

**6s**  
**62**  
**4s**  
**348**

**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**

**Tigers stats**

The 114-run stand for the fifth wicket between Shakib and Mushfiqur is the highest Bangladeshi partnership in a World Cup.

The 105-run win is Bangladesh's largest World Cup victory in terms of runs.

Mushfiqur Rahim's 71 is the third highest World Cup score by a Bangladeshi.

This was Bangladesh's ninth World Cup win.

267 is Bangladesh's highest first innings score in a World Cup.

Shakib Al Hasan became the first Bangladeshi to score more than 4000 ODI runs yesterday.



There are a few X-factors in Bangladesh cricket. But the factor Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is something special. Here the Bangladesh captain is seen celebrating one of his two early wickets that effectively dashed debuting Afghanistan's chances of putting up even a fight against the Tigers at the Manuka Oval yesterday. PHOTO: INTERNET

# Braveheart skipper credits teammates

SPORTS REPORTER from Canberra

It may sound a bit cliché if one says Mashrafe Bin Mortaza wears his heart on his sleeves. The way the Bangladesh skipper gives his all when wearing the red and green jersey, coming back time and again from career-threatening injuries, is only testament to his character. So it was hardly a surprise when the Narail Express turned the match decisively in Bangladesh's favour with two wickets in his first two overs.

The Bangladesh skipper arrived at the post-match press conference at Manuka Oval last night as if he was walking out of a routine net session.

"I'm not overexcited at all. We cannot be overzealous by only winning this match," exclaimed the 31-year-old pacer. "It's true that everyone had doubts and we might have had some too which is why we feel good about the win. We made a good start and I hope we will be consistent and everything will go according to plan."

A great opening spell of two for ten in six overs virtually took life out of Afghanistan's tall chase of 268. But the Bangladesh skipper felt his colleagues played as big a part in minimizing

POWERED BY

**ANWAR ISPAT**

www.anwargroup.com

Afghanistan's chances as he did.

"We haven't played much on this type of wicket. So it was important for us to pick the right length, and we have some good quicks like Rubel and Taskin who can bowl at 140 kph. It was always going to affect (the opposition) if they bowled with that pace in the right areas. They have done it today and hopefully they'll do the same in the rest of the matches," hoped Mashrafe.

The Bangladesh skipper also explained the line of thinking behind picking eight batsmen in the eleven.

"In the first practice match, we couldn't score a lot. So just wanted to make sure that we had extra batsman who could bowl," explained Mashrafe, who also played a handy knock of 14 off just eight deliveries to make sure the Tigers posted an imposing total of 267.

The Bangladesh skipper said his side felt confident about winning this pressure-match once they inspected the pitch.

"We obviously haven't played much on this sort of wicket, but it suited us quite well. Once we looked at the wicket, we thought if we could have a good start, we could win this match," explained Mashrafe.

Reactivate your Grameenphone connection with 29 taka recharge and get

**2GB 3G Internet free** (12AM-10AM)

go beyond

For details, visit: www.grameenphone.com

# 'Needed the win badly'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Canberra

Shakib Al Hasan only responded with a smile in reply to whatever question he was asked. The world's number all-rounder, who had achieved yet another milestone by becoming the first Bangladesh player to cross the 4,000-run mark in ODI cricket, walked off with a smile on his face. His teammates, though, said that they didn't even congratulate him for the feat because they know Shakib will make 12,000 runs in his career, if not 15,000.

Nasir Hossain, who was dropped in favour of Sabbir Rahman, was the liveliest in celebration, which only showed the team spirit.

The happiest of the lot was perhaps Mushfiqur Rahim, who had skippered his side's shocking defeat

**SCAN CEMENT**  
**HEIDELBERGCEMENT**

against the same opposition in the Asia Cup last year. Mushfiqur was happy because he, together with Shakib, rescued the side from a precarious position and scored 71 from just 56 deliveries.

"The days are gone for us to play poor cricket under pressure," said the man-of-the-match winner when asked about the pressure ahead of the match. "You cannot buy anything with words; you have to prove things through performance."

"To win matches, you need some outstanding performance and the partnership between me and Shakib was something special. But I also thank the top order batting because they gave us a platform. There is nothing to say about Mashrafe bhai because we all know how good he is," Mushfiqur added.

Mushfiqur admitted that the win was such a relief for them that he made such a drama of taking the bails off when running bail for run out, before taking a victory to applaud the fans' support.

"You could see with that run out; it was really pleasing. It turned into a big match for me since I was the captain when we lost that match (in the Asia Cup). We needed a win badly because on this tour we hadn't won any of our practice matches. It's a great feeling and hopefully we can continue the momentum in the future games," explained Mushfiqur.



# SHAKIB first to 4k

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan became the first Bangladeshi to score 4,000 runs in one-day internationals. He reached the landmark during the World Cup match against Afghanistan in Canberra on Wednesday.

He crossed the line when clipped away a short-of-a-yorker from Aftab Alam wide of short fine-leg for four on way to making 63.

Next in the line to reach the milestone is opening batsman Tamim Iqbal. He has now scored 3,990 runs in 136 ODIs.

