

Tigers take it all

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Bangladesh held their nerve despite wobbles at significant junctures to complete a whitewash in St Kitts. Set a target of 249, they were given a fiery start by Tamim Iqbal and Zunaed Siddiqui before Mahmudullah steered the side through nervy moments to clinch a historic victory.

Things were looking a touch dicey for Bangladesh at 133 for 5 in the 28th over but they recovered through a serene partnership between Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim, the wicketkeeper. It was almost risk-free cricket as the duo picked singles quietly and stole the odd boundary here and there to get closer to the target. Importantly, they knew the batting Powerplay could be taken later when acceleration was the need of the hour, till then it was time to play safe cricket. Mushfiqur picked up a couple of boundaries in the 38th

over but he was unlucky to be given out caught behind in the 40th over, when replays showed he did not get bat on a flick down the pads.

Bangladesh opted for the batting Powerplay in the 44th over and immediately Naem Islam smoked three boundaries off Gavin Tonge. Two shuffled flicks followed a bliff down the ground and the required rate dipped. Mahmudullah picked a six over long-off against Nikita Miller and Naem hit another six, off Kemar Roach, before falling to the same bowler but by then the pair had ensured that they made full use of the Powerplay to clinch the win. West Indies were left to rue the first-ball reprieve that they offered to Mahmudullah when Darren Sammy spilled a catch at first slip.

Just as they finished strongly, Bangladesh had started their chase brightly. Tamim, in particular, was in some hurry, rattling three fours in the first over before repeating the dose in the third. The kind of shots also pointed to the poor bowling. Three were flicked fours and the other three were carved over point as Roach

sprayed it around. Tamim later swung Sammy over long-off before smashing one straight to mid-on.

His opening partner, Siddiqui, kept the momentum going with a measured innings. He started with a series of on-side boundaries against Tonge before he settled down to drop anchor as a couple of wickets fell. Mohammad Ashraful edged one behind, Rokibul Hasan was caught brilliantly by a diving Floyd Reifer in the covers and Shakib Al Hasan, who started with a flurry of shots, edged an attempted pull but Siddiqui batted on serenely. Though he got out after reaching fifty, Bangladesh had enough firepower to get past the line.

West Indies lacked similar firepower in the middle as they wasted a good start provided by Andre Fletcher. As they have done in the Tests and the ODIs, West Indies continued to struggle against the spinners. They lost two quick wickets, proceeded to recover smartly through a breezy fifty from Fletcher, only to lose their way against spin and be bowled out for 248 inside 50 overs.

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PHOTOS: AFP

SPECTACULAR! Tamim Iqbal (L) completes a magnificent diving catch while his opening partner Zunaed Siddiqui drives Bangladesh to a position of strength during the third and final one-day international against the West Indies at Warner Park in St Kitts on Friday. Tamim struck a brisk 30 while Zunaed scored a measured 55 to lay the foundation of a three-wicket win.



Did U Know?

The longest golf hole in the world is the 7th hole (par 7) of the Sano Course at the Satsuki Golf Club in Japan. It measures an incredible 909 yards.



Gordon Brown

(British Prime Minister)

"I was extremely saddened to hear of the death of Sir Bobby Robson. I had the privilege of meeting Bobby on many occasions. He epitomised everything that is great about football in this country."



BTV & TEN Sports

Bangladesh v West Indies
Twenty20 International
Live from 1:00am (Monday)

STAR Cricket

England v Australia
Third Ashes Test, Day 4
Live from 5:00pm

No show on Day One

SPORTS REPORTER

No clubs tuned up on the opening day of the month-long Inter-club players transfer of the 3rd B. League at BFF House yesterday.

The registration of players, scheduled from 4 pm to 7pm everyday, drew blank mainly due to protests from the light-weights against BFF's 'relegation' policy.

The BFF decided to demote three teams this season and it sparked adverse reaction from the lesser teams, who have threatened not to join the transfer until the B. League Committee reduces the number from three to one.

Brothers Union, finished fourth in the second B. League, have placed a written protest asking the committee to amend their decision while other Farashganj SC, Rahmatganj MFS, Muktijoddha Sangsad KS and Chittagong Mohammedan SC joined the Red's bandwagon.

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U-19s impress Minhazul

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team returned home on Friday after an impressive performance in England.

The youth team won the five-match one-day series 2-1 after losing the two-match four-day Test series 0-1. They lost the first T20 match and the second and last match in the tour was washed out.

It was however not results rather the approach of the young players in the tour that impressed head coach Minhazul Abedin the most and the former national skipper believes that his boys will improve further before the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand in February next year.

"It was nice to see that these young boys tried to follow our instruction about basics and techniques in the field. I am happy the way boys played the series in trying conditions but there is no scope to be complacent because we have to improve more before next year's World Cup," said Minhazul.

