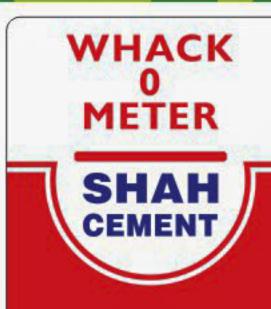
65 248

45



Most 6s hit by a player Chris Gayle
West Indies Most 4s hit by a player **Kyle Coetzer** Scotland









TAMIM IQBAL 95

MAHMUDULLAH 62

MUSHFIQUR RAHIM 60

SHAKIB AL HASAN 52\*

'100s can't

be scored

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

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SABBIR RAHMAN42\*

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OTHERS 11 BANGLADESH 322/4 IN 48.1 OVERS



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TAMIM IQBAL

# '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

শেকড় থেকে শিখরে

Man of Steel

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Coetzer's marvellous 156, however, it built the foun-

dation 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 over-

come. 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.

Tamim Iqbal wasn't able to fulfil

his dream of becoming

Bangladesh's first World Cup

centurion yesterday; he did how-

ever provide Bangladesh with

exactly the kind of start they were

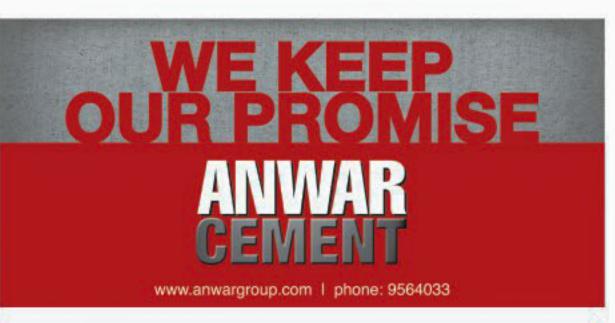
hoping for. His 95 off 100 may

seem nothing next to Kyle

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.

at will' 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 backwell. 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.

### 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. SCAN CEMENT

tury 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

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

Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza though stood by the left-

## 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

you want him to bat, **GPH** ispat Mushfigur Rahim was oozing class, Shakib, though a

wherever

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 SEE PAGE S-4 COL 6

"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 postmatch 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."



#### **SCORECARD**

**BANGLADESH V SCOTLAND** 

R/B 4/6

SCOTLAND

	la Mareta	10	1124	17
petzer c Soumya b Nasir 1		15	b/ I34	1/
lacLeod c Mahm	udullah			
Mashrafe		100	11/11	2
ardiner c Soumya b Taskin			19/32	3
lachan c & b Sabbir			35/50	2
ommsen c Soumya b Nasir			39/38	2
errington c Mush	figur b Tasl	kin	26/16	1
ross c Sabbir b Taskin			20/14	
avey not out			4/3	0
ajid c Soumya b Shakib			1/3	0
ans not out			0/0	0
ctras: (lb-1, w-5, nb-1)			7	
otal: (For 8 wkts		s) :	318	
id not bat: War		93783		
all of wickets: 1	-13. 2-38	.3-	116.4	-25
-269, 6-308, 7-		700 S	93,950	
owler		M	R	3
ashrafe	8	0	60	
nakib	10	0	46	
skin	7	0	43	
ubel	8	0	60	
ahmudullah	5	0	29	
abbir	7	0	47	
asir	5	0	32	
ANCI ADECH			D/D	

R/B 4/6 BANGLADESH 95/100 9/1 Tamim Ibw b Davey 2/5 0/0 Soumya c Cross b Davey Mahmudullah b Wardlaw 62/62 6/1 Mushfigur 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) Total: (For 4 wkts in 48.1 overs) 322 Did not bat: Anamul, Nasir, Mashrafe, Rubel, Taskin. Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-144, 3-201, 4-247.

Wardlaw Davey Machan Majid Berrington 18 0

Result: Bangladesh won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Kyle Coetzer.

Toss: Bangladesh.



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