

6s
341
4s
1625

WHACK 0 METER
SHAH CEMENT

Most 6s hit by a player
AB de Villiers
South Africa
20
Most 4s hit by a player
K Sangakkara
Sri Lanka
54

5 facts

After losing 16 of their first 17 one-day internationals against New Zealand, Bangladesh have won all of the last seven completed meetings

Two of Bangladesh's three highest World Cup scores came against England (Mahmudullah's 103 and Mushfiqur Rahim's 89)

Against Afghanistan, Daniel Vettori (33) jumped ahead of Shane Bond, Tim Southee and Chris Harris into second place on the list of leading World Cup wicket-takers for New Zealand. He needs four more wickets to pass Jacob Oram (36) at the top of the list

Four wickets would also see Vettori pass Kyle Mills as the leading wicket-taker in ODIs between these teams

Three of New Zealand's seven best bowling figures in World Cups have come in this tournament



Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim strolls through the rain-drenched streets of Hamilton yesterday, looking forward to their game against New Zealand today.

Chandika's 'freedom' works

BISHWAJIT ROY from Hamilton

Cricket is a captain's game. A decision from the captain on the field can change the game in a blink of an eye and it's the captain who basically calls all the shots. But in modern day cricket from overall planning, analysing the opponents and to prepare the players are equally important for bringing success to a team.

And in that context the coach and his support staff play a major role. The Bangladesh Cricket Board took the bold step of overhauling the coaching staff ahead of the World Cup and wisely appointed Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as the new Tigers captain. The inspiring and proactive leadership of Mashrafe has already got the attention of many after Bangladesh made it to the quarterfinals. The captain on the other hand publicly acknowledged that coach Chandika Hathurusingha's methodical work played a major role behind their success.

"He had arranged a batting practice on granite surface for two months at home which ultimately helped us to cope up with the Australia-New Zealand conditions. Many didn't feel comfort initially and there were uneasiness among the batsmen but coach made them understand that it would help them to adjust with the bounce. I just gave you one example, and there are many," said Mashrafe while praising the Lankan mentor.

It was not only Mashrafe but Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mushfiqur Rahim who also



CHANDIKA HATHURUSINGHA

GO BEYOND
CHOLO BANGLADESH
grameenphone

BANGLADESH V NEW ZEALAND

Tigers' pace worries McCullum

AFP, Hamilton

New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum said Bangladesh's pace bowlers will pose a real challenge for his batsmen in the World Cup Pool A match in Hamilton on Friday.

Bangladesh's seamers took eight of the ten England wickets -- with two run outs -- in their narrow 15-run win in Adelaide on Monday, a win which lifted them into the quarterfinals.

New Zealand are also in the next round after winning all their five games so far.

"I think what we saw the other night with a couple of the guys there, the threat that they pose with ball in hand for their quick bowlers is a lot more dangerous than a few years ago," said McCullum.

Rubel Hossain led the Bangladesh pacemen with four wickets against England.

"Tomorrow's going to be tough. The quick bowlers are going to ask us some questions, especially if it juices up a little bit. But we've faced some good, quick bowlers over the last little while too," said McCullum, who has three half-centuries, including the fastest World Cup fifty, off just 18 balls, so far at the tournament.

McCullum disagreed his team have yet to be really tested in the competition.

"We have been tested, and I think we've come through those tests. Scorelines may not suggest that we have," said McCullum, whose team narrowly beat Australia by one wicket.

"I think we've been tested considerably throughout the tournament, and I think we've

general has improved a lot over the last few years. They've always been tough at home as we losing seven games would testify," said McCullum, of New Zealand's defeats in Bangladesh in the last two series.

"But their ability to now travel -- and they don't always get the performance on the board -- I think you're seeing their skills set develop as well."

McCullum also backed out-of-form batsman Ross Taylor -- a former captain -- to come good at the tournament.

"His form is not a major concern. He's been short of opportunity throughout this World Cup, just through the nature of us bowling as well as we have and obviously chasing down the runs," said McCullum of Taylor who has made just 53 runs with two not outs. "He's a world class player. I've said it time and time again. The number three and four punch we have on our team I wouldn't swap them for anyone around the world."

Kane Williamson is fit after suffering stomach trouble but fast bowler Adam Milne, who has a bruised shoulder, is unlikely to play and will be replaced by left-armer Mitchell McClenaghan.

SCAN CEMENT
HEIDELBERG CEMENT

found a way to get ourselves through those situations and it's really a pleasing aspect.

"We're going to be tested over the next while as well, and we've just got to make sure that we still glean the confidence from what we've been able to achieve, remain incredibly stoic."

