

6s
57
4s
313

WHACK 0 METER
SHAH CEMENT

Most 6s hit by a player
David Miller
 South Africa
09

Most 4s hit by a player
B McCullum
 New Zealand
13

BANGLADESH V AFGHANISTAN

Time to prove it on the field

BISHWAJIT ROY from Canberra

Nobody knows better than Mushfiqur Rahim as to how painful it was to suffer a 32-run defeat in their first ODI against Afghanistan at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium in March last year. That was one of the many crucial reasons behind him losing his ODI captaincy.

As a result, few cricketers will be happier than the wicketkeeper-batsman if Bangladesh manages to beat Afghanistan in their opener at the Manuka Oval.

"From Wednesday it will be a new start. I believe everybody has conserved their best. I firmly believe we will win tomorrow's match," Mushfiqur said while reflecting on the much-talked about defeats in the practice matches.

Back then, Mushfiqur was slightly unlucky as he had to combat the Afghans without Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. This time around though, all three of them will be fit and ready to do their best.

After the warm-up losses, Bangladesh captain Mashrafe indicated that many of his players didn't take the game seriously and that they needed to up their tempo. Reflecting on this scathing statement yesterday, made immediately after the defeat to Ireland, Mashrafe said: "I did not mean that the boys did not take the practice matches very seriously. Some boys needed to be given chances during those matches as

POWERED BY

ANWAR ISPAT

www.anwargroup.com

well. I believe that everybody will be able to give their best tomorrow."

That the result of today's game has the potential to dictate the rest of the World Cup for the Tigers goes without saying. Mashrafe though isn't thinking about any of that.

"We will go one by one. Hopefully if we can play with our potential, we'll go through. At the moment I think we'll take match by match," he exclaimed.

"I think back home the wicket favours the spinners and so we rely on them a lot but we have some really good quicks as well. They are still young, but they have the potential and hopefully they'll do their job. I feel that they're world class and they can bowl on any wicket," he added.

Pacer Rubel Hossain, who has been battling his own personal issues lately, shared a similar sentiment. "This is a placid wicket but we have the bowling which can dominate here. We want to think big," he said.

Players like Mushfiqur, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mashrafe significantly slimmed down in the recent past in a bid to be ready for the huge venues of the World Cup and the captain believed that the Tigers would put up a brilliant fielding effort as well.

As the match draws nearer, almost all of Bangladesh's players have exuded confidence regarding the match; the question however remains as to whether they can prove themselves in the middle.



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is known for overcoming adversities. The Bangladesh captain with both his knees operated on will be the biggest inspiration for others when the Tigers launch their World Cup campaign against Afghanistan at Manuka Oval in Canberra today.

PHOTO: INTERNET

WHEN IT'S JUST ABOUT US All GP-GP calls (including FnF and Super FnF.) now @ **25** paisa per minute 10 second pulse

Get 40 minutes for 10 taka (from 12am to 4pm)

See inner for details Dial *111*29#

go beyond grameenphone

Canberra, cricket's retreat!

BISHWAJIT ROY from Canberra

When people talk about attractions in Canberra, there's barely any room for cricket in them. The city, unlike Melbourne or Adelaide, doesn't contain much of a cricketing heritage. What it does have though are a host of exquisite structures celebrating the heritage of the nation.

The Australian War Memorial, the Museum of Australian Democracy, the Parliament House, the National Gallery and the National Library of Australia are just some of the buildings where tourists can easily spend weeks without any monotony. If that isn't enough, one can take a walk near the southern shore of the Lake Burley Griffin to the Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre which explains science through various interactive means and is quite sought after.

However all these aspects will be secondary today as 13,000 spectators will storm into the Manuka Oval at Canberra to support both Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The match, which has been sold out, has stirred the city with

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 5

Afghans' first big day

BISHWAJIT ROY from Canberra

Few expected Afghanistan to beat Bangladesh in their own den the last time the two teams met. However, this time around the scenario is different. Via big screens in various areas of the war-torn nation, the match will be watched by many viewers expecting to witness Afghanistan's first World Cup win.

It won't be a surprise if photos of Afghans performing the 'Attan' their traditional dance circulates floods the media in case of another upset today; at least that's what Afghanistan's reporters here are hoping for.

One of them, Safiullah provided all the above information in one

excited breath. Another reporter added that the players are all fired up to take revenge as Bangladesh refused to play in the pre-tournament tri-series in Dubai. They believed that the Tigers denied the

number of who have played in the Dhaka league, to put in a good show against the Tigers.

A confident Afghan skipper, Mohammad Nabi was honoured to lead Afghans to their first ever World Cup match and hopes to make it a memorable debut. Like in the last press conference prior to the match between the two sides, Nabi claimed that the pressure was entirely on the Tigers.

"Pressure is not on Afghanistan. Pressure is totally on Bangladesh because we have already beaten them. We will try our best and execute the plan and do all of that at the right time and hopefully a good result will come our way."

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 8

SCAN CEMENT
 HEIDELBERGCEMENT



Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and Nasir Hossain wait for their turns during the Tigers' final net practice session in Canberra yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

THIRD EYE Good luck Tigers

AL-AMIN

The sixth game of this World Cup between hosts New Zealand and Scotland is a study of stark contrast of what had happened in the first five games, where teams batting first put up totals of 300 or more. Monday's match at Dunedin produced a combined two-innings total of 288 runs and that too at the cost of a

staggering 17 wickets. And in that nervy three-wicket win the home side's performance bordered between two extremes. They were extremely clinical with the ball and then were extremely careless while chasing down a paltry Scottish total of 142. It was inexplicable to say the least. There might be one good reason why the Kiwis were in such a mad rush, perhaps they

wanted to better their performance against a team they beat with 212 deliveries to spare in their last meeting in 2008.

Scotland played their hearts out with limited resources to make an impression after Ireland's historic four-wicket win against the once-mighty West Indies the other day. But this is a kind of match fans will forget quickly due to the lack of entertainment value and perhaps will

search for the next menu in the long roster. What's next on the menu? It's Bangladesh versus Afghanistan. While the cricketing fraternity will keep an eye on how Afghanistan perform on the biggest stage, the Tigers' faithful will be glued to their television screens from 9.30am this morning, anticipating a win. Bangladesh may

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 8

GPH GPH ispat

CLEAR MEN
 NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCH
 Bangladesh v Afghanistan
 Time: 9:30am
 Venue: Canberra

THURSDAY'S MATCH
 Zimbabwe v UAE
 Time: 4:00am
 Venue: Nelson

Man of Steel

TRENT BOULT

Scotland's Callum MacLeod and Hamish Gardiner came into the World Cup on the back of some good knocks. While MacLeod was Scotland's highest run-getter in 2014, Gardiner had a good time in the triangular series in Dubai last month. And when

Boult's inswinging deliveries got sent both these batsmen back to their pavilion, the Scots were badly wounded. Had it not been for the half-centuries mid-way through, they would be bundled out sooner. Boult's 2 for 21 broke Scotland early and led to the downfall.

শেকড় থেকে শিখরে

KSRM
 KABIR STEEL SINCE 1984

5 facts

- Bangladesh have never played at a venue other than Cairns or Darwin in Australia
- Afghanistan have played only 10 ODIs against ICC Full Member sides
- Bangladesh's win-loss record is 8-17 in World Cups
- Manuka Oval is known to be full of runs. Just last month, England collected 364 and 391 in two practice one-dayers before the tri-series here. In the second one, the opposition replied with 331
- Afghanistan beat Bangladesh the only time they met them in the ODI format in the Asia Cup in March 2014

Anxious Mashrafe

SPORTS REPORTER from Canberra

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is often referred to as the 'madman' of the team, capable of cheering up and motivating the entire group in a jiffy. In fact, if it wasn't for his injury, many believe that he would have easily had more number of matches as captain than any of his colleagues.

Ahead of the game against Afghanistan, the skipper displayed a similar attitude; relentlessly urging his boys to give it their all during training yesterday. Deep inside though, the 31-year-old was worried. His baby boy, almost a year old, has been diagnosed with typhoid and just like any other father, Mashrafe spent a few anxious moments. So much so, that at one stage he even thought of returning home. He eventually decided to not take any such measures after speaking to a few BCB high-ups.

According to BCB officials, his son was initially admitted to the Central hospital. However, after the BCB came to know of the issue the baby was transferred into Apollo yesterday. According to BCB's sports physician, Debasish Chowdhury, Mashrafe's son is currently in good health.

VISION
 MICROWAVE OVEN

www.rflshop.com

SCOREBOARD

SCOTLAND V NEW ZEALAND

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Coetzee c Elliott b Southee	1/10	0/0		
MacLeod lbw b Boult	0/1	0/0		
Gardiner lbw b Boult	0/1	0/0		
Madhan c McCullum b Anderson	56/79	7/1		
Morrison lbw b Southee	0/1	0/0		
Berrington c Milne b Anderson	50/80	4/1		
Cross c Ronchi b Anderson	14/18	2/0		
Davey not out	11/19	1/0		
Taylor st Ronchi b Vettori	4/6	0/0		
Haq c Taylor b Vettori	0/2	0/0		
Wardlaw lbw b Vettori	0/1	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, w-5)	6			
Total: (All out in 36.2 overs)	142			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-1, 3-12, 4-12, 5-109, 6-117, 7-129, 8-136, 9-142.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southee	8	3	35	2
Boult	6	1	21	2
Milne	7	0	32	0
Vettori	8.2	1	24	3
Elliott	2	0	11	0
Anderson	5	1	18	3

NEW ZEALAND

Batter	R/B	4/6
Guptill c Cross b Wardlaw	17/14	4/0
McCullum c Cross b Davey	15/12	3/0
Williamson c Cross b Davey	38/45	6/0
Taylor c Taylor b Haq	9/14	1/0
Elliott c Cross b Wardlaw	29/31	5/0
Anderson c Wardlaw b Davey	11/16	1/0
Ronchi c Gardiner b Davey	12/10	2/0
Vettori not out	8/4	1/0
Milne not out	1/3	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-5)	6	
Total: (For 7 wickets in 24.5 overs)	146	
Did not bat: Southee, Boult.		
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-48, 3-66, 4-106, 5-117, 6-133, 7-137.		

Result: New Zealand won by 3 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Trent Boult.
Toss: New Zealand.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015

dial 2002 and listen to live commentary

subscription fee: Tk.15+VAT/ 30 days
 IVR response fee: Tk.1/minute (10 sec. pulse)

to activate/deactivate dial 2002 and follow instructions

banglalink

start something new