

## Shakib all the way

CRICINFO, undated

Shakib Al Hasan starred with a delightfully aggressive ton in Bangladesh's second straight win in the five-match series against Zimbabwe. Tamim Iqbal laid the platform with a patient half-century before Shakib took over to charge Bangladesh to their highest ODI score. Zimbabwe tried gamely, courtesy fine half-centuries from Charles Coventry and Sean Williams, but the 321-run target proved beyond their reach.

Bangladesh's strategy was simple: keep a tight line and wait for the pressure of the steep target to start telling on the batsmen. And it worked. Coventry provided some momentum to the chase by counterattacking after the early wickets. There was a very skilful hit over extra-cover against Syed Rasel and couple of big sixes against the off-spinner Naem Islam but he fell, trying to keep pace with the required run rate.

Post Coventry's exit, Williams played a gem of a cameo, filled

### FASTEST ODI HUNDREDS

| Runs | Balls | Player          | Match                 | Venue         | Year |
|------|-------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|------|
| 102  | 37    | Shahid Afridi   | Pakistan v Sri Lanka  | Nairobi       | 1996 |
| 147  | 44    | M Boucher       | S Africa v Zimbabwe   | Potchefstroom | 2006 |
| 117  | 45    | B Lara          | W Indies v Bangladesh | Dhaka         | 1999 |
| 102  | 45    | Shahid Afridi   | Pakistan v India      | Kanpur        | 2005 |
| 134  | 48    | S Jayasuriya    | Sri Lanka v Pakistan  | Singapore     | 1996 |
| 130  | 55    | S Jayasuriya    | S Lanka v Bangladesh  | Karachi       | 2008 |
| 125  | 60    | V Sehwag        | India v New Zealand   | Hamilton      | 2009 |
| 108  | 62    | MAZharuddin     | India v New Zealand   | Baroda        | 1988 |
| 104  | 63    | Shakib Al Hasan | Bangladesh v Zim      | Bulawayo      | 2009 |
| 157  | 64    | S Jayasuriya    | S Lanka v Netherlands | Amstelveen    | 2006 |

### BANGLADESH'S HIGHEST ODI TOTALS

| Score | Opposition | Ground         | Date            |
|-------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 320/8 | Zimbabwe   | Bulawayo       | August 11, 2009 |
| 301/7 | Kenya      | Bogra          | March 17, 2006  |
| 300/8 | U.A.E      | Lahore         | June 24, 2008   |
| 293/7 | Ireland    | Dhaka (Mirpur) | March 22, 2008  |
| 285/7 | Pakistan   | Lahore         | April 13, 2008  |

with improvisations, but he too became a victim of the run-rate. Sean, who notched up his highest ODI score, not only used his feet well against the spinners but also repeatedly put the reverse sweep to good effect to upset the rhythm of the bowlers. He ran hard between the wickets and kept picking singles and twos to keep the scoreboard moving. Near the end of the chase, he took more risks, charging out to the seamers as well. He sashayed down the track and heaved Nazmul Hossain to the corner and slapped him over covers but fell, failing to clear long-on. Elton Chigumbura biffed around in the end to raise hopes but could only succeed in reducing the margin of the loss.

Bangladesh's win was set up by their batsmen led by Shakib, who provided momentum with an imposing knock. Bangladesh were 108 for 1 in 25 overs but Shakib ensured that they finished strongly.

The feature of his innings was his skill in repeatedly picking the gaps: there were quite a few hits over extra cover, a few to the straight boundary and many swings to midwicket. He started carefully, dealing in singles and twos to reach 15, before breaking free with two pulled boundaries. The explosion started in the 38th over, bowled by the part-time spinner Williams, with Shakib, who was denied the services of a runner just prior to the over, swinging twice over midwicket boundary. He went on to crash Ray Price to the straight boundary before lifting Prosper Utseya over long-off and twice over extra-cover as he made full use of the batting Powerplay.

He was aided by some poor fielding and was dropped twice in the inner circle: when he was on 59, Stuart Matsikenyeri spilled a slider at midwicket off an attempted reverse-sweep against Utseya and when he was on 71, Price dropped another off a top-edged paddle-sweep.

Shakib went on the rampage after the twin drops. He looted 19 runs, with the help of three boundaries that included a stunning six over long-off, off the 44th over bowled by Chamu Chibhabha. He brought up the hundred in 63 balls and celebrated it with a cheeky scoop shot off Ed Rainsford before he was run out going for the third run after Mushfiqur Rahim had slashed to deep point. Rahim sought to make amends for his mistake with some big hitting in the end to push Bangladesh well past 300.

