

## Kohli, problem go hand in hand

REUTERS, Mumbai

Virat Kohli has delighted Indian fans with his exploits in the middle but reports of an ugly spat with a journalist at the World Cup will only enhance his reputation within the press corps of being volatile and tetchy.

As the team's media manager moved quickly to limit the damage of an embarrassing encounter involving India's Test skipper, a contradictory view of events in Perth was emerging from the nation's cricket journalists.

The incident took place at the Murdoch Oval, where India were training ahead of Friday's Pool B match against the West Indies at the WACA.

After finishing his net session, the 26-year-old batsman started swearing at an Indian national daily reporter over a story about the cricketer's private life, according to reports from journalists covering the World Cup.

Kohli, currently India's best batsman across all formats, later realised it was a case of mistaken identity and apologised to the target of his abuse through another journalist.

"There was a misunderstanding and no abusive language was used, Virat has spoken to the concerned gentlemen immediately and that ends the matter," the team's media manager RN Baba said in a statement on Wednesday.

In a column published in the Hindustan Times, the journalist subjected to Kohli's tirade said he was still in "shock".

"Go and tell him that he is an international player and he should learn how to behave," Jasvinder Sidhu told the intermediary to inform Kohli after receiving the apology.

"How can he abuse and intimidate someone?"



Australia opener David Warner smashes one on way to 178 off just 133 balls against Afghanistan at the WACA in Perth yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



## Oz break records in Afghan rout

AFP, Perth

Australia hit the highest World Cup score in tournament history on Wednesday as they thrashed Afghanistan by a record 275 runs, a result which was also the greatest winning margin in tournament history.

The home team made 417-6 at the WACA led by opener David Warner's 178-run blitz, his fourth one-day international century and his country's highest individual World Cup score as the four-time champions went past the previous best of 413-5 made by India against Bermuda in 2007.

It was the third 400-plus total at this World Cup after South Africa twice went through the barrier.

In reply, Afghanistan could manage just 142 from 37.3 overs, although Nawroz Mangal, who top-scored with 33, gave their smattering of fans at the ground something to cheer about when he hit Mitchell Marsh for successive sixes.

Johnson did much of the damage to claim 4-22 from 7.3 overs. Fellow left-armer

Mitchell Starc continued his amazing vein of World Cup form with 2-18 and has 10 wickets so far at just 9.3 runs apiece.

Australia were sent in to bat and the decision was greeted by a chorus of cheers from the crowd.

There was a surprise at the toss, with experienced all-rounder Shane Watson dropped to allow James Faulkner to return after a side strain, but the onslaught that followed was extremely predictable. Warner led the way and accelerated markedly after reaching three figures from 92 balls.

Dropped on 114, the left-hander seemed set to compound Watson's misery by passing his Australian ODI record of 185 not out against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 2011 only to sky a delivery to mid-on from the bowling of Shapoor Zadran (2-89).

Australia face Sri Lanka at the SCG in their next match on Sunday, while things don't get any easier for Afghanistan as they face unbeaten New Zealand on the same day at Napier in a bid to add to their lone win against Scotland.

## Mark feels for Pakistan Clarke awaits an ODI triple ton

AFP, Napier

Former opener Mark Richardson, part of the New Zealand squad which abandoned their tour of Pakistan after a bomb blast in 2002, said Wednesday he felt sorry that the country has become a cricket no-go zone.

New Zealand flew back home at the start of the second and final Test in Karachi on May 8, 2002, after a blast close to their hotel killed 13 French naval staff.

"The over-riding memories are sad ones when the bomb went off in Karachi on the morning of the game," Richardson, 43, told AFP.

"We had security concerns but we had started very comfortably. We had visited a fast food restaurant in Karachi and we were feeling very comfortable and then 'kaboom' and it was frightening and unfortunately we were on the plane back home later that day.

"It was a sad end," remembered Richardson, who played 43 Tests and four one-day internationals.

"We felt for our hosts, it wasn't like a daily occurrence. They were as shocked and as freaked out as we were. You feel for Pakistan."

Richardson remembered the destruction

and the panic the bomb caused.

"It was very dusty, the glass doors in my room caved in. Luckily I was in the bathroom and I had another wall protecting me so I didn't get hurt by glass. There was damage to the hotel even though we were some way away from the blast. People lost their lives which was tragic.

"There was shrapnel flying over our hotel from 100-150 metres, the power of the blast was frightening. Our bus was due to go in about five minutes and had the blast been five minutes later, our bus would have gone straight through that zone. We were lucky with the timing."

That was the beginning of the end for international cricket in Pakistan as security in the country deteriorated.

Tuesday marked the sixth anniversary of the militant attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus, which killed eight people and left seven Sri Lankan players injured.

Those brazen attacks suspended all international cricket in Pakistan, forcing the national team to play their home games in the United Arab Emirates.

Richardson said Pakistan is an important cricketing nation.

AFP, Perth

Australia captain Michael Clarke says it is possible a batsman will crack the 300-run barrier in one-day international cricket.

Clarke was speaking after his side demolished Afghanistan by a World Cup record 275 runs on Wednesday at the WACA Ground, led by a punishing David Warner century.

The left-handed opener belted 178 from 133 balls in the Australian innings of 417 for six, falling when the chance to become the fifth batsman to score an ODI double century beckoned.

Indian Rohit Sharma holds the



record for the highest individual with 264 against Sri Lanka at Kolkata last November, while Chris Gayle scored 215 earlier in the World Cup for the West Indies.

