

6s 248
4s 1191

WHACK O METER
SHAH CEMENT

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

Most 4s hit by a player
Kyle Coetzer
Scotland
33



TAMIM IQBAL **95**



MAHMUDULLAH **62**



MUSHFIQUR RAHIM **60**



SHAKIB AL HASAN **52*** | SABBIR RAHMAN **42***

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OTHERS **11**

BANGLADESH **322/4** IN 48.1 OVERS



'A win is a win'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

The weak points of this Bangladeshi contingent may be forgiven after their successful chase at Nelson's Saxton Oval. After all, it's not every day that the inconsistent Tigers manage to scale down a 300-plus total.

However, it wasn't a secret that skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza had to dig deep into his bowling armoury in a bid to stop the Scots from exploding.

Had the Tigers taken an extra spinner, life would have been easier for Mashrafe and Co, but that wasn't to be. Many expected Mominul Haque to be replaced by one of the two slow left-arm specialists in the side. He instead, made way for Nasir Hossain. This was despite Scotland's known tendency of failing against spinners.

Mashrafe himself had hinted on a spin-heavy attack

during the pre-match press conference. However, to everyone's surprise, the Tigers stuck to their strategy of playing eight batsmen.

According to team sources, there was plenty of debate regarding the inclusion of a specialist spinner. Ultimately though, the team reckoned that their top order needed more cover below.

Despite the comfortable win, questions regarding the strategy, which many described as a defensive approach, remained.

What was perhaps more surprising was that Mashrafe handed the new ball to Shakib Al Hasan. The captain was reportedly unhappy with the bowling weapons but he had to accept it as a result of the lack of confidence bestowed upon the top order by the think-tank.

Mashrafe admitted that it was a tough decision to play without another specialist spinner.

"Yeah we could, but the wicket looked like it would swing, but it didn't. However, we came back well. Nasir did well and so did Shakib. It was a bit of a tough decision and we took a risk. But at the end of the day, a win is a win, so we are happy," Mashrafe said when enquired about the absence of the extra spinner.

While Mashrafe thanked his batsmen wholeheartedly, he was a bit critical of his bowling department. "We cannot afford this kind of bowling every day," warned the skipper.

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'100s can't be scored at will'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

Tamim Iqbal looked a relieved man yesterday. Despite having missed out on what could have been a historic century for the player, the good news was that the batsman had finally hit form. A lot can change over the next few days if Tamim can hold on to his composure against England on March 9.

There was plenty of pressure on the player. After the first two matches, where he struggled against both Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, hate campaigns began against the player. Ironic memes of Tamim, relating him to the products he markets, spread like wildfire.

Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza though stood by the left-hander. He revealed yesterday that he didn't mind even if the opener had scored 20 runs off 60 balls, for there was no question regarding Tamim's ability.

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SCORECARD

BANGLADESH V SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND	R/B	A/6		
Coetzer c Soumya b Nasir	156/134	17/4		
MacLeod c Mahmudullah b Mashrafe	11/11	2/0		
Gardiner c Soumya b Taskin	19/32	2/1		
Machan c & b Sabbir	35/50	3/0		
Mommsen c Soumya b Nasir	39/38	2/1		
Berrington c Mushfiqur b Taskin	26/16	1/2		
Cross c Sabbir b Taskin	20/14	1/1		
Davey not out	4/3	0/0		
Majid c Soumya b Shakib	1/3	0/0		
Evans not out	0/0	0/0		
Extras: (lb-1, w-5, nb-1)	7			
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs)	318			
Did not bat: Wardlaw				
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-38, 3-116, 4-257, 5-269, 6-308, 7-312, 8-315.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	8	0	60	1
Shakib	10	0	46	1
Taskin	7	0	43	3
Rubel	8	0	60	0
Mahmudullah	5	0	29	0
Sabbir	7	0	47	1
Nasir	5	0	32	2
BANGLADESH	R/B	A/6		
Tamim lbw b Davey	95/100	9/1		
Soumya c Cross b Davey	2/5	0/0		
Mahmudullah b Wardlaw	62/62	6/1		
Mushfiqur c MacLeod b Evans	60/42	6/2		
Shakib not out	52/41	5/1		
Sabbir not out	42/40	4/2		
Extras: (w-8, nb-1)	9			
Total: (For 4 wks in 48.1 overs)	322			
Did not bat: Anamul, Nasir, Mashrafe, Rubel, Taskin.				
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-144, 3-201, 4-247.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Wardlaw	9.1	0	75	1
Davey	10	0	68	2
Evans	10	1	67	1
Machan	7	0	45	0
Majid	10	0	49	0
Berrington	2	0	18	0
Result: Bangladesh won by 6 wickets.				
Player-of-the-match: Kyle Coetzer.				
Toss: Bangladesh.				

