

## HAMILTON TEST- DAY FIVE

# Tigers fall but Shakib stands tall



SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan took all the limelight with a brilliant maiden hundred on the fifth day of the Hamilton Test against New Zealand, yet could not help his side avoid a 121-run defeat though went some way to restoring some pride for the Tigers. Shakib, who saw off 25 balls previous evening to remain not out on night, took the attack to the New Zealand bowlers right from the word go on the fifth day. The Bangladesh skipper batted with disdain and played exquisite shots all around the park to bring up his 100 in 129 balls that included three sixes and fifteen boundaries. He got good company from Mushfiqur Rahim and in-form Mahmudullah, but was ultimately left with just the company of the tail as he attempted to pull off an unlikely victory. But it was not to be for Bangladesh.

CricInfo adds: Shakib and Mushfiqur started patiently, negotiating the good deliveries safely but being sure to put away the bad balls; when they slashed they slashed hard at the wide ones to send them flying over the packed slip cordon. New Zealand tussled

hard to keep the pressure on, sprightly, as usual, in the field with the bowlers hitting their lengths consistently early on.

About 10 overs into the morning however, Shakib exploded. Having ended the previous day's play unbeaten on 0 from 25 balls, and then deadbatting his way through most of the opening spell, Shakib creamed his second half-century of the match in just 58 deliveries. Chris Martin was first dispatched for three fours in one over before Daniel Vettori brought himself on. His first over of the session cost 18, Shakib punctuating three strapping sweep shots with a skilful paddle to the fine-leg fence. He then hit 10 off the first three balls of Vettori's next over to bring up his 50 and to complete a staggering 13 ball burst in which he plundered 40 runs from the New Zealand attack.

Daryl Tuffey bowled two consecutive maidens at the other end, escaping Shakib's onslaught to nick Mushfiqur out with a pearler outside the off stump. But the captain's counterattack proved effective, Vettori forced to defend the leg side boundary, especially with Shakib on strike.

Mahmudullah played well with Shakib, the pair adding an entertaining 68 together, but they were ultimately unable to repeat their heroics

of the first innings as Mahmudullah was caught by a diving Tuffey at mid-on for a well made 42. Shahadat Hossain did well to survive until Shakib reached his hundred in the first over after lunch, only for Tim Southee to clