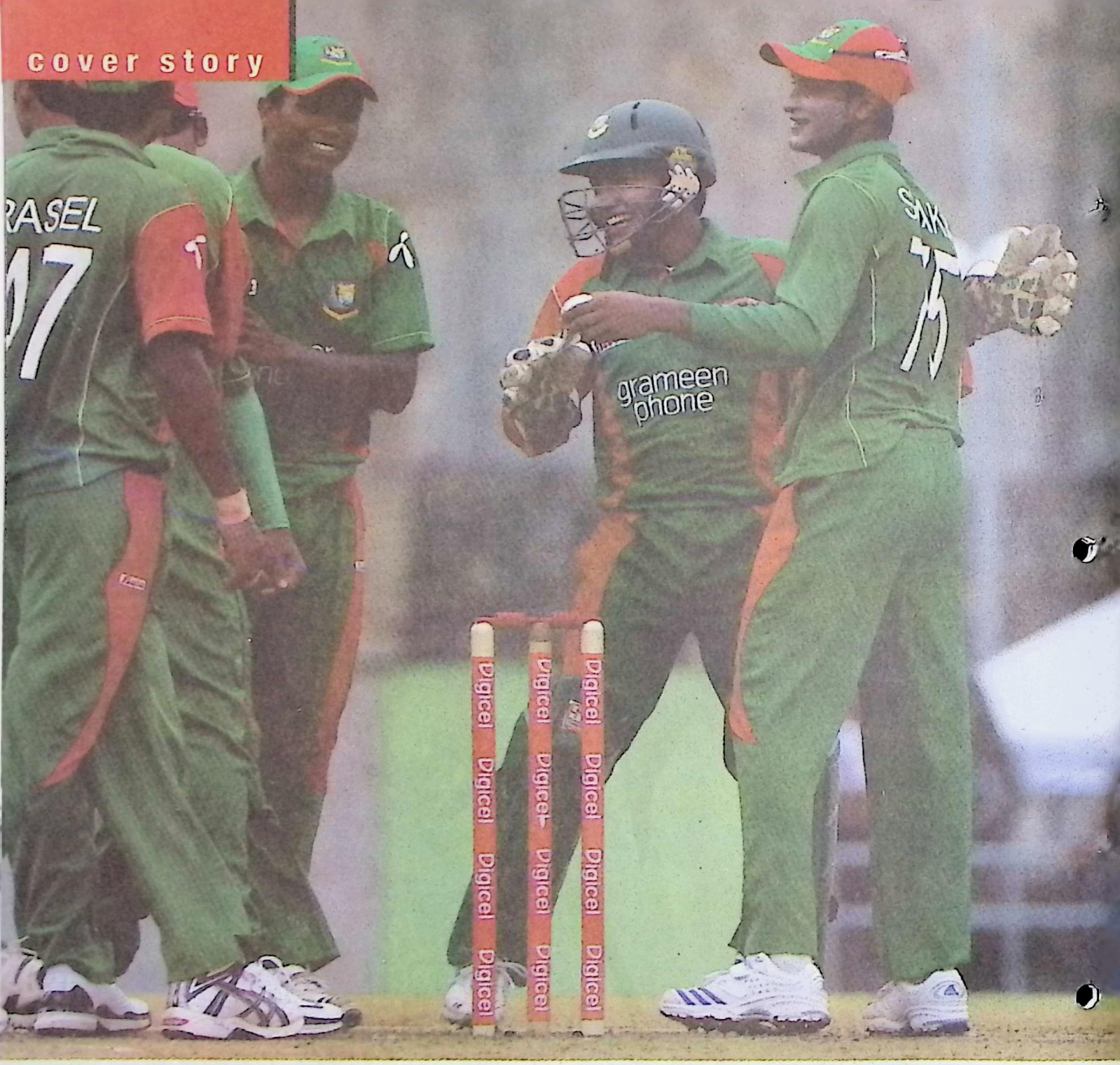


Shakib soon became the team's linchpin.

While his ODI career was blossoming, his test career got off to an uncertain start. His first six tests only produced a smattering of wickets and the bowling all rounder was soon being called a batting all rounder. His ODI performances were unparalleled as he scored his first century against Canada and followed that up with one against Pakistan, while the runs were coming so were the wickets. In the shorter form of the game his bowling was tight without being brilliant, but often the pressure created by him and Abdur Razzak resulted in others getting wickets. With over 70 wickets from 64 games his strike rate is not too bad, but his economy rate of 4.01 is nothing short of amazing.

The only problem was that while his ODI game was improving his test career seemed to be going nowhere. His bowling lack incisiveness and his batting tended to be less assured than when playing the shorter form of the game. Then seemingly all of a sudden, the wickets and runs came in a torrent, instead of pushing the ball faster as he did in the ODIs he gave it more air and more time to spin. The results were remarkable, in three consecutive tests he took five wickets in an innings including an amaz-