



Did U Know?

The Ryder Cup is a team competition in which American golfers compete against Europeans. It is contested every two years.



Ian Botham
(England cricket legend)
"Terrorism is something that we as a world need to stand up against and fight. It is sadly something we've got to live with and we have done so in places like England and India for many years."

Sakib does it on his own

SPORTS REPORTER

Sakib Sarkar gave a good all-round show to help Rangpur claim a close two-wicket win over strong Mymensingh in the third quarterfinal of the 29th National Cricket Championship at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

Rangpur will now meet either Moulavibazar or Dinajpur in the second semifinal on December 2 after successfully chasing down 168-run target, finishing the victory with a ball remaining after Mymensingh were bowled out for 167 runs in 49.3 overs.

Sakib took two wickets for just 20 runs in the Mymensingh innings but his major contribution was a patient 68-ball 31 that just had one boundary. Coming in at number 10, Sakib ensured that he gave Mostaqim (25) enough support as the two added 56 valuable runs for the ninth wicketstand.

Earlier, Mymensingh's innings was built around half-centuries from Shuvo that came off 69 balls and Shahriar, who scored his fifty off 117-balls with seven boundaries.

Alauddin Babu took four wickets for Rangpur conceding just 25 runs.



KNOWLEDGE ABUSED: The plaque in front of the bridge, named after country's football icon Monem Munna, at Dhanmondi Road No. 8 is seen being distorted by an unidentified abuser. The inexplicable spray painted words in red not only insulted the sporting hero but also red-faced the nation as a whole.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BANGLADESH'S TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA

More progress needed

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Johannesburg

It had been considered as the toughest task for the Tigers to play South Africa in their own conditions and nobody would disagree with this reality. Not only for the bottom-ranked Bangladesh side rather even for many other top-ranked sides it is a difficult territory to achieve something, so there had hardly been any high expectations in the Tigers' second trip to the country after a six-year gap.

But there has been nothing wrong if someone hoped that there should be an ascending trend in the performance graph of Jamie Siddons's charges. Was the trend present during the month-long trip in the country? The statistics definitely would not speak in favour of Mohammad Ashraful's men. The bowlers can raise their hands in response of this question, particularly left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan has every right to be thrilled, but there were hardly any scope for the batters.

In terms of result the outcome was not unexpected but the vital question is whether they were competitive enough in the series to silence the critics who always love to raise the question: "Why you people are here?"

Like Bangladesh coach and captain it is not impossible to

pick up some glimpses of individual success as Shakib showed with the leather or Mushfiqur Rahim reconfirmed that he has got the potential to become a good batsman in the longer version of the game.

But one should evaluate

the Bangladesh's performance in the series as a team.

New bowling coach Champaka Ramanayake could claim that his charges at least listened to his words by showing disciplined effort almost all through the series, particularly newcomer

Mahbubul Alam was as obedient as he could be to follow his mentor's instruction: "don't go for wicket rather concentrate to bowl on right areas".

But it's really difficult for Siddons to find any answer for his batsmen. In this series he have had one mantra: Leave

the good deliveries and pick up the right ball to hit for survive against the fiery bowling attack led by Dale Steyn in bouncy wickets.

Unfortunately a lack of application was evident in all through the series. It was none other than captain Ashraful who was the main guilty man in this regard. One can't expect much more from a team when its captain went for hibernation only after playing one good knock.

The right-hander has been remaining consistently inconsistent as after a brilliant 73-run knock in the first one-day match at Potchefstroom, he scored five runs in the second match while the third one-day was abandoned due to heavy rain in East London.

Ashraful was nowhere in the Test series as he scored 1, 13, 1 and 21 in his four innings of the two-match series.

Bangladesh made a bright start in the tour when they were very close to winning the tour opener Twenty20 International at the Liberty Life Wanderers Stadium but South Africa won the curtailed-over match by 12 runs.

There had been something to say for the team when they scored 222 runs in the first one-day match in reply to 283 and the team management was even upbeat with the fact that they could achieve two hundred runs (230) in reply to a mammoth total of 358 runs although South African skipper Graeme Smith heavily

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh batsman Rokibul Hasan (grounded) makes a desperate attempt in vain as South Africa fielder Ashwell Prince runs him out on the third day of the second and final Test at Centurion Park on Friday.

MU look for revenge

AFP, Manchester



on Sunday.

United are currently eight points behind leaders Chelsea, who face Arsenal in Sunday's later kick-off, and a Liverpool side that is not in action until they face West Ham on Monday.

If the prospect of a crucial three points was not enough motivation for Sir Alex Ferguson's team, they also have a score to settle with their crosstown rivals from last season.

