



6s

160

4s

843

WHACK

0

METER

SHAH CEMENT

Most 6s hit by a player

Chris Gayle

West Indies

17

Most 4s hit by a player

T Dilshan

Sri Lanka

24

FACTFILE

- AB de Villiers now holds the record for the fastest 50, fastest 100 and, after yesterday's innings, the fastest 150 in ODIs.
- He scored 150 in 64 balls, crushing Shane Watson's 83-ball record.
- De Villiers and Farhaan Behardien scored 80 runs off 20 balls, the best run-rate for any 50-plus partnership in ODI history.
- De Villiers scored his century in 52 deliveries, the second fastest in the World Cup.
- South Africa's 257-run win is the joint-biggest in World Cup history.
- Their 408 is the highest ODI total in Australia and the second highest in World Cups.
- Jason Holder became the first bowler to concede 100 runs in a 10-over World Cup game.
- South Africa scored 222 runs in the last 15 overs of the innings.

ANNIHILATION: South Africa skipper AB de Villiers hits one of his 25 boundaries during an innings that left the West Indies devastated at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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Even stomach bug couldn't keep him quiet

AFP, Sydney

South Africa captain AB de Villiers was laid low by illness which gave him a sleepless night before he found the perfect cure by hitting a breathtaking 162 not out in Friday's 257-run World Cup rout of the West Indies.

"I had some stomach problems last night, I didn't eat much and had a very rough night. But the doctor gave me an injection and I was on my way," said De Villiers as his team recovered in emphatic style from their 130-run loss to India in Melbourne last time out.

Friday's result was the record-equalling heaviest defeat at the World Cup alongside India's 257-run win over Bermuda.

De Villiers demolished the West Indians with eight sixes and 17 fours and was particularly savage on his counterpart Jason Holder, clouting four sixes off the pace bowler's final over.

"As a team it was a very important win for us tonight," added De Villiers. "It was important for us to step up after the loss to India in Melbourne and show what we're all about as a cricket team.

crushing blow, coming just three days after Chris Gayle became the first man to make a World Cup double century in the win against Zimbabwe.

Holder conceded 104 runs off his 10 overs -- the fifth-most expensive return in all ODI cricket -- before redeeming himself to a degree by top-scoring with 56.

"I thought we did well early in the game with the ball and keeping the run-rate down but then it got away from us," said Holder.

"If you take away his de Villiers innings it is a totally different score but we dropped chances and psychologically chasing 400

is a huge task.

"We have some areas we need to improve on. Going forward we need to take the positives and try to go in with full confidence. We are confident we can make the quarterfinals and we need to play good cricket against India."

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"After Melbourne we had a few meetings, a few good training sessions and got the boys inspired for today."

He added: "I think the credit must go to the guys up front for setting a base. Rilee (Rossouw) inspired me and that affected how I played."

For the West Indies, the defeat was a

Top-order batting biggest concern

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

It is no wonder why Anamul Haque is not Kumar Sangakkara. The Bangladesh opener was gifted as many chances as the Sri Lankan maestro during the two team's respective innings. However, the end result was very different. While Sangakkara made most of those early chances to score an unbeaten 76-ball 105, the Bangladesh opener huffed and puffed to 29 before being dismissed. His technique was severely tested throughout his innings, which was ended by a run-out.

While Anamul's technique was found wanting, the other opener, Tamim Iqbal looked hopelessly out of form -- giving the Bangladesh team management much to worry about, going into next matches.

Bangladesh's bowling effort will also raise few question marks. Apart from Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, the other pacers lacked bite and discipline. Bowling coach Heath Streak would need to get the message through to the young pacers that only generating pace will not be enough to be successful; rather they will need to bowl at the right spots.

However, the main concern must be the batting, and top order batting in particular if Bangladesh are to qualify for the quarterfinals. Former Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam emphasised on the need for an improved performance from the top order in the next matches.