All the individual scores of 200 have been made since 2010 and Clarke said it was no longer unthinkable that a bats-

man could make 300 in a 50-over game.

He said there were a handful of batsman who were capable of reaching what was once an unimaginable milestone.

"Someone like Davey, or Chris Gayle or AB de Villiers... on a smaller ground I think they possibly could," he said.

"You probably have to open the batting so you have the full 50 overs."

"In this game at the moment who knows, we are seeing so many different shots, different deliveries, so much power."

"There is handful of players round the world who probably could do it."

### BIGGEST ODI WINS BY RUNS

Margin	Team	Opponents	Venue	Date
290	New Zealand	Ireland	Aberdeen	Jul 01 2008
275	Aus	Afghanistan (WC)	Perth	Mar 04 2015
272	South Africa	Zimbabwe	Benoni	Oct 22 2010
258	South Africa	Sri Lanka	Paarl	Jan 11 2012
257	India	Bermuda	Port-of-Spain	Mar 19 2007

### HIGHEST WC TEAM TOTALS

Score	Team	Opponents	Venue	Date
417-6	Australia	Afghanistan	Perth	Mar 04 2015
413-5	India	Bermuda	Port-of-Spain	Mar 19 2007
411-4	South Africa	Ireland	Canberra	Mar 03 2015
408-5	South Africa	West Indies	Sydney	Feb 27 2015
398-5	Sri Lanka	Kenya	Kandy	Mar 06 1996

## A barren day in NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

The staple of the National Cricket League so far has been the barrage of centuries that have been hit everyday. Whether it was Rony Talukder notching up one century after another or Alok Kapali's double-ton, an illustrious batting display was almost guaranteed every single day. Yesterday however, the winds shifted direction.

As rain poured across four venues, the dampness was evident, even in the batsmen's performances. Barisal started their innings against Rajshahi at the BKSP on 59 for two. Al-Amin was the highlight, blasting his way to a run-a-ball 67, smashing 11 fours and a six after Mosaddek Hossain added 88. Barisal ended the day at 338 for seven, with three players reaching 50.

At Fatullah, chasing Sylhet's mammoth total of 507 that prospered on Kapali's unbeaten 211, Chittagong stumbled after resuming the third day on 45 for one. None of their players could make any noticeable contributions as they limped to 157 for six at the end of the day with a

follow-on looming.

Away at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Rangpur began the day on 231-5 but managed to add only 70 runs before being bowled out by Dhaka. Dhaka's openers Rony Talukder and Abul Mazid, who scored tons of runs in the first few rounds, failed again after no show in the first innings. Mazid departed for 11 before Rony Talukder was lbw on 21. Dhaka were 63-2 stumps, a lead of 92 runs going into the fourth and final day today.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BARISAL** : 235 and 338/7 (Rabbi 75, Mossaddek 88, Al-Amin(2) 67 not out; Sanjamul 3-116) v **RAJSHAHI**: 247 all out in 84.2 overs  
**KHULNA**: 416 and 26/0 (Imrul 12 not out, Mehedi 10 not out) v **DHAKA METRO**: 341 all out in 119 overs ( Mehrib Jr. 81, Shamsur 64; Razzak 5-135)  
**SYLHET**: 507 for 8 dec v **CHITTAGONG**: 157 for 6 (Nazim 48, Nafees 27; Sadiqur 3-48)  
**DHAKA**: 335 and 63 for 2 (Jony 21 not out; Ariful 1-15) v **RANGPUR**: 306 all out in 97.3 overs (Dhiman 81, Ariful 68; Shahadat 4-86, Sharif 4-64)

### 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
Australia	4	2	1	1	5	+1.804
Bangladesh	3	1	1	1	3	+0.130
Pool B						
England	4	1	3	0	2	-1.201
Afghanistan	4	1	3	0	2	-1.953
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
Pakistan	4	2	2	0	4	-0.385
Ireland	3	2	1	0	4	-1.137
Zimbabwe	4	1	3	0	2	-0.723
UAE	4	0	4	0	0	-1.691

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

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### INFO ZONE

BANGLADESH VS SCOTLAND

IN ALL ODIs

BANGLADESH			SCOTLAND		
M	W	L	M	W	L
3	3	0	3	0	3

LAST MEETING IN ODIs  
17 th Dec 2006 at Mirpur. Bangladesh won by 146 runs.

ONLY MEETING IN WORLD CUPS  
24 th March 1999 at Edinburgh. Bangladesh won by 22 runs.

DID YOU KNOW?  
Bangladesh managed to win their only WC match against Scotland despite 4 batsmen getting out for nothing when batting first.  
The two teams have also met in 24 July 2012 for a T20 match at The Hague (Netherlands) in which the Scots beat the Tigers by 34 runs.

### KEY PLAYERS



#### SAKIB AL HASAN

34.92  
79.83  
4086/184  
134\*  
27  
6  
4/16  
4.28  
46 & 0/55

#### BAT AVG

26.35  
74.66  
896/21  
101\*  
7  
1  
4/40  
5.00  
25 & 4/40

#### RICHIE BERRINGTON



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Some locals join in to enjoy the action at Napier. An Aussie is bursting with excitement as Australia notch up 417 while a lady enjoys her view.



Sadaf Noori: We love you Lala. You are our hero & our prayers are with you. We hope you will make an explosive comeback soon.  
Samar Khan: Australia is reminding me of the class bully who used to pick on the smallest kid in front of class and push him around... while we all watched!