In last season's game at the City of Manchester stadium, United dominated but lost to a wonder-strike by Giovanni and City inflicted further pain by claiming a 2-1 win at Old Trafford on the 50th anniversary of the Munich air disaster.

The fact that the Abu Dhabi United Group's takeover has made City arguably the richest club in the world means that the Eastlands club are expected to challenge for the top four in

years to come.

And defender Patrice Evra, who had a nightmare debut in a 3-1 defeat at City in January 2006, acknowledges that there will be a special edge to the clash with Mark Hughes's side.

The Frenchman said: "It should be a massive game for both sides. It's a very important game for us and for the fans as well, and for the people working for this club."

"We need to show Man City they aren't better than us. Last year we lost six points, but we won the league but for the fans it's a good present if you win against City."

United are yet to gather real momentum this season and have managed just two wins in their past six matches in all competitions.

A poor away record of just two victories in seven away games in the Premier League is a major reason why Ferguson's men find themselves off the pace.

England midfielder Michael Carrick is also unconcerned about the Premier League champions' current problems in front of goal.

United have been stifled in their last two matches - goalless draws at Aston Villa and Villarreal - but Carrick believes it is only a matter of time before the goals start flooding in.

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Under-17s post massive win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sumit Chowdhury led the trounce of Nepal under-17 side as his six wickets helped Bangladesh under-17 win by an innings and 45 runs at the Tudikhel ground in Kathmandu yesterday.

The young spinner, who was later adjudged the man-of-the-match, took four in the second innings as the hosts were bowled out for 120 after having been bowled out for just 75 runs in the first. The Bangladesh outfit battered first and scored 240 all out on the first day.

Skipper Jayanto Das top-scored with 67 while Nurul Hasan contributed 59 to the total as Bangladesh made a substantial first innings score. For the hosts, paceman Krishna Karki took four for 57 while Amandeep Singh had three.

In the hosts' first innings, one-drop Sagar Pun scored 46

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Kiwis hang on

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Hussey and Ricky Ponting produced contrasting half-centuries on a day when Australia continued to control the second Test but could not bury New Zealand in perfect batting conditions.

At stumps on the second day of the second Test at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday, the hosts were 3 for 241, 29 behind New Zealand's below-par 270, and had lost a couple of opportunities to ensure they were the only ones capable of winning the game.

There were times when the Australians seemed to be racing away, particularly in the middle session, but the visitors were able to hang on, although they will need early wickets on the third day if they harbour visions of levelling the series. Hussey grafted to an unbeaten 69 from 178 deliveries after Ponting shone with a classy 79 to lift the side after both openers departed before lunch.

The pair's 106-run third-

wicket stand settled Australia as Ponting, who rattled 13 fours in his 124-ball stay, showed everyone how to bat on the placid pitch. However, he donated his wicket when aiming a pull to the two-metre Peter Fulton at midwicket without adding to his tea score. As he left, following a brief exchange with the bowler Iain O'Brien, he knew a big score had been handed in that would have pushed New Zealand out of the game.

"I felt almost every ball was hit in the middle but I pulled up the innings a bit earlier than I would have liked," Ponting said. "I got it about an inch from the middle but it just happened to go to the world's tallest man."

Ponting brought up his fifty with two offside fours in an O'Brien over and at that stage 44 of his 53 runs had come from finding the rope. A pull off O'Brien stood out while he also looked comfortable against the impressive spin of Daniel Vettori, who gave up less than two runs an over in 28 of them. It was a hard day for New Zealand's cloned fast-bowling attack and O'Brien

was the only one to experience success.

No batsman in this game has matched the ease with which Ponting has played and the performance had the indirect effect of making Hussey stand out. While Ponting purred, Hussey struggled and fought, defended and scrambled. There were occasional breakthroughs, when he was allowed to drive or pull, but until Ponting's dismissal he was battling with constraints.

After Ponting left Hussey became the senior partner and relaxed, playing a couple

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DAY'S EVENT

Citycell B. League
Farashganj v Mohammedan
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Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

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What to WATCH

- STAR Cricket**
Australia v New Zealand
Second Test, Day 4
Live from 6:00am (Monday)
- TEN Sports**
Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka
Fifth ODI
Live from 1:30pm
- ESPN**
English Premier League
Man City v Man United
Live from 7:25pm
Chelsea v Arsenal
Live from 9:55pm
- STAR Sports**
English Premier League
Tottenham v Everton
Live from 8:55pm
Portsmouth v Blackburn
Live from 11:00pm
- Primera Liga**
Atletico Madrid v Racing
Live from 2:00am (Monday)