

Nayeem puts icing on cake

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

Chittagong Divisional Cup
At 187-9 and needing another 35 runs to win Bangladesh looked dead and buried in the final match of a year in which they have hardly put a foot wrong. Out in the middle was Nayeem Islam, who had earlier shown glimpses of his ability as a good hitter of the ball but had never done anything massive like yesterday that saw the home side snatch a victory from the jaws of defeat in dramatic fashion.

With last batsman Nazmul plodding at the other end, Nayeem decided to take the challenge and the pocket dynamo did it in style hitting three consecutive sixes in the 48th over amidst deafening roars from a capacity crowd who got full value of their money after a disappointing first game at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium two days ago.

The exciting one-wicket victory courtesy of Nayeem's blistering knock simply showed our team spirit. The statement came from an elated Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan after the nerve-wrecking finish.

"It was really a good sign that someone batting at number eight won the match for us. Recently Riyad (Mahmudullah) helped us win a match in the West Indies from a similarly difficult condition. These kind of performances simply show that we are in a position to be a balanced side," he said pointing out the bright sides of Thursday's success.

"Nayeem plays in a difficult position because he has got hardly any chance to bowl a complete 10-over spell nor does he have enough opportunity for batting. It was nice to see he has got the opportunity today and capitalized on it brilliantly. His effort just shows the spirit of our team," said the captain praising Nayeem's superb effort.

Nothing could have been better for the port city crowd than the way the fifth and final one-day match between victorious Bangladesh and Zimbabwe ended. There was no shortage of excitement in the dead rubber after Bangladesh had confirmed the five-match series 3-1 by winning the fourth game at the same venue on Tuesday. The most satisfying aspect for the home crowd was that the Tigers could manage finish the resounding year not with sorrow but joy.

It is not so much a common occurrence that Bangladesh won such a close match. They had another instance of a one-wicket success against the same team at Harare in 2007 and

that time the hero was Aftab Ahmed. This time kudos must go to Nayeem who showed a rare brand of match-winning ability during his cool yet blistering 73-run knock to dash the Zimbabweans' hope of finishing the dismal tour with pride.

"Actually I didn't think anything rather I just tried my best to win the game and I tried to learn something from my mistakes in the previous few matches. I have got an opportunity to do something for my team and at the end I could do it," said the man-of-the-match Nayeem.

And without any doubt the performance of Nayeem and Mahmudullah Riyad in the match satisfied their coach Jamie Siddons who wanted to see his under-performing charges in the series come out in the last game although the problem remains with the top order batting.

Riding on a maiden hundred from Brendan Taylor, the visitors showed a much improved performance in the game and put up a decent total of 221-9, their best effort in the series, on a much better track although there was overcast conditions persisting throughout the day.

Bangladesh's top order batsmen had a lack of temperament and application in their batting in the chase and things became worse following three frustrating run outs including Mohammad Ashraful, Riyad and Tamim Iqbal, who had to leave the field in the first over by receiving a short ball to his gloves and had to return at a later stage to save his side.

And captain Shakib was also concerned with the poor efforts from the top order and issued a warning that they should rectify their mistakes in the domestic competition before the tough challenges against India and Sri Lanka in January next year.

"Our top order and middle order batsmen should be careful about their job because the performance in the series was not satisfactory and one thing we must keep in our mind that we can't survive against teams like India or Sri Lanka if we make the same mistakes," said Shakib.

He also blamed himself for making a stupid mistake.

"We have to go forward with this team but we have to work hard to show our improvement against the top sides. It's a great year in terms of winning matches but we have to compete well against the top-ranked sides which is where the challenge actually lies for us," he said.

