas to exploit" in England and Australia after taking a close look at the second half of his rivals' World Cup opener.

Australia, England and New Zealand form the big three in Pool A and their finishing order will be significant when it comes to the knockout stages.

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