TODAY'S MATCH

India v West Indies
Time: 12:30pm
Venue: Perth

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Pakistan v South Africa
Time: 7:00am
Venue: Auckland

Ireland v Zimbabwe
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Hobart

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Man of Steel

TAMIM IQBAL

Tamim Iqbal wasn't able to fulfil his dream of becoming Bangladesh's first World Cup centurion yesterday; he did however provide Bangladesh with exactly the kind of start they were hoping for. His 95 off 100 may seem nothing next to Kyle Coetzer's marvellous 156, however, it built the foundation for a mission that many reckoned the Tigers wouldn't be able to accomplish. They may have reached home comfortably towards the end, but make no mistake, there were a number of obstacles to overcome. The Tigers, who never crossed the 300-mark in World Cups, had to achieve the second biggest chase in the mega event. Now that, automatically, is bound to put pressure on a team that hasn't been successful in the recent past. And that's where Tamim entered the scene and made the Tigers believe in themselves.

THIRD EYE Good, can be better

AL-AMIN

After the Tigers had completed the highest run chase in their one-day international history against Scotland yesterday, cricket fans across the country went bonkers. But at the tiny Saxton Oval in Nelson Shakib Al Hasan and Sabbir Rahman perhaps provided the perfect mood, which is a sense of relief. The duo instead of embarking on any mid-pitch celebrations just smiled back at each other before the customary hug once Shakib hit the winning runs -- a four down the point boundary. It was a sense of relief for them because they have completed the job of beating Afghanistan and Scotland that was expected of them even before the start of the World Cup. And if there is anything the Tigers would relish going into their next serious assignment against England on March 9, it would be their disciplined batting under a world of pressure in a match that started bitterly for them but ended sweetly.

Chasing 319 against any opposition on

any ground is a tough ask and it is even harder when you lose your two top-order batsmen -- one to injury and the other to a freak dismissal down the leg side -- with little or no runs on the board. Thankfully, the rest didn't press the self-destruct button and from Tamim Iqbal to a young Sabbir, everybody played their shots according to the merit of the ball. Tamim was sublime with his array of strokeplay, Mahmudullah Riyad gave the impression that he fits in well

GPH GPH ispat

wherever you want him to bat, Mushfiqur Rahim was oozing class, Shakib, though a bit restrained, more importantly was playing the role of a guide for young Sabbir in a chase that can be best described as seamless.

Five batsmen, four half-centuries and one five-short-of-a-century. But this is the good face of a coin, the other of which is a study of striking contrast. Even we accept the fact that Scotland opener Kyle Coetzer played an exceptionally brilliant innings, our bowlers lacked the necessary discipline

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SCAN CEMENT
HEIDELBERG CEMENT

"It's obvious that people will criticise if I fail to perform and as a professional cricketer I have to accept it but I would request everybody to be a little patient with me. Even I want to play good cricket," an emotional Tamim said at the post-match press conference yesterday.

"I know that hundreds cannot be scored at will. But I believe that if I can follow the right process and do the right things in the middle, it will be possible for me to play good cricket and give the people of the nation some good cricket to watch," he added.

Tamim thanked his skipper for having faith in him. "Mashrafe bhai always encouraged me. He kept telling me that if I take time and score 70 or 80 runs we can win the match. Despite all the criticism, I was in a good frame of mind because of my skipper and the positive support from my teammates," explained the dashing opener.

Tamim followed a cautious approach during the chase. He preferred taking singles and doubles rather than going hard at all the bowlers.

"We had a team meeting before we came out to bat. Coach said that we should bat like we're batting first and not think about the total. We chased down similar kind of scores two or three years back against Zimbabwe and we batted in a similar way.

"So rather than thinking about the scoreboard, we were just enjoying the wicket. The wicket was fantastic and the outfield was really quick. So we didn't have to do too much because if we were timing the ball well, then the ball was flying. So that made it easy for us."

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