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SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA V WEST INDIES

SOUTH AFRICA	R/B	4/6
De Kock c Russell b Holder	12/19	3/0
Amla lbw b Gayle	65/88	1/1
Du Plessis c Ramdin b Gayle	62/70	3/0
Rossouw c Ramdin b Russell	61/39	6/1
De Villiers not out	162/66	17/8
Miller c Taylor b Russell	20/16	0/0
Behardien not out	10/5	0/1
Extras: (lb-2, w-11, nb-3)	16	
Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs)	408	
Did not bat: Steyn, Abbott, Morkel, Tahir.		
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-145, 3-146, 4-280, 5-328.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	8	1	64	0
Holder	10	2	104	1
Russell	9	0	74	2
Samuels	2	0	14	0
Benn	10	0	79	0
Sammy	7	0	50	0
Gayle	4	0	21	2

WEST INDIES	R/B	4/6
Smith c Miller b Tahir	31/34	4/1
Gayle b Abbott	3/4	0/0
Samuels c De Kock b Abbott	0/9	0/0
Carter c De Villiers b Morkel	10/20	1/0
Ramdin b Tahir	22/47	2/0
Simmons lbw b Tahir	0/2	0/0
Sammy st De Kock b Tahir	5/11	0/0
Russell c Abbott b Tahir	0/3	0/0
Holder c Amla b Steyn	56/48	3/4
Taylor not out	15/18	2/0
Benn c Amla b Morkel	1/3	0/0
Extras: (lb-5, w-3)	8	
Total: (All out in 33.1 overs)	151	
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-16, 3-52, 4-52, 5-53, 6-63, 7-63, 8-108, 9-150.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	7	0	24	1
Abbott	8	0	37	2
Morkel	5.1	0	23	2
Tahir	10	2	45	5
Du Plessis	3	0	17	0

Result: South Africa won by 257 runs.
Player-of-the-match: AB de Villiers.
Toss: South Africa

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AB DE VILLIERS



With records being broken almost every other day in the World Cup, AB de Villiers was expected to join the bandwagon soon; and so he did. With 15 overs to go South Africa were poised around the 180-mark with seven wickets in hand yesterday. At that point they would have been thinking of something around 320, but that's when de Villiers stepped into the picture. It's difficult to name one stroke that he doesn't have in his armoury. From the powerful straight drives and the cross-batted slaps to his switch-hits and his trademark pull towards fine-leg, where he dances outside the off-stump to give a base-ball like thump, they were all put into action yesterday. 162 off 66; all the West Indies could was hold their ground and applaud.

Mashrafe's day-off ruined

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

The Tigers were allowed a day off by the team management yesterday, following their thumping 92-run defeat against Sri Lanka on the previous night. The Tigers, who would be flying off to New Zealand today morning for their next match against Scotland on March 5 in Nelson, mostly spent their time in shopping while a few including Shakib Al Hasan passed their time in a farm house.

However, for captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, the day off meant more pain as he was reportedly involved in a scuffle with a fan. The incident happened took place as the paceman, along with some of his teammates, went to a local mosque in Melbourne to perform the Friday prayers. Right after the prayers a middle-aged Bangladeshi expatriate walked up to him and questioned him about the team's lack of effort.

It was rumoured that Mashrafe got involved in a tussle with the fan, but the Bangladesh skipper vehemently denied the allegation. "Someone called me after the

prayers and I responded to his call, by saying Assalamu Alaikum. Suddenly this gentleman started cursing me and said that we had lost the match against Sri Lanka for not having proper practice. I just told him to mind his language and nothing more happened," said Mashrafe when asked about the incident.

Mashrafe also defended the team management's decision of allowing the players a day off instead of getting them through a fielding drill, especially considering the way they dropped some crucial catches in the match against Sri Lanka.

"As I already said there was no scope for any

excuse for the defeat but dropping catches is part of the game. We lost the match badly because we played poor cricket. Maybe as punishment, a tough fielding drill could have taken place, but we thought that a break would be more helpful as we have enough time before our next game against Scotland," said Mashrafe.

"It's natural that everybody was upset by the missed chances. But I know everybody

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A true athlete

NAIMUL KARIM

Usain Bolt and Roger Federer should be thanking their heavens that AB de Villiers is a cricketer, for had he chosen a slightly different career path during his teenage years, both those legends would have had an extra competitor to deal with.

As exaggerated as the above may sound, it is by no means an overstatement. Just have a glance at de Villiers's childhood sporting records and the questions regarding all the

GPH ispat

unique features—the undying stamina, unlimited power and amazing reflexes-- that the South African brings into the game shall be answered.

As a student in school de Villiers held several athletic records in his region and still holds the record in the 100m dash in South Africa's junior athletics. A true sportsman, the South African tried out several other sports before eventually coming into cricket.

He first tried his hand out at tennis. He was so impressive that Nick Bollettieri--the coach who had a hand in creating

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