The platform was laid earlier in the day by Tamim, who forged a more staid partnership with Zunaed Siddiqui at the top of the order. Only four fours came in the first fifteen overs and only one

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Bangladesh captain and ace batsman Shakib Al Hasan scoops one behind the wicket during his blistering century in the second ODI against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo yesterday.



### Did U Know?

Women were not allowed to compete in water polo until the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, where Australia won the gold medal, the United States took the silver, and the bronze went to Russia.



### Flavia Pennetta

(Italian tennis star)  
"This tournament is something different for me. It is the first time for me to win a tournament like this."  
After defeating Samantha Stosur of Australia in the Los Angeles Championship final on Sunday.



### TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v Pakistan  
T20 Int'l  
Live from 8:30pm  
ESPN  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 9:30pm

### Women's h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Viquarunnissa Noon School and College made a winning start in the 12th Delta Life Women's College Handball Competition with a 14-2 win over Holy Cross 'B' on the opening day of the meet at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex ground yesterday.

In other match of the day Holy Cross crushed Siddeshwari Girls College by 8-2 in the same venue.

Earlier Das Deb Prasad, the managing director of sponsor

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### MSC add BU goalkeeper

SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Mohammedan SC yesterday roped in Brothers Union's goalkeeper MN Shakil to their star-studded squad that had earlier seen 12 players signed for the popular Black and White outfit this season.

Shakil is Mohammedan's second choice goalkeeper after the Motijheel-based outfit retained the services of country's number one goalkeeper Aminul Haq on the eight-day of the month-long players' transfer for the third edition B. League.

Meanwhile, the B. League committee declared a player, who wants to sign for a club more than one season must physically attend at the BFF House along with the club officials to sign the contract.

### BFF submits academy plan

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has sought a 10-year allotment of the newly-built Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) of Sylhet as the football governing body yesterday placed an outline of the proposed football academy at the Sylhet BKSP to the State Minister for youth and sports.

The outline includes the football academy headed by a technical director be run with a hundred 10-year old footballers in four separate groups for an eight-year cycle and the contract to be renewed after every 10 years.

"A foreign coach, a physio and a trainer along with eight local coaches will be guided by the technical director in the 50-member staff academy," BFF general secretary Al Mussabir Sadi told the reporters at his office yesterday.

"The footballers will learn basic education of Bengali, English, Mathematics, physical education and modern science

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### SL eye T20 revenge

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka will have an early opportunity to avenge their defeat at the hands of Pakistan in the World Twenty20 final when the two teams clash in a T20 international here on Wednesday.

Younus Khan's Pakistan stunned favourites Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the final at Lord's in June, sparking massive celebrations in their cricket-obsessed nation.

But the joy was short-lived as Pakistan, touring Sri Lanka a week later, slumped to a 2-0 defeat in the Test series and lost the one-dayers 3-2 against Kumar Sangakkara's rampant home team.

Pakistan salvaged their reputation by winning the last two one-day matches and hope to carry the momentum into Wednesday's clash in which they will be led by flamboyant all-rounder Shahid Afridi.

Afridi, man of the match in both the semi-final and final of the World Twenty20, was appointed T20 captain after Younus quit the shortest form of the game soon after leading Pakistan to the title.

"It is not important that we lost the Test and one-day series," said Afridi. "This is a new game and we are determined to end the tour on a positive note."

Sangakkara was, however, confident of a good showing by his team, provided the top

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PHOTO: STAR

Samia Quraishi of Siddeshwari goes airborne to shoot in their 12th Delta Life Women's College Handball match against Holy Cross at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex yesterday.

### Rubel ruled out of tour

SPORTS REPORTER

The injury woes continued in the visiting Bangladesh cricket team as pace bowler Rubel Hossain was ruled out from the remainder of the tour of Zimbabwe due to a side strain.

Rubel will be replaced by fellow paceman Dollar Mahmud.

He was due to leave for Zimbabwe Tuesday night but was delayed as his visa clearance could not be obtained due to government holiday in Zimbabwe. Dollar will leave for Zimbabwe as soon as the visa clearance is received.

The 20-year old right-arm paceman who so far played four one-day matches to capture three wickets, played his last one-day international against Sri Lanka at Lahore in June 2008.

Rubel was the latest injury victim after Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak both missed the five-match one-day series against Zimbabwe due to injury.

The young paceman, who didn't play any match in Zimbabwe, will return home on Thursday to continue his recovery.

### IPL gets bigger

AFP, Mumbai

The third edition of the Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament will be held from March 12 to April 25 next year in a bigger format, organisers announced on Tuesday.

The lucrative, 45-day tournament, featuring the world's top players in eight teams owned by rich businessmen and Bollywood stars, will have more matches than the previous two editions.

