

6s
392
4s
1865

WHACK O 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

A day away from cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

Bangladesh's quarterfinal clash against India at the prestigious Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday may be rated by many as one the most crucial clashes in the history of Bangladesh's cricket; yes even more important than the game against England, for this match has the opportunity to let them reach a height that they probably couldn't even imagine.

However, Sunday was not the day to worry about all that. On the contrary, the Tigers were asked to take the day off and stay far away from cricket; and the players did exactly that. Yesterday they did everything that they didn't have time to do so far.

Some of them went shopping while others preferred exploring the restaurants of Melbourne. Young top order



With the Tigers enjoying a day off, young batsman Soumya Sarkar took the opportunity to watch the exciting Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park in Melbourne yesterday.

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SCORECARDS

IRELAND V PAKISTAN

IRELAND	R/B	4/6
Porterfield c Afridi b Sohail	107/131	11/1
Stirling lbw b Adil	3/8	0/0
Joyce c U Akmal b Riaz	11/18	1/0
N O'Brien c U Akmal b Rahat	12/10	2/0
Balbirmie c Afridi b Haris	18/36	0/0
Wilson c Riaz b Sohail	29/38	2/0
K O'Brien c Maqsood b Riaz	8/16	1/0
Thompson c U Akmal b Rahat	12/15	1/0
Mooney c U Akmal b Riaz	13/19	1/0
Dockrell run out	11/8	0/1
Cusack not out	1/1	0/0
Extras: (lb-2, w-10)	12	
Total: (All out in 50 overs)	237	
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-56, 3-86, 4-134, 5-182, 6-189, 7-204, 8-216, 9-230.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sohail	10	0	44	2
Adil	7	0	31	1
Rahat	10	0	48	2
Riaz	10	0	54	3
Afridi	10	0	38	0
Haris	3	0	20	1

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN	R/B	4/6
Shehzad c Joyce b Thompson	63/71	7/0
Sarfraz not out	101/124	6/0
Haris run out	3/7	0/0
Misbah hit wkt b Cusack	39/46	3/2
U Akmal not out	20/29	4/0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-13)	15	
Total: (For 3 wks in 46.1 overs)	241	
Did not bat: Maqsood, Afridi, Riaz, Sohail, Rahat, Adil.		
Fall of wickets: 1-120, 2-126, 3-208.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cusack	10	1	43	1
Mooney	9	1	40	0
Thompson	10	0	59	1
Dockrell	6	0	43	0
K O'Brien	10	0	49	0
Stirling	1.1	0	5	0

Result: Pakistan won by 7 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Sarfraz Ahmed.
Toss: Ireland

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batsman Soumya Sarkar perhaps took the advice a little too literally as he decided to change sports for a day and go witness the Australian Grand Prix yesterday. However, it wasn't sure as to whether he was supporting Lewis Hamilton, who aced the race at the Albert Park.

When the Tigers disappointedly went down to Sri Lanka at the MCG during the group stage, no one really expected them to get a shot at redemption. They fielded badly against the Lankans with Anamul Haque dropping a catch in the very first over the game. It was their first appearance at a major Australian venue and that could have been playing in their minds as well.

It will be a different team that will take on India on Thursday.

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'We can reach newer heights'



MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

As the Tigers head towards their first training session for the quarter finals at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza had a clear message in store for them. He expects his players to forget their previous achievements in the tournament and focus solely on the game against India.

"The players were advised to enjoy their break without cricket. Everybody is tired because of excessive travelling. We have three days in our hand before the match [March 19] and in my opinion our main challenge would be to check our excitement.

"Everybody is excited as we are going to play in the knockout stage for the first time. But it's been since we secured that achievement, so as a professional team we have to focus on the match ahead," Mashrafe said.

"We have got another chance and we have to take it with both hands. We have to

show the world that we are hungry for more success and I am very confident with my team. We are very capable of taking our team to another new height," the confident captain added.

Despite making it through to the knockout stages, the skipper admitted that they had a rough time at the beginning of the competition. However, the pressure subsided after the crucial wins against Afghanistan and Scotland.

"There were expectations regarding our chance to qualify into the quarterfinals but in reality this was not so easy. We worked hard during training and despite the defeats in the practice matches we didn't lose our confidence, which was the key behind our success," explained Mashrafe.

The Bangladesh skipper still believes that there are still a number of areas that the Tigers need to improve in; especially

SCAN CEMENT
HEIDELBERG CEMENT

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QUARTERFINALS LINE-UP

Date	Match	Time	Venue
March 18	South Africa v Sri Lanka	9:30am	Sydney
March 19	India v Bangladesh	9:30am	Melbourne
March 20	Australia v Pakistan	9:30am	Adelaide
March 21	New Zealand v West Indies	7:00am	Wellington

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Men of Steel

JASON HOLDER

When 23-year-old Jason Holder was appointed captain of the West Indies one-day side for the South Africa tour right before the World Cup, it came as a big surprise.