McCullum praised the progress made by Bangladesh, a team often regarded as whipping boys of international cricket.

"I think the development of their skills in

WE KEEP OUR PROMISE
ANWAR CEMENT

highly lauded their coach's effort behind their batting success in the tournament.

His hard work with the batsmen is quite visible but it's his "freedom to do the things" mantra that made a huge impact in the changed attitude of Bangladesh's batting. There has been huge problem among most of the Bangladeshi batsmen regarding their double-mindedness about shot selection but he gave them the confidence so that they can express themselves. If you want to play a shot play with the confidence, don't hesitate is his philosophy according to his charges.

Talking to the reporters ahead of the Tigers' today's match against co-host New Zealand, Chandika said that he is not a man who want to reflect on the past rather focus on what's next.

"If you can remember I said after that win [against England] that I'll focus on the other game. So we're still focusing on New Zealand, and then we'll focus on the next game in the quarterfinals. So I'd still believe that we can do that thing that we haven't done before," said the Bangladesh

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SCORECARD

SOUTH AFRICA V UAE

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Naveed	10	0	63	3
Shazad	8	0	59	1
Javed	10	0	87	1
Tauqir	10	0	47	1
Alhashmi	7.2	0	45	0
Khurram	4	0	31	0
Anwar	0.4	0	4	0

UAE

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Amjad c Behardien b Duminy	21/36	3/0		
Berenger c Rossouw b Morkel	5/21	1/0		
Khurram c De Kock b M Morkel	12/17	2/0		
Anwar c Rossouw b Tahir	39/64	5/0		
Patil not out	57/100	5/0		
Haider c Rossouw b De Villiers	7/12	1/0		
Javed c sub (Parnell) b De Villiers	5/4	1/0		
Naveed c De Villiers b Philander	17/15	2/1		
Tauqir b Steyn	3/16	0/0		
Shazad c Steyn b Philander	0/3	0/0		
Alhashmi absent hurt				
Extras: (b-4, lb-16, w-6, nb-3)	29			
Total: (All out in 47.3 overs)	195			
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-45, 3-45, 4-108, 5-118, 6-125, 7-163, 8-189, 9-195.				

Result: South Africa won by 146 runs.

Player-of-the-match: AB de Villiers.

Toss: United Arab Emirates.

AL-AMIN

As the group stage of this World Cup is drawing to a close, we have two games of contrasting complexities on offer today after a predictable victory for South Africa against the lightweights of UAE yesterday. The first of the two fixtures involve co-hosts New Zealand and a confident Bangladesh at Hamilton. The other is between England and World Cup debutants Afghanistan at the SCG in Australia.

Perhaps on any other occasion the focus would have been more on the SCG where England will actually play only for pride like the Afghans, after being knocked out of the competition.

However England's predators the Tigers can also relax against the Kiwis

THIRD EYE

Improve fielding

with the notion in their mind is that they have already made it to the quarterfinals. But this is a game the Tigers need to play with the same intensity, if not more, to make a statement ahead of their next serious assignment. With inspirational captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza wisely

GPH ispat

deciding to sit out the game to rest his bad knees, it will be an opportunity for stand-in Shakib Al Hasan to emulate his captain against a team eager to keep a clean sheet like defending champions India.

The Kiwis will also be asking ques-

tions of how good the Tigers are when they are not playing against them at Mirpur or Chittagong. They will certainly test the Tigers with those venomous swings in their den, their batsmen will try to bury their opponents under an avalanche of runs. But this is also the time to show character that the Tigers have shown so far in the tournament. It is the time for Tamim Iqbal to get back his shattered confidence and Imrul Kayes to stand and deliver. It is important for the openers to negotiate those early swings. Soumya Sarker has shown he is a capable batsman, but is yet to bat to his potential. Shakib Al Hasan is starving for wickets and runs. Mahmudullah Riyad scored a century. But he must be aware that when he takes guard against the Kiwis he will

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KSRM
KABIR STEEL SINCE 1984

Man of Steel

AB DE VILLIERS

It may not have been one of his best innings but the South Africa captain once again led from the front. He must be kicking himself for missing out on an easy century but his 99 was more than enough to help his side post an ungettable target for the men from the Gulf. His performance didn't just end there though, with the ball he picked up two wickets and gave away just 15 runs; a perfect way to warm up for the knockouts.

CLEAR
NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCHES

New Zealand v Bangladesh
Time: 7:00am
Venue: Hamilton

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

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

India v Zimbabwe
Time: 7:00am
Venue: Auckland

Australia v Scotland
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Hobart

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