MAT	INNS	RUNS	KNOCK	OPPOSITION	VENUE	YEAR
39	38	1000	52	South Africa	Dhaka	2008
72	69	2000	105*	Zimbabwe	Dhaka	2009
109	105	3000	51	Australia	Dhaka	2011
142	136	4000	63	Afghanistan	Canberra	2015

\*DENOTES NOT OUT

**VISION**  
LED Smart TV

09613 737 777  
www.rflshop.com

# SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH V AFGHANISTAN	
BANGLADESH	R/B 4/6
Anamul lbw b Ashraf	29/55 4/0
Tamim c Zazai b Ashraf	19/42 2/0
Soumya lbw b S Zadrans	28/25 3/1
Mahmudullah c Zazai b S Zadrans	23/46 0/0
Shakib b Hassan	63/51 6/1
Mushfiqur c Shenwari b Nabi	71/56 6/1
Sabbir b Hassan	3/8 0/0
Mashrafe b Aftab	14/9 3/0
Mominul run out	3/3 0/0
Rubel not out	0/2 0/0
Taskin b Aftab	1/3 0/0
Extras: (b-3, lb-4, w-6)	13
Total: (All out in 50 overs)	267
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-52, 3-102, 4-119, 5-233, 6-241, 7-247, 8-263, 9-263.	
Bowler	O M R W
Hassan	10 0 61 2
S Zadrans	7 1 20 2
Aftab	9 0 55 2
Ashraf	9 3 32 2
Nabi	9 0 58 1
Ahmadi	4.5 0 32 0
Shenwari	1.1 0 2 0
AFGHANISTAN	R/B 4/6
Ahmadi c & b Mashrafe	1/2 0/0
Zazai lbw b Rubel	1/5 0/0
Mangal c Rubel b Mahmudullah	27/57 1/0
Stanikzai c Mahmudullah b Mashrafe	1/7 0/0
Shenwari run out	42/75 2/0
Nabi c Soumya b Mashrafe	44/43 5/0
N Zadrans lbw b Shakib	17/34 1/0
Ashraf c Sabbir b Shakib	10/15 0/1
Aftab run out	14/12 2/1
Hassan c Anamul b Taskin	0/5 0/0
S Zadrans not out	2/2 0/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-2)	3
Total: (All out in 42.5 overs)	162
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-2, 3-3, 4-65, 5-78, 6-136, 7-136, 8-154, 9-154.	
Bowler	O M R W
Mashrafe	9 2 20 3
Rubel	6 0 27 1
Taskin	7 0 23 1
Shakib	8.5 0 43 2
Mahmudullah	8 1 31 1
Soumya	3 0 13 0
Sabbir	1 0 4 0

**CLEAR**  
MEN  
NOTHING TO HIDE

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

**FRIDAY'S MATCH**  
New Zealand v England  
Time: 7:00am

# Man of Steel

**MUSHFIQUR RAHIM**

The wicketkeeper-keeper batsman got one back yesterday. It was under his leadership that Bangladesh had gone down to Afghanistan last year and it was his brilliant 71 yesterday that brought the Tigers back from the dead. In a tournament where scoring 300 in the first innings has almost become a norm, Bangladesh were struggling at a 119 for 4 in around the 30-over mark. That's when Mushfiqur, through a batting approach which witnessed both caution and aggression, lifted the Tigers out of a hole. This was Mushfiqur's second half-century in a World Cup; the last being his unbeaten 56 against India at the Port of Spain in 2007.

শেখ ড থেকে শিখরে

**KSRM**  
KABIR STEEL SINCE 1984

# THIRD EYE The Mashrafe effect

NAIMUL KARIM

It's a funny game this. Until Tuesday, all that was spoken of was how the Tigers needed to gain mental strength after losing four consecutive warm-up matches in Australia. Following their win yesterday though, social media was filled with posts highlighting Bangladesh's sixth consecutive ODI win and how this was in fact their second longest winning streak.

A quick shift in emotions in this nation's cricketing arena is nothing new. But what it does go on to reiterate is how important yesterday's win was for the Tigers. And by the looks of things, there was one player in the team that wanted this victory more than anybody else.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was a livewire at the Manuka Oval yesterday. There were moments in the game when the ecstatic

Bangladeshi expatriates took a break from their relentless cheering to observe their animated captain.

With the ball he bowled an immaculate line and put the batsmen under pressure right from the get-go. On the field he was busy guiding his younger pacers and frantically gesturing at his fielders. Taskin Ahmed was talked to for bowling that rare wide delivery, while Rubel Hossain received a chest thump after the second wicket; Mashrafe was everywhere.

After losing three wickets the Afghans had begun stitching a partnership that, although didn't look threatening, made the captain restless. The bowling changes came at the rate of knots, a below-par effort on the field was not just frowned upon but shouted at Mashrafe-style. He didn't want to lose control of the game for even a second.

**GPH GPH ispat**

To activate the internet pack of your choice dial \*5000#

Watch today's match on **Gtv** GAZI TELEVISION

To activate, dial \*7055\*1# or visit www.banglalinkmobiletv.com  
Subscription fee: daily pack Tk.10+VAT; weekly pack Tk.30+VAT; monthly pack Tk.50+VAT

**banglalink**  
start something new

Watch cricket on your mobile phone with **fastest 3G** in 64 districts

**banglalink mobile tv**

CC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015