







A PROPER TEAM EFFORT

(Clockwise from bottom L) Mosaddek Hossain provided the late fireworks with a 20-ball 26 long after Soumya Sarkar had provided a fast start in Bangladesh's World Cup opener with a 30-ball 42. Mushfigur Rahim got the breakthrough at the start of South Africa's chase, running out Quinton de Kock and he also formed a 142-run stand with Shakib Al Hasan. Pacer Mohammad Saifuddin also did well, scalping two wickets. PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP



Mushfigur Rahim, by far the most dependable batsman in the Bangladesh squad, again displayed his abilities in yesterday's World Cup match against South Africa. The 31-year-old added a record 142 runs for the third wicket alongside Shakib. Mushfigur kept the score board ticking following his arrival at the crease and his 34th ODI fifty helped Bangladesh post their highest ever ODI total of 330. The wicketkeeperbatsman also performed his duties behind the stumps well. Even though he dropped South Africa opener Quinton de Kock, he immediately compensated by running out the left-hander with a direct hit following a mix-up.

Tigers get it right, Proteas not quite

SAKEB SUBHAN from London

There was a subplot heading into yesterday's World Cup match between Bangladesh and South Africa at The Oval. Two contrasting cricketing cultures were going to clash on neutral territory, with each winning series against the other in their own backyards over the last four-year cycle. While South Africa's batsmen can power-hit throughout the 50 overs, Bangladesh's batsmen prefer cricketing shots and a more conventional approach towards a 300plus total. South Africa's bowlers rely on pace and impact, and Bangladesh's batsmen are widely perceived to be suspect against the short stuff.

With many teams, including South Africa in their opener against England on Thursday, finishing on low scores in their eagerness to reach the magical 350 mark popularised over the last two years by the hosts, Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza insisted on Saturday that it was imperative that Bangladesh not reinvent the wheel and play the way they have been playing at home. At the halfway stage, having scored their highest total of 330 for six in 50 overs, it seemed that the Bangladeshi brand of cricket had won the day while the South African style floundered.

Another factor in Bangladesh's opener was the nerves the Tigers would have to

deal with after all the hype surrounding their chances in the World Cup. But Bangladesh were calm -- from a 60-run opening stand between Soumya Sarkar and Tamim Iqbal, through a 142-run third-wicket stand between Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfigur Rahim and finally to a bright finish that realised 86 runs in the last 10 overs.

There were fairly early signs for

South Africa that a bouncer barrage like the one they bullied the Tigers with in October 2017 would not bear much fruit, but they kept on trying through the pacers Kagiso Rabada, Chris Morris, Andile Phehlukwayo and Lungi Ngidi, who left the field with a side strain after the seventh over. Soumya, Tamim, Shakib and Mushfigur were all comfortable against the short ball, pulling singles down to fine leg and cutting and pulling boundaries along the ground and in the air.

If the pacers erred on the short side for South Africa, Bangladesh's expertise against spin thwarted South Africa's spin trio of specialist leg-spinner Imran Tahir and part-time off-spinners Aiden Markram and JP Duminy. Their 16 overs combined cost 105 runs for the two wickets Tahir took.

For their part, Bangladesh played perhaps the perfect game with the bat, following their captain's advice to preserve wickets and build partnerships to the letter. Shakib and Mushfiqur's stand -- Bangladesh's highest in the World Cup and their highest for the third wicket against South Africa -- may have been the backbone of the innings, but every player played their assigned

Even if Tamim scored just 16, he was part of yet another meaningful opening stand with Soumya, whose 32-ball 40 set South Africa on the back foot early. When Mohammad Mithun came in at the fall of Shakib's wicket, with the score on 217 for three, he smote a four and a six in a run-a-ball 21 that kept the momentum going. Mosaddek Hossain then hit a 20-ball 26 after Mushfigur departed in the 43rd over and ensured that there would be no hiccups, but just a hike in the scoring as he built a 66-run partnership with Mahmudullah Riyad, who was the real impetus-provider with an unbeaten 46 off 33 balls, in just 6.5

This was a refinement of the kind of innings Bangladesh like to build and have built in the past. Happily for the Tigers, they continued their recent uptick in form, seen in an unbeaten trophy win in Ireland in May, to the big stage. Instead, and not many would have expected it as the Proteas would have wanted to dominate after losing their opener, it was the South Africans who failed to find their game.

HIGHLIGHTS

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330 for six is Bangladesh's highest ever total in the World Cup. Their previous highest score in the mega event was the 322 they scored against Scotland in 2015 at the Saxton Oval in Nelson. It was also Bangladesh's highest ever total against South Africa in the fifty-over format, surpassing their previous best of 278 for seven, which came in 2017.

A 142-run third wicket stand between Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfigur Rahim is Bangladesh's highest partnership at any wicket in the World Cup. The Tigers' previous best partnership in the World Cup was a 141-run stand between Mahmudullah and Mushfigur against England during the 2015 edition in Adelaide.

The 142-run third wicket stand between Shakib and Mushfigur is also Bangladesh's highest third wicket stand against South Africa. Mahmudullah and Soumya Sarkar's 135 in 2015 was the previous highest for the Tigers against South Africa.

Ngidi out for 10 days

AFP, London

South Africa pace bowler Lungi Ngidi will be sidelined for up to 10 days after suffering a hamstring strain in Sunday's World Cup defeat against Bangladesh, but Hashim Amla is expected to face India on Wednesday.

Ngidi limped off the Oval pitch after bowling just four overs in Bangladesh's innings and Proteas team doctor Mohammed Moosajee revealed he won't be back for seven to 10 days.

That rules him out of the must-win clash with India in Southampton.

"Ngidi sustained sharp discomfort in his left hamstring. We decided he had a hamstring strain. He will be out for week to 10 days," Moosajee told reporters.

"He will have a scan tomorrow (Monday). We hope he can be ready for the West Indies match."

There was better news on star batsman Amla, who missed the 21-run defeat against Bangladesh after being hit on the helmet by England's Jofra Archer in Thursday's loss to the hosts.

Amla returned to bat against England after initially retiring hurt with concussion-like symptoms.

He was ruled out of the Bangladesh game as a precaution after waking up feeling unwell, but should recover in time to play against India.

FACTS

England skipper Eoin Morgan enjoys playing against Pakistan. He has scored 821 runs -- the highest among the players of both the sides' current World Cup squads -- at an average of 54.73 in the 23 matches he has played against Pakistan.

Pakistan's Imam-ul-Haq has a staggering average of 117 -- the highest among the players from both the sides' current World Cup squads -- in the four matches he has played against England. His highest score against the World Cup hosts was a 131-ball 151 in a losing effort.

Chris Woakes scalped 27 wickets in the 12 matches he featured in against Pakistan. He remains the highest wicket taker of the two sides.

England's Jos Buttler has taken 14 catches, the most by any among both the teams, in the 13 matches he played against Pakistan.



England play down 500 talks

AFP, LONDON

England may change a winning World Cup side by recalling fast bowler Mark Wood when they face Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Monday.

The ground is renowned as a batsman's paradise, with England having twice set the world record for the highest score in a one-day international --- 444 for three against Pakistan in 2016 and last year's 481 for six -- on the very pitch that will be used for Monday's match at Trent Bridge.

But Pakistan's batsmen had anything but an easy ride in Nottingham as they succumbed to a bouncer barrage from the West Indies that saw them slump to 105 all out and a comprehensive defeat in their opening match of the World Cup on Friday.

England, who launched their quest to win the World Cup for the first time with a 104-run rout of South Africa at The Oval in which fast bowler Jofra Archer starred may now, in the light of Pakistan's problems against short-pitched bowling,

unleash Wood in partnership with the Sussex speedster. "We're aware of what went on yesterday," England assistant coach Graham Thorpe said Saturday. "It was

interesting viewing. "The West Indies bowled very well, they looked like they roughed Pakistan up," the former England batsman added. "I think it (drafting Wood) will be discussed, to be honest.

Wood has bowled a mere 13.1 overs since the start of the season amid fears his longstanding left ankle injury could flare up again.

But his ability, in common with Archer, to top speeds of 90 mph meant England thought he was worth the risk at the World Cup.

England have risen to the top of the ODI rankings since their woeful first-round exit at the 2015 edition

mainly as a result of piling on the runs. But they showed they were more than 'flat-track bullies' with a score of 311 for 8 on an awkward surface at the Oval before an attack led by Archer overwhelmed the Proteas. Scoring 500 in an ODI was once viewed as impossible

but, given their recent record-breaking exploits, England

could go close if they bat first at Trent Bridge on Monday. "It has generally always been a good pitch so we are looking forward to it," said Thorpe. "We didn't quite unlock the door in terms of our batting at the Oval, being able to let go because we kept losing wickets at crucial times so we had to keep trying to put on those minipartnerships again and that was really good.

"It's the same thing coming here against Pakistan: if we get into a good position, we'll try to score as many as we can. But at the same time if it doesn't happen, you've got to put a competitive score on the board to put the opposition under pressure."

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Pakistan, who've lost their last 11 ODIs -- including a recent 4-0 series defeat by England -- are braced for shortpitched stuff with Wahab Riaz defiantly insisting: "If people want to bowl us

bouncers, then we will have no problems with that." Pakistan's bowling Coach Azhar Mahmood said his side expect to face plenty of bouncers after struggling against short-pitched fast bowling from the West Indies in

their opener. "We didn't handle the short ball well and we practised a lot, and we know it will come," Mahmood told reporters at Trent Bridge on Sunday. "When teams come from the subcontinent, the other teams will use those sort of tactics," added Mahmood. "All the teams will bowl short against us so we are practising, and we've done it before, so I think we need to move on and concentrate on the next game."

No side in world cricket, however, has the ability to transform their fortunes quite as quickly as Pakistan -- a point they proved during the 2017 Champions Trophy when, after an abject start, they beat hosts England on the

way to winning the tournament. "We can beat them (England). It would not be an upset. We have the ability to beat them," insisted Mahmood.

INFO ZONE

HEAD TO HEAD IN WORLD CUP			
ENGLAND		PAKISTAN	
4	WIN	4	
4	LOSS	4	
1	ND	1	

HEAD TO HEAD IN ODIS

NGLAND		PAKISTAN
53	WIN	31
31	LOSS	53
0	TIE	0
3	NR	3

LAST MEETING

May 19 2019 at Headingley in Leeds England won by 54 runs.

KEY PLAYERS





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ENGLAND			PAKISTAN
	Ben Stoke	es	Fakhar Zaman
3	8.43/41.32	Bat/Bowl Avg	50.42/111.0
)	50s	10	
	3	100s	4
	102*	HS	210*
	89 2/12	Last Match	22