



**A STUMPING BLUNDER:** West Indies wicketkeeper Shai Hope missed a glorious opportunity to stump MS Dhoni for eight as he failed to catch the ball properly when the batsman had left the crease. Dhoni capitalised on it with a valuable unbeaten half-century at Old Trafford yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Kohli reaches landmark 20k

AGENCIES, Manchester

Virat Kohli on Thursday became the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs as he anchored India's innings against the West Indies in the World Cup match in Manchester.

Kohli reached the landmark in his 417th innings with a single off West Indies skipper Jason Holder -- India's Sachin Tendulkar and Caribbean batsman Brian Lara both required 453 international innings to reach the landmark.

Before the clash, Kohli needed just 37 runs to overhaul the record of legendary cricketers Tendulkar and Lara and the current India captain went past the score easily after India won the toss and opted to bat first in their sixth World Cup encounter.

Kohli already holds the record for the fastest 10,000 runs in one-day internationals and is closing in on Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries.

The third on the list is former Australia World Cup winning captain Ricky Ponting, who had taken 468 innings to reach this milestone.

Overall, Virat Kohli became the 12th batsman and 3rd Indian after Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to reach 20,000 international runs.

While Tendulkar finished with 34,357 runs in international runs, Dravid accumulated 24,208 runs in an illustrious international career.

Kohli also has 41 ODI hundreds, second only to Sachin Tendulkar's 49 hundreds in the 50-over format.

Virat Kohli has been in phenomenal form since 2016. In the 2019 World Cup, Kohli has been in solid form. After falling cheaply against South Africa, he scored 82 against Australia, 77 against Pakistan, 67 against Afghanistan and 72 against West Indies.

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# Getaway, but no escape

SAKEB SUBHAN from Birmingham

When in Dhaka, Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is always casting his eyes towards Narail, his hometown. Having grown up in the village the right-arm pacer is more at home in quieter settings, away from the noise of city life and the singular focus placed on him as the face of the country's obsession.

While Birmingham, the second largest city in the UK, is nowhere near as frenzied and chaotic as Bangladesh's one-stop metropolis, there was still much noise surrounding Bangladesh's precarious position in the World Cup semifinal race. Perhaps that is why, with a gap of around five days between the team's next practice session on June 30 ahead of their



virtual knockout encounter against India in Edgbaston on July 2, Mashrafe and his family opted for a day and a half of quiet repose in the rural comforts of the Welsh region of Snowdonia.

Yesterday afternoon, Mashrafe reached the small town of Snowdon, a town in Gwynnedd county, built around Wales's highest mountain bearing the same name. They had been fortunate with the weather as brilliant sunshine illuminated the road leading

However, such are the bounties of the region that another attraction was not too far away, and the families decided to go to the picturesque Swallow Waterfall around 15 miles back the way they came.

Ostensibly, Mashrafe may have been looking for some time away from cricket, but cricket never leaves his mind. As he was having some snacks at the Mountain Railway station, he talked about the ongoing West Indies-India match, speculating on the kind of wicket they may get against India on July 2.

He may also have been seeking anonymity, but he soon enough a Bangladeshi sought him out for a selfie. There is no true getaway for a Bangladesh captain, it seems.

