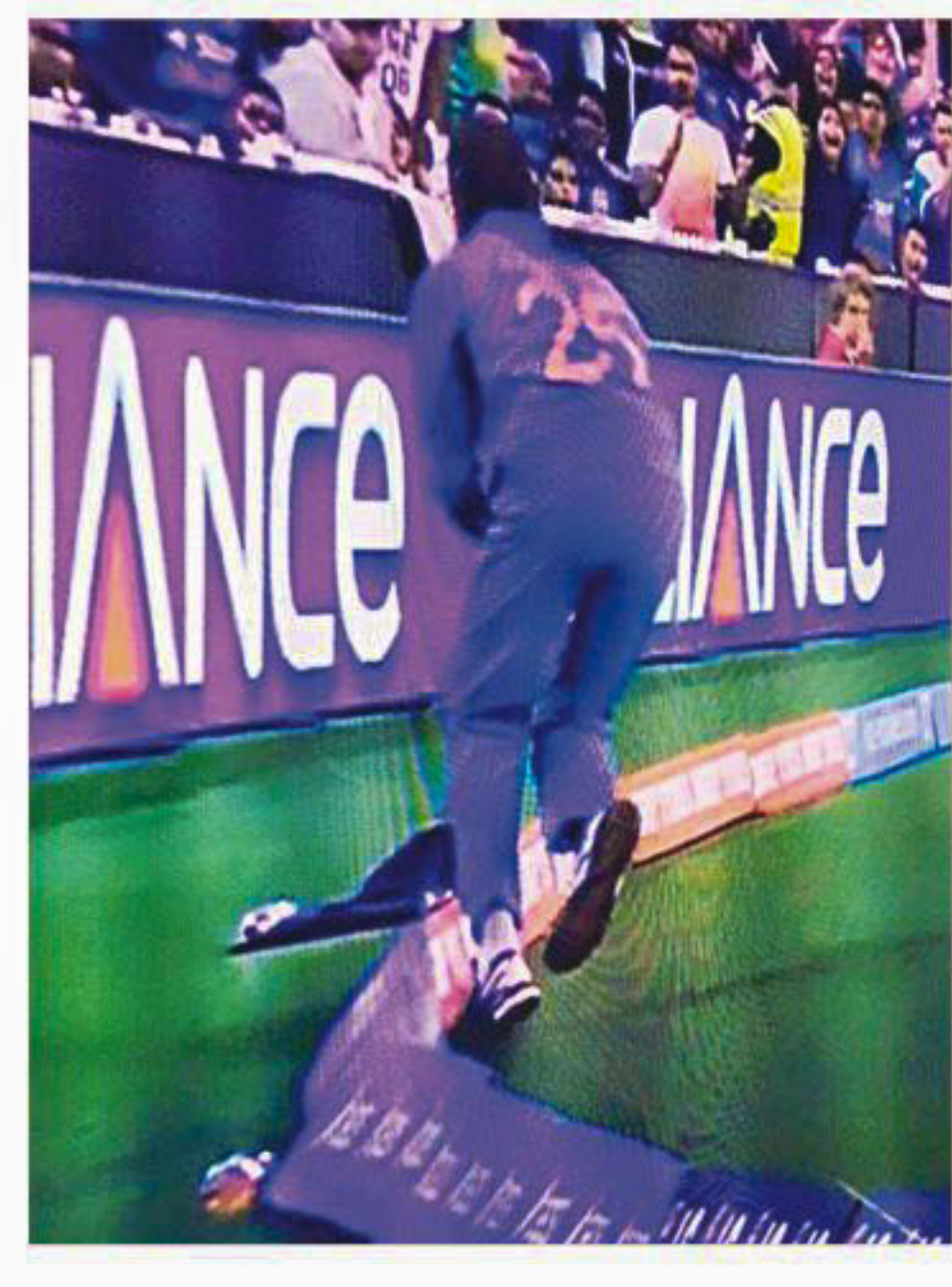
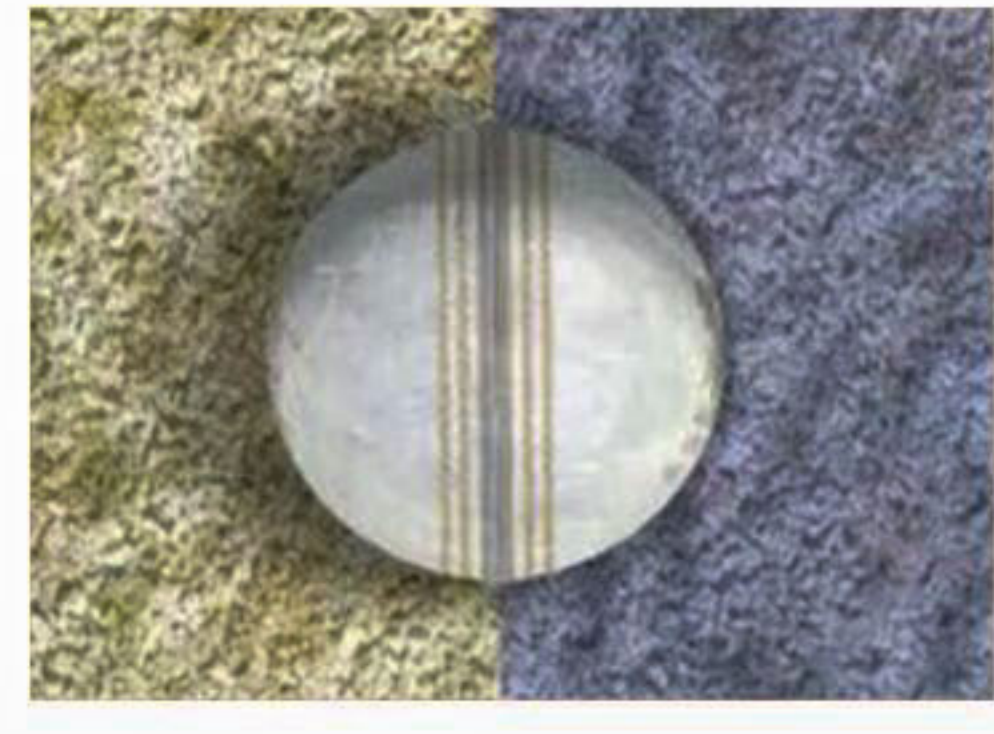
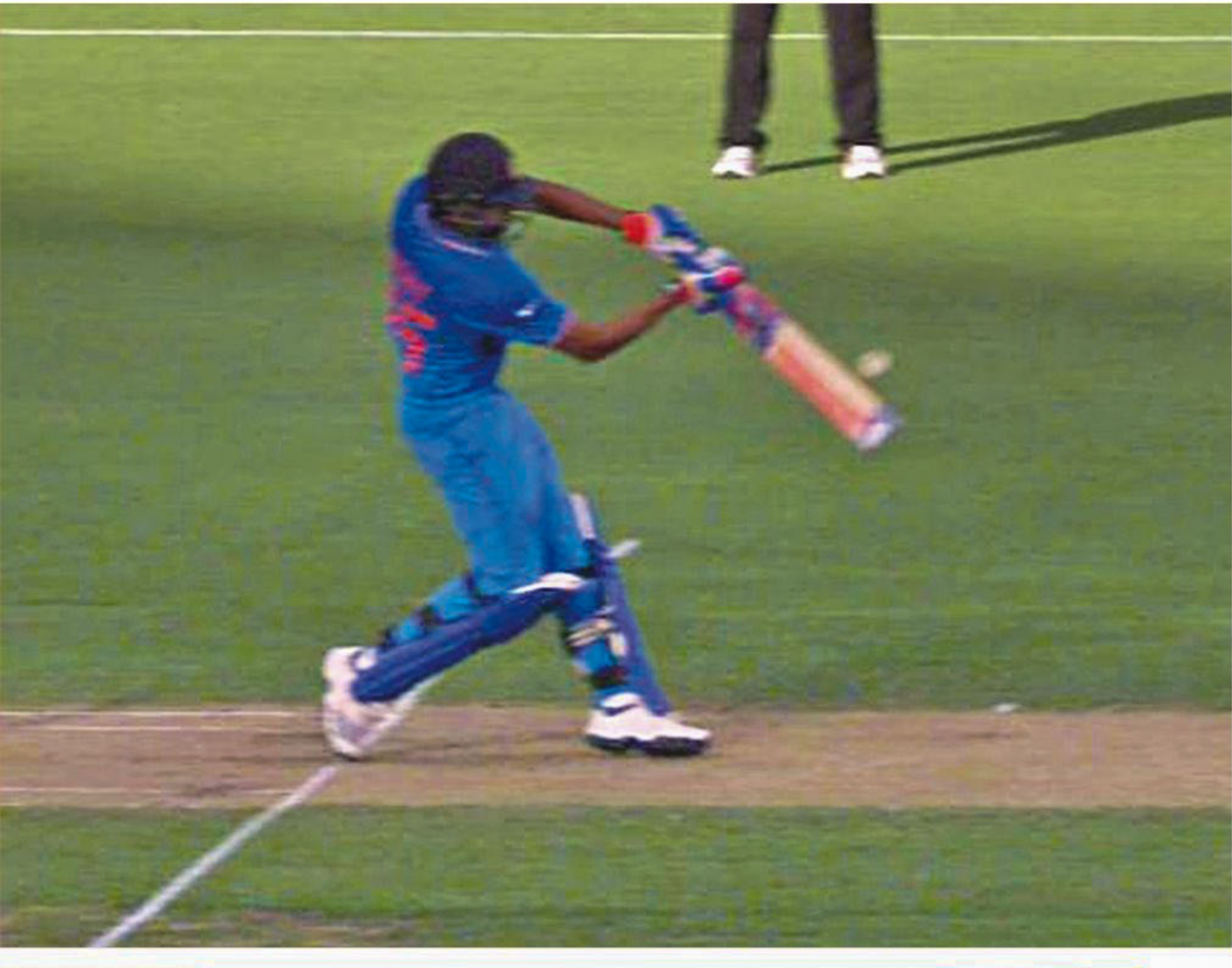


6s
397
4s
1935

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
57



The no-ball that wasn't

NAIMUL KARIM

They say 'small teams' can't knock champions out. To put it more subtly, a team as inexperienced as Bangladesh in the knockout stages can't be expected to thump the reigning champions out of the World Cup. That's what Sourav Ganguly indicated prior to the match. Paul Collingwood said the same and so did a number of other ex-cricketers and experts.

One can't absolutely disagree with those thoughts. After all, at the end of the day, it was Bangladesh's inexperience that got the better of them. However, one would feel that there were certain crucial moments in the game, which could have led to a different scenario, had they gone Bangladesh's way.

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Bangladesh's openers didn't come of age, the Tigers lost the battle to those short-pitched deliveries and they were unnerved by the task of chasing down a 300-plus target. But those failures of course were with regards to their batting.

Their bowling display was a different story altogether. After getting pounded in the first ten overs, they came back through spin. They put a tight leash on the Indian batsmen in the middle overs.

India countered by launching an attack during the batting powerplay; one which Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and co thought that they had put an end to in the 40th over after Rohit Sharma pulled a low full-toss straight to deep mid-wicket.

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When one bad umpiring decision is good enough to cost a game Bangladesh actually were subject to three of them against India.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

'It was a brilliant tournament for us'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

At the end of the day it all came down to 'what ifs' for Bangladesh. There's no doubt that the reprieve that Rohit Sharma got in the 40th over proved to be a crucial turning point in the game. Sharma, who was in his 90s at that point, went on to hammer a series of boundaries.

Would the game be any different had the leg-umpire not deemed that delivery as a no-ball? Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza certainly thought so.

"It could have been. Against India we always have to take wickets, otherwise it is going to be very difficult. At that stage if he

got out, Rohit, it would have been great. But I think I can't say anything in here. Everyone saw what happened in the middle. I don't want to say anything about this," a disappointed Mashrafe blurted at the end of the match yesterday.

Criticising umpires don't always yield the best of reactions and it was quite obvious that Mashrafe had chosen his words quite cautiously. While he didn't condemn the umpire's decision, his words demeanour displayed just how disappointed he was.

The first 35 overs saw the Tigers keep India under pressure. They kept a tight field

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 8

SCAN CEMENT
HEIDELBERG CEMENT



It was perhaps the Tigers' best moment in the otherwise forgettable quarterfinal against India at the MCG yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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SCORECARD

INDIA V BANGLADESH				
INDIA	Bowler	M	R	W
R Sharma b Taskin		137/126	14/3	
Dhawan st Mushfiq b Shakib		30/50	3/0	
Kohli c Mushfiq b Rubel		3/8	0/0	
Rahane c Shakib b Taskin		19/37	1/0	
Raina c Mushfiq b Mashrafe		65/57	7/1	
Dhoni c Nasir b Taskin		6/11	0/0	
Jadeja not out		23/10	4/0	
Ashwin not out		3/3	0/0	
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, w-3, nb-2)		16		
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)		302		
Did not bat: Shami, M Sharma, Yadav.				
Fall of wickets: 1-75, 2-79, 3-115, 4-237, 5-273, 6-296.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	10	0	69	1
Taskin	10	0	69	3
Nasir	9	0	35	0
Mahmudullah	1	0	4	0
Rubel	10	0	56	1
Shakib	10	0	58	1

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tamim c Dhoni b Yadav		25/25	4/0	
Imrul run out		5/14	0/0	
Soumya c Dhoni b Shami		29/43	3/1	
Mahmudullah c Dhawan b Shami		21/31	2/0	
Shakib c Shami b Jadeja		10/34	0/0	
Mushfiq c Dhoni b Yadav		27/43	2/0	
Sabbir c Shami b Yadav		30/40	2/0	
Nasir c Ashwin b Jadeja		35/34	6/0	
Mashrafe c Dhoni b M Sharma		1/3	0/0	
Rubel c Ashwin b Yadav		0/3	0/0	
Taskin not out		0/0	0/0	
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-8)		10		
Total: (All out in 45 overs)		193		
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-33, 3-73, 4-90, 5-104, 6-139, 7-189, 8-192, 9-193.				

Result: India won by 109 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma.
Toss: India

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 3

BCB to appeal against umpiring

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon has said that the BCB will file a complaint to the International Cricket Council with regards to the umpiring that took place during yesterday's quarterfinal clash between India and Bangladesh at Melbourne.

Papon said that he was disappointed with the way a couple of umpiring decisions went against Bangladesh and said that he would appeal against it. "There will be an appeal against this. But that won't change the result unfortunately. In crucial knockout stages like these the smallest of decisions can make a big impact. In this case, so

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Man of Steel

ROHIT SHARMA

It was the perfect moment for Sharma to peak in a competition which hasn't really witnessed the best of him. Prior to the game against Bangladesh, the opener just had two half-centuries under his belt and a big one was awaiting him. He played an elegant knock which didn't see any slogs. There were dominated by deft touches through the third-man region, straight hits down the ground and calculated pull shots. He was at his marauding best after he reached his century in the death overs. He smacked Bangladesh's best bowlers out of the ground in style and took India to an extremely competitive total. If it wasn't for Sharma's 137 off 126, India would have been under pressure.

CLEAR
NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCH

Australia v Pakistan
Third Quarterfinal
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Adelaide

SATURDAY'S MATCH

New Zealand v West Indies
Fourth Quarterfinal
Time: 7:00am
Venue: Wellington

'Minnows' tag still attached?

STAR SPORTS DESK

"Bangladesh look better than what they actually are. They escaped a sound thrashing at the hands of the marauding Aussies thanks to rain. Had that match gone on, Bangladesh would have been demoralized and made yet another silent exit. I am afraid that a drubbing awaits them tomorrow (Thursday) at the MCG."

This message was posted on-line in response to an article titled 'Time to shed 'minnows' tag' on The Daily Star's website.

Whoever the gentleman is that made the comment, he was absolutely spot-on with his prediction about the MCG encounter.

The Tigers bowed out of the World Cup with a crushing 109-run defeat against holders India in the second quarterfinal and, more importantly, will now head home keeping that minnows tag firmly planted on their back.

India's victory was never in doubt when

they posted a total beyond 300 on a massive ground, where the highest successful run chase is 297. The impressive Indian team needed one of their five top batsmen to fire and it was time for Rohit Sharma to do the honour under a trying situation when Bangladesh looked to assume control. Three wickets down and Rohit played a magnificent knock of 137 to not only break free from shackles in the company of Suresh Raina, but also prosper the progress of the innings, where India piled up almost double in last 25

compared to the first half.

The defeat is certainly a very painful blow for millions of Tigers fans who were riding on euphoria after their team's outstanding performances in the group stages. Actually yesterday was quite a different day as most of them stayed back at home, leaving the streets almost vacant, making it perhaps look like a true hartal for a different cause.

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