the Match

His unassuming demeanour off the field, coupled with his coolness on it, made him a likeable and popular player, yet he seemingly lacked a certain X-factor that is often needed to propel a powerful public image. In the days of reality TV and B-grade stars it is easy to achieve one's 15 minutes of fame, but Shakib kept his head down and did his work, he never sought out the limelight yet eventually when he was pushed into it, he succeeded beyond his wildest expectations. One is often told to strike while the iron is hot and that is exactly what Shakib did, he led a continually under performing team to a series victory in the Caribbean and did it all on a few minutes notice as a stand-in captain. Seemingly the captaincy was the X-factor that he was missing, since taking over he has transformed from the quiet kid that keeps on performing to the captain that leads by example. His name and face have covered hundreds of column inches in the last few weeks as Shakib the man steps in and Shakib the boy departs. His rite of passage from boy to man took place on the field at the picturesque Arnos Vale ground in St Vincent as the impromptu leader shrugged off the loss of the team's captain and best bowler to help them achieve only their second test victory.

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His rite of passage from boy to man on the field at Arnos Vale ground in St. Vincent.

While Shakib's rise to success has been meteoric, the fact remains that he only started playing cricket when he was in his teens. A talented footballer in his youth, many including him thought that a career in football was eminent. Luckily for us one day he picked up a cricket bat and that changed his life. Playing 'tape tennis' cricket he earned a name and a reputation for himself, so much so that was even hired to play for local teams on match-by-match basis. At that point in time he still fancied himself as a pace bowler, but as people started to notice his talent he decided to change from pace to spin. It proved to be the best decision of his life as he had a natural ability to drift the ball into right-handed batsmen and then make it straighten.

His next major step was to be chosen for a six-month course at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Prothistan (BKSP).