

Morgan sinks Afghanistan

● **Eoin Morgan led from the front with the bat as England registered their fourth win of the tournament to clinch the top spot in the points table**

AFP | Manchester

England captain Eoin Morgan set a new world record of 17 sixes in an individual one-day international innings as the World Cup hosts thrashed Afghanistan by 150 runs yesterday.

Victory at Old Trafford saw favourites England go ahead of holders Australia to sit top of the World Cup group table on net run-rate.

Morgan's six-hitting spree in his career-best 148 set the tone for England's team total of 25 sixes, which was also a new ODI innings record.

The Dubliner's innings was the centrepiece of England's 397-6.

That was the highest total of the tournament so far and the largest England had made at any World Cup, surpassing their 386-6 against Bangladesh in Cardiff 10 days ago.

Even though bottom of the table Afghanistan, suffering their fifth defeat in five matches, posted their highest World Cup total of 247-8 they were never up with the required run-rate.

There was a worrying moment when Hashmatullah Shahidi, on 24, was hit on the side of the helmet by a Mark Wood bouncer and fell to the turf.

But after several minutes' on-field treatment, Shahidi resumed his innings in a new helmet.

Shahidi completed a gutsy 68-ball fifty on his way to 76, while his fourth-wicket stand of partnership of 94 with Ash-gar Afghan (44) was a record for any Afghanistan wicket at a World Cup.

Earlier, Morgan, dropped on 28, dominated a third-wicket stand of 189 with Joe Root (88), whose contribution to their partnership was a mere 43.

Afghanistan star leg-spinner Rashid Khan set an unwanted record with 0-110 in nine overs -- the most expensive return at a World Cup and second costliest in all ODI cricket.

Morgan's tally surpassed the record of 16 sixes in an ODI in-nings previously shared by India's Rohit Sharma, South Africa's AB de Villiers and West Indies' Chris Gayle.

He broke the record when he launched Gulbadin Naib for a flat straight hit over the Afghanistan captain's head.

Impressive Morgan

But the very next ball saw Morgan hole out off Naib to end a 71-ball innings that also featured four fours.

His innings, which featured



Eoin Morgan set a new world record for most sixes in ODI as he hit 17 sixes in his career-best 148, with England's total of 25 sixes also a new world record



England's captain Eoin Morgan plays a shot

118 runs in boundaries, was all the more impressive as Morgan had been doubtful for this match with a back spasm suffered in England's eight-wicket win over the West Indies, in which he could not bat.

Jonny Bairstow got England off to a solid start, with England accelerating after James Vince fell for 26 when he mishooked paceman Dawlat Zadran to short fine-leg.

In sight of his eighth ODI century, Bairstow's 99-ball innings ended when he chipped a return catch to Naib.

Morgan, after an early mix-up that saw him sent back and get tangled up with opposing skipper Naib, settled in quickly.

He hit Naib for two sixes including a fine drive over long-on. But the left-hander should

have been out when he skied Rashid, only for Zadran at deep mid-wicket to make such a mess of the catch that the ball bounced out of his hands and over the rope for four.

Not even Zadran's eventual return of 3-85 could undo the damage of that costly error, with Morgan immediately hitting a soaring six off Rashid's next ball in a 36th over that cost 18 runs.

Root was denied a second successive hundred and third of the tournament when he holed out off Naib, whose 3-68 was a creditable return in the circumstances.

Calm dressing room key to Bangladesh win: Shakib

Reuters | London

Bangladesh's successful run chase against West Indies at the World Cup on Monday was aided by a calm and confident dressing room atmosphere that the players were able to replicate on the pitch, all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has said.

Shakib scored his second century in a row as Bangladesh pulled off the second highest successful run chase in the tournament's history to beat twice champions West Indies by seven wickets.

Sent in to bat first, the West Indies set a target of 322 but Shakib, who scored an un-



Shakib Al Hasan celebrates his century with Liton Das

beaten 124 off 99 deliveries, and Liton Das, who smashed 94 not out, guided Bangladesh home with 51 balls to

spare.