"The performance in England will definitely be helpful in New Zealand conditions when we play the World Cup there. Everybody tried their best but there are some players like Anamul Haque, Mominul Haque, captain Mahmudul Hasan and leg-spinner Shabbir Rahman who have got the potential to further shine," he said.

"We only achieved fifty per cent of our target and we have to fine tune everything before the World Cup when we play against

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PHOTO: STAR

Members of the Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team are seen enjoying their time during a reception awarded by the State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar at his National Sports Council office yesterday. The youth won the five-match one-day series against their England counterparts in England recently.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong emerged champions in the Diamond Melamine First National Rugby Championship with a massive 43-3 points win against Faridpur in the final at Outer Stadium adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 19-0 points.

Dhaka finished third defeating Munshiganj 3-0 in a place-deciding match at the same venue.

Whip of the National Parliament Segufta Yasmin Emily distributed the prizes among the winners while Bangladesh Rugby Association general secretary Mousum Ali was present.

NSFAGM HELD

The National Shooting Federation approved its the 2009-10 budget of Tk 11.89 crore at its annual general meeting held at the Gulshan Shooting Complex yesterday.

The meeting, presided over by its president Major General Ashab Uddin, also approved the expenditure of Tk 11.36

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THIRD ASHES TEST Day Three washed out

AFP, Birmingham

The third day's play in the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston here on Saturday was abandoned without a ball being bowled because of persistent rain.

Overnight and early morning rain meant the pitch and square were fully covered when the game, which had already been affected by bad weather, should have been re-starting at 11:00am local time (1000GMT).

Umpires Rudi Koertzen and Aleem Dar held several inspections before a fresh downpour ended what slim chance there had been of play, with deep pools of water lying on the outfield, at 2:38pm

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Windies duo tops list

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh completed a series whitewash against a weakened West Indies side after winning the third one-day by three wickets and it was Bangladesh's stand-in skipper Shakib Al Hasan who got the man-of-the-series award for his brilliant all-round performance.

It was, however, two local players—Travis Dowlin and Kemar Roach—who topped the batting and bowling lists in the three-match series.

Five Bangladeshi batsmen made it to the top-ten batting list but it was 32-year old Dowlin, who made his debut in the series, to become the highest run-getter with an unbeaten hundred in the second ODI.

None of the Bangladesh batsmen could reach three-figures in the series, however, it was refreshing to see the immediate past skipper Mohammad Ashraful scoring back-to-back fifties to follow the top-scorer with 140 runs in 3 games at an average of 46.66.

Shakib, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mahmudullah Riyad and wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim were the other Bangladesh batsmen in the list but dashing opener Tamim Iqbal failed to carry his Test form into the one dayers as the left-hander made only 59 runs in three games at an average of 19.66.

The performance of middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan was also disappointing after an impressive Test series as the right-hander could muster only 37 runs in the three games at an average of 12.33.

Bangladesh spinners once again played the vital role in the series victory but it was West Indies pacer Kemar Roach who topped the wickets column with an impressive ten wickets in three games. Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak followed him

with seven scalps.

The other left-arter in the Bangladesh side skipper Shakib Al Hasan troubled the

West Indies batsmen most with his accuracy as his economy rate (3.46) shows, but he

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan poses with the winners' trophy after the third and final one-day international against the West Indies at Warner Park in St Kitts on Friday.

TOP TEN

Batsmen									
Player	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	
T Dowlin	3	3	1	148	100*	74.00	1	0	
Ashraful	3	3	0	140	64	46.66	0	2	
Shakib	3	3	0	135	65	45.00	0	2	
Zunaed	3	3	0	114	55	38.00	0	1	
D Smith	3	3	0	113	65	37.66	0	1	
Mahmudullah	3	3	1	96	51*	48.00	0	1	
D Sammy	3	3	1	92	40	46.00	0	0	
A Fletcher	3	3	0	79	52	26.33	0	1	
Mushfiqur	3	3	0	73	31	24.33	0	0	
D Bernard	3	3	0	61	38	20.33	0	0	
Bowlers									
Player	M	O	M	R	W	BBi	Avg	Econ	
K Roach	3	27.4	1	162	10	5/44	16.20	5.85	
Razzak	3	29.4	0	160	7	4/39	22.85	5.39	
D Bernard	3	30.0	1	137	4	2/59	34.25	4.56	
Nayem	3	25.0	1	102	3	1/26	34.00	4.08	
Riyad	3	23.0	1	122	3	2/38	40.66	5.30	
D Sammy	3	29.0	1	124	3	2/37	41.33	4.27	
D Thomas	2	1.1	0	11	2	2/11	5.50	9.42	
Mahbubul	1	6.0	0	42	2	2/42	21.00	7.00	
R Lewis	2	18.0	0	88	2	1/35	44.00	4.88	
Rasel	2	16.0	0	91	2	1/30	45.50	5.68	