

## Kamal accuses, Shakib defends

**Cricket**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal has questioned the integrity of the national cricketers saying that the players are not giving their hundred per cent.

"(You) have to be more responsible and have to give your best," said Kamal during a cash-award ceremony organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the members of Bangladesh's winning squad in West Indies and Zimbabwe at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. BCB boss said the players will have to give all in their ability and it would not be acceptable if they gave less than that.

"As a professional, I always want hundred per cent from the players and you have to be habituated with triumph and it will be not acceptable if you go down one day after winning a match the previous day."

Bangladesh recently lost four of the matches in the tri-nation one-day tournament involving India and Sri Lanka at home and then lost the Chittagong Test against India by 113 runs.

The BCB president asked the cricketers why they failed to go down against India without a fight and said it was heartbreaking to see the way the batsmen gave away their wickets.

"If they scored 246 instead of 242, then we would have been boosted mentally. We may not have won the match,

but at least we could have forced a draw. I think players need to fine tune their own expectations."

Kamal was met with a reply from none other than Bangladesh's stand-in skipper Shakib Al Hasan who said that cricket was their bread and butter and there was no lack of effort from the part of players.

"No cricketer plays for defeat and we always try to give our best in the field."

The 22-year-old all-rounder also said that those who addresses should speak with responsibility.

"In order to get consistent success both players and the coaches should work together, no one can win on his own.

Everyone should speak responsibly and assist us in our job. We will not win everyday, no one does. But our integrity should not be questioned," said the best all-rounder in one-day cricket who lead the team in absence of regular skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in two successful overseas tours and a successful home series last year.

On behalf of ministry for youth and sports, minister Ahad Ali Sarker handed over Tk 50,000 each to all the players for their performance in the West Indies and Zimbabwe. Wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahman was also given an additional

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Photo: Anisur Rahman

**I BEG TO DIFFER SIR:** Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan raises his hand while refuting an allegation from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal (unseen) that the national cricketers lacked total commitment in the just concluded first Test against India during a reception at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

## Volleyball hopes for bronze

**Cricket**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Volleyball team are expecting at least a bronze from the forthcoming 11th SA Games which commences in Dhaka on January 29.

Bangladesh Volleyball Federation has selected 12 players for the mega event, General Secretary of Volleyball Federation Ashiqur Rahman Miku told reporters at "Meet the Team" program at BOA Bhaban yesterday.

"We will fight for bronze. This time we've taken enough preparations for the Games. And they have got enough time for practice," said the head coach Yaad Ali.

Bangladesh won bronze in previous three editions of the Games in 1987, 1991 and 1999.

Considering India and Pakistan as the likely candidates for the top two medals, Volleyball Federation officials have pointed out Sri Lanka as their main rivals for the third position. Bhutan are not participating in this discipline.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Dhaka, Rajshahi win big

**Cricket**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi and Dhaka have scored big wins in their respective matches of the National Cricket League against Barisal and Chittagong while the match between Sylhet and Khulna is poised for an exciting fourth day finish.

Rajshahi's Saqlain Sajib took nine wickets in two innings while Forhad Hossain scored 159 in their second innings to help Rajshahi beat Chittagong by an innings and 131 runs while Dhaka pacer Mohammad Sharif took eight wickets to help Dhaka to a 10-wicket victory over Barisal within three days.

Both Rajshahi and Dhaka have now won two of their first phase matches.

At the BKSP Ground, Rajshahi started the day on 198 for three and took the score to a mammoth 424 in their first innings. The two overnight batsmen Forhad Hossain and Zubaer Ahmed played the most valuable part

in amassing that score. Forhad scored 159 from 283 deliveries hitting 17 boundaries while Zubaer scored 89 runs.

Starting 240 runs behind, Chittagong's second innings lasted only 32.2 overs as they got bowled out for 109.

Left-handed batsman Faisal Hossain's 34 was the highest of the innings. The two Rajshahi spinners Sohrawardy Shuvo and Saqlain Sajib were responsible for the Chittagong debacle. Shuvo took five wickets while Sajib took four to take his tally to nine for the match, which won him the man-of-the-match award.

