

6s 173 4s 897

WHACK O METER

SHAH CEMENT

Most 6s hit by a player **Chris Gayle** West Indies 17

Most 4s hit by a player **B McCullum** New Zealand 28



Australia paceman Mitchell Starc almost turned the match on its head in a low-scoring thriller against New Zealand with a six-wicket burst at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

# Last Kiwis standing

AFP, Auckland  
New Zealand's last pair of Kane Williamson and Trent Boult said their edge-of-the-seat one-wicket World Cup triumph over Australia on Saturday will live in the memory for a long time.

Chasing a modest 152-run target, New Zealand were facing an improbable defeat at 146-9 with number 11 batsman Boult walking in to face the last two deliveries from a rampaging Mitchell Starc who had nearly turned the tables with a career best 6-28.

But Boult survived both balls leaving it to Williamson to hit Pat Cummins for a straight six to bring up the win as a packed 40,000 Eden Park crowd gave them a standing ovation.

The win ensured New Zealand's spot in the quarterfinals with four wins in as many Pool A games.

"I was looking to hit a boundary, ideally a six after the new batsman came in. It was tough so my plan was to hit it and I did," said Williamson, who made 45 not out as New Zealand sealed victory after 23.1 overs.

Boult, who had earlier taken a career best 5-27 which sent Australia crashing to 151, said he was desperate not to let his side down.

"I was pretty pumped up but Kane quickly slowed it down for me, simplified it for me that if I play the two balls then we could move forward."

New Zealand were cruising along with Williamson and Corey Anderson (26) involved in a 52-run stand for the fifth wicket before Starc pushed them back as five wickets fell for just 15 runs.

"I was just trying to keep that total out of my mind, I suppose, and just bat long enough to have a chance of getting across the line," said Williamson.

"I think Australia bowled outstandingly and made it difficult for us. Starc was superb and swung the ball throughout but it was nice to cross the line, it doesn't matter how you do it. We had a scare but it's nice to win."

Williamson said he didn't realise the damage Starc would cause when he took a single in the 23rd over and the Australian dismissed Adam Milne and Tim Southee.

"Every run looked quite significant and with three wickets left I thought it was okay to get a single but obviously it became tough," he said.

VISION MICROWAVE OVEN

09613 737 777 www.vfleshop.com

## SCORECARDS

AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA	R/B	A/B
Finch b Southee	14/7	1/1
Warner lbw b Southee	34/42	2/1
Watson c Southee b Vettori	23/30	2/0
Clarke c Williamson b Boult	12/18	1/0
Smith c Ronchi b Vettori	4/11	0/0
Maxwell b Boult	1/3	0/0
Marsh b Boult	0/2	0/0
Haddin c Taylor b Anderson	43/41	4/2
Johnson c Williamson b Boult	1/7	0/0
Starc b Boult	0/3	0/0
Cummins not out	7/30	1/0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-6)	12	
Total: (All out in 32.2 overs)	151	
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-80, 3-80, 4-95, 5-96, 6-97, 7-104, 8-106, 9-106		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southee	9	0	65	2
Boult	10	3	27	5
Vettori	10	0	41	2
Milne	3	0	6	0
Anderson	0.2	0	6	1

NEW ZEALAND

	R/B	A/B
Guptill c Cummins b Starc	11/14	1/1
McCullum c Starc b Cummins	50/24	7/3
Williamson not out	45/42	5/1
Taylor b Starc	1/2	0/0
Elliott b Starc	0/1	0/0
Anderson c Cummins b Maxwell	26/42	2/1
Ronchi c Haddin b Starc	6/7	0/1
Vettori c Warner b Cummins	2/3	0/0
Milne b Starc	0/2	0/0
Southee b Starc	0/1	0/0
Boult not out	0/1	0/0
Extras: (w-10, nb-1)	11	
Total (For 9 wks in 23.1 overs)	152	
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-78, 3-79, 4-79, 5-131, 6-139, 7-145, 8-146, 9-146		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Johnson	6	1	68	0
Starc	9	0	28	6
Cummins	6.1	0	38	2
Marsh	1	0	11	0
Maxwell	1	0	7	0

Result: New Zealand won by one wicket.  
Player-of-the-match: Trent Boult.  
Toss: Australia.