"There will be 94 games in all with each franchise playing 18 preliminary matches, instead of 14 games as in the past," IPL commissioner Lalit Modi told reporters.

"But the window of 45 days would remain more or less the same."

The 2010 edition will end just five days before the World Twenty20 opens in the Caribbean on April 30.

The 2009 event was held in South Africa in April-May after the Indian government declined to provide security because the tournament overlapped with general elections in the country.

The first two days of the IPL will clash with the final stages of field hockey's World Cup, to be held in New Delhi from February 28-March 13.

The International Hockey Federation had originally scheduled the World Cup from March 7-20, but brought the tournament forward to ensure it was not overshadowed by the IPL.

### Ahad's tall dream

ANISUR RAHMAN

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker yesterday declared that a '100-storied building' would be built demolishing the existing five-storied National Sports Council (NSC) structure.

The announcement came at a meeting with the high-ups of different sports federations at the NSC Tower, the newly built 20-storied building next to the old one, where the sports boss was getting the follow up about the progress of the training ahead of the South Asian (SA) Games.

"The minister has expressed his desire of constructing a hundred-storied building and now we will have to assess the feasibility and everything will be finalised after the assessment," said NSC director of development Abdur Rahman, adding that they might take the initiative after the completion of the SA Games, scheduled to be held from January 29 next year.

Such announcement is nothing new from the sports supreme of the country. Over the years the NSC, whose very existence has been questioned for doing more harm than good in improving country's sport, have constructed lifeless structures, forgetting the fact that we need more grounds and training facilities.

Our athletes have been crying for years for an electronic device so that they could assess their real timing. The NSC did install beautiful turf at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, which will host the football and athletic competitions of the SA Games. But the custodian of the country's sports simply forgot to install an electronic device, giving the training athletes a false impression about their timing.

The electronic device at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur has not been functioning for years. And it missed the caring

eyes of all the sports bosses including the incumbent one.

His predecessor Fazlur Rahman did fulfil one promise. He built the NSC Tower at the expense of approximately Tk 46-crore. And forget the findings of embezzlement of cash by the Caretaker Government, the harsh reality is that no sport federation could find any space in that lavish building, considered as the happy home of non-sporting bureaucrats.

Ahad Ali however rightfully said that he was not ready to take the responsibility of the broken promise made by his predecessor.

He made a fresh promise that if the building is erected it would be a home of federation and commercial houses.

Our naïve sport bosses might not be aware of the fact that how much the concept of commercialism has damaged the sports in the country. The BNS is the burning example while cricket organisers are struggling to make an ideal home at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The sports minister often refers to the success of the Bangladesh cricket team as an inspiration for others. But frankly speaking the Bangladesh Cricket Board reached a level both in financial and organisational terms that others, save the Bangladesh Football Federation, can only dream of.

The country's sport is running without a definitive sport policy. There was however efforts to formulate a modern sports policy. For that, two councils were held, but the recommendations of those councils have been stored somewhere in either of the NSC buildings.

We might have a third one in the future. It will surely be a financial bonanza for a vested group but would hardly change the fate of struggling sports federations.

### Kevin's injury worsens

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen has suffered a setback in his recovery from Achilles surgery after being taken to hospital for treatment for an infection in the stitching of his scar tissue, the ECB has confirmed.

Pietersen underwent an operation on his right Achilles tendon after England's victory in the second Test at Lord's. The surgery was conducted by a leading Swedish specialist, who was flown in at the ECB's behest, and an initial estimate was that he would be out of cricket for six weeks.

That may now have to be revised, although the ECB is not at this stage considering the news to be a significant glitch in his recovery plans. He is currently on a drip in a London hospital, where he is believed to be undergoing a course of antibiotics.

The operation, which Pietersen underwent after labouring to twin scores of 32 and 44 in the Lord's Test in July, involved a small incision and trimming of the blood vessels and nerves around the inflamed tendon and was considered, in a statement from Nick Peirce, the ECB's chief medical officer, to have been routine.

"Kevin will look to undertake a comprehensive rehabilitation programme to ensure there is no risk of recurrence," said Peirce at the time. "This is expected to be approximately six weeks but will be taken at an appropriate pace following constant review."

Pietersen was never in contention to be fit for the remainder of the Australia tour, although the ECB currently remain optimistic that he will be fit for the tour of South Africa which gets underway in October, although he may yet be forced to miss the Champions Trophy section of that trip.

In Pietersen's absence, England's middle order has struggled to match his authoritative style of batting, and at Headingley this week, nos 3, 4 and 5 -- Ravi Bopara, Ian Bell and Paul Collingwood -- mustered 16 runs for six dismissals.

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Kevin Pietersen has been left on crutches after surgery on his Achilles.