

**6s**  
**254**  
**4s**  
**1220**

**WHACK 0 METER**  
**SHAH CEMENT**

Most 6s hit by a player  
**Chris Gayle**  
 West Indies  
**18**

Most 4s hit by a player  
**Kyle Coetzer**  
 Scotland  
**33**



The Tigers loiter in the lobby of the Rutherford Hotel in Nelson, making final preparations before leaving for Adelaide to prepare ahead of their game against England on March 9.

PHOTO: BISHWAJIT ROY

# Mash cheers up 'fatigued' Tigers

BISHWAJIT ROY from Auckland

The Tigers didn't get enough time to relax after Thursday's emphatic six-wicket victory against Scotland as they caught an early flight the following morning for Wellington, from where they would go to Adelaide via Melbourne ahead of their crucial group match against England on March 9.

"Too much travelling," commented a seemingly fatigued Mahmudullah Riyad at the Rutherford Hotel lobby in Nelson, prior to their departure. The travelling was made hazardous by some inclement weather as storm and rain hit Nelson.

The inclement weather forced cancellation of many flights, but Tigers were lucky enough as that their Wellington-bound flight was only delayed an hour and a half. The flight of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon and BCB director Naimur Rahman Durjoy, who were scheduled to fly after an hour after the Tigers, were also cancelled but they were lucky enough to get two vacant seats in the airplane carrying the Tigers.

As always, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza

was busy cheering up his teammates but there was little consolation for opener Anamul Haque, who had dislocated his right shoulder while trying to stop a boundary during the Scotland innings on Thursday. Anamul's replacement, Imrul Kayes, is expected to join the team in Adelaide today.

Mashrafe, though, shrugged off the strain on his calf muscle and was looking forward to the game against England. The

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pacer was in good mood, especially due to the team's brilliant run-chase against Scotland, which gave them much-needed confidence ahead of the England game. Bangladesh sit fourth in Pool A with five points and will need only one victory out of their last two group matches -- against England and New Zealand -- to qualify for the quarterfinals.

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**TODAY'S MATCHES**

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

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

**SUNDAY'S MATCHES**

**New Zealand v Afghanistan**  
 Time: 4:00am  
 Venue: Napier

**Australia v Sri Lanka**  
 Time: 9:30am  
 Venue: Sydney

## Learnt from defeats: Dhoni

AFP, Perth

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said lessons learned on past Australian tours were holding his side in good stead in their World Cup title defence.

India remained unbeaten after four outings in the tournament when they edged past the West Indies by four wickets at the WACA ground on Friday, ensuring a quarterfinal place in the process.

Their sparkling form that has them set to top Pool B is a far cry from their preceding tour of Australia, when they didn't win a single match and failed to reach the final of the triangular one-day series against the home nation and England.

It also follows a winless tour of New Zealand 12 months earlier.

Dhoni said his players were applying the lessons learned on those tours to good effect in the World Cup.

"They learned a lot out of the tri-series, and also from the away tours," he said.

"We didn't win single game in New Zealand, but still what I felt was the players were learning what really needs to be done, and it's all a reflection of all of that.

"At times people get too busy about, no,

we have to win, we have to win, but what's more important is the bowlers or the batsmen, they have to learn what to do so that they can consistently win outside (India).

"I feel to some extent it's a reflection of learning of all those things, the difficult phase that we all went through, and after that you can to some extent say this is the fruitful period for us where everything has clicked."

Dhoni said much of the credit for their improved performances had to go to the bowling attack.

"What the bowlers are doing really well right now is they are hunting in packs," he said.

"We are backing one good over followed by another good over. That actually increases the pressure, and finally you get a wicket out of it."

"I feel the contribution of all the bowlers is superb."

Dhoni said he expected to stick with two spinners for the upcoming matches against Ireland and Zimbabwe in New Zealand.

He also challenged all-rounder Ravi Jadeja to improve his performances with the bat after again failing against the West Indies.

"I think he needs to improve," he said. "He needs to step up really because we have a lot of faith in him, but at the end of the day you can't really play with hope."

## Lara blasts 'selfish' WI

FOX SPORTS

West Indies legend Brian Lara has savaged his team's batsmen after a terrible performance against India.

"We have a false sense of belief in our batting," Lara speaking after the match.

"I don't think it's very strong at all. We bat very, very well against poor attacks but against first class bowlers we are found wanting on many occasions."

"You need two guys aggressive up front, a middle order looking to accumulate and then you go big at the end. This looked like five or six individuals doing what ever they had to do to be successful for themselves. There was no plan at all and that's not going to work."

## THIRD EYE The joy of low scoring games

NAIMUL KARIM

This is the reason why everybody wants the West Indies to stay in the Cup. It's their ability to strike when no one expects them to, the inherent joy in their game; which sometimes even goes on to surprise the cricketers themselves; that makes them so special.

