

**6s**  
**333**  
**4s**  
**1577**

**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  
**54**



Tamim Iqbal (R) grabs one under the watchful eyes of Chandika Hathurusingha during a practice session at the Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. The Lankan born coach would be hoping his opening batsman doesn't grass another crucial catch like he did against England the other day.

# RUBEL

## MAY NOT BE HAPPY AGAIN

BISHWAJIT ROY from Hamilton

The toothy smile vanished when Rubel Hossain talked about that turbulent episode of his life, which almost shattered his World Cup dreams.

He took a long breath before recalling the memory of those three fateful nights behind bars. And when he talked it seemed he was not standing in front of the Novotel Hotel in Hamilton yesterday rather he was inside a semi-dark room of Dhaka Central Jail (January 8-11).

He was sent to the jail after a Dhaka Court rejected his appeal for a bail petition in connection with a rape case filed by film actress Naznin Akter Happy.

"I cannot forget those three nights," said the pace bowler who hogged the headlines with a match-winning performance against England at the Adelaide Oval on Monday.

"It was a very difficult case, so I had doubt whether it would be possible for me to play in the World Cup, so sometimes I cannot still believe that I am here. My family also suffered a lot for this episode. But the affection people showed to me during that tough

time was unbelievable. It's an unbelievable feeling to know how much love a player can receive from the people; the people in my home town (Bagerhat) supported me a lot," Rubel said in one breath.

Understandably, he has been the subject to embarrassing discussions ever since that incident. He was also shy and uncomfortable when he joined the team after winning a bail until the end of the World Cup for the 'national interest'. But he said that his team-

mates helped him to recover from the mental stress.

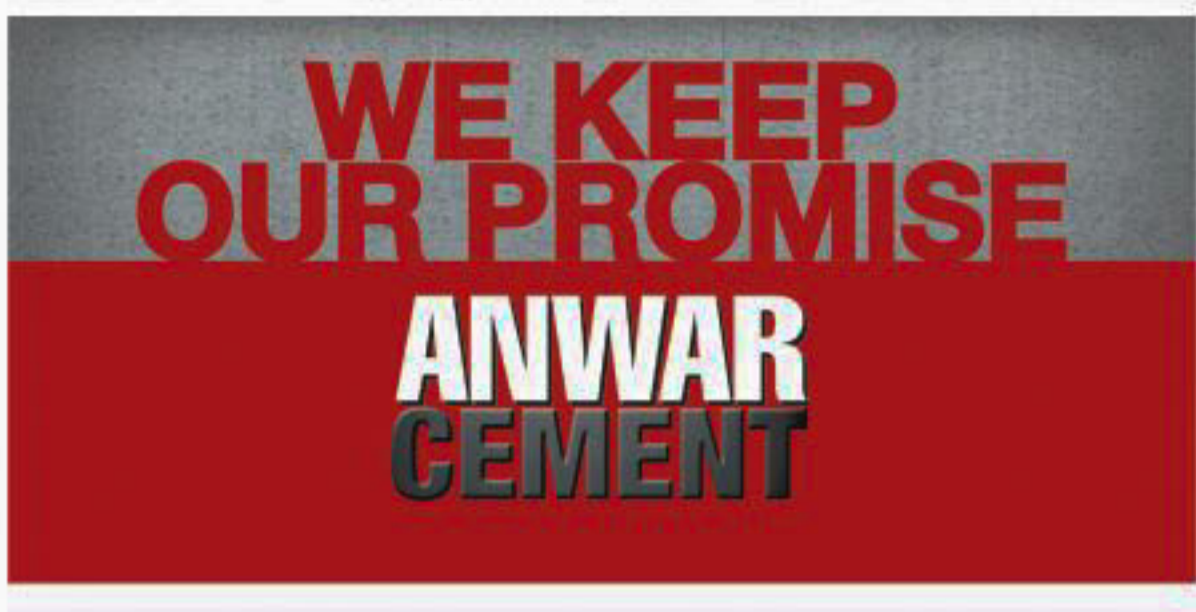
"Everybody made fun of me (in a good way) which made things easy for me. They still love to make fun with me

regarding this matter. I must thank my teammates for my success in the World Cup, especially Mashrafe bhai encouraged me a lot to come back strongly against all the odds," said Rubel.

The pacer appeared vibrant when his attention was focused on tomorrow's match against New Zealand.

"I have a good record against them (New Zealand), especially my best bowling figure

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# Should Mash play or not?

BISHWAJIT ROY from Hamilton

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has suddenly caught cold and that has even changed his voice; he has been suffering from calf muscle pain; and more importantly, the threat of a suspension for slow over-rates has been hanging over his head -- and all these have put the Tigers captain in a dilemma whether to play the last Pool A match against New Zealand or not at the Seddon Park here tomorrow.

The captain was little bothered about the first two problems, but what really was disturbing him was the over-rates issue. A ban looms over him as he was fined 40 per cent of his match fee on Monday and if he is found guilty of one more minor over-rates offence during the World Cup while acting as captain, he will receive a one-match suspension during the event.

"I know the quarterfinal is now the most important game for us, but the last group game is no less important to keep our momentum ahead of the quarterfinal. If we can play good cricket against the Kiwis then it will help us a lot in the quarterfinal. So, it's a tricky situation for me. Yes, I have been suffering from

quarterfinal game, but I want to play the match because I believe that the team is now in good shape and I don't want to upset the rhythm of the team. I have accepted the fact that I will have to play with the pain and there is no other choice for me, so the calf muscle is not a big issue for me, but I am really concerned about the slow over-rates issue as you know we have three pacers in the line-up," continued Mashrafe.