**INDIA-WEST INDIES SCOREBOARD**

INDIA:	R/B	4s/6s		
Rahul b Holder	48/64	6/0		
Sharma c Hope b Roach	18/23	1/1		
Kohli c sub (Bravo) b Holder	72/82	8/0		
Shankar c Hope b Roach	14/19	3/0		
Jadhav c Hope b Roach	7/10	1/0		
Dhoni not out	56/61	3/2		
Pandya c Allen b Cottrell	46/38	5/0		
Shami c Hope b Cottrell	0/2	0/0		
Kuldeep not out	0/1	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, w-6)	7			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs)	268			
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-98, 3-126, 4-140, 5-180, 6-250, 7-252.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cottrell	10	0	50	2
Roach	10	0	36	3
Thomas	7	0	63	0
Allen	10	0	52	0
Holder	10	2	33	2
Brathwaite	3	0	33	0
WEST INDIES:	R/B	4s/6s		
Gayle c Jadhav b Shami	6/19	1/0		
Ambris lbw b Pandya	31/40	2/0		
Hope b Shami	5/10	1/0		
Pooran c Shami b Kuldeep	28/50	2/0		
Hetmyer c Rahul b Shami	18/29	1/0		
Holder c Jadhav b Chahal	6/13	0/0		
Brathwaite c Dhoni b Bumrah	1/5	0/0		
Allen lbw b Bumrah	0/1	0/0		
Roach not out	14/21	3/0		
Cottrell lbw b Chahal	10/8	1/1		
Thomas c Sharma b Shami	6/11	1/0		
Extras: (b-9, lb-3, nb-1, w-5)	18			
Total: (all out in 34.2 overs)	143			
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-16, 3-71, 4-80, 5-98, 6-107, 7-107, 8-112, 9-124, 10-143.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shami	6.2	0	16	4
Bumrah	6	1	9	2
Pandya	5	0	28	1
Kuldeep	9	1	35	1
Jadhav	1	0	4	0
Chahal	7	0	39	2
Result: India won by 125 runs.				
Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli				

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# 'Babar has the potential to match Kohli'

ICC

Emulating Virat Kohli is a mere dream for most young batsmen - but Grant Flower believes Babar Azam is well on the path to doing just that after his stylish century downed New Zealand.

Facing an attack that had only conceded 250 once in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 to date, Babar showed few signs of nerves as his match-winning knock of 101 saw the Men in Green to a potentially vital victory.

A star performer during the recent bilateral series against England, the 24-year-old has continued his rich vein of form into the World Cup, with his pivotal innings at Edgbaston serving as his first century in the competition.

And with Babar already ranked as the No.1 T20 batsman in the world, batting coach Flower is confident his charge has what it takes to now kick on and join the pantheon of Pakistan greats - most notably because of the way he battled sickness to shine in Birmingham.

"He's had flu over the last couple of days. Tuesday was the first time I've not seen him hit any balls the day before a match," Flower revealed.

"Confidence-wise, this is definitely his best one (century).

"I've seen him get quite a few hundreds on pretty flat wickets, but this was a tough wicket - it was turning, Ferguson was bowling fast and there was a lot of pressure because of the context of the tournament.

"He is very special. I believe he is going to be one of the best that Pakistan have ever produced. He's really hungry, is fit and still very young.

"I think he'll have a really good career if he keeps his feet on the ground, which I think he will.

"He's got Virat's hunger. I think he could be at some point in the future.

"He's definitely got that hunger, so if you practice as hard as he does, and you have his skills, I can't see why he can't get to the top."

Trailing current incumbents England by three points heading into the Edgbaston clash, victory over the Black Caps leaves Pakistan well in the hunt for a semi-final berth.

With the gap now just a solitary point and Afghanistan up next, Flower is relishing the opportunity to take Eoin Morgan's fancied side and put the cat well and truly among the pigeons.

He added: "It's quite exciting, I think. For the first part of the tournament, it didn't seem like it was going to be, but now there's pressure on some of the top teams. It's good.

"After today, it definitely puts us in a good position. It's just our net run-rate, and obviously, those first few games didn't help us."



**SOUTH ASIAN UNITY:** Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka super fans are seen conglomerating in unified cheers during a World Cup group stage match between India and West Indies at Old Trafford yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

**RAHIM STEEL**

Hardik Pandya was the only Indian batsmen with a strike-rate above hundred yesterday. The all-rounder came in at number seven and strung together an all-important 70-run sixth-wicket stand with MS Dhoni. He had scored a quickfire 38-ball 46 before being dismissed in the penultimate over.

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