INDIA V UAE

UAE	R/B	A/B
Arnjad Ali c Dhoni b Kumar	4/12	0/0
Berenger c Dhoni b Yadav	4/9	1/0
Chandran c Raina b Ashwin	4/27	0/0
Khuram Khan c Raina b Ashwin	14/28	1/0
Patil c Dhawan b Ashwin	7/19	1/0
Shaiman Anwar b Yadav	35/49	6/0
Mustafa lbw b Sharma	2/12	0/0
Arnjad Javed c Raina b Jadeja	2/5	0/0
Naveed b Ashwin	6/7	0/1
Tauqir b Jadeja	1/5	0/0
Guruge not out	10/16	1/0
Extras: (lb-4, w-9)	13	
Total: (All out in 31.3 overs)	102	
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-13, 3-28, 4-41, 5-44, 6-52, 7-61, 8-68, 9-71		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	5	0	19	1
Yadav	6.3	2	15	2
Ashwin	10	1	25	4
Sharma	5	1	16	1
Jadeja	5	0	23	2

INDIA

	R/B	A/B
Sharma not out	57/55	10/1
Dhawan c Mustafa b Naveed	14/17	3/0
Kohli not out	33/41	5/0
Extras:	0	
Total: (For 1 wkt in 18.5 overs)	104	
Did not bat: Rahane, Raina, Dhoni, Jadeja, Ashwin, Kumar, Yadav and Sharma		
Fall of wicket: 1-29		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Naveed	5	0	35	1
Guruge	6	1	19	0
Javed	2	0	12	0
Chandran	3	0	17	0
Tauqir	2.5	0	21	0

Result: India won by nine wickets.  
Player-of-the-match: Ravi Ashwin.  
Toss: UAE.

Reactivate your Grameenphone connection with 29 taka recharge and get

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

For details, visit: www.grameenphone.com

CLEAR MEN NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCHES

England v Sri Lanka  
Time: 4:00am  
Venue: Wellington

Pakistan v Zimbabwe  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: Brisbane  
MONDAY  
Rest Day

# 'Horrendous batting'

SMH, Auckland  
Michael Clarke on Saturday night savaged his team's batting as "horrendous" but hailed the performance of Mitchell Starc as genius after the left-arm quick almost pulled off an extraordinary comeback win against New Zealand.

What a game! For most of the afternoon in Auckland, Australia seemed headed for a heavy defeat, their batsmen having fallen in a heap before a packed Eden Park. They were rolled for 151 following their worst ever collapse in one-day internationals.

Starc, however, had other ideas. With a brilliant display he set up the most dramatic of finishes, spoiled only when New Zealand's Kane Williamson snuck the Kiwis home with a six to

clinch the epic World Cup clash with just a wicket to spare.  
Australia will fly out for Perth on Sunday disappointed to have almost certainly conceded top spot in Pool A

SCAN CEMENT HEIDELBERGCEMENT

but that was not the fault of Starc.  
"We were extremely poor, there is no doubt about that," Clarke said of Australia's batsmen, not excusing himself after a poor shot ended his official return from injury in the midst of the capitulation.

"I think credit needs to go to New Zealand bowlers, they bowled really

well, swung the ball nicely and bowled good areas. But our shot selection was very poor and I think our defence more than anything else was an area that was a lot poorer than we would have liked."

New Zealand, at 131 for four, lost 5 wickets for 15 runs in the blink of an eye and, nine down, needed six to win after Starc removed tail-enders Adam Milne and Tim Southee in his final over.

Clarke's decision to take Starc out of the attack after his first six overs and bring back Mitchell Johnson was questioned, including by selector Mark Waugh, who noted on television commentary that Starc should have been kept on.

The captain, however, defended the decision. "It's pretty tough to bowl a 10-over spell... it was more to give him two overs off," Clarke said.

শেকড় থেকে শিখরে

KSRM KABIR STEEL SINCE 1984

Men of Steel

KANE WILLIAMSON

His 45 off 42 has been described as an ice-cool innings. But in all likelihood, Kane Williamson was probably sweating bullets as he watched his colleagues depart one after the other and there was barely any time to recover from that shock. As a result, Williamson decided to finish the game Miandad-style, smashing one with all his might over mid-on with a wicket to go. It was all or nothing at that moment and he took the risk at the appropriate time. With Pat Cummins bowling, Williamson knew that he had to finish the game in that over. Letting the dangerous Mitchell Starc have a go in the next over at the number 11 batsman would have been suicidal.

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

As opposed to the norm of the competition thus far, the UAE were outclassed, not by a pace-heavy attack, but a brilliant spinner. Ashwin's well-disguised doosras and flighted deliveries left the men from the Middle East in a rut, from where they failed to recover from throughout the match. Things are looking slightly better for the spinners. On Friday, Imran Tahir got a five-wicket haul and yesterday Ashwin ran through UAE's middle order. It may be a good sign for the sub-continental teams who may be encouraged to introduce more spinners into the attack.

