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Shakib Al Hasan (R) needs to excel both with the bat and ball against Scotland to reclaim his status as the world's top ODI all-rounder.

PHOTO: BCB

Shakib seeks momentum

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

Three matches down and Bangladesh are yet to witness a Shakib Al Hasan special. While he did score a match-turning half-century against Afghanistan, many reckon that the best is yet to come. However, things haven't been easy for the left-hander.

He has barely found turn in the two venues Bangladesh played in and with the bat he comes down the order—an issue that he played down during yesterday's pre-match press conference at the Saxton oval. Despite all those factors, Shakib depicted a typically confident approach.

"We practiced like how we always did. Before the Sri Lanka game we fielded well. So some games may go for you while some against. It's a part of cricket, but we are trying to improve everyday," said Shakib in response to a question regarding Bangladesh's training sessions.

If Bangladesh go on to beat Scotland, they will end up getting a total of five points. While the last few days have witnessed media houses and

fans discussing the possibility of a scenario where five points would be enough to take the Tigers through to the quarter finals—provided there are major upsets—Shakib wasn't bothered about any of that.

"The calculation is very simple. If we win two out of three matches we go the quarters. There's no need to do any other math. So we are getting prepared for that task," said Shakib.

"If we win this match we will get

Shane Jurgensen as a consultant just for this game. Shakib however reckoned that the move wouldn't make much of a difference.

"In world cricket everyone knows about everyone because there are so many games and everyone watches the games on TV. So there are lots of analyses. Everybody knows everybody. If planning was everything then everyone would have just planned and not played on the ground. I believe what we can do on the day is more important," a confident Shakib believed.

Spinners were amidst the wickets in the last two matches that were played at the Saxton Oval. However, going by Shakib's statement it's still uncertain if Bangladesh will play an extra slow bowler in the game.

"Whether spinners will get a lot of help on this wicket is a question mark. If it is helpful then our spinners may come in action. But in the matches we played, we didn't get any assistance from spinners. So I think the responsibility is more on the pacers," explained Shakib.



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momentum. Everyone will have a positive mindset; plus those who do well will get confidence. So from that aspect the match is important," he added.

The Scots have left no stones unturned with regards to their preparation for this match. They have even hired Bangladesh's former coach

Scots' plan for spinners

SPORTS REPORTER from Nelson

Cricket may not be as popular as football and rugby in Scotland but a win in the World Cup will definitely make a stir. And it will be more significant for them if it comes against a Test nation. So when they take on Bangladesh in tomorrow's ICC World Cup group match at the Saxton Oval, they will be looking to make history.

They are not too familiar with each other as they have only played three ODIs and one T20 International. Scotland lost all three ODIs against Bangladesh but their last memory against the Tigers was a sweeter one as they beat the latter by 34 runs in the shortest format of the game in July 2012 courtesy of a hundred from Richie Berrington, who will be opening the game for the Scots on Thursday.

Despite the good memories Scottish skipper Preston Mommsen remained cautious. "We have good memories playing against

Bangladesh. But this is a different ball game playing fifty over cricket and we know that they are a strong team. They have some strong individuals and some quality players and match winners.



PRESTON MOMMSEN

"It's not going to be any easy game for us and we prepared well. We have had a good break after the last three games in the World Cup. The boys have come back fresh and we are

looking forward to Thursday," said Mommsen.

With Scots denied their first World Cup win by inches in the last game against Afghanistan, they will hope they can cross the line this time.

"Playing in the World Cup is huge for us as we have never beaten a full member nation. This gives us another big opportunity to win a game. That's a huge goal for the Scotland team to get that first win against a full member nation. So it's a very important fixture for us.

"A win could do a huge amount for our team and cricket back home in Scotland and for all our supporters," he explained.

Handling Bangladesh's spin bowlers will be vital for the Scottish batsmen, who are not as experienced against slow bowlers. But Mommsen stated that they had worked out a plan against the Bangladesh spin attack. He believes that it's an advantage that they don't know each other very well.

Kapali scores a double

SPORTS REPORTER



Alok Kapali rolled back the years in Fatullah yesterday by notching a double century on the second day of the sixth round of the National Cricket League yesterday. Accompanied by a century from the veteran Rajin Saleh, the pair took Sylhet to an extremely strong position against Chittagong before declaring.

Sylhet declared at 507 for 8 and then had just enough time to scalp one Chittagong wicket before stumps yesterday.

The clash between league leaders Rangpur and reigning champion Dhaka is headed for an intense finish

at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. After bundling out Dhaka for 335, Rangpur lost five wickets for 231 runs. Having slipped to a 127 for 5, Rangpur would have had it worse had it not been for a timely partnership for the sixth wicket between Dhiman Ghosh and Ariful Haque. Both of them scored unbeaten half-centuries to take bring them back in the game.