Zimbabwe stand-in skipper Hamilton Masakadza on the other hand expressed his disappointment in losing the final game.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

REACHING FOR THE MOON! Lower-order Bangladesh batsman Nayeem Islam goes on a lap of joy after his knock of 73 not out that sealed the match for Tigers against Zimbabwe in the fifth and final one-day international at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Tendulkar's poetic 175 goes awry as Aussies take lead

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Sachin Tendulkar struck a magnificent 175 on a night the master batsman crossed the 17,000-run barrier as India almost scaled Australia's 350-run mountain in one of the most memorable high-scoring matches one-day cricket has ever seen.

In the end world champions Australia held their nerves to snatch a three-run win to take a 3-2 lead in the seven match series at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad

yesterday. The hosts were bowled out for 347 in 49.4 overs.

But the match will be remembered for one of the best innings the little right-hander has played.

Playing his 435th one-day international, the 37-year-old was under pressure to perform after unimpressive showings in the first four games. And truly he produced an innings to behold. He was cautious while scoring those seven runs needed to cross the 17,000-run milestone that others can only dream of.

After felling that barrier he came out with his brilliant self with exciting stroke play. The right-hander hammered 19 fours and

four sixes in his 141-ball poetry. When he was out caught, India needed 19 runs from 17 balls with three wickets still remaining. But unfortunately his dismissal once again saw India lose a match after coming so close. Left-handed batsman Suresh Raina kept Tendulkar good company in the middle scoring a run-a-ball 59.

Later Tendulkar was adjudged man-of-the-match for his masterful knock.

Afp adds, earlier Shaun Marsh struck a career-best 112 and Shane Watson an impressive 93 as Australia posted a huge 350 for 4.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Tendulkar falls 17,000-run barrier

AFP, Hyderabad

India's Sachin Tendulkar became the first batsman ever to score 17,000 runs in one-day internationals during the fifth match against Australia here on Thursday.

Tendulkar, 36, is already the highest run-getter in both one-day and Test cricket.

LEADING RUN-SCORERS (batsman, matches, runs, centuries)

S Tendulkar	435	17,000	44
R Jayasuriya	441	13,377	28
R Ponting	329	12,286	28
Inzamamul Haq	378	11,739	10
S Ganguly	311	11,363	22
R Dravid	339	10,765	12
B Lara	299	10,405	16
J Kallis	294	10,328	16
(Tendulkar, Jayasuriya and Ponting are the only ones in the list still playing international cricket)			

Farashganj share points with Beanibazar

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj and Beanibazar shared the spoils as they played out a 1-1 draw in their Bangladesh League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Farashganj were given an early lead in the 10th minute when their form striker Kalu Johnson got them ahead. And they looked on course for three valuable points until Sohel Rana intervened in the 88th minute to spoil their party.

Ulsan Hyundai to visit Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Korea's famous club Ulsan Hyundai will come towards the end of this month to play two friendly matches in Bangladesh, said sources at Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

The Korean powerhouse will take on BFF XI on the 24th of November and they will play against Bangladesh national side on the 26th.

Gazi Tank, Partex tie

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national opener Shahriar Nafees scored a brilliant century, but yet saw his side Gazi Tank share points with Partex when the two sides met in their Premier Division Cricket League clash yesterday.

The left-hander's 103-run knock was countered by an equally impressive knock of 84 from Partex opener Gazi Salauddin that ultimately saw the two sides end up on 266 for 8 each in their allotted fifty overs and share the points to enforce the first tied match of the league. In the two rain-curtailed matches of the day, Kalabagan beat newcomers Khelaghbar by 3 wickets while Biman won against Cricket Coaching School (CCS) by 4 wickets, both decided on D/L method.

Winning the toss at the Shaheed Chandra Cricket Stadium in Bogra, Gazi Tank skipper Alok Kapali opted to bat first on a batting-friendly track. But his openers didn't do justice as they both departed cheaply. Losing those two early, Shahriar and all-rounder Forhad Hossain spent valuable time in the middle for a huge partnership of 137 to take their side towards a big score.

