



The cricketing world in applauded Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene, who bowled out of ODIs yesterday. Here are the best tweets.

"Well done on glorious ODI careers @KumarSanga2 & @MahelaJay Being an integral part of the ODI side for so many years, it is difficult to imagine the side without the 2 of you. Wishing you the very best and will miss the 2 of you constructing the innings in coloured clothes."

- Sachin Tendulkar

"Congrats to @MahelaJay and @KumarSanga2 on incredible careers and what brilliant memories they gave us all."

- Graeme Smith

"That's it. SA are through to semis. Sad end of Mahela & Sanga's ODI career."

- Shoaib Akhtar

"Congrats to @MahelaJay and @KumarSanga2 for a wonderful one day careers. SL will find it difficult to fill the gap...too big shoes."

- Anil Kumble

"Well played South Africa on a dominant win over Sri Lanka. Sad to see the legends @KumarSanga2 & @MahelaJay finish their one day careers."

- Glen McGrath

"Congrats @MahelaJay & @KumarSanga2 on an excellent career. You have been gr8 role models & inspiration 2 a lot of youngsters. Good luck."

- Jacques Kallis



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa's spearhead Dale Steyn celebrates his only wicket after dismissing Tillakaratne Dilshan for a duck.



You choke, answers de Villiers

AFP, Sydney

South Africa captain AB de Villiers threw the tag of "chokers" back in the face of the team's critics following their World Cup quarterfinal rout of Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

"I think we liked being called chokers, so we'll just keep that tag and move along as long as we keep winning," said de Villiers.

"We didn't come all this way just to make it to the semifinals," added the skipper, not required to bat on Wednesday after making a stunning 162 not out against the West Indies on his

last SCG appearance during the pool stage.

South Africa's victory over Sri Lanka was all but assured after they dismissed the 1996 champions and runners-up at the last two World Cups for just 133.

De Villiers lost the toss but, following good work by the Proteas pacemen, leg-spinner Imran Tahir took four for 26 and off-spinner JP Duminy's haul of three for 29 included a hat-trick.

South Africa now face a semi-final in Auckland on March 24 against the winners of this Saturday's match between New

Zealand and the West Indies.

"It means a lot to us," said de Villiers of South Africa's victory.

"On the other side, it means absolutely nothing. You're going to have to start over again. We are committed to the fact that we're not going to show any weakness."

Reflecting on Wednesday's display in the field, de Villiers said: "I wouldn't say it's the best, but definitely the most important performance in the most important game to date."

"The way Dale [Steyn] and Kyle [Abbott] started off and then Morne [Morkel] who followed with a lot of heat, and then obvi-

ously the two spinners. We just worked really well as a bowling unit."

"It's never easy to play Sri Lanka, especially in World Cup games. They're a tough team to beat, so I'm very chuffed with what we've achieved, and I'd like us to enjoy this victory tonight and move on tomorrow."

Rounding off a perfect evening for South Africa, previously struggling 22-year-old opener Quinton de Kock -- whose six previous innings at the World Cup had yielded just 53 runs -- made 78 not out as the Proteas won with a huge 32 overs to spare.

Lanka blown away by SA

AFP, Sydney

JP Duminy took a hat-trick as South Africa's bowlers set up a crushing nine-wicket World Cup quarterfinal win over Sri Lanka in Sydney on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka, who won the toss, were bowled out for just 133 on a good Sydney Cricket Ground pitch.

After South Africa's pacemen reduced Sri Lanka to four for two, leg-spinner Imran Tahir (four for 26 in 8.2 overs) and off-spinner Duminy (three for 29 in seven) made sure the islanders' innings never got out of first gear.

South Africa, so often labelled World Cup 'chokers', completed an emphatic win by finishing on 134 for one with 32 overs to spare.

