

Glenn gets the monkey off his back

AFP, Sydney

Glenn Maxwell said he felt he'd got a "monkey off the back" after his maiden one-day international hundred powered Australia to a win over Sri Lanka in their World Cup in Sydney on Sunday.

Maxwell's blistering century, his first in 43 ODI innings, came off just 51 balls -- the second-fastest in World Cup history behind Kevin O'Brien's 50-ball assault for Ireland against England in Bangalore four years ago.

"It was nice to get the monkey off the back," said Maxwell. "I have scored a few 90s so to finally hit the hundred was a relief."

"The top order set it up beautifully for me and Shane [Watson] to go berserk at the end."

"I didn't know about the record World Cup century but I knew about the Australian record [57 balls] because James Faulkner doesn't shut up about it," said Maxwell.

"Credit to the boys for the way they battled -- Maxwell scoring his first ODI hundred, we needed his runs today," said Australia captain Michael Clarke.

"If we can hold our nerve like that we give ourselves a chance. Watching players around the world scoring so quickly and freely, teams can chase any score now."

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews had no doubt about where the match was won and lost.

"We conceded 200 runs in the last 16 overs and it was way too much," he said. "We've got to improve in our bowling and fielding. If we can keep the opposition to 300, we can chase it down."

As for the 37-year-old Sangakkara's latest century, Mathews added: "He's brilliant. He's ageing and he's getting better and better."



Australia's Glenn Maxwell is all about brute power. Here the exciting right-hander celebrates his maiden century, a 53-ball 102, against Sri Lanka at the SCG yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Afghans done in by Dan

AFP, Napier

Daniel Vettori became the first New Zealand bowler to take 300 one-day international wickets as the Black Caps made short work of Afghanistan to remain unbeaten after five World Cup matches on Sunday.

Left-arm spinner Vettori scythed through the Afghanistan top order, using his guile on a pitch producing no run, to finish with the remarkable figures of four for 18 in 10 overs as Afghanistan were dismissed for 186.

Along the way he became the 12th player, and only the fifth

spinner, to take 300 ODI wickets.

On a run-laden McLean Park pitch in Napier, New Zealand needed only 36.1 overs to overhaul Afghanistan's total.

New Zealand, who had already qualified for the quarterfinals, have yet to be taken the distance in the field and the 47.4 overs bowled to Afghanistan is the most they have sent down in any match in the tournament.

But the result was never in doubt when Brendon McCullum, with his trademark aggressive approach, blazed away at the top of the New Zealand innings slamming 42 off 19 deliveries to get the

chase off to a rollicking start.

When he was bowled by Mohammad Nabi, trying to belt his opposing captain out of the ground, New Zealand were already a quarter of the way to their target after fewer than six overs.

The pace slowed from nine to 5.19 runs an over after McCullum's dismissal as New Zealand coasted to victory with their middle-to-lower order not getting the lengthy time at the crease they wanted before the knockout phase.

Kane Williamson, in his understated manner, contributed 33, Martin Guptill reached 57, his

highest score of the campaign, and Grant Elliott made 19.

Guptill and Elliott were both needlessly run out when time and runs were not an issue, leaving Ross Taylor (24 not out) and Corey Anderson (seven not out) to see New Zealand home.

It was never going to be easy for Afghanistan who were already jet-lagged having crossed the Tasman Sea twice in the week to meet their gruelling World Cup schedule ahead of this game.

They won the toss, elected to bat, and then had few answers to the menacing attack that greeted them.

For Vettori the World Cup has yet to begin

AFP, Napier

New Zealand completed their fifth straight win in the World Cup when they swept aside Afghanistan Sunday but felt the tournament has yet to properly begin, according to team veteran Daniel Vettori.

In all five games, including against Australia and England, New Zealand have bowled out the opposition inside 50 overs with an aggressive attack blending Vettori's spin with swing bowlers Tim Southee and Trent Boult.

Vettori, who racked up another milestone in his stellar career when he took his 300th ODI wicket at McLean Park on Sunday -- returning figures of four for 18 -- said the focus was what lies ahead for the team rather than individual feats.

"It's purely about winning games, and that's what we've been able to do so far, and we can hopefully continue in the

important knockout stages," he said.

The quarterfinals "is where it really starts", and form through the pool stages could not be a consideration, he said dismissing South Africa's shock 29-run loss on Saturday to Pakistan.

"All the teams that eventually make it [to the play-offs] have got match winners. So you can't sit back and say a team's not in form or haven't played well because you go into it thinking that a team's going to play their best."

The 36-year-old Vettori is New Zealand's most accomplished ODI bowler and on Sunday became the 12th player and first New Zealander to reach the 300 wicket milestone.

He finished his 291st ODI with 302 wickets, at an average 31.62, and such was the comprehensive nature of New Zealand's win that he did not have a chance to add to his 2,213 ODI runs.