Shahriar was at his fluent self, after his half-century in the last knock, he scored 103 runs

this time from 117 deliveries in which he hit 12 boundaries and one maximum. He was well supported by Forhad, as the all-rounder scored 58 for himself to follow his 45-run innings in the last match.

Forhad was the first to go when he got bowled off Rezaul Karim. Karim accounted for Shahriar's wicket too a few overs later, getting the batsman caught by Shiran Sharif. Gazi Tank, scored 57 in the last 7 overs, courtesy of Ziaur Rahman's 17-ball 27 and skipper Alok Kapali's 16-ball 21, to put on a challenging total of 266 for 8 on the board.

Partex were given a brisk start by Salauddin and Mahbub Alam as they scored 41 runs in the first wicket within 6 overs. Mahbub's departure brought Rezaul Haq who partnered Salauddin for a 101-run partnership that laid the platform for the chase. They were still the favourites to win after the departure of those two, as they needed 97 off the last 15 overs with 7 wickets in hand. But three untimely run-outs made their chase harder as they crawled to 266 for 8 after 50, ending the match on a tie.

Biman recorded their third win in as many matches as they easily chased down a target of 177 runs in 46 overs losing six wickets against CCS at BKSP. CCS were bowled out for 176 in 48.5 overs, thanks to a four-wicket haul from Biman's medium-pacer Tareq Aziz and a three-wicket from fast bowler Talha Jubair. There were

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Tips for Ashraful works for Khan

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

A 12-year-old has scored 439 runs in a school cricket tournament in Mumbai that was used as a launch pad for the career of current Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar, local media reported on Thursday.

Sarfaraz Khan faced 421 balls and hit 12 sixes and 56 boundaries for his Springfield Rizvi School against a hapless Indian Education Society in a three-day Harris Shield match on Wednesday, the Times of India reported.

It was in this tournament in 1988 when Tendulkar, then a prodigal 15-year-old, made 329 during a 664-run partnership with childhood friend Vinod Kamblu, who also went on to play international cricket.

Tendulkar made his Test debut a year later and became the most successful batsman in history with a world record 12,773 runs and 42 hundreds in Tests and 16,993 runs and 44 centuries in one-dayers.

As television cameras and reporters surrounded the young Khan after his mammoth

knock, he joked that it was easier scoring 400 than posing for the media.

"I swear I will never hit another 400 in my life," the newspaper quoted Khan as saying. "Slogging on the field is way easier than posing."

The only time Khan took his eye off the ball was when his coach Raju Pathak signalled from the pavilion on the next target he needed to achieve, the paper said.

"I am a complete target person," said a confident Khan. "You tell me you want this and I'll give it to you."

"Once I touched my triple century, word came in about Sachin Tendulkar's mark of 358. That conquered, I managed 400. I was thrilled to bits."

Khan said the only time he had seen Tendulkar from up close was during the Indian Premier League last year when the master was giving batting tips to Mohammad Ashraful, a former captain of Bangladesh.

"I heard him tell Ashraful to watch the ball till the last moment before it left the bowler's hand, so that he gets more time to adjust his shot," said Khan.

"I have followed that advice and it has got me a lot of runs."

Tamim injury not critical

SPORTS REPORTER from Ctg

Opener Tamim Iqbal may need to rest for two weeks to recover from the injury he suffered during the fifth and final one-dayer against Zimbabwe at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Tamim sustained the injury in the first over when a rising delivery from Chris Mpofu hit him on the wrist to force him leave the field. He however came on towards the end of the innings, but there was swelling on his wrist and he looked to be in pain.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

What to WATCH

TEN Sports & SuperSport 1

Pakistan v New Zealand

Live from 6:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Citycell Bangladesh League

Sr Russell v Arambagh (5:30pm)

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Ctg Mohammad v Rahmatganj (4:30pm)

Venue: Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium

India's little master Sachin Tendulkar (R) shows his bat after reaching 17,000 runs during the fifth one-day international against Australia at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday.

PHOTO: INTERNET