



6s  
**357**

4s  
**1701**

**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**



Shakib Al Hasan celebrates dismissing Kane Williamson (L), one of his four wickets, against New Zealand in Hamilton yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

# 'Wanted to cash in on good form'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Hamilton

Ever since his debut in international cricket, Mahmudullah Riyad has played a supporting cast most of the times. But suddenly he has shifted gears and grabbed the limelight with some outstanding knocks during this World Cup. How does it feel to be in the spotlight on the biggest stage?

The soft-spoken individual responded with a shy-smile: "I never thought of grabbing spotlight. We all know Shakib (Al Hasan) is our best player. Mushfiqur (Rahim) has been playing good cricket consistently for long. Tamim played lot of good innings. Mashrafe (Bin Mortaza) has been leading our pace attack for so many years."

"Yes, I have had the desire and thought if I can be like them. Now I am happy that I am batting well and team also is doing well and that we have achieved something big."

Many of his teammates felt that one of the reasons he has been doing well is due to his wife and two-year son are travelling with him. "Yes, this is also a reason. I must thank the board for allowing my family to tour with me. I feel good because my family is with me. I feel too much homesick,

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## SCORECARDS

BANGLADESH V NEW ZEALAND				
BANGLADESH	R/B	A/6		
Tamim c Anderson b Boult	13/27	2/0		
Imrul b Boult	2/19	0/0		
Soumya c Anderson b Vettori	51/58	7/0		
Mahmudullah not out	128/123	12/3		
Shakib c Ronchi b Anderson	23/18	3/0		
Mushfiqur c Ronchi b Anderson	15/25	2/0		
Sabbir c McCullum b Elliott	40/23	5/2		
Nasir c Taylor b Elliott	11/7	0/1		
Rubel not out	0/0	0/0		
Extras: (lb-1, w-4)	5			
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	288			
Did not bat: Tajjul, Taskin.				
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-27, 3-117, 4-151, 5-182, 6-260, 7-287.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southee	10	1	51	0
Boult	10	3	56	2
McClenaghan	8	0	68	0
Vettori	10	0	42	1
Anderson	10	0	43	2
Elliott	2	0	27	2
NEW ZEALAND				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Guptill c Rubel b Shakib	105/100	11/2		
McCullum c Soumya b Shakib	8/8	1/0		
Williamson c Tamim b Shakib	1/2	0/0		
Taylor lbw b Nasir	56/97	5/0		
Elliott c Taskin b Rubel	39/34	5/1		
Anderson b Nasir	39/26	3/3		
Ronchi c Nasir b Shakib	9/10	2/0		
Vettori not out	16/10	1/1		
Southee not out	12/6	1/1		
Extras: (lb-1, w-4)	5			
Total: (For 7 wks in 48.5 overs)	290			
Did not bat: Boult, McClenaghan.				
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-33, 3-164, 4-210, 5-219, 6-247, 7-269.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shakib	8.5	1	55	4
Tajjul	10	0	58	0
Rubel	8	1	40	1
Taskin	8	0	49	0
Soumya	4	0	19	0
Sabbir	2	0	14	0
Mahmudullah	3	0	22	0
Nasir	5	0	32	2
Result: New Zealand won by 3 wickets.				
Player-of-the-match: Martin Guptill.				
Toss: New Zealand				

**CLEAR**  
NOTHING TO HIDE

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

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

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

**SUNDAY'S MATCHES**

**UAE v West Indies**  
Time: 4:00am  
Venue: Napier

**Ireland v Pakistan**  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: Adelaide

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# Shakib happy with effort

BISHWAJIT ROY from Hamilton

Shakib Al Hasan was in unusually good mood even after Bangladesh lost their last pool match against New Zealand by three wickets at the Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. The vice-captain, who led the team in absence of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, found was satisfied with the team's performance as he felt that their batting and fielding was good while bowling could have been a bit better.

"I'm feeling a bit of both (disappointment and happiness). We can take confidence from the way we played. We can take that confidence into the quarterfinal and that will help us immensely. On the

other side it is disappointing to come out short in this type of match. I think it was an excellent game of cricket and it could have gone either way. In the end they (New Zealand) were the better side on the day."

The former skipper, who took four crucial wickets in yesterday's match, said he enjoyed the responsibility of leading the side in a difficult game.

