

6s
317
4s
1532

WHACK 0 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

England face press backlash

AGENCIES, London

After Bangladesh humbled England at the Adelaide Oval on Monday, accolades poured in from all over the world for the Tigers. On the flipside however, the English team have faced tremendous backlash.

Former England representative Mike Selvey lavished praise on Bangladesh in The Guardian instead of focusing on England after their exit from the World Cup.

"At the outset, on what is without question one of the most dismal days in reporting 30 years of England cricket, it was also one of the most uplifting," Selvey began his column.

"Bangladesh did not fluke their win, but quite simply played good, disciplined cricket, led superbly by Mashrafe Mortaza, to overcome a team that looked scared of their own shadows.

"Bangladesh were as vibrant on the field as their supporters were off it. Home or away, they will – by contrast to England – celebrate to the full one of the great days they will ever experience. It was a pleasure to watch their exuberance," concluded Selvey.

The Daily Mail's cricket correspondent, Paul Newman, was not as kind. "There have been all manner of World Cup shambles for England since they should have won the 1992 final here in Australia. But never one as bad as this," began Newman.

"This is the worst yet, worse than 1996 when Sri Lanka's pinch-hitters left England trailing in their wake. Worse, even, than 1999 when England were eliminated from their own World Cup the day before the official song came out.

"The 15-run defeat here by Bangladesh at the Adelaide Oval, which confirmed England's abject surrender, is nothing short of an utter humiliation, an embarrassment that, not for the first time in recent years, leaves them as the laughing stock of world cricket."



Mahmudullah Riyad was the centre of attraction after his century propelled Bangladesh to a 15-run win against England and into the quarterfinals. Here the all-rounder, accompanied by his son and wife, is seen leaving the team hotel in Adelaide on Tuesday.

PHOTO: BCB

A Bangladesh in Adelaide

BISHWAJIT ROY from Auckland

A small yet noticeable part of the Adelaide Airport yesterday turned into a mini Bangladesh as the players, some of them with their family members, and the coaching staff gathered and mingled there on way to fly across the Tasman Sea to play their last pool match against co-hosts New Zealand in Hamilton on Friday.

From the staffs of airlines to officers at immigration desks, everyone appreciated the Tigers for their Monday night's effort that took them into the World Cup quarterfinals for the very first time and it seemed as though just one win had suddenly brought the Bangladesh cricket into the centre of all attraction.

While entering the Air New Zealand plane, the cabin crew welcomed the Bangladesh team on board and announced the names of the players one after another with big applause and it got only louder when the names of the match heroes Mahmudullah Riyad, the first Bangladeshi centurion in World Cup, Mushfiqur Rahim and Rubel Hossain were announced.

To catch the morning flight the players had to wake up early, but they all were in a jubilant mood and fatigue was not at all an issue for them. Almost everybody agreed on one point that "it's a great moment for Bangladesh cricket".

"Don't ask this question today," Tamim Iqbal requested with a smile when asked about that dropped catch. What he said was: "It's a great moment for Bangladesh cricket. It's a huge achievement to reach the quarterfinals in such a big event for the first time and just think it's in Australia."

Young Soumya Sarker, who, according to chief selector Faruque Ahmed, has created a positive vibe in the team with batting approach though the left-hander has yet to make anything big. But that matters little for him.

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"I cannot actually say in words how excited I am. It's my first World Cup and we are in the quarterfinals... it's amazing," said the soft-spoken top-order batsman.

To all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan every win for Bangladesh is memorable.

Rubel was over the moon. "I will never forget this moment," said the right-arm pacer who shattered the English chase.

After staying the Tuesday night in Auckland, the team will go to Hamilton,

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 8

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CLEAR
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TODAY'S MATCH
 Scotland v Sri Lanka
 Time: 9:30am
 Venue: Hobart

THURSDAY'S MATCH
 South Africa v UAE
 Time: 7:00am
 Venue: Wellington

'I am more matured now'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Auckland

Mushfiqur Rahim proved that hard work is always the key behind any success. The little right-hander has now been tagged as the 'Mr Dependable' of Bangladesh's batting line-up.

Bangladesh's Test captain deserves maximum credit for what the Tigers have achieved so far in the ongoing World Cup. His 89-run innings against England was another example of maturity.

"I think I am now more matured and now I know what I need to do in the middle. In the first 60 to 80 matches I could not actually understand what I needed to do or play according to the conditions. But everything is now clear to me.

"And you know that our domestic structure is not as good as it is required to be so I had to learn everything by playing international games," said Mushfiqur, who so far played 144 ODIs and 43 Tests.

The batsman, who scored 89 in the last game said that while he had hoped to go on to reach the three-figure mark in Adelaide, he wasn't disappointed to have missed it. "Honestly speaking I was a little sad to have missed out on the century by 11 runs. Everybody wants to achieve a milestone after all. But what would have happened had I got the hundred but my team lost. In the end the win was most important," explained Mushfiqur.

"If you consider the conditions, then this was definitely our best win. It's a great thing to play good cricket in Australia and New Zealand," remarked the little right-hander. While he didn't get a century, his partner at the other end, Mahmudullah Riyad had become the first Bangladeshi to reach the landmark. It was an event which Mushfiqur enjoyed a lot as he threw his fist in the air after diving full length into the crease to complete the much required single.