At the Khulna Divisional Stadium, Barisal started the day on 175 for three in their second innings, but could add only 75 more runs before they got bowled out. Opening batsman Asif Ahmed took his overnight score from 86 to 121 before becoming one of Sharif's three victims. The others perished cheaply as Barisal set up Dhaka with an easy target of 45 runs, which Dhaka milked in only 5.3 overs without losing any wicket. Dhaka's fast bowler Sharif was adjudged man of the match

for his eight wickets in the innings.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Khulna took a 158-run lead with two second innings wickets remaining going into the fourth and final day's play against Sylhet.

Khulna were 188 for eight in their second innings at stumps on day three, thanks to half centuries from sipper Habibur Bashar (57) and Abdur Razzak (58 not out). Both the batsmen have struck six boundaries and one maximum in their knocks. Earlier Abdur Razzak was successful with the ball too as he took four wickets for 91 runs to skittle Sylhet for 272 in their first innings.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**Khulna v Sylhet**  
Khulna: 242 and 188 for eight (Abdur Razzak 58 not out, Habibur Bashar 57; Tapash Kumar 3-31)  
Sylhet: 272 (Rajin Saleh 83, Myshukur Rahman 60; Abdur Razzak 4-91, Mashrafe Mortaza 1-22)  
**Dhaka v Barisal**  
Dhaka: 295 and 48 for none (Uttam Sarker 22 not out, Rony

Talukder 22 not out)  
Barisal: 89 and 250 (Asif Ahmed 121, Fazle Rabbi 54; Mohammad Sharif 3-75, Mosharrar Hossain 3-39)

**Chittagong v Rajshahi**  
Chittagong: 184 and 109 (Faisal Hossain 34; Sohrawardy Shuvo 5-36, Saqlain Sajib 4-59)

**Rajshahi:** 424 (Forhad Hossain 159, Zubaer Ahmed 89; Tareq Aziz 3-75)

### Zia finishes fifth

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman finished fifth in the 8th Parsvnath International Open Chess Tournament in Delhi. Zia bagged 8.5 points from 11 games. It was the highest score by any players from India and Bangladesh in the competition. In the last round yesterday, Zia drew with GM Ghaem Maghami Ehsan of Iran who became champion in the tournament. Another Bangladeshi GM Niaz Murshed

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Ashraful very lucky: Siddons

**Cricket**  
CRICINFO, undated

Jamie Siddons, the Bangladesh coach, has said batsman Mohammad Ashraful was fortunate to retain a place in the national team but felt there was no adequate replacement for him yet. Siddons also viewed the first Test as an opportunity lost for Bangladesh and believed the result could have been different had the top order batted better.

Ashraful averages 22.92 from 51 Tests, and his 101 against Sri Lanka in December 2008 is his only 50-plus score in more than two years. "There is definitely a lot of pressure on Mohammad Ashraful," Siddons told Cricinfo.

"He knows that he has been very inconsistent and we have talked about it. In that regard, he is very lucky to be still in the team but unless you find someone else, someone better, to replace him, he will play. After all, it wasn't long time back that he hit a hundred against Sri Lanka. I hope he scores in the second Test and inspires the whole team."

Akram Khan, the national selector, had earlier said that they were forced to play Ashraful in the past because of the lack of seniors but Siddons wasn't convinced about that reasoning.

"I have never been a fan of playing players just because of experience. You need to perform," Siddons said. "Else, you might as well play young players. As for Ashraful, there is no one anyway, as yet, as good as him and hence he continues to play. But the pressure is growing."

Looking back at the first Test, Siddons said Bangladesh would have done better, perhaps

even won the Test, had the top order put in a better performance. "I definitely see it as an opportunity lost. We finished short of 100 runs in the end. We bowled well in the first innings and that gave us a great chance. But we didn't bat well in the first 30 overs in both the innings. The top order needs to step up. If we can bat the first 30 overs well, I am sure this team is capable of putting good totals."

Shahriar Nafees, playing his first Test in nearly two years due to his ICL dalliance, looked shaky at No. 3 in both innings and looked uncertain outside his off stump but Siddons said that Nafees would be given another chance in the second Test in Dhaka. "He should get a chance. This is his comeback game and there was bound to be some nerves. We played him because he is a good player of spin and we felt India would play two spinners in that Test. If he had got through the initial period against pace he can go on to play a big innings. He is working hard and I must say that he did get a good ball in the first innings."