He however said that his team was hungry for more success and were looking forward to playing good positive cricket against the co-hosts.

"Yes we are excited about reaching the quarterfinals, but what we believe is that we have the ability to play much better cricket and we want to show it against New Zealand. The Kiwis are a tough opponent, we know, in their home conditions

cold and pain in my calf muscle, but I am not too concerned with these problems, rather my main concern is the over-rates," said Mashrafe when asked about his possibility of playing the last group match.

"We have a day in hand. Many may love to see me take a break before the



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**CLEAR**  
 NOTHING TO HIDE

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

**FRIDAY'S MATCHES**  
 New Zealand v Bangladesh  
 Time: 7:00am  
 Venue: Hamilton

Afghanistan v England  
 Time: 9:30am  
 Venue: Sydney



## THIRD EYE

# The most feared gentleman in cricket

## Aamer suffers washout in comeback

AFP, Rawalpindi

Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Aamer on Wednesday shrugged off the disappointment of his comeback match being washed out following a five-year ban for spot-fixing.

The 22-year-old was due to make his return to competitive domestic cricket this week but a waterlogged pitch -- the after-effects of torrential downpours last week -- meant all three days of his game for Omar Associates were abandoned.

Aamer, cleared to return early from his ban for bowling no-balls to order in the Lord's Test against England in 2010, said it was "God's will" the match was rained off.

"We have three to four more matches to play God willing and we are focusing on them," he told reporters.

NAIMUL KARIM

One can't help but feel for the Sri Lankan journalists covering the World Cup. How they plan to describe Kumar Sangakkara's fourth consecutive century is bemusing.

The century against Bangladesh could have been portrayed as the one that revived the Lankans; his blistering approach against England earned him the 'Superman' tag and by the time he delivered against Australia the press box was at a loss for words; 'speechless', as a Sri Lankan journalist put it.

The fourth century? Now that's just cruel. Come on Kumar! You can't just expect journalists to create new adjectives to describe your innings overnight. Don't you have a loose end we could write about? Now that's something that would sell!

But then again, those following Sangakkara closely should have expected him to reach the amazing feat. He does after all portray a

machine when in form and on occasions such as these all that the opponents can do is sit back, hope that the perfectionist feels slightly overwhelmed and commits a mistake.

That rarely happens though; just ask the Bangladeshis and they can spend an entire night telling you of all the nightmares that this man has caused.

There's often a debate in Sri Lanka

his net sessions during training depicts the amount of work he puts in. When he came to Dhaka in January last year, he was seen practicing his front-foot defence shots for close to an hour, the day before the start of the Test series against Bangladesh.

He justified his disciplined training approach by scoring more than 400 runs, including a triple century, in the second Test of that series. The hosts had no answer.

The fact that he thought it was necessary to work on something as elementary as his defence prior to a game against one of the weakest bowling line-ups in Test cricket, says a lot about the maestro's mentality.

But that of course was just his account on the field. Off it, it was the left-hander's humility that left everyone awestruck.

After the post-match press conference of the second Test, all the 30-odd



as to who among the two, Mahela Jayawardene and Sangakkara, have influenced Sri Lankan cricket more. Jayawardene is described as the natural athlete who was deemed as the next Sri Lankan great from a very early age.

Sangakkara, on the other hand, has had to work extremely hard to reach where he has today. A mere glance at

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## SCORECARD

**SRI LANKA V SCOTLAND**

SRI LANKA	R/B	A/G
Thirimanne c Mommssen b Evans	4/21	0/0
Dilshan c MacLeod b Davey	104/99	10/1
Sangakkara c Cross b Davey	124/95	13/4
Jayawardene c MacLeod b Davey	2/6	0/0
Mathews c Coleman b Machan	51/21	1/6
K Perera c MacLeod b Taylor	24/13	2/2
T Perera c Coleman b Berrington	7/11	0/0
Prasanna c Coleman b Evans	3/5	0/0
Kulasekara not out	18/17	1/1
Malinga c Leask b Berrington	1/3	0/0
Chameera not out	12/9	1/0
Extras: (lb-3, w-10)		13
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)		363
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-216, 3-244, 4-244, 5-289, 6-326, 7-328, 8-331, 9-336.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	10	0	46	1
Evans	10	0	72	2
Davey	8	0	63	3
Berrington	6.1	0	31	2
Leask	7	0	63	0
Coetzee	4.5	0	39	0
Machan	4	0	46	1

**SCOTLAND**

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Coetzee c & b Malinga	0/2	0/0		
MacLeod b Kulasekara	11/21	0/0		
Machan lbw b Dilshan	19/31	1/0		
Mommssen Thirimanne b T Perera	60/75	7/0		
Coleman c T Perera b Kulasekara	70/74	7/0		
Berrington c Kulasekara b Chameera	29/22	2/2		
Leask c Sangakkara b Kulasekara	2/7	0/0		
Cross c Sangakkara b Chameera	7/10	0/0		
Taylor c T Perera b Malinga	3/6	0/0		
Davey c Thirimanne b Chameera	4/7	0/0		
Evans not out	1/5	0/0		
Extras: (lb-2, w-6, nb-1)			9	
Total: (All out in 43.1 overs)			215	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-26, 3-44, 4-162, 5-189, 6-192, 7-200, 8-209, 9-210.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	9	0	29	2
Kulasekara	7	0	20	3
T Perera	7	0	41	1
Dilshan	5	0	15	1
Prasanna	8	0	57	0
Chameera	7.1	0	51	3

Result: Sri Lanka won by 148 runs  
 Player-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.  
 Toss: Sri Lanka

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