"We always knew that with the overcast condition, the ball would swing a bit. But we knew that after 15

to 20 overs, it would get easier, and scoring runs will be easier. That's exactly what happened. I think the way Mahmudullah (Riyad) is batting is too different from the past. Each and every game there are batsmen who are contributing for the team. So it's a good sign for Bangladesh cricket," he responded when asked about his plan in the trying conditions.

Shakib said that it would be exciting for them to take on India in the quarterfinal, despite the possibility of a partisan crowd at the MCG on March 19.

"To be honest, our first target was to qualify for the quarterfinals and now it's a one-off game. If we play well on the day, I think anything

**SCAN CEMENT**  
HEIDELBERGCEMENT

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especially when I am on tour. Initially my wife was not ready to come here but I told her, please come which help me lot and I also thank her."

Mahmudullah admitted he tried to cash in on the good form he was in: "Last night I was thinking that since I am in good shape, I should capitalise. I also saw bad time and that's why my aim was to capitalise the good time as much as possible."

"Today's condition was very tough. Bounce was different, ball swung with the pace but Soumya (Sarker) and I both were positive. We thought we should handle the good deliveries and wait for the bad ones. And I was a bit lucky too," he added.

"I didn't feel any nervousness or excitement. I was thinking whether I could do my job properly," he said. When his

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**Men of Steel**

# Bangladesh's new groove

NAIMUL KARIM

It's not the best feeling in the world when you drag yourself from bed early in the morning to witness New Zealand's pacers swinging the ball with vengeance. The Black Caps had seemingly channelled all the frustration, of their last seven defeats, into this game.

Such a scenario is generally followed by a twist in the tummy, which is made worse by the thousands of cynical comments posted on social websites.

"This one's going to be over before lunch... I'm going back to sleep," posted a 'fan' who had earlier dedicated a 500-word status to the Tigers after their English triumph. "It will be an achievement if we can get past 200 here," quipped a journalist on facebook.

On any other day one would have expected a meek surrender from the Tigers. Battling against pace and swing isn't their cup of tea; heck it's not even their plate of rice. At home, all they worry about is that low skidding delivery that has every chance to go on to the stumps if it's not read well.

However, yesterday was soothingly different. The Tigers didn't get bundled out by lunch and neither did they just scrape past 200. They almost secured a win against the favourites of the competition!

If you happen to think that this lot was satisfied by merely giving a fight, think again; because these boys are going through a very special phase.

The manner in which Bangladesh's top order tackled the early movement and gutted it out reflected the huge amount of patience that they have so far garnered in this Cup. While they were cautious, they ensured not to get themselves into a shell.

The young Soumya Sarker kept moving across the stumps in a bid to negate the

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# Mahmudullah revels in lead role

SAKEB SUBHAN

A few days before the 2015 World Cup, Mahmudullah Riyad was one of the last batsmen to walk out to the centre of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka during a practice session. His role then, as was apparent in his intent to hit the ball into the empty stands, was to be Bangladesh's power striker at the end of the innings. It raised a few eyebrows as he did not seem a fit for that role; to those who saw him hit a Test hundred in Hamilton in only his fifth match just over a year ago he seemed a classy batsman capable of building an innings, and warranted a place higher up the order.

He was not a natural fit but he did manage an innings of pure grit in the tournament, which delivered a one-wicket win over England in Chittagong. That was Mahmudullah's career in a nutshell -- making the best of situations even though they are not suited to him. Of the 99 times he has walked out to bat in ODIs, on 63 occasions he has batted at number seven and 20 times at number six. If the team batted well he had to hit out from the get-go, and if the top order collapsed he had to bat for respectability with the tail. Judging by his career average of 35.24 he did both jobs admirably well, but went underappreciated by most outside the team because he did not have the big scores to grab the headlines.

Until now.

Mahmudullah has now been given the opportunity to shed the supporting role and take the lead. Playing his seventh innings at number four, he became only the seventh batsman to score back to back centuries in World Cup history. In both those knocks, he proved his intelligence and class. In what has become a familiar feeling for him, Mahmudullah walked in on both occasions with Bangladesh in trouble and bailed them out. The

## THIRD EYE

difference on these occasions however was that he had the time to stamp his authority on the innings.