Considering Nafees' form, some felt there might be a revision in the batting order but Siddons also ruled out any promotion in the order for Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim or Mahmudullah. "Shakib is still learning to bat at his position at the international level and I don't think he should be pushed up now. Mahmudullah did bat well but he has just started playing at this level. He also found out all about pressure at this level in the second innings (Zaheer Khan bombarded him with a bouncer-attack and Mahmudullah fell trying to counterattack). Mushfiqur has to keep wickets as well. It won't be prudent to push people up, what would solve the problem is the batsmen batting higher up start scoring some runs."

## Laxman stays back

CRICINFO, undated

A final call on Sreesanth and the injured VVS Laxman will be taken on Saturday, according to the Indian team manager Arshad Ayub.

Laxman was supposed to leave for India on Friday but there has been a change of plan. "We will wait till tomorrow before we decide what to do," Ayub told Cricinfo. Laxman hurt his left hand on Wednesday when he dropped a catch in third slip and had ten stitches in his hand.

India had more injury worries during the first Test as

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Ryder out of BD series

CRICINFO, undated

Jesse Ryder, the New Zealand batsman, will not be considered for selection for the home series against Bangladesh as he continues to struggle with a lower stomach muscle injury.

"Unfortunately Jesse is not fit at the moment," the national selector Mark Greatbatch said. "He has had a bit of a relapse with his injury. He has still got quite a bit of work to do to get back and play club cricket and for Wellington."

Ryder recently took a significant step in his recovery

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

**Master Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar walks out of the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. The Indian cricket team returned to Dhaka from Chittagong in the afternoon to play the second and final Test starting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Sunday. India won the first Test at Chittagong by 113 runs.**