"At the end of the first in-nings, we thought it would be tough but everyone was com-

fortable and chilling," Shakib, who scored 121 against England in his last innings, told reporters.

“It is one of the best wins because of the way we paced the innings. I was never in a rush. I was patient to wait and put the bad ball away. Every time I did that quite well

SHAKIB AL HASAN

Mortaza praises exceptional Shakib after Windies heroics

Reuters | Taunton

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza heaped praise on team mate Shakib Al Hasan after the all-rounder scored his second century in as many World Cup matches to lead them to a big win over West Indies.

"Shakib Al Hasan has made it in this World Cup now," said

Mortaza. "In every match he's doing something that's exceptional and let's hope it continues for the team."

"Liton Das normally opens or bats at number three but he's coped with moving down the order and he's delivered the goods."

The result leaves Bangladesh fifth in the table on five points ahead of their clash

with holders Australia.

"We have a chance to go through but we have to win all of our matches," he added.

"The turning moment was when Mustafizur Rahman took two wickets in an over to remove Shimron Hetmyer and Andre Russell."

Asked whether batting or bowling was at fault for the defeat, captain Jason Holder

said: "Bit of both, we were probably 40-50 runs short, the wicket played really well, but we could have been more disciplined with the ball and we let ourselves down in the field as well."

"I thought we got through the first 10 overs well batting but never got the momentum and had too much to do at the back end."



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
England	5	4	1	0	0	1.862	8
Australia	5	4	1	0	0	0.812	8
New Zealand	4	3	0	0	1	2.163	7
India	4	3	0	0	1	1.029	7
Bangladesh	5	2	2	0	1	-0.270	5
Sri Lanka	5	1	2	0	2	-1.778	4
West Indies	5	1	3	0	1	0.272	3
South Africa	5	1	3	0	1	-0.208	3
Pakistan	5	1	3	0	1	-1.933	3
Afghanistan	5	0	5	0	0	-2.089	0

Today's matches

New Zealand vs South Africa



Kane Williamson

- » Both teams are quite close to each other in terms of talent
- » New Zealand is in better form and is unbeaten so far
- » South Africa has no option but to win and that will allow it to play fearless cricket

New Zealand

New Zealand have won 10 and lost 4 out of the 14 one-day internationals they have played this year, including the last six straight. In the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup, they are placed second on the points table with three wins and a washout from their four matches. They beat Sri Lanka by ten wickets in their opening game at Cardiff, then pipped Bangladesh by two wickets at London before crushing Afghanistan by seven wickets at Taunton. The Kiwis had to share points with India in their previous rain-abandoned match at Nottingham.

Probable XI

Martin Gupthill, Colin Munro, Kane Williamson (c), Ross Taylor, Tom Latham (wk), James Neesham, Colin de Grandhomme, Mitchell Santner, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, Trent Boult



Edgbaston - Birmingham
12:30pm



Kagiso Rabada

South Africa

South Africa have won nine and lost five out of the fourteen one-day internationals they have played this year. They are currently eighth on the CWC 2019 points table with one win, three losses and a washout from five matches. The Proteas made a poor start to their World Cup campaign, suffering defeats in their first three fixtures - against England in the tournament opener by 104 runs, then against Bangladesh by 21 runs before their six-wicket loss to India. South Africa's next game against the West Indies had to be called off due to rain and they won their most recent encounter against Afghanistan by nine wickets in a rain-curtailed clash at Cardiff.

Probable XI

Hashim Amla, Quinton de Kock (wk), Aiden Markram, Faf du Plessis (c), Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller, Chris Morris, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Imran Tahir, Lungi Ngidi

PITCH REPORT



The weather is expected to be a bit cloudy to start off but then clears as the day progresses. Considering the bad weather we have had in this tournament, a delayed start is not very bad news. The pitch in Edgbaston is very good for batting. We expect this match to be high-scoring and a lot of runs to be scored. Teams have tended to overestimate the amount of help they will get under overcast conditions so far so both South Africa and New Zealand will be wary about choosing to bat second in this match.