# Tigers reach Nelson

SPORTS REPORTER from Nelson  
For the first time in the tour the Tigers have ventured outside Australia as Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and co reached Nelson in New Zealand yesterday morning. They will be facing Scotland at the Saxton Oval here this Thursday.

An extremely small venue compared to the grounds that the Tigers played in Australia; the Oval has a capacity of around 5000. Two matches have been played here during the World Cup and both of them have witnessed high-scoring games.

Ireland chased down West Indies's 304 while Zimbabwe came back from the brink to down the United Arab Emirates after the men from the Gulf posted 285

The one aspect that can perhaps encourage Bangladesh is that the slower bowlers have done well at Nelson in the last two games. Ireland's slow left-arter George Dockrell scalped figures of 3 for 50 against the West Indies; a performance that pegged back the men from the Caribbean. UAE and Zimbabwe depended on their spinners as well during their encounter.

As opposed to their traditional strategy, the Tigers are yet to play a specialist spinner in the side apart from Shakib Al Hasan. They have got two slow left-armers in Taijul Islam and Arafat Sunny in their squad.

After the thumping against Sri Lanka last Thursday, there will be a number of answers that the Tigers would be looking for. The first thing that they will need to address is their fielding which was below-par even by Bangladesh's standards. The missed opportunities on the field hurt them badly.

The other issue that they will need to discuss is whether they actually need eight batsmen in the side. At the moment, every batsman in the team seems to have a comfortable position except for Mominul Haque, who has been juggled around the batting order; something that has clearly affected his confidence levels.

Bangladesh's opening pair will be another concern that the team management will need to discuss.

Tamim Iqbal's forward defence lacked rigidity, while Anamul Haque seemed like a nervous wreck in his last game. From dropping catches and missing run-outs to causing mid-pitch mix-ups, the batsman was nowhere near his groove against Sri Lanka.

If they want to keep their hopes of a quarter-final berth alive, they will have to win the game against Scotland. Bangladesh are currently placed third in the Pool A with three points.

THIRD EYE

# Slobberknocker at Eden Park

SAKEB SUBHAN  
The atmosphere at Auckland's Eden Park as Australia and New Zealand prepared to face off for their group match was very much like a prize fight, and legitimately so. Here were the two co-hosts, the two pre-tournament favourites, each led by two of the most aggressive leaders in world cricket (Michael Clarke taking the Australian reins after an injury-forced absence). The match started like a boxing bout too; there was desperation to deliver the knockout blow early in the exchange as it seemed that the full 12 rounds would be too much of a stretch.

Too desperate perhaps, especially on the part of Australia. David Warner and Aaron Finch threw their bats at everything and plundered 24 off the first two overs. In the third over Finch hit Tim Southee for a six first ball, but in an illustration of New Zealand's attacking mindset that does not cow down under fire, Southee bowled a similarly overpitched delivery next ball and a hint of in-swing defeated the batsman's drive and hit timber. But even though Trent Boult bowled economically, Southee leaked runs as Warner and Shane Watson took the score to 50 in the sixth over.

Then came the second of New Zealand's three-punch attack as Daniel Vettori was brought on. It was a risky move with Eden

Park's short boundaries and two marauding batsmen, but Vettori's supreme nous tied down and frustrated the Australians and yielded the wicket of Watson with the score on 80. The very next ball, Southee bowled a beauty to David Warner and trapped him in front. Having bowled five overs for 24 in the opening burst, Boult - who seemed to add a couple of yards of pace for this game - came back and delivered the knockout blow by taking five wickets for one run in his next three overs, including the key wicket of Clarke.

If there has been one criticism of Australia over the last year and a half or so, it is their unwillingness to graft when in trouble, so the focus here was on frustrating the Australians and having the fielders in place when they lashed

out. Boult bowled at a high pace and kept a tight line. For Clarke, McCullum kept two short covers only three or four yards apart, knowing his penchant to drive on the up. Four dot balls produced such a drive and it was gleefully gobbled up by the straighter of the two men.

And then there was McCullum, whose 24-ball 50 seemed to decide the contest. But this was a prize fight, and Australia had the firepower - three bowlers capable of clocking 150 kph - to make a match of it.

It was Mitchell Starc who almost spoilt the day for a full house at Eden Park. He first

GPH GPH ispat

LOVE IS PLAY

special rate for special friend

half paisa/second 24 hours

to set special Fnf dial: \*166\*7\*number#

banglalink

start something new

for details: 77662 (free) | banglalink.com.bd | facebook.com/banglalinkmela