Quinton de Kock, who had managed just 53 runs in six previous innings this World Cup, was 78 not out after hitting the winning boundary -- his 12th four -- off paceman Lasith Malinga. Faf du Plessis was unbeaten on 21.

Victory meant the Proteas had, after several heartbreaking reverses that started at the SCG with a rain-affected semifinal loss to England in 1992, finally won a knockout



match at the World Cup.

They will face the winners of Saturday's match between New Zealand and West Indies in the semifinals on March 24.

But Kumar Sangakkara's record-breaking run of four successive ODI hundreds finally came to an end although the left-hander, who plans to continue in Test cricket, top-scored with 45.

Mahela Jayawardene, who has already bowled out of the five-day format, could only manage four on Wednesday.

Sangakkara and fellow left-hander Lahiru Thirimanne (41) put on 65 for the third wicket. But otherwise there was little batting resistance on a good pitch, with Sri Lanka losing four wickets for two runs in nine balls as they slumped to 116 for eight.

South Africa's bowlers, often overshadowed by their more celebrated batsmen, dominated Sri Lanka from the start.

Kusal Perera, promoted to open the innings, fell for three when he edged Kyle Abbott and was brilliantly caught left-handed, by de Kock as the wicketkeeper dived in front of first slip.

Tillakaratne Dilshan was then out for a seven-ball duck, edging fast bowler Dale Steyn low to du Plessis at second slip.

DELIGHT FOR DUMINY

STAR SPORT DESK

JP Duminy became the first South African and ninth in the world to take a hat-trick at a World Cup. The 30-year-old became just the second South African to take a ODI hat-trick.

He also became just the second spinner to take a World Cup hat-trick, behind Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq whose effort came against Zimbabwe in 1999.

After dismissing Angelo Mathews with the last ball of his seventh over, Duminy had to wait getting Nuwan Kulasekera caught behind with the first ball of his eighth over. However, to the batsman's credit, the Sri Lankan walked after the umpire was not alert to a slight nick off Kulasekera's bat. Duminy then trapped Kaushal with a plumb Lbw with his second ball to complete his hat-trick.

| BOWLER | AGAINST | YEAR |
|-----------------------|--------------|------|
| Chetan Sharma (IND) | New Zealand | 1987 |
| Saqlain Mushtaq (PAK) | Zimbabwe | 1999 |
| Chaminda Vaas (SL) | Bangladesh | 2003 |
| Brett Lee (AUS) | Kenya | 2003 |
| Lasith Malinga (SL) | South Africa | 2007 |
| Kemar Roach (WI) | Netherlands | 2011 |
| Lasith Malinga (SL) | Kenya | 2011 |
| Steven Finn (ENG) | Australia | 2015 |
| JP Duminy (RSA) | Sri Lanka | 2015 |



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INFO ZONE

QUARTER FINAL MATCH - 2

INDIA v BANGLADESH



HEAD TO HEAD

LAST MEETING

19 June 2014 at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium: No result.

KEY PLAYERS

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| BATTING AVG | 52.67 |
| INNINGS | 226 |
| S/R | 89.13 |
| 50s | 57 |
| 100s | 9 |
| HIGHEST SCORE | 183* |
| LAST MATCH | 85* |



DHONI

v



MASHRAFE

THE CAPTAINS

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| BOWLING AVG. | 30.50 |
| INNINGS | 148 |
| ECONOMY | 4.68 |
| 4w | 5 |
| 5w | 1 |
| BEST FIGURES | 6/26 |
| LAST MATCH | 2/48 |

FAN ZONE



Showing solidarity with the Tigers a rally was held at Shahbagh as part of a 'Wish' campaign. Other fans flocked to meet their superstars. A South African lady looked every bit as good as her team yesterday.



Nafisa Faruque: Eagerly waiting for the Bangladesh and India quarterfinal. #CholoBangladesh Keanan Hemmonsbey



I had to get sneak updates of the game while I was sitting in the exam venue today. No regrets though. Proteas made us proud!