**What to WATCH**

**STAR Sports**  
Australian Open Fourth Round  
Live from 6:00am

**SuperSport5 & Star Cricket**  
India v Pakistan U-19 Cricket World Cup Quarterfinal  
Live from 3:30am

**SuperSport3**  
English Premier League Man United v Hull City  
Live from 9:00pm

**Primera Liga**  
Valladolid v Barcelona  
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)

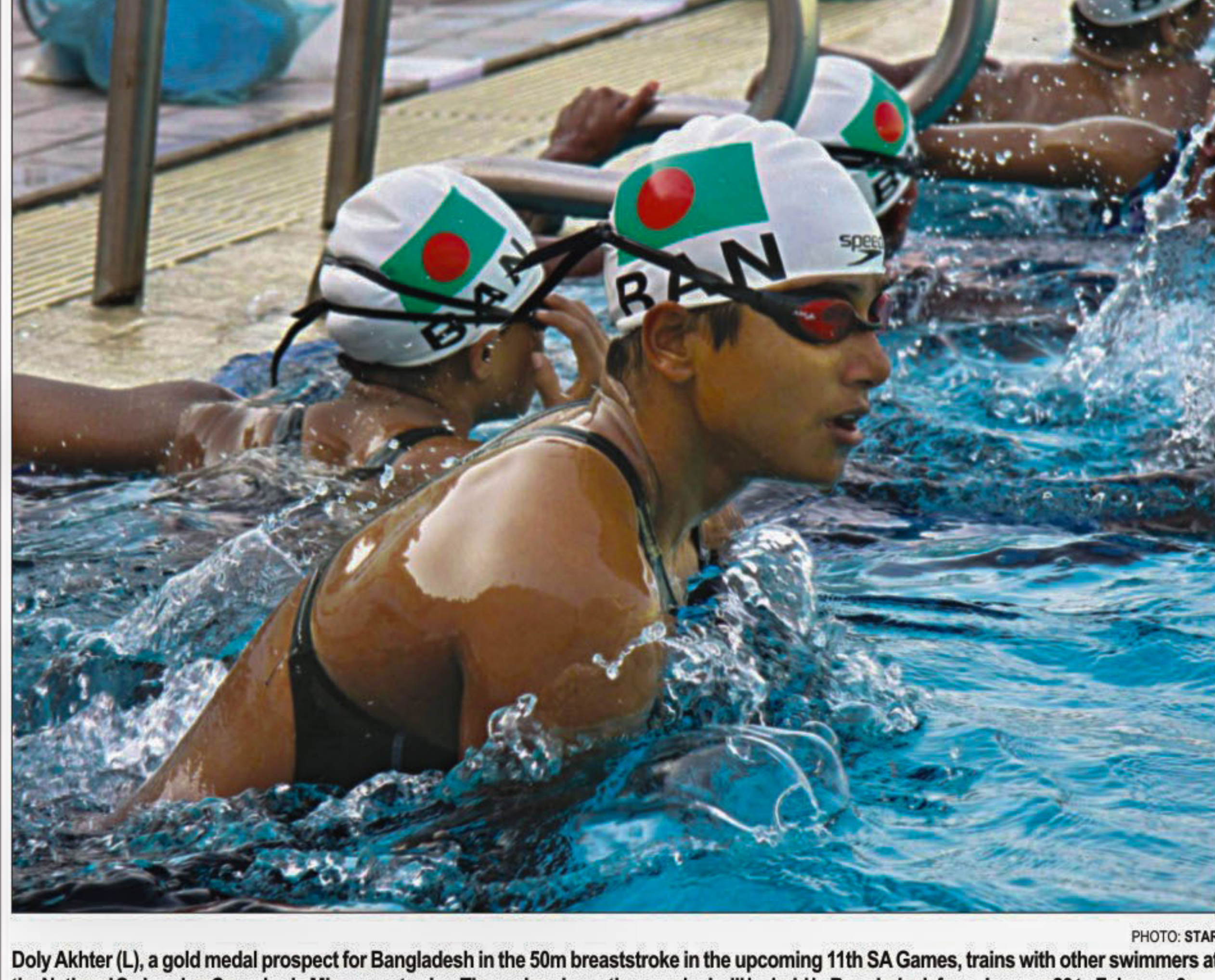


PHOTO: STAR

**Doly Akhter (L), a gold medal prospect for Bangladesh in the 50m breaststroke in the upcoming 11th SA Games, trains with other swimmers at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday. The regional sporting carnival will be held in Bangladesh from January 29 to February 9.**

## White ton powers Australia

**Cricket**  
CRICINFO, undated

Cameron White finally showed he could be a potent force at home as his muscular century pushed Australia to a five-wicket win in the opening one-day international against Pakistan at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Friday.

Over the past six months White has starred in England and India to confirm himself as a key batting figure and he powered the hosts as they over-hauled the target of 275 with nine balls to spare.

It was the first time White, playing his 48th ODI, had passed fifty in Australia and he almost made it to the end before falling for 105 off 88 balls. Australia were uncomfortable after slipping to 84-3 with Ricky Ponting's exit, but White joined with Michael Clarke in settling the nerves and then took on the major responsibility with the vice-captain's departure.

White is a hulky figure and he peaked with three consecutive sixes off Shahid Afridi between long-on and midwicket in the 41st over that downgraded Australia's assignment from difficult to comfortable. Afridi is used to dishing out that sort of sequence and did his best to provide the memorable moment of the day with a 26-ball 48, but White made sure it was his fireworks that will be recalled first.

He picked up four sixes and eight fours, including an unorthodox cross-bat down the ground off Rana Navedul Hasan followed by a textbook cover drive in the same over, and added his second century to follow the 105 against England in Southampton in September. He was bowled by Rana trying for another boundary and left to a standing ovation. Michael Hussey, who was unbeaten on 35, finished off the match to earn a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The result continued Australia's successful summer and stopped Pakistan, who had been heavily reinforced after the 3-0 Test loss, from gaining any momentum ahead of Sunday's second game in Sydney. They had chances to contain Australia further in the field following their useful start, but a few run-outs or catches will always be missed by this outfit.

Earlier, Salman Butt's 72 put Pakistan on track for a sizeable total and Afridi made sure it happened with a powerful late surge that took them to 274. After winning the toss, the visitors had a series of useful stands over most of the innings but none that dominated the game until Afridi arrived at No. 7.

Australia had fought back from Butt's display through Watson and Clint McKay, but after the visitors wobbled to 7 for 227 in the 44th over Afridi quickly steadied them. Afridi forced a six to long-off from Nathan Hauritz before pulling Peter Siddle into the stands at midwicket to provide a much-needed boost during the batting Powerplay. After swatting Watson for six to long-on,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5