At one point you find them struggling at 85 for 7 after an audacious batting approach and switch off the television, cursing them for blowing away yet another match. But, as fate would have it-- quite often one may add-- that's precisely the moment when they decide to bring on their A game; and a couple of hours later you are dumfounded as you witness a bunch of tall, lanky men from the Caribbean excitedly celebrating one wicket after the other in a manner akin to the joy of a university student who had just received the news of the cancellation of his mid-term exams due to a political strike.

There were a number of messages that the game at the WACA in Perth provided; the most important one being, high-scoring run affairs are now boring. You can pile on the 400s and even cross the 500-mark barrier if you would want

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## SCORECARD

INDIA V WEST INDIES				
WEST INDIES	R/B	A/6		
Smith c Dhoni b Shami	6/20	1/0		
Gayle c M Sharma b Shami	21/27	2/1		
Samuels run out	2/7	0/0		
Carter c Shami b Ashwin	21/43	3/0		
Ramdin b Yadav	0/1	0/0		
Simmons c Yadav b M Sharma	9/22	0/0		
Sammy c Dhoni b Shami	26/55	2/0		
Russell c Kohli b Jadeja	8/8	0/1		
Holder c Kohli b Jadeja	57/64	4/3		
Taylor c & b Yadav	11/18	1/0		
Roach not out	0/1	0/0		
Extras: (lb-5, w-16)	21			
Total: (All out in 44.2 overs)	182			
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-15, 3-35, 4-35, 5-67, 6-71, 7-85, 8-124, 9-175.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shami	8	2	35	3
Yadav	10	1	42	2
Ashwin	9	0	38	1
M Sharma	9	2	35	1
Jadeja	8.2	0	27	2
INDIA				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
R Sharma c Ramdin b Taylor	7/18	1/0		
Dhawan c Sammy b Taylor	9/14	1/0		
Kohli c Samuels b Russell	33/36	5/0		
Rahane c Ramdin b Roach	14/34	2/0		
Raina c Ramdin b Smith	22/25	2/0		
Dhoni not out	45/56	3/1		
Jadeja c Samuels b Russell	13/23	2/0		
Ashwin not out	16/32	0/0		
Extras: (lb-1, lb-3, w-19, nb-3)	26			
Total: (For 6 wts in 39.1 overs)	185			
Did not bat: M Sharma, Shami, Yadav.				
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-20, 3-63, 4-78, 5-107, 6-134.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	8	0	33	2
Holder	7	0	29	0
Roach	8	1	44	1
Russell	8	0	43	2
Smith	5	0	22	1
Samuels	3.1	0	10	0
Result: India won by 4 wickets.				
Player-of-the-match: Mohammad Shami.				
Toss: West Indies				

## 'Progress beyond our control'

AGENCIES, Perth

West Indies captain Jason Holder admitted that progression was beyond his team's control after India defeated them by 4 wickets at the WACA yesterday. India looked to be in danger at one point, but the West Indies could not capitalize, leaving them on 4 points with one game to go, making progress increasingly unlikely.

"Well, I can only control what I can control. Whatever happens in those last preliminary games is beyond my control. What I can control is the game against UAE, and I can assure you that we are going to win that game by all means. We just need to be aggressive and finish this preliminary round in a good manner," said Holder, when asked about his team's chances of progressing to the quarterfinals.

The West Indies have failed to impress in this World Cup with off-field issues causing disharmony in the team and even in the board. But Holder insisted that he had no problems with the players when asked how he handled things on the field with his charges. He also admitted that his team needed to up their performance, especially while batting.

"Well, I have a very good relationship with most players. It may not require me to be speaking to them in a team setting. I may just pull them one-on-one and just have a chat. Obviously we didn't bat well in this game, we didn't bat well in the last game, so we just need to address a few areas. But there are ways that I will go about doing it, but we need to be honest with ourselves and we just didn't bat well enough in these last two games, and the batsmen need to be accountable for putting runs on the board."

Brian Lara had lambasted Holder's decision to bat first on the wicket, but he stuck by his decision, although admitting that his team fell short of expectations.

"There are no regrets about batting first. We've got to put up our hands when we've done wrong, and we just didn't bat well enough today, and we didn't get enough runs on the board."

I thought the wicket was a good wicket to bat on, but we didn't play like ourselves when we batted. I thought initially we should have been looking in excess of 270. I think the wicket was good enough to get that, we just didn't."

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# Man of Steel

**MOHAMMAD SHAMI**

If there was any weak link in this Indian line-up, going into the World Cup, then it would have had to be their pace-bowling attack. However, Mohammad Shami dismissed that theory yesterday with a fierce spell that rattled West Indies's top order. He scalped the crucial wickets of Dwayne Smith and Chris Gayle, which eventually led to West Indies's downfall. It was a disciplined bowling performance, which saw him stick to the basics. He held a good line against Smith that compelled the latter to edge one to the keeper. His nagging line irritated Gayle as well who skied a back of a length delivery. If he can hold on to his form, India could pose serious problems for the hosts in the second round.

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