



PHOTO: AFP  
Bangladesh will need a true all-round performance from Shakib Al Hasan (R) and athleticism from Nasir Hossain (C) if they are to beat England in a crunch World Cup match at the Adelaide Oval today.

**6s**  
**294**

**4s**  
**1440**

**WHACK O METER**

**SHAH CEMENT**

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

**Most 4s hit by a player**  
**K Sangakkara**  
Sri Lanka  
**41**

# 'It's a chance we need to utilise'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Adelaide

As the Tigers were training at the Adelaide Oval yesterday, the sound system, out of the blue, rang out the Bangladesh's national anthem. The routine rendition might have been a part of the rehearsal ahead of the big match today, but to the Bangladesh players, it was a reminder of the expectations of fans and the enormity of the task ahead.

While skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza admitted that there was a bit of a pressure, he however believed that they were a confident lot.

"Yes, there is pressure and it's very normal. There are 16 crore people looking at us. We will try to do our best so that they can all be happy," hoped Mashrafe.

Having beaten Afghanistan and Scotland, Mashrafe reckons that their task is half-done. The more crucial half, though, remains a challenge.

"We will have another chance [against New Zealand] but I believe we have an opportunity to book a place in the

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## SCORECARDS

AUSTRALIA V SRI LANKA				
AUSTRALIA	R/B	A/6		
Finch st Sangakkara b Prasanna	24/24	3/0		
Warner c Prasanna b Malinga	9/12	1/0		
Smith c Perera b Dilshan	72/88	7/1		
Clarke b Malinga	68/68	6/0		
Maxwell c Malinga b Perera	102/53	10/4		
Watson c Chandimal b Perera	67/41	7/2		
Faulkner run out	0/1	0/0		
Haddin c Perera b Mathews	25/9	4/1		
Johnson not out	3/3	0/0		
Starc run out	0/0	0/0		
Doherty not out	0/1	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-4)	6			
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	376			
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-41, 3-175, 4-177, 5-337, 6-338, 7-368, 8-373, 9-374.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	10	0	59	2
Senanayake	9	0	59	0
Mathews	7	0	59	1
Prasanna	10	0	77	1
Perera	9	0	87	2
Dilshan	5	0	33	1

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**TODAY'S MATCH**  
Bangladesh v England  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: Adelaide

**TUESDAY'S MATCH**  
India v Ireland  
Time: 7:00am  
Venue: Hamilton

# Eng lack variety: Mushy

BISHWAJIT ROY from Adelaide

With 167 runs in three matches, Mushfiqur Rahim has already scored more in this World Cup than he did four years ago. The wicket-keeper batsman was Bangladesh's highest run-getter in 2014 and has managed to continue the momentum in the mega event thus far.

However, the crucial phase for the Tigers begins today. Can Mushfiqur produce a special innings against England at the Adelaide Oval today and help his side sail through to the next round? Only time will tell. However, there was no shortage of confidence from the little man as he spoke on the eve of the match yesterday.

"I'm enjoying my batting but I still haven't managed to do much. If we can keep calm, we will be successful against England. They (England) are now under pressure like we were against Afghanistan and Scotland. So it's a good opportunity for us to turn the table," Mushfiqur said while having his breakfast at the team hotel.

The wicket-keeper batsman also pointed towards a chink in England's bowling attack. "James Andersen, Stuart Broad and Steven Finn; nobody is in good form. They do have a good spinner in Moeen Ali. In my



PHOTO: AFP  
A fearless Mushfiqur Rahim is what Bangladesh need against England today.

opinion England's bowling lacks variety. So if we play our best cricket, anything is possible," he added. Mushfiqur also believes that the Tigers can take inspiration from their last World Cup victory against England which he reckons was

against a stronger English side. All Mushfiqur hopes for is a better effort from the bowlers today; a department he thinks will have to fare much better compared to the last two games.

While Mushfiqur was ready to make a few bold statements, opener Tamim Iqbal was as cautious as he could be.

"Remember what I said prior to the Sri Lanka game? The equation is

**SCAN CEMENT**  
**HEIDELBERG CEMENT**

## THIRD EYE

# Battle for the death

SAKEB SUBHAN

Against Sri Lanka yesterday, Australia were at 159 for two at the end of 30 overs, and ended up with 376 for nine. It was the sixth instance in this tournament of a side scoring more than 200 in the last 20 overs, all while batting first. A certain pattern has developed in this World Cup. In the 16 completed matches between Test nations, 12 have been won by the side batting first. Of the remaining four, three have featured sub-200 totals in the first innings.

Sides batting first seem to have a distinct advantage, and the reason for that may lie in the new regulations of playing with two new balls at each end and allowing only four fielders outside the 30-yard circle (it was five before November 2012) in non-Powerplay overs. The result seems to be that sides batting first keep wickets in hand for the first 30 overs and then,

with a block of five Powerplay overs (when three fielders are allowed outside the circle) and balls just 15 overs old and flying off the bat, go hell for leather in the last 20.

