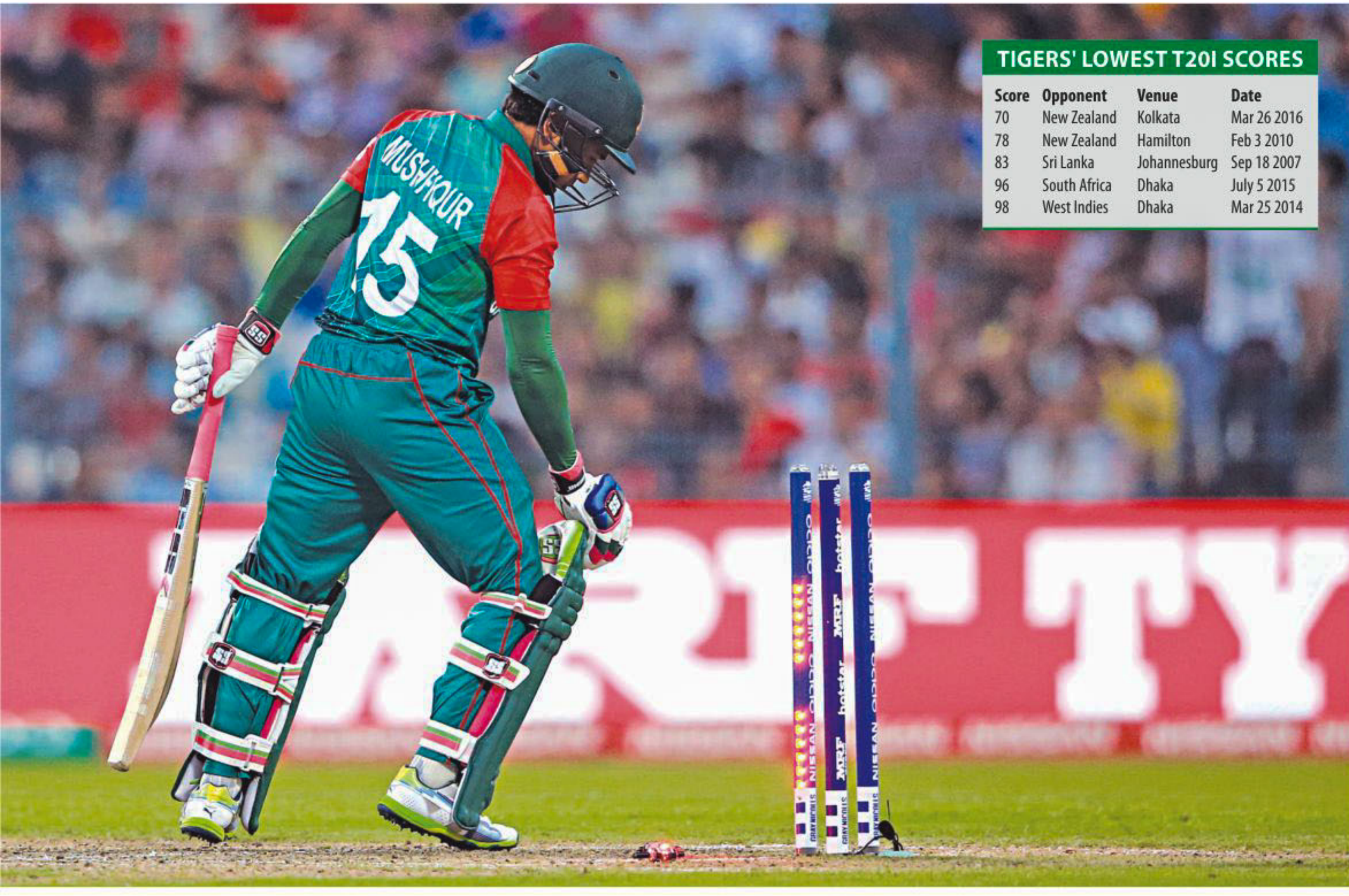




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Score	Opponent	Venue	Date
70	New Zealand	Kolkata	Mar 26 2016
78	New Zealand	Hamilton	Feb 3 2010
83	Sri Lanka	Johannesburg	Sep 18 2007
96	South Africa	Dhaka	July 5 2015
98	West Indies	Dhaka	Mar 25 2014

Bangladesh batsmen were all at sea against the guile and discipline of the New Zealand bowlers, much like Mushfiqur Rahim who had little idea about the Grant Elliott delivery that bowled him during the Tigers' 75-run defeat at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Kiwi bowlers were more intelligent'

AL-AMIN from Kolkata

The build-up to Bangladesh's last ICC World T20 game was fascinating, if not spectacular, considering that they had fought well against Australia and had a near-miss against India. But all the hype and adrenalin that Bangladesh carried into their game against New Zealand seemed to burst like a bubble yesterday evening.

It was a total mismatch. The Kiwis showed that they had more firepower to overrun a sub-continent team on a typical sub-continent wicket. They had done it against India and with the Bangladesh demolition they look like they are favourites to win their first ICC silverware.

Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusinga, who confronted the press after his team's stunning 75-run defeat in a low-scoring affair, gave all the credit to an intelligent Kiwi bowling.

"I think they bowled beautifully on this wicket. Their bowlers were more intelligent and exploited the slow wicket better than us," said the Bangladesh coach, adding that it was a wicket where 120-130 would have been a good score.

When asked to comment about Mustafizur Rahman's brilliant bowling performance in a lost cause, the coach described the left-arter as a very intelligent bowler.

"I think he is the most intelligent bowler we have in our team. He not only mixes his cutters with his yorkers but he can also read the opposition batsmen very well," he said. He further said that his team had made plenty of inroads in the shortest version of the game.

Hathurusinga's appearance in the post-match briefing however was more of an effort from the team management to play down an embarrassment that nobody anticipated from a side that has been very competitive under the leadership of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

It was a kind of batting performance that Mashrafe -- who was perhaps playing his last T20I on the world stage, if not his last overall -- had hardly anticipated especially after



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Aussies face India in decider

AFP, Mohali

Australia will look to dump hosts India out of the World Twenty20 tournament on Sunday in a do-or-die clash between cricket's two biggest teams.

A narrow win by India over Bangladesh, followed by Australia's 21-run triumph against Pakistan, has effectively reduced Sunday's group encounter into a knockout, with the winner making it to the semi-finals.

who is set to quit international cricket at the end of the tournament.

Watson was part of Australia's World Cup triumphs in 2007 and 2015 and also starred during the team's winning campaigns in the Champions Trophy finals of 2006 and 2009.

top of Group 2 and are clearly one of the better-looking sides in the tournament.

The home side, which won the inaugural World T20 edition in 2007, bounced back to defeat arch-rivals Pakistan before pulling off a nerve-racking one-run win against Bangladesh.

"We've got a massive game coming up against India, whoever wins that goes through," said Australian pacer James Faulkner after Friday's win against Pakistan.

"It was on our shoulders to turn the ship around and start winning.

"We have won two in a row, now we need to win another three to win the World Cup," said the bowler, who enjoyed a five-wicket haul against Pakistan, the first Australian to do so in T20 cricket.

Australia	Played	India
2	4	2
IN ALL T20Is		
4	12	8
LAST MEETING		
January 31 2016: India won by 7 wickets.		

The Indians will be praying for a full game Sunday because a washout would throw the hosts out of the tournament, since Australia enjoy a better run rate.

India's star batsman Virat Kohli admitted the players would have to raise their game against the Aussies and not let themselves be overwhelmed.

Australia are the reigning 50-over world champions and the number one Test side, but have failed to win the World T20 in five previous attempts.

If they do manage to win the trophy this time around, it would be a fitting tribute to all-rounder Shane Watson,

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"I think the only thing that we can do in this situation is to stay in the moment and not get carried away by the bigger picture," Kohli said Saturday at a pre-match press conference.

"Sometimes we forget to do what exactly we need to do on a particular delivery, which could be a game-changing event," he said.

"This format requires you to be top of your focus and concentration for 120 balls while you are batting and in the field.

"If we play to our potential, we have the ability to go all the way."

Eng hold nerve to make semis

REUTERS, New Delhi

England held their nerve to beat Sri Lanka by 10 runs in a thrilling World Twenty20 Group One match on Saturday, reaching the semifinals and knocking the defending champions out of the tournament.

Jos Buttler struck a blistering unbeaten 66 to power England to a commanding 171 for four after they had made a slow start.

The 2010 winners returned to blow away Sri Lanka's top order before Angelo Mathews battled a hamstring injury to drag his team back into the match with a brilliant unbeaten 73.

Sri Lanka's defeat also dashed South

Africa's hopes of qualifying for the last four.

Put in to bat, England lost Alex Hales in the second over but Jason Roy and Joe Root added 61 runs in 8.3 overs to steady the innings.

Leg-spinner Jeffrey Vanderson dismissed both batsmen but Buttler capitalised on the foundation, hitting eight fours and two sixes in his unbeaten 37-ball blitz to punish the Sri Lankans.

Sri Lanka made a dismal start as openers Tillakaratne Dilshan and Dinesh Chandimal were dismissed inside the first eight deliveries and the top order caved in.

Mathews and Chamara Kapugedera revived the chase before Perera scored 20 quick runs down the order, but Mathews looked tired by the end and could only score four of the 15 runs required from the last over sent down by Ben Stokes.

England batsman Jos Buttler's unbeaten 37-ball 66 against Sri Lanka in Delhi yesterday was instrumental to his side's 10-run win.

PHOTO: AFP

After a narrow win against South Africa, West Indies skipper Darren Sammy indicated his team would let their hair down.

"We are really going to celebrate this win because it was a really tough game," said Sammy, who will ponder whether to give some unused squad members a run-out.

England batsman Jos Buttler's unbeaten 37-ball 66 against Sri Lanka in Delhi yesterday was instrumental to his side's 10-run win.
PHOTO: AFP

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Windies eye perfect end

AFP, Nagpur

Afghanistan will hope to catch the West Indies with a hangover Sunday as they look to sign off from cricket's World Twenty20 with a much-deserved consolation victory.

West Indies' captain Darren Sammy said his team would have a party after qualifying for the semi-finals with their third straight win of the tournament on Friday -- a nervy last over victory against South Africa.

So with their opponents' eyes already on next week's last four showdown against either India or Australia, the conditions are ripe for Afghanistan to spring an upset in their last match of the tournament.


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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

CAPTAIN KANE

After electing to bat in tough conditions, New Zealand needed a good start. The pitch was a bit slow and the bounce was uneven. The Black Caps required someone to stay on the wicket and punch in the crucial early runs and that came in the form of their captain cool, Kane Williamson. He smacked a 32-ball 42 and helped pave the foundation for a good total on that ground. Williamson was resolute as ever, punching boundaries on the backfoot and looked as composed when he went for the power strokes. He ended up driving five fours and a six during his 43-minute stay.



Midge takes dig at Kohli

AGENCIES, Sydney

With India set to take on Australia in a virtual quarterfinal today, retired Australian pacer Mitchell Johnson took a dig at Virat Kohli on Twitter.

After Kohli said at the pre-match press conference that the Aussie sledging only makes him perform better, Johnson took to Twitter and, linking an article to Kohli's briefing, wrote: "Love it!! [Kohli] went missing in the World Cup semifinal last year when it really counted."

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