Firstly because Holder had only played 21 ODIs to his name but also because he had not proved himself at the international circuit thus far. However, as the World Cup has gone on, Holder is more and more justifying the West Indies' Cricket Board's decision with his all-round performances. The 23-year-old has already claimed nine wickets in this tournament, including a four-for conceding 27 runs against United Arab Emirates yesterday. Holder has also played his part with the bat in this tournament with two half-centuries and two scores in the forties.

WILLIAM PORTERFIELD

The strength of the Ireland team is thought to be their batting. Players like William Porterfield, Paul Stirling, Ed Joyce, Andy Balbirmie and the Brien brothers can, on their own, take the game away from the opposition, maybe with a little help from the others. So when skipper Porterfield won the toss in a must-win game against Pakistan at the Adelaide Oval yesterday, it was a simple case of batting first and putting Pakistan under pressure. The Irish skipper played his part tremendously well, scoring 107 off 131 balls. But unfortunately there wasn't much in form of supporting cast as the best score of the innings was only 29. Ireland eventually managed only 237, which proved too little to trouble Pakistan.

UAE V WEST INDIES

UAE	R/B	4/6
Amjad lbw b Holder	5/19	0/0
Berenger c Ramdin b Holder	7/7	1/0
Krishna c Smith b Holder	0/6	0/0
Khurram b Taylor	5/5	1/0
Shaiman b Taylor	2/6	0/0
Patil b Holder	6/20	0/0
A Javed b Russell	56/99	7/1
Nasir c Holder b Samuels	60/86	8/0
Naveed b Russell	14/9	1/1
Tauqir b Taylor	2/19	0/0
Guruge not out	4/10	0/0
Extras: (lb-4, w-10)	14	
Total: (All out in 47.4 overs)	175	
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-16, 3-17, 4-21, 5-26, 6-46, 7-153, 8-167, 9-167		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	8.4	0	36	3
Holder	10	1	27	4
Roach	8	0	54	0
Russell	8	3	20	2
Samuels	10	4	25	1
Sammy	1	0	4	0
Smith	2	0	5	0

WEST INDIES

WEST INDIES	R/B	4/6
Smith c Patil b Guruge	15/9	1/1
Charles c Krishna b A Javed	55/40	9/2
Samuels c Berenger b Guruge	9/18	1/0
Carter not out	50/58	5/0
Russell c & b A Javed	7/8	0/1
Ramdin not out	33/50	2/0
Extras: (lb-4, w-3)	7	
Total: (For 4 wks in 30.3 overs)	176	
Did not bat: Simmons, Sammy, Holder, Roach, Taylor		
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-53, 3-109, 4-118		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aziz	6	0	47	0
Naveed	6	0	34	0
Guruge	7.3	1	40	2
Tauqir	3	0	22	0
A Javed	8	0	29	2

Result: West Indies won by 6 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Jason Holder.
Toss: West Indies

POINTS TABLE

Pool A						
	M	W	L	D	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	6	6	0	0	12	+2.564
Australia	6	4	1	1	9	+2.275
Sri Lanka	6	4	2	0	8	+0.371
Bangladesh	6	3	2	1	7	+0.136

Pool B						
	M	W	L	D	Pts	NRR
England	6	2	4	0	4	-0.753
Afghanistan	6	1	5	0	2	-1.853
Scotland	6	0	6	0	0	-2.218

Pool C						
	M	W	L	D	Pts	NRR
India	6	6	0	0	12	+1.827
South Africa	6	4	2	0	8	+1.707
Pakistan	6	4	2	0	8	-0.085
West Indies	6	3	3	0	6	-0.053

Pool D						
	M	W	L	D	Pts	NRR
Ireland	6	3	3	0	6	-0.933
Zimbabwe	6	1	5	0	2	-0.527
UAE	6	0	6	0	0	-2.032

Note: Top four teams from each group have qualified for the quarterfinals

NAIMUL KARIM

There was barely any celebration in the Irish camp when John Mooney topped a boundary to complete a comprehensive win over the West Indies in Nelson. The fist-thumps and the Irish jig were replaced with mere mechanical handshakes, as though overcoming the 300-plus target was just another walk in the park for them.

That little moment there displayed exactly what this World Cup meant to Ireland. They have been upsetting big teams for a while now. But as the more experienced group of Irish players in this current squad would tell you, that's just not enough.

They thought it would have been

THIRD EYE Ireland deserve more

enough when they surprised the world by humbling Pakistan at the shores of the Caribbean in 2007. However, in an anti-climax, the next four years saw them play just 17 ODIs against full-member nations.

They definitely thought it was going to be enough when Kevin O'Brien hit a majestic century and brought them back from the brink to embarrass England in the sub-continent in 2011. To their utter dis-

may though, they only got 10 ODIs against full-member nations since the end of that World Cup and the start of the current mega event.

And so when a tired-looking Irish skipper William Porterfield, took the stage of the post-match presentation following their elimination from the World Cup yesterday, you had to feel for him. "Hope we get more games, and progress from there," he said while hurrying through his byte.

Unfortunately for him, with the way the ICC's new system has been designed -- where tours would depend more on bilateral agreements -- they may get to play even lesser

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