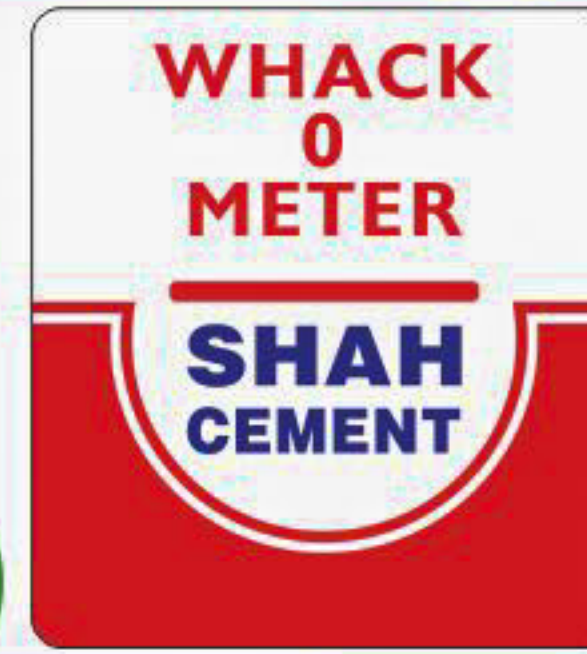


6s
382
4s
1790



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



Suresh Raina eventually put Brendan Taylor's (behind) magnificent effort (138 runs) in his farewell match in the shadow with a match-winning unbeaten 110 at the Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Raina trumps Taylor's ton

AFP, Auckland

Suresh Raina hit a century as India spoiled Brendan Taylor's farewell party with a hard-fought six-wicket win in the World Cup Pool B match in Auckland on Saturday.

Raina survived two dropped catches during his unbeaten 104-ball 110 as India chased down a stiff 288-run target in 48.4 overs for their sixth win in as many matches.

Departing Zimbabwe batsman Taylor had anchored Zimbabwe's 287 all out with a punishing 110-ball 138 in what was his last international after signing a deal with English county Nottinghamshire.

With India on 158-4, and Raina on 47, Zimbabwe spurned a good chance of pressing for a win when Hamilton Masakadza dropped a sitter at short fine-leg off Sikander Raza.

It was Masakadza who was at the receiving end of the second chance when wicketkeeper Taylor dropped Raina off his bowling with his score on 71.

The left-hander punished Zimbabwe by completing his fifth one-day hundred -- his first in World Cups -- reaching the three-figure mark off 94 balls. In all he hit nine boundaries and four sixes.

With India in a spot of bother at 92-4, when Raza bowled Virat Kohli for 38, Raina found an able partner in skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the experienced duo added 196 for an unbroken fifth wicket stand.

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SCORECARDS

ZIMBABWE V INDIA

ZIMBABWE	R/B	A/O
Chibhabha c Dhawan b Shami	7/16	1/0
Masakadza c Dhoni b Yadav	2/8	0/0
Mire c Dhoni b Mohit	9/22	1/0
Taylor c Dhawan b Mohit	138/110	15/5
Williams c and b Ashwin	50/57	3/3
Ervine c and b Mohit	27/41	1/1
Raza b Shami	28/15	1/3
Chakabva c Rohit b Yadav	10/13	0/0
Panyangara c Yadav b Shami	6/6	1/0
Mupariwa not out	1/2	0/0
Chatara b Yadav	0/3	0/0
Extras: (lb-2, w-7)	9	
Total: (All out in 48.5 overs)	287	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shami	9	2	48	3
Yadav	9.5	1	43	3
Mohit	10	1	48	3
Ashwin	10	0	75	1
Jadeja	10	0	71	0

INDIA

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rohit c Raza b Panyangara	16/21	2/0		
Dhawan b Panyangara	4/20	1/0		
Kohli b Raza	38/48	4/0		
Rahane run out (Raza/Taylor)	19/24	3/0		
Raina not out	110/104	9/4		
Dhoni not out	85/76	8/2		
Extras: (lb-1, lb-2, w-12, nb-1)	16			
Total: (For 4 wks in 48.4 overs)	288			

Did not bat: Jadeja, Ashwin, Mohit, Shami, Yadav

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-21, 3-71, 4-92

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	8.4	1	53	2
Chatara	10	1	59	0
Mupariwa	10	0	61	0
Mire	5	0	29	0
Williams	5	0	31	0
Raza	8	0	37	1
Masakadza	2	0	15	0

Result: India won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Suresh Raina.

Toss: India.

SCOTLAND V AUSTRALIA

SCOTLAND	R/B	A/O
Coetzee c Smith b Starc	0/11	0/0
MacLeod c Warner b Starc	22/19	5/0
Machan c Faulkner b Cummins	40/35	6/0
Mommsen c Starc b Watson	0/2	0/0
Coleman c Clarke b Johnson	0/7	0/0
Berrington c Warner b Maxwell	1/6	0/0
Cross c Haddin b Cummins	9/20	2/0
Davey b Starc	26/35	4/0
Taylor c Haddin b Cummins	0/6	0/0
Leask not out	23/11	4/0
Wardlaw b Starc	0/2	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-8)	9	
Total: (All out in 25.4 overs)	130	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Starc	4.4	1	14	4
Cummins	7	1	42	3
Watson	3	0	18	1
Johnson	4	1	16	1
Maxwell	4	0	24	1
Faulkner	3	0	15	0

Result: Australia won by 7 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Mitchell Starc.