POINTS TABLE						
Pool A						
	M	W	L	D	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	5	5	0	0	10	+3.090
Australia	5	3	1	1	7	+1.697
Sri Lanka	5	3	2	0	6	-0.151
Bangladesh	4	2	1	1	5	+0.182
Pool B						
	M	W	L	D	Pts	NRR
India	4	4	0	0	8	+2.246
South Africa	5	3	2	0	6	+1.462
Pakistan	5	3	2	0	6	-0.194
Ireland	4	3	1	0	6	-0.820
West Indies	5	2	3	0	4	-0.511
Zimbabwe	5	1	4	0	2	-0.595
UAE	4	0	4	0	0	-1.691

Note: Top four in each group qualify for quarterfinals

বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভাষানে
 প্লে থেকে দ্বাদশ শ্রেণি পর্যন্ত
 অধ্যয়নের সুযোগ

Plot-2, Gulshan-2, Dhaka
 M: 01720557180/90

বিশ্বের উচ্চশিক্ষা

স্টুডেন্ট, স্পাউস
 ভিজিট ও বিজনেস ভিসা প্রসেস

Plot-22, Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka
 M: 01720557104/6/7/8/13/18



INFO ZONE

ENGLAND V BANGLADESH

HEAD TO HEAD

LAST MEETING

11 th March 2011 at Chittagong.

Bangladesh won by 2 wickets.



KEY PLAYERS			
	MOEEN ALI		SHAKIB AL HASAN
	21	MATCHES	144
	33.95	BATTING AVG	35.36
	713	RUNS	4138
	103.48	S/R	80.2
	128	H/S	134*
	2	100s	6
3	50s	28	
4.82	ECON. RATE	4.28	
2/34	BEST FIGURES	4/16	

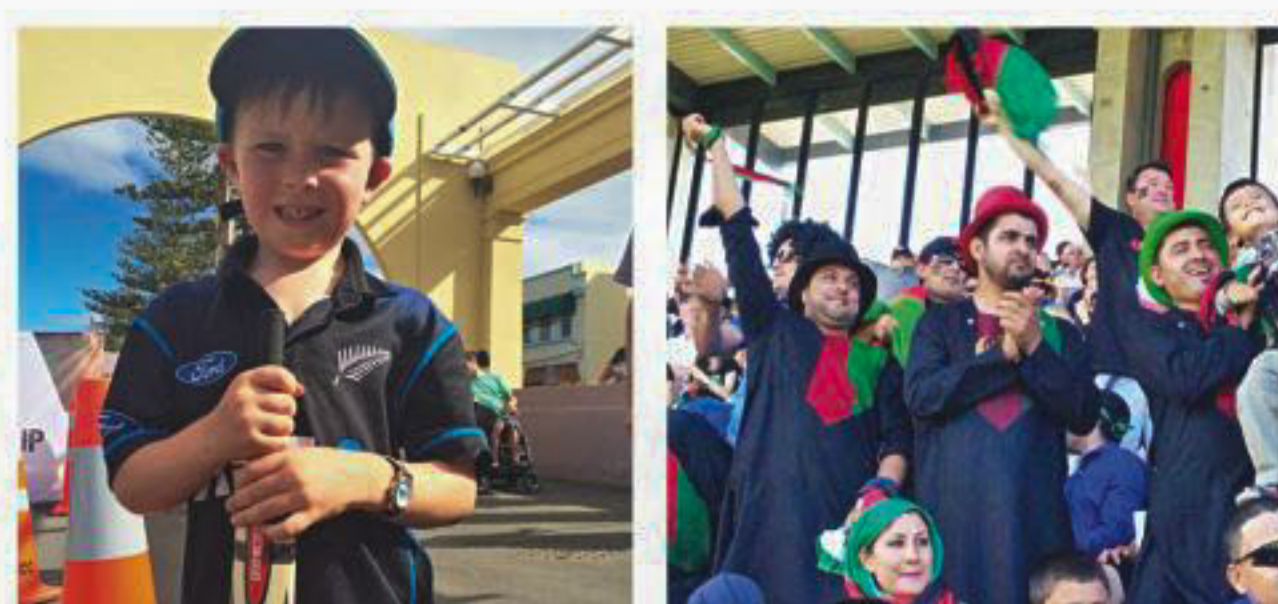
FAN ZONE

f/clemoncleardrink

শোবার জন্য
 অসুস্থতা
 Freshness



Some Sri Lankans celebrate before the Lions played Australia yesterday. A little Kiwi was all geared up for New Zealand's game against the robust Afghans.



ian Whitney: If I weren't actually Australian, I would totally be one of those guys with a trombone and a lion mane.

Commentator said, "Sri Lanka are probably getting tired in the humidity." Yeah, because the subcontinent doesn't prepare them at all.

Stuart Fazakerley: