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Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim struck a team-high 80-ball 78 in an World Cup encounter against South Africa in England yesterday. Mushfiqur, partnering all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, produced a record 142-run thirdwicket stand to post the Tigers' highest ever ODI total of 330 for 6, which was also the highest score of the World Cup so far. Mustafizur Rahman then ook three for 67 as Bangladesh won the match by 21 runs. PHOTO: AFP

This is the team we are: Mash

SAKEB SUBHAN from London

There was not much time for Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to celebrate an opening win that seemed unlikely when the fixtures were confirmed before he had to make his way to the post-match press conference. It was enough time for the captain to get his game face on and face the media and remind the fans that the 21-run win over South Africa at The Oval yesterday was just one game.

"After the win, there's nothing much to say. Everyone is happy," Mashrafe said. "We are seeing every other team as bigger than us, so we are more focused on our own game. We don't want to be too excited. We just have two points so far. We have to beat big teams if we want to do well in this tournament."

Bangladesh had come into the World Cup as among the best-prepared teams. On May 17 they won their first multi-team ODI trophy by beating West Indies in the final of the tri-series in Ireland. However, on Saturday, he said that it would be best to forget about that result before starting their World

Cup campaign. "I think we should forget about today's game now," was his message yesterday too. "We have to plan for the match against New Zealand, and try to execute it properly. Even if we lost this match, it would not have made a difference for the game against New Zealand. This win will give us confidence, but more challenges await

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TODAY'S MATCH

ICC CRICKET

WORLD CUP

ENGLAND V PAKISTAN

LIVE FROM

3:30_{PM}

(BANGLADESH STANDARD TIME)

us, especially for our batsmen."

The batsmen were the stars of the day as each of the top seven -- from opener Soumya Sarkar's 30-ball 42, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfigur Rahim's innings-shaping 142-run third-wicket stand, Mohammad Mithun's cameo of a runa-ball 21 to the 66-run sixth-wicket stand in just 41 balls from Mahmudullah Riyad and Mosaddek Hossain at the end -- contributed to



setting up a total that was too good for South Africa.

Then the bowlers bowled as a group, with Mustafizur Rahman leading the way with three for 67, Mehedi Hasan Miraz performing the defensive spinner's role to perfection with economical figures of 44 for one from 10 overs and Shakib picking his 250th wicket during another economical spell of one for 50 from 10. Having asked the previous day for a concerted effort, and stressing that that was Bangladesh's

strength and modus operandi, Mashrafe could not help but bask in the satisfaction of his team executing to such a high level.

"This is the team we are. We mostly win when everyone contributes. Once most of our players step up, there's a good possibility to win the matches. I think we have been lucky, and played so well."

It was not long before he pulled things back. When asked whether this was their best World Cup performance, he was not ready to go so far.

"We played well in 2007, and did well in a few matches in 2011. If you are taking about specific matches I don't think this is our best win. But it wasn't easy for us in these conditions, playing in England. It is one of our best performances, and I loved the way we played today. It won't happen everyday, I am sure, but I would love it if we could."

He singled Soumya out for special praise after the opener followed three successive fifties win Ireland with a dominant 42 yesterday.

"He does something out of the box," Mashrafe said. "We give him a lot of freedom as well. Play your shots and express yourself as much as you can. He is doing so well since the Ireland tri-series. In the practice match against India, he was the one who took them on. Hopefully his confidence will keep going. He has to adjust to the swinging ball. I hope his consistency stays."

Will fight against India: Du Plessis

AFP, LONDON

Bangladesh made the perfect start to their World Cup campaign as their highest one-day international score inspired a 21-run win over a beleaguered South Africa on Sunday.

Mashrafe Mortaza's side posted 330 for six as Mushfiqur Rahim (78) and Shakib Al Hasan (75) laid the foundations of their impressive display at the Oval.

Attempting to become the first team to successfully chase more than 330 to win a World Cup match, South Africa fell short t 309 for eight.

After reaching the World Cup quarter-finals in 2015, Bangladesh again look capable of shaking up cricket's



established order, to the delight of their army of vociferous supporters who packed the Oval.

"It will be one of our top wins," Shakib Al Hasan, who received the player-of-the-match award for his allround performance, said. "We have done some upsets at World Cups but we want to prove something at this tournament.

In contrast to Bangladesh's brilliant start, South Africa find themselves in turmoil after Du Plessis' decision to bowl first backfired despite two wickets from veteran spinner Imran Tahir in his 100th ODI appearance.

With the World Cup just four days old, they have already lost twice in south London -- this disappointing performance following their 104-run thrashing by hosts England.

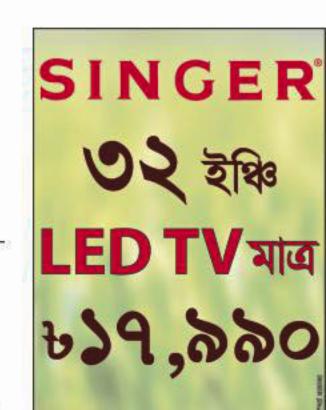
South Africa, who have never won the World Cup, are left with little margin for error in the rest of the 10-team round-robin group stage.

It won't get any easier for the Proteas in their next match when they face title contenders India on Wednesday.

With Dale Steyn once again sidelined by a shoulder injury, South Africa suffered a fresh blow when fellow paceman Lungi Ngidi limped off with a reported hamstring problem after bowling just four overs on Sunday.

However, despite their back-to-back defeats and injury worries, Du Plessis has vowed to fight back. "We're a proud sporting nation. The skills weren't here

today but I can promise there will be fight against India on Wednesday. We're only firing at 50-60 percent and it shows that even Bangladesh can beat that," the South Africa captain said.



BD-SA **SCOREBOARD**

75/84 8/1

Tamim c de Kock b Phehlukwayo16/29

Soumva c de Kock b Morris

Shakib b Imran Tahir

Mushfigur c Dussen

BANGLADESH

musimiqui c b u	222			
b Phehlukwayo			78/80	8
Mithun b Imran Tahir			21/21	2
Mahmudullah not out			46/33	3
Mosaddek c Ph	ehlukw	ayo		
b Morris			26/20	4
Mehedi not out			5/3	1
Extras: (lb-9, w-12)			21	
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)			330	
Fall of wickets:	1-60, 2	-75, 3-2	17, 4-24	2,
5-250, 6-316.				
Bowler	0	M	R	
Ngidi	4	0	34	
Rabada	10	0	57	
Phehlukwayo	10	1	52	
Morris	10	0	73	
Markram	5	0	38	
Imran	10	0	57	
Duminy	1	0	10	
SOUTH AFRICA			R/B	4s/
De Kock run out			23/32	4
Markram b Shakib			45/56	4
Du Plessis b Mehedi			62/53	5
Miller c Mehedi b Mustafizur			38/43	2
Van der Dussen b Saifuddin			41/38	2
Duminy b Mustafizur			45/37	4
Phehlukwayo o	Shakib		reserve.	
b Saifuddin			8/13	1
Morris c Soumya b Mustafizur			10/10	1
Rabada not out			13/9	0
Tahir not out			10/10	0
Extras: (b-4, nb-1, w-9)			14	
Total: (For 8 in 50 overs)			309	

Did not bat: Ngidi. Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-102, 3-147, 4-202, 5-228, 6-252, 7-275, 8-287

Bowler Mustafizur Saifuddin Shakib Mashrafe Result: Bangladesh won by 21 runs. Player-of-the-match: Shakib Al Hasan

RAHIM STEEL



Yesterday's World Cup encounter between Bangladesh and South Africa was the perfect platform for the world's number one ODI all-rounder, Shakib Al Hasan, to showcase his skills. The left-hander did just that, registering 75 runs, his personal best against the Proteas, when it mattered. He strung a record 142-run third wicket partnership with Mushfigur Rahim before coming back with the ball and removing the dangerous Aiden Markram, and in the process becoming the fastest man to 250 wickets and 5000 runs in ODIs. The ace all-rounder also took a diving catch to dismiss Andile Phehlukawo o help Bangladesh win the match by 21 runs.

PHOTO: AFP



