Pakistan opener Ahmed Shehzad negotiates one on his way to scoring 93 runs which helped Pakistan to a 129-run win over UAE at McLean Park in Napier yesterday.

PHOTO:





TODAY'S MATCH

Bangladesh v Scotland Time: 4:00am

Venue: Nelson FRIDAY'S MATCH India v West Indies

Time: 12:30pm Venue: Perth

Need to beat SA: Waqar

AFP, Napier

Pakistan coach Wagar Younis Wednesday targeted big-hitting South Africa, saying his team must beat a strong outfit to prove they belong at the World Cup. They now play South

Africa in Auckland on Saturday in a crunch match in which their qualification for the quarterfinals will largely depend. Waqar said the two wins

after two losses gave the team much-needed confidence.

"Look it [win] definitely changed the body language of the players because a win always make you feel comfortable and confident, but I still feel that we need to win against a bigger team like South Africa to tell the world that we are around," said Wagar.

Waqar agreed Pakistan were not looking as commanding as South Africa who have posted back-to-back 400-plus totals in their last two wins.

SCAN CEMENT

"Maybe you might be thinking that we are not playing well but we are missing two of our key players," said Wagar of Saeed Ajmal and Mohammad Hafeez -- both suspended for illegal bowling actions.

Hafeez also injured his calf before the World Cup and returned home to be replaced by Nasir Jamshed.

"The tournament will get tougher and tougher and we should be ready for that," added Waqar.

"Of course we can, we have done it in the past, it's not asking too much and we have beaten South Africa in South Africa [in late 2013]."

Waqar, under whom Pakistan finished as semifinalists at the 2011 World Cup, said his team was capable of picking up steam.

"I think the crucial game will be against South Africa not only for qualifying but also for a morale booster. We need to beat a top team to get our confidence back."

Pakistan beat **UAE** clinically

65

232

45

WHACK

METER

SHAH

CEMENT

AFP, Napier

Pakistan continued their revival in the World Cup with a professional batting and bowling performance in a 129-run win against United Arab Emirates in Napier on Wednesday.

Opener Ahmed Shehzad fell seven short of his maiden World Cup hundred while Haris Sohail (70) and skipper Misbahul Haq chipped in with 65 which helped Pakistan to post a big 339-6 on a flat McLean Park pitch.

They then restricted the UAE to 210-8 in their 50 overs with Shaiman Anwar continuing his brilliant form with the bat by scoring 62.

The win gives Pakistan four points in as many games as they continued their fight for a place in the quarterfinals.

"That was a much needed win for us. We won by a margin so we can relax now. We have a good net run rate now also,' said Misbah.

UAE captain Mohammad Tauqir admitted chasing such a huge score was always going to be beyond them.

"340 was a big total for us, but we batted 50 overs and we are happy with this effort. Anwar is very confident and in great form," said Tauqir.

A required rate of six-plus an over was always beyond UAE's reach but after losing their first three wickets with just 25 on the board -- two to paceman Sohail Khan -- Anwar and Khurram Khan took the fight to the Pakistan bowlers adding 83 for the fourth wicket.

Anwar hit four boundaries and two sixes during his 88ball knock and with 270 runs in four matches became the top run-getter in the tournament.

Khurram hit three fours and a six off 54 deliveries.

Pakistan's bowling was hampered by the absence of spearhead Mohammad Irfan who hurt his hip during a fall in the field and could bowl only three overs.

The team said Irfan's injury was not serious and he was held back as precaution.

Wahab Riaz, Sohail and Shahid Afridi took two wickets

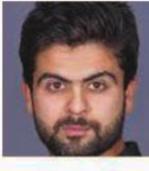
Shehzad and Haris restored Pakistan during their second wicket stand of 160 after they lost out of form Nasir Jamshed for four in the fourth over.

Pakistan next play South Africa in Auckland on March 7 while UAE face South Africa in Wellington on March 12.