The same however cannot be said of sides chasing 350-plus totals as Sri Lanka were yesterday. In that case, the pressure is on from the start and the

luxury of playing themselves in is not available to batsmen. Sri Lanka batted brilliantly; Tillakaratne Dilshan and the sublime Kumar Sangakkara built a great partnership but they were still left needing 10 an over in the last 20. Batsmen coming in had to start hitting out from the start; too big a task against bowlers of the calibre of Mitchell Starc and James

Faulkner.

The most damaging regulation for fielding teams has been the reduction of fielders allowed outside the circle. It often means that all batsmen have to do is pierce a gap or clear the in-field for the ball to go for four. Having no sweeper cover or a long off in the last 10 overs was unthinkable

five years ago, yet that is what captains have been reduced to now.

The death overs have become the battleground for supremacy in this edition and sides seem to be built around that gameplan of maximising returns in the last 20. Yesterday Glenn Maxwell played as only he and AB de Villiers can in making the second-fastest World Cup century. Taking full advantage of the gaps in the outfield, he drove Angelo Mathews to distraction by reacting to his field changes and hitting boundaries where gaps were created.

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 3

**GPH ispat**

**WE KEEP OUR PROMISE**  
**ANWAR CEMENT**

quarterfinal on Monday.

"I think everything has been going according to our expectations. True we could have been in a much better position had we won against Sri Lanka but the victory against Scotland gave us much-needed confidence. And that will help against England," the 31-year-old added.

There has been plenty of talk regarding England's poor run in the tournament. A defeat against Bangladesh will eliminate them from the competition.

Mashrafe, however, wasn't ready to focus on the opponents' vulnerability.

"They have enough experience of playing such crunch matches. So, we have to concentrate on our ability. The simple fact is that we have a chance and we are excited to make the most of it," said Mashrafe.

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**GLENN MAXWELL**  
Had Glenn Maxwell been born in a different era, he might have been considered a pariah by the cricket fraternity, or worse, he might not have been considered for an inter-

national side at all, in the first place. But such is the evolving nature of the game and such has been Maxwell's ability to innovate and improvise shots, that the middle-order batsman is proving himself to be a gamechanger for Australia. Take yesterday's innings against Sri Lanka for instance. In a matter of just 53 balls, the right-hander blasted 102, with 10 boundaries and four maximums, to turn Australia's innings from above-average to colossal.

**DANIEL VETTORI**  
After 31 completed matches of the World Cup, it can be safely said that this has been a batsman's tournament so far. Whatever impression bowlers have managed to make,

have come mostly from the pacers. Therefore when one finds Daniel Vettori's name right amongst the top wicket-takers' list, (one wicket behind the leader, Trent Boult, with 12 wickets from five matches), it only speaks of the pedigree and quality of the wily left-arm spinner. After yesterday's figures of 4 for 18 against Afghanistan, Vettori's economy rate is a meagre three-runs-an-over, the best of any bowler to have taken a wicket, and his average of 11.33 is fourth amongst those.

## NEW ZEALAND V AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN	R/B	A/6		
Ahmadli lbw b Boult	1/7	0/0		
Ghani b Vettori	0/3	0/0		
Mangal b Vettori	27/46	3/0		
Stanikzai c Guptill b Boult	9/18	2/0		
Shenwari c Taylor b Anderson	54/110	5/1		
Nabi c Taylor b Vettori	6/15	0/0		
Zazailb b Vettori	0/1	0/0		
Najibullah c Vettori b Milne	56/56	8/2		
Dawlat c Ronchi b Boult	1/5	0/0		
Hassan c Milne b Anderson	16/21	4/0		
Shapoor not out	2/4	0/0		
Extras: (lb-5, w-9)	14			
Total: (All out in 47.4 overs)	186			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-6, 3-24, 4-49, 5-59, 6-59, 7-145, 8-151, 9-166.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southee	10	0	43	0
Boult	10	2	34	3
Vettori	10	4	18	4
Milne	10	0	38	1
Anderson	6.4	0	38	2
Elliott	1	0	10	0

**NEW ZEALAND**  
Guptill run out  
McCullum b Nabi  
Williams c Sherwari b Shapoor  
Taylor not out  
Elliott run out  
Anderson not out  
Extras: (lb-2, w-4)  
Total: (For 4 wks in 36.1 overs) 188  
Did not bat: Ronchi, Vettori, Milne, Southee, Boult.  
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-111, 3-143, 4-175.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dawlat	9	0	51	0
Shapoor	10	2	45	1
Hassan	7	1	36	0
Nabi	7.1	0	39	1
Sherwari	3	0	15	0

Result: New Zealand won by 6 wickets.  
Player-of-the-match: Daniel Vettori.  
Toss: Afghanistan

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