At ground number two at the BKSP, Shohag Gazi claimed yet another five-wicket haul to bring some balance in the game between Barisal and Rajshahi. After Barisal were bundled out for 235, Rajshahi were restricted to 247. After the exchange, Barisal lost two wickets in their second innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: 235 and 59 for 2 (Shahriar 34; Sanjamul 1-7, Muktar 1-14) v **RAJSHAHI:** 247 all out in 84.2 overs (Tareq 65 not out, Junaid 58; Shohag 5-106, Kamrul 3-64)

KHULNA: 416 all out in 114.2 overs (Mehedi 140, Ziaur 79; Tushar 69; Sharif 3-116, Abu 2-55) v **DHAKA METRO:** 186 for 3 (Shamsur 64, Saykat 61; Razzak 2-79, Al-Amin 1-28)

SYLHET: 507 for 8 dec (Alok 211 not out, Rajin 111; Younus 3-152) v **CHITTAGONG:** 45 for 1 (Abdullah 25 not out, Nafees 16 not out; Ahmed 1-14)

DHAKA: 335 all out in 103.2 overs (Rakibul 130, Jony 90; Shubashish 4-61) v **RANGPUR:** 231 for 5 (Dhiman 67 not out, Ariful 51 not out; Shahadat 2-53)

POINTS TABLE

Pool A						
	M	W	L	D	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	4	4	0	0	8	+3.589
Sri Lanka	4	3	1	0	6	+0.128
Bangladesh	3	1	1	1	3	+0.287
Australia	3	1	1	1	3	-0.305
Pool B						
Afghanistan	3	1	2	0	2	-0.760
England	4	1	3	0	2	-1.201
Scotland	3	0	3	0	0	-1.735
India	3	3	0	0	6	+2.630
South Africa	4	3	1	0	6	+1.950
West Indies	4	2	2	0	4	-0.313
Ireland	3	2	1	0	4	-1.137
Zimbabwe	4	1	3	0	2	-0.723
Pakistan	3	1	2	0	2	-1.373
UAE	3	0	3	0	0	-1.326

Note: Top four in each group qualify for quarter-finals.

Moin faces no further action

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's chief selector Moin Khan will not face further disciplinary action after being sent home from the World Cup for visiting a casino on the eve of a crucial clash, the country's cricket chief said Tuesday.

Moin said he had gone to the casino in the New Zealand city of Christchurch for dinner with friends and family. But he apologised after his actions offended cricket fans in a country where gambling is viewed as taboo.

Speaking to reporters in Lahore Tuesday, Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan said the matter had been investigated and no further action would be taken against Moin.

"He has admitted his fault. The matter is now closed," Shaharyar said.

Not many fans due in Nelson

SPORTS REPORTER from Nelson

The Bangladesh cricket team has received a warm reception from the Bangladeshi expatriates since their arrival in Australia. In Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, virtually everywhere; the Tigers saw webs of red and green.

Their arrival stirred all the local Bangladeshi fans and they not only poured into the stadiums, but also visited team hotels to meet their favourite cricketers for pictures and autographs.

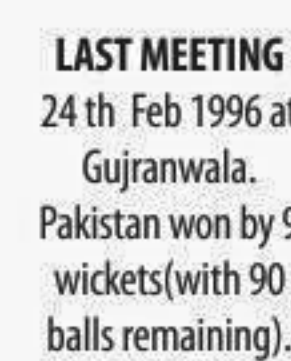
However, Nelson provided a different experience. Not a single supporter came to meet the Tigers, perhaps a welcome retreat for the team, who have been swarmed lately. But the apparent lack of a Bengal community in the city means that it will be unlikely for the Tigers to receive the support at the Saxton Oval when they take on Scotland, if the supporters from other cities do not make the trip.

The large contingent of the Bangladesh media has been the sole source which is making the Tigers feel at ease, over 7000km from home.

Bangladesh's all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan however welcomed the serene environment, saying that he is not only enjoying the calm and quiet city, but also the overall atmosphere.

INFO ZONE

PAKISTAN vs UAE



LAST MEETING
 24 Feb 1996 at Gujranwala. Pakistan won by 9 wickets (with 90 balls remaining).

AUSTRALIA vs AFGANISTAN



KEY PLAYERS



SHAHID AFRIDI

23.52
 116.67
 4.62
 39
 6
 124
 7998 / 393
 0*80/53



AMJAD JAVED

BAT AVG 20.00
 STRIKE RATE 102.56
 ECO RATE 6.00
 50S 0
 100S 0
 HS 42
 80 / 6
 RUNS/WICKETS 2 & 0/12



MITCHELL STARC

19.89
 35
 24.1
 4.94
 69
 6/28
 5
 0 & 6/28



SHAPOOR ZADRAN

BOWL AVG 31.63
 INNS 33
 STRIKE RATE 42.7
 ECO RATE 4.44
 WICKETS 36
 BEST FIGURES 4/24
 5W 0
 LAST MATCH 12* & 4/38

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FAN ZONE



South African fans celebrate their victory while the Irish enjoy their time at the Manuka Oval yesterday.



Eusebius McKaiser: This is my favourite day at the office! This is my favourite Proteas batting line up in years. Imagine a team so strong De Villiers is allowed a bad day at the office?! Roger Oldridge: Amla and DuPlessis obviously decided they didn't want to let de Villiers have all the fun again.