The context makes the innings against England a more important knock, but yesterday's unbeaten 128 must rank as one of the most complete and accomplished innings played by a Bangladeshi. Against a New Zealand attack that had dispatched Australia and England by the 35th over, he negotiated the thorough new-ball examination of Tim Southee and Trent Boult while building an important partnership with the impressive Soumya Sarker. But trouble was far from avoided -- against England and Australia it was Daniel Vettori who broke a partnership before one of Boult or Southee cut a swath through the batting order. Here too Vettori got rid of Sarker, and Boult was brought back in the very next over. Instead of meek surrender however, Mahmudullah unleashed a delectable cover drive off the second ball.

It was aggression of the controlled variety. Mahmudullah knew of Kiwi skipper Brendon McCullum's eagerness to bowl sides out by unleashing his best bowlers with little thought to death-over insurance, and so the man from Mymensingh bided his time. He did not panic when first Shakib and then Mushfiqur Rahim -- who had done most of the late-over hitting against England -- departed in quick succession. Mahmudullah took charge, targeting Mitchell McClenaghan and Grant Elliott for special punishment. In the process he guided Bangladesh to 288, 55 more than any other side has managed against New Zealand in the tournament so far.

Mahmudullah's average of 51.36 in matches won is more than the corresponding numbers of Shakib, Mushfiqur and Tamim Iqbal. His stint in the supporting cast may have shaped him into the versatile batsman he is today, but his ascension to the lead role was long overdue. Longer may he lead.

**GPH GPH ispat**

**SHAKIB AL HASAN**

Shakib Al Hasan had had a quiet time in the first four matches of this World Cup. His economy rate of 4.89 might have done justice to his name, but not the number of wickets, which was only three. But it all changed after a brilliant performance against New Zealand in Hamilton yesterday, when he took 4 for 55. There was not much there for the spinners, as Daniel Vettori's figures of one for 42 earlier in the day would suggest. But with the captain's armband on, Shakib knew he had to deliver with the ball and brought himself on to open the bowling. The left-arm spinner removed dangerous Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson early in the innings with two flighted deliveries, enticing them to playing big shots. The ace all-rounder later came back to remove centurion Martin Guptill and Luke Ronchi to keep Bangladesh in the game.

**CHRIS JORDAN**

Chris Jordan wasn't considered for the first four games of England in this World Cup. But when he was called in, he proved his worth by grabbing a brace in each of the two matches. The Trinidad & Tobago born pacer struck two crucial blows during England's defeat against Bangladesh on March 9. Yesterday against Afghanistan he was even more impressive, accounting for the dismissals of Afsar Zazai and the ever-reliable Samiullah Shenwary. Jordan was mean, conceding only 13 runs in 6.2 overs, helping restrict the Afghan innings to a paltry.

AFGHANISTAN V ENGLAND				
AFGHANISTAN	R/B	A/6		
Ahmadi c Root b Broad	7/15	0/0		
Mangal c Root b Anderson	4/28	0/0		
Zazai c Buttler b Jordan	6/14	0/0		
Jamal c Buttler b Bopara	17/52	2/0		
Shenwari c Morgan b Jordan	7/11	1/0		
Shafiqullah c Bopara b Tredwell	30/64	1/0		
Nabi c Tredwell b Bopara	16/17	1/1		
Najibullah not out	12/15	2/0		
Hassan not out	0/2	0/0		
Extras: (lb-6, w-6)	12			
Total: (For 7 wks in 36.2 overs)	111			
Did not bat: Dawlat, Shapoor.				
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-20, 3-25, 4-34, 5-65, 6-93, 7-101.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	7	0	18	1
Broad	8	1	18	1
Jordan	6.2	2	13	2
Bopara	8	1	31	2
Tredwell	7	0	25	1
ENGLAND				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hales c Zazai b Hassan	37/33	3/2		
Bell not out	52/56	6/0		
Taylor not out	8/20	0/0		
Extras: (lb-3, w-1)	4			
Total: (For 1 wkt in 18.1 overs)	101			
Did not bat: Root, Morgan, Buttler, Bopara, Jordan, Tredwell, Broad, Anderson.				
Fall of wickets: 1-83.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shapoor	4	0	25	0
Dawlat	3	0	23	0
Hassan	5	0	17	1
Nabi	4.1	0	14	0
Shenwari	2	0	19	0
Result: England won by 9 wickets (D/L method).				
Player-of-the-match: Chris Jordan.				
Toss: England				

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