শেকড় থেকে শিখরে Men of Steel





Pakistani fans have long believed that young Ahmed Shehzad could well be the solution to their toporder batting stumbles. The 23-yearold has gradually gone on to become Pakistan's most dependable cricketer at the

top. It therefore let many down when he failed to score in the first few games of the World Cup. While he began well against India, he had scores of 1 and 0 against the West Indies and Zimbabwe respectively. Yesterday's composed 93 against the UAE though could be the start of a new chapter for the talented batsman in the tournament, and it's something that Pakistan are in dire need of at the moment.



DAVID WARNER

With free-stroking batsmen breaking records and producing matchchanging innings, how could David Warner be left out? His hands were itching for a big one; there's no

doubt about that. He ended the pre-World Cup games in style by hammering a century against India. However, ever since he struggled to play a big one despite getting starts. Yesterday though was different. He went all guns blazing even though Australia had lost an early wicket. With five sixes and 19 fours he may have finished on a 178 off 133 balls; but for a brief period he looked set to break the 200-barrier. In fact he would have had he chosen to eke out the singles; instead he went for the big hits.

'Viv Anwar Richards'

AFP, Napier

United Arab Emirates captain Mohammed Tauqir found a positive in his team's 129-run defeat against Pakistan at the World Cup in Napier on Wednesday -- his shining star Shaiman Anwar.

Anwar was born in Sialkot in Pakistan before migrating to the UAE.

Tauqir said Anwar is nicknamed "Viv Richards" after the West Indian great

"I think he's a brilliant batsman," said Tauqir of Anwar who had scores of 67, 106 and 35 in previous games.

"He's a very, very confident individual. I'm very, very happy for him. He's doing very well for himself and the team. He's such a confident individual that we call him Sir Viv in the dressing room."

Anwar became the highest run-getter in the tournament with 270, two ahead of Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara's 268 and West Indian Chris Gayle's 258.

Meanwhile, Tauqir said his team's fielding let them

down against Pakistan. "I think the fielding was below the mark, we dropped a few catches," said Tauqir of crucial dropped chances off Pakistani opener Ahmed Shehzad on eight and 11.

THIRD EYE A batsman's game

GPH ispat

ATIQUE ANAM

Glenn Maxwell's innings against Afghanistan yesterday could be a classic example to illustrate how more and more cricket is evolving into a batsman's game.

The outrageously talented allrounder came to the crease in the 38th over, the third of the batting Powerplay. He reverse-swept the second ball over point for a boundary, curved one over long on for a six in the next over from Dawlat Zadran, and two overs later, reverse-flicked a 140kph delivery from Shapoor Zadran over the third man boundary. The most outrageous shot, though, came in

the 45th over when he flicked

Shapoor over square leg, with a

minimalist movement of the body.

By the time Maxwell departed, he

had added 88 runs in 39 deliveries,

28 of which scoring shots, includ-

ing six boundaries and seven maxi-

to the skill-set of the batsman, there

is no denying that factors and

changes in rules have also played a

In International Cricket Council's

endless endeavour to make the game more television friendly (read batsman friendly), a number of new rules were introduced after the last World Cup. The most significant of those changes was reducing the number of fielders allowed outside the 30yard circle (except for the two Powerplay blocks when only two and three fielders are allowed outside the ring respectively) from five to four. The other change -although on first thought may seem a bowling-friendly move, but turns out to be a batting-friendly one on further analysis - is the use of two new balls from two ends. What these two changes do in combination is that it sort of discourages the

> pinch-hitting approach at the start of the innings, but more than compensates for that by allowing more

opportunities to score as the innings progresses. How?

The two new balls wear off less than one would; meaning that the balls remain harder to hit and offer less reverse swing at the death.

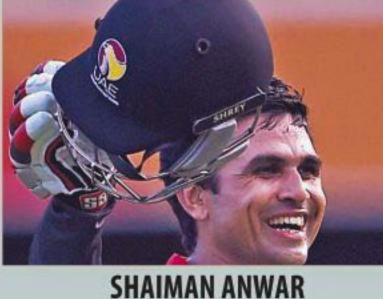
Unless the bowler produces swing in the air, the batting friendly Now as much as these shots owe wickets at use give the bowlers less assistance off the pitch. And the longer the innings progresses, it becomes easy pickings for batsmen. conducive role in manufacturing Hence most teams try to lay a solid platform in the mandatory SEE PAGE S-4 COL 1



SHAHID AFRIDI

Shahid Afridi became the second player to score 8000 runs and pick up 300 wickets in ODIs after Sanath Jayasuriya.

