



Australia opener David Warner blasted a 147-ball 166, his second century in the ongoing World Cup, to help the side post 381 for five. In chase of the herculean target, Shakib Al Hasan could only manage a run-a-ball 41.

'It's a great achievement'

AGENCIES, Nottingham

David Warner's century paved the way for Australia to beat Bangladesh by 48 runs at Trent Bridge yesterday. Warner made Bangladesh pay for dropping him on 10 with an innings of 166 -- the left-handed opener's second century of the World Cup -- in a total of 381-5.

Bangladesh, needing to surpass Ireland's World Cup record chase of 329-7 against England in 2011, struggled to keep up with the required run-rate.

Mushfiqur Rahim hit a fine 102 not out but the wicket-keeper's entertaining fifth-wicket stand of 127 with Mahmudullah (69) came too late to alter the course of the match.

Warner drew level with legendary wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist in third spot among Australia's leading ODI century-makers and is now behind only Ricky Ponting (29 tons) and Mark Waugh (18).

"It's a great achievement [equaling Adam Gilchrist's hundred tally] but for us it's about getting these two points and moving on to Lord's," said man-of-the-match Warner.

"You've got to adapt and it's about momentum, so far things are working well," he added. "It was a tad slow, the wicket, but it was a grind for the bowlers, it was very difficult for the bowlers."

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'Real damage was done after 38th over'

SAKEB SUBHAN from Nottingham

There were two crucial factors in Bangladesh conceding 381 for five in yesterday's World Cup match against Australia, which ultimately proved to be decisive. The first -- Sabbir Rahman dropping David Warner on 10 off skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in the fifth over -- led to the second, which was Australia riding on Warner's 166 to launch an attack that yielded 151 runs in the last 12 overs of the match. And letting off a left-hander made it even harder for Bangladesh as they did not have a second off-spin option in Mosaddek Hossain, whose left shoulder injury opened the door for Sabbir.

Mashrafe is always protective of his players, but even he had to concede that

letting off Warner was a costly error. "These things happen in such matches," Mashrafe said during the post-match press conference. "But he added more than 150 [since the drop], but we have to take such chances in these matches. But still, I thought we were okay till the 40th over, even though they had lost just one wicket. We needed to get a set batsman out then, as it would have been difficult for new batsmen coming in at that stage. Even if we gave away seven to eight runs per over from then, it would have been better."

One of the big advantages won by Australia was that, having sent in the left-handed Usman Khawaja at the fall of opener Aaron Finch's wicket, the two left-handers negated Shakib Al Hasan's left-arm spin. Mashrafe rued missing out

on Mosaddek's off spin as the team's first-choice off-spinner -- Mehedi Hasan Miraz -- was the most economical, conceding 59 runs from 10 overs.

"They plan to sweep against Shakib and perhaps that was the plan to send in Khawaja -- Warner was charging him while Khawaja was turning the strike over to Warner," Mashrafe said. "If Mosaddek was there, I could have used off-spinners from both ends. I still think it was okay, but I would say that the real damage was done after the 38th over."

Perhaps Warner's continued presence was why Mashrafe found it difficult to hide his disappointment at the missed chances. Sabbir was again the culprit in the 26th over when he fumbled a run-out chance against Warner, when the batsman

was on 72.

"I think wickets were needed against them. When you play against such teams on wickets like these, you need to convert half chances. Maybe the run-out would have made things different... that's true."

The positive from the match was the batting and Mashrafe gave the batsmen credit for scoring 333.

"We thought that 320 or 340 would have been chaseable and were trying to keep them to that. After the match against West Indies [when Bangladesh chased down 322 with 8.3 overs to spare] we had the belief that we could chase scores like that. I think the bowlers tried their best to restrict them within that mark, but it is hard to keep asking the batsmen to chase more than 350 every time."

AUS-BD SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA	R/B	4s/6s
Warner c Rubel	166/147	14/5
b Soumya	53/51	5/2
Finch c Rubel b Soumya		
Khawaja c Mushfiqur		
b Soumya	89/72	10/0
Maxwell run out (Rubel)	32/10	2/3
Stoinis not out	17/11	2/0
Smith lbw b Mustafizur	1/2	0/0
Carey not out	11/8	1/0
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-1, w-5)	12	
Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs)	381	
Fall of wickets: 1-121, 2-313, 3-352, 4-353, 5-354.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	8	0	56	0
Mustafizur	9	0	69	1
Shakib	6	0	50	0
Rubel	9	0	83	0
Mehedi	10	0	59	0
Soumya	8	0	58	3

BANGLADESH	R/B	4s/6s	
Tamim b Starc	62/74	6/0	
Soumya run out (Finch)	10/8	2/0	
Shakib c Warner b Stoinis	41/41	4/0	
Mushfiqur Rahim not out	102/97	9/1	
Liton lbw b Zampa	20/17	3/0	
Mahmudullah c Cummins			
b Coulter-Nile	69/50	5/3	
Sabbir b Coulter-Nile	0/1	0/0	
Maxwell	3	0	25
Coulter-Nile	10	0	58
Stoinis	8	0	54
Zampa	9	0	68

Result: Australia won by 48 runs.