Toss: Australia.

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Match facts

Australia against Scotland lasted **246** balls, making it the shortest match in this World Cup. The game ended in just over three hours.

Australia's spearhead Mitchell Starc now has the best bowling average in the history of ODIs (**1000** balls bowled). He also has the best bowling average and strike rate in World Cup history.

Brendan Taylor had an almost perfect swansong, scoring **138** in his 167th and final ODI as his side lost to India.

India's total of **288** yesterday was their highest when batting second in all World Cup games.

This is the second time that **five** Scotland batsmen have got ducks in an innings in this World Cup -- the only time a team has had five ducks twice in a single World Cup.

Tight win delights Dhoni

AFP, Auckland

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was delighted to see his team cope with the pressure of chasing down Zimbabwe's 287 on Saturday, insisting the extensive workout will help them in the World Cup knock-out rounds.

"I think it couldn't have been better in the sense if you're playing the last game of the league stage, and if you get an easy win, you don't get a lot out of that game," said Dhoni.

"What was good was the spinners were put under pressure, and also we lost

quick wickets initially, and that actually put our middle and lower middle order under pressure, so we gained a lot out of it."

Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin went for 75 runs in his ten overs for one wicket while fellow slow bowler Ravindra Jadeja conceded 71 without any reward in as

many overs. India then lost four key wickets before Raina and Dhoni put on an unbroken 195-run stand for the fifth wicket.

"Winning, of course, was very important, but the knock by Raina was crucial coming at number five," said Dhoni.

"More often than not you don't get an opportunity. You get in to bat maybe after the 38th, 39th over if your top order is batting well and you have to slog it out, so you play the big shot, you get out, you don't score too many runs."

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MITCHELL STARC
If you who had predicted as to who would become the highest wicket-taker in this World Cup before it started, the names of Mitchell Johnson and Dale Steyn must have been right up there. Mitchell Starc? Well, maybe somewhere after these two. But at the end of the first round, which would be finished with two matches today, the former two are nowhere near the top ten while the latter is on top of that list with 16 wickets in five innings. It should come as no surprise if one analyses Starc's ODI career. The 25-year-old left-arm has an extra-ordinary record in one-dayers with 77 wickets in 38 innings. He has five 5-wicket hauls and six four-fors to his name. One of those four-fors came against Scotland yesterday as the Scots were bundled out for 130. Starc's average in this World Cup is 8.5 and his economy rate 3.67.

SURESH RAINA
India's lower-middle order had hardly been tested in the first five matches of World Cup, thanks to the top four, who had scored the bulk of runs be it setting up a total or chasing. But it was different scenario yesterday against Zimbabwe as the Indians found themselves in a bit of bother, losing first three for just 71 runs, chasing a challenging target of 288. That's when Suresh Raina arrived at the crease, and even after the fall of Virat Kohli some 21 runs later, managed to bail India out with an unbeaten century. The left-hander scored 110 runs off 104 balls, with nine boundaries and four maximums, and forged an unbroken fifth wicket stand of 196 runs with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni to ensure India's sixth win on the trot.



The tiny City Club ground in Mirpur yesterday turned into a high-profile venue, where foreign diplomats joined in unison with the members of Brac's Kishori Unnayan Club in a game of cricket to observe the International Women's Day as well as celebrate the success of the Tigers in the on-going World Cup down under.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

THIRD EYE

Chinks in India's armour?

ATIQUE ANAM

Chinks in the armour. That must be the catchphrase in the Bangladesh camp right now as they build up for a quarterfinal clash against defending champions India, who don't seem to have a chink in their armour at the moment.

Prior to the start of the World Cup, the spin department was expected to struggle down under, where seamers play a much bigger role. The Carlton tri-series just before the start of the World Cup, where India lost all their matches against England and the hosts, only reinforced that belief. The batters too, after a demoralising Test series defeat against Australia, didn't really live up to their name. But once the World Cup started, the champions suddenly clicked into gear, with

bowlers complementing their enviable batting line-up and even fielders taking their effort quite a few notches. India sailed into the quarterfinals with five-near perfect wins -- making Pakistan look like ridiculously easy opponents, taming the high-flying South Africans in a whimper, and taking due care of United Arab Emirates, West Indies and Ireland with utmost ease. In these five matches India had posted 300 or more every time they batted first, and wrapped up the game before the 40th over every time chasing. But finally yesterday, when the qualification was already in the bags, they ran onto a Zimbabwe team that was desperate to salvage some pride. And India did stutter, and hopefully exposed some chinks, in a six-wicket win that seems flattering reading from the final scoreline.

GPH ispat

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 2

CLEAR
NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCHES

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

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



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