Furthermore Mushfiqur admitted that it was difficult for him to forget what had happened with his Riyad during his tenure as captain as many reckoned that Riyad

was in the side solely because of him. "I was honest and I believe in honesty. I had always said that this is not my team rather it's a team for the country. It's nice to see him (Riyad) scoring runs regularly."

Mushfiqur was extremely confident

SCAN CEMENT
HEIDELBERGCEMENT

ahead of their clash against New Zealand. He believed that anything could happen as long as they played good cricket.



Mushfiqur Rahim is about to board the team bus, on it's way to the airport. The Tigers travelled from Adelaide to Auckland yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

THIRD EYE Healing the wounds of 2014

NAIMUL KARIM

A mosh pit; that's exactly what the Tigers formed after Rubel Hossain uprooted James Anderson's stumps with a toe-cruncher. Forget the group hugs, forget the traditional laps of honour; this was more than that. The joy was as such that it compelled the players to break away from the 'gentle' formalities and slam into each other heavy metal-style; thankfully though no one was hurt.

The jubilation, in a sense, released a huge amount of pain and frustration that almost all these players have had to carry over the last one year. 2014 after all, witnessed one of Bangladesh's worst runs in ODI history. It saw defeats and changes that almost no one expected and the core of the team was the worst affected.

Mushfiqur Rahim was forced to apologise to the nation twice after defeats to Afghanistan and Hong Kong and also got stripped off his captaincy; Shakib Al Hasan was banned twice on disciplinary grounds; Mahmudullah Riyad was

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ridiculed with sections of the media targeting his familial relationship with Mushfiqur; Tamim Iqbal was taunted for his apparent lack of form and fitness; while Nasir Hossain's reign in the side had come to an end.

Almost every senior player had to go through tough situations both on and off the field. They were like rockstars in need of rehab. And honestly speaking not many in the cricketing fraternity believed that they could overcome this period. And that's the reason why they were surrounded by a cloud of negativity going into the World Cup, even after completing an 8-0 whitewash over Zimbabwe. The Bangladesh Cricket Board's inability to hold on to Shane Jurgensen barely ten months before the mega event was criticised. The game's governing body also came under fire for not being able to provide the Tigers more time in Australia -- they only got two weeks in Brisbane -- for preparation. In addition, things went haywire after Bangladesh lost all four of their warm-up games, including the last one against Ireland.

Add these events together with the perilous task of battling Australia, New Zealand and England in alien conditions and a berth in the quarterfinal seemed many a miles away.

The Tigers needed to play out of their skin and create something special to leap out of the deep trench that they

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 5

VISION Refrigerator

SCORECARD

IRELAND V INDIA	
IRELAND	R/B 4/6
Porterfield c Yadav b M Sharma	67/93 5/1
Stirling c Rahane b Ashwin	42/41 4/2
Joyce b Raina	2/9 0/0
N O'Brien c Yadav b Shami	75/75 7/3
Balbirnie c Shami b Ashwin	24/24 3/0
K O'Brien c Dhoni b Shami	1/2 0/0
Wilson c Rahane b Jadeja	6/7 1/0
Thompson run out	2/2 0/0
Mooney not out	12/16 1/0
Dockrell c Dhoni b Yadav	6/12 0/1
Cusack c Yadav b Shami	11/13 1/0
Extras: (lb-2, w-9)	11
Total: (All out in 49 overs)	259
Fall of wickets: 1-89, 2-92, 3-145, 4-206, 5-208, 6-222, 7-226, 8-227, 9-238.	

INDIA	
Bowler	O M R W
Yadav	4 0 34 1
Shami	9 0 41 3
M Sharma	6 0 38 1
Jadeja	7 0 45 1
Ashwin	10 1 38 2
Raina	10 0 40 1
R Sharma	3 0 21 0
INDIA	
Bowler	O M R W
R Sharma b Thompson	64/66 3/3
Dhawan c Porterfield b Thompson	100/85 11/5
Kohli not out	44/42 4/1
Rahane not out	33/28 6/0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-13)	19
Total: (For 2 wkts in 36.5 overs)	260
Did not bat: Raina, Dhoni, Jadeja, Ashwin, Shami, M Sharma, Yadav.	
Fall of wickets: 1-174, 2-190.	
INDIA	
Bowler	O M R W
Mooney	6 0 44 0
Cusack	8 0 43 0
Thompson	6 0 45 2
Dockrell	5 0 44 0
Stirling	5 0 36 0
K O'Brien	6.5 0 42 0

Result: India won by 8 wickets.
 Player-of-the-match: Shikhar Dhawan.
 Toss: Ireland

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Man of Steel

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

Ravichandran Ashwin has been one of the standout performers of this World Cup. There have been only a handful of spinners who have managed to buck the trend of pace bowling dominance, Ashwin stands foremost. The right-handed spinner was brought at a crucial time of the Ireland innings yesterday, when Ireland openers were going great guns and India were desperately looking for a breakthrough. Ashwin did just that, removing Paul Stirling for 42. Ashwin was summoned once more as Ireland were looking to launch on a solid platform, and the spinner didn't disappoint his captain on that occasion either. He got rid of dangerous-looking Andy Balbirnie for 24 and finished with figures of two for 38 for an overall haul of 11 wickets in four matches.

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