Player-of-the-match: David Warner



Bangladesh batsman Sabbir Rahman endured a torrid World Cup debut against Australia in Nottingham yesterday. He first dropped David Warner before having his stumps upended for a golden duck. PHOTO: REUTERS

RAHIM STEEL

নির্মাণের অল কাউন্টার

Known for playing the aggressor's role in Bangladesh's opening slot, Soumya Sarkar ignited the field with his bowling abilities rather than hitting the boundaries he is known for against Australia yesterday. He returned figures of three for 58 in eight overs. However, the left-hander squandered his opportunity to score some runs as he run out on 10.

When the keystone wobbles

SAKEB SUBHAN from Nottingham

When refuting the notion that Shakib Al Hasan's excellent performances made Bangladesh a one-man army on the eve of yesterday's match against Australia, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was probably thinking about the 384 runs Shakib scored in four matches. While the world's number one all-rounder has not stormed through opposition with his left-arm spin so far in the World Cup, it was proved to Bangladesh's detriment yesterday just how important Shakib's role is in the bowling attack.

Australia racked up a monumental 381 for five in 50 overs, scoring an eye-watering 131 runs in the last 10 overs. Shakib, even though he did not bowl in the last 10 overs, conceded 50 runs in six overs. Like in the matches against South Africa and New Zealand -- arguably Bangladesh's best bowling performances in this World Cup -- Shakib had come on fairly early on, in the 10th over of Australia's innings.

Before that, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mustafizur Rahman had done a pretty good job of keeping Australian openers David Warner and Aaron Finch restrained. It was not the 32 for one that the West Indians were held to after the first 10 overs, but on a flat pitch and not having taken a wicket, 47 without loss after nine set the stage for the spinners in Shakib and Mehedi Hasan Miraz to tie things down further.

As Mashrafe had been reminding everyone, Bangladesh do not have bowlers who can run through sides but rely on bowling as a unit. That of course means that it is important that a bowler does not have a particularly bad day and with the role given to him to build pressure with tight bowling, especially in the middle overs, it better not be Shakib having the off day. Unfortunately for Bangladesh, Shakib had his off day against perhaps the toughest opposition on a flat wicket and a lightning-fast outfield.

His figures may compare favourably with that of Rubel Hossain, who

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gave away 83 runs in nine overs, but while Rubel suffered greatly in the last 10 overs, Shakib allowed easy runs when Australia were not even looking for boundaries. None of his overs, save the fifth, went for less than six runs. Australia eased into the middle overs during Shakib's first spell, which cost 24 runs from three overs. After Soumya Sarkar's surprise wicket of Finch, Shakib was brought on in the 31st over in hopes of halting a budding partnership between Usman Khawaja and Warner, but gave away 13 runs in his two overs.

Against South Africa in Bangladesh's World Cup opener, Shakib was the one who stopped the Proteas' momentum with seven overs that cost just 25 runs and yielded the wicket of Aiden Markram. Against New Zealand, it was Shakib's spell up front, when he dismissed openers Martin Guptill and Colin Munro in a seven-over spell that started from the sixth over. Those early strikes and also his next three overs that cost just 11 runs formed a crucial part of a bowling effort that nearly defended 243.

Against the West Indies on Monday, Shakib was brought on in the 21st over and while he was expensive, conceding 43 runs in seven overs, he took the wickets of a dangerous-looking Evin Lewis and Nicholas Pooran.

Yesterday, and indeed against England when Bangladesh conceded 386, Shakib was neither incisive nor economical. Unlike against England, who kept a run rate of more than six an over since the eighth over of the innings, Australia were kept below the mark till the 38th over. In such a scenario, a Shakib bowling in his usual manner may have made a big difference.

It also goes to show how consistent and reliable he has been with the ball, as Bangladesh's bowling efforts have been built around a good performance from the all-rounder. One-man army they may not be, but yesterday it seemed that Shakib was the keystone in the arch of Bangladesh's bowling.

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June 18, 2005 at Cardiff, Bangladesh defeated Australia in the ODI format.