The game against the UAE on Wednesday was Afridi's 499th International match, equalling Inzamam UI-Haq's record for most appearances.



UAE's 35-year-old Shaiman Anwar surpassed Kumar

Sangakkara's tally of 268 runs in the World Cup yesterday, with his 62 runs off 88 deliveries taking him to 270 overall. He is now the leading run-getter at this World

67.50

270

This was the first game in the history of ODI cricket that featured 40+ aged captains from both sides. Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq turned 40 in May last year, while his counterpart Mohammad Tauqir celebrated his 43rd birthday earlier this year.

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Most 6s hit by a player

Chris Gayle

West Indies

Most 4s hit by a player

K Sangakkara

Sri Lanka

SCORECARDS

PAKISTAN V UAE

R/B 4/6 PAKISTAN Jamshed c Khurram b Guruge 4/12 0/0 Shehzad run out 93/105 8/1 70/83 5/1 Haris c Anwar b Naveed 45/31 4/2 Magsood c Mustafa b Guruge Misbah c Mustafa b Guruge 65/49 4/2 19/13 1/1 Akmal c Amjad b Guruge 21/7 1/2 Afridi not out 6/1 0/1 Riaz not out

Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) Did not bat: Sohail, Rahat, Irfan. Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-170, 3-176, 4-251, 5-312, 6-312.

Extras: (lb-3, w-12, nb-1)

Bowler Naveed Guruge Khurram Chandran Mustafa R/B 4/6 14/30 2/0 Amjad b Rahat Berenger c Akmal b Sohail 2/13 0/0 0/11 0/0 Chandran c Akmal b Sohail 43/54 3/1 Khurram c Riaz b Magsood 62/88 4/2 Anwar c Jamshed b Afridi 36/68 2/0 Patil b Riaz 0/2 0/0 Mustafa c Shehzad b Afridi Javed c Sohail b Riaz 40/33 5/2 0/0 0/0 Naveed not out 0/1 0/0 Taugir not out Extras: (lb-1, w-12) Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs)

Did not bat: Guruge Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-19, 3-25, 4-108, 5-140, 6-140, 7-208, 8-210.

Bowler Magsood

Result: Pakistan won by 129 runs Player-of-the-match: Ahmed Shehzad. Toss: UAE

AUSTRALIA V AFGHANISTAN AUSTRALIA

R/B 4/6 Warner c Nabi b Shapoor 178/133 19/5 Finch c Mangal b Dawlat Smith c Najibullah b Shapoor 95/98 8/1 Maxwell c Nabi b Dawlat 88/39 6/7 Faulkner b Hassan 7/6 1/0 8/9 0/0 Marsh c Najibullah b Mangal

20/9 2/1 Haddin not out Extras: (b-2, lb-5, w-7, nb-3) Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 417 Did not bat: Clarke, Johnson, Starc, Hazlewood.

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-274, 3-339, 4-382, 5-390, 6-417. Bowler

Dawlat Shapoor Shenwari Ahmadi Mangal **AFGHANISTAN** R/B 4/6 Ahmadi c Clarke b Hazlewood 13/24 1/0 12/19 0/0 Ghani c Faulkner b Johnson 33/35 2/2 4/10 0/0

Mangal c Finch b Johnson Stanikzai c Smith b Johnson 17/31 2/0 Shenwari c Johnson b Clarke 2/10 0/0 Nabi c Clarke b Maxwell Najibullah b Starc 24/31 1/1 Zazai c Haddin b Hazlewood 10/40 0/0 Dawlat b Starc Hassan c Warner b Johnson 7/18 0/0

0/4 0/0

0/4 0/0 Shapoor not out Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-10, nb-1) Total: (All out in 37.3 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-32, 3-46, 4-94, 5-94, 6-103, 7-131, 8-131, 9-140. Bowler

Hazlewood Johnson Clarke Faulkner Result: Australia won by 275 runs.

Player-of-the-match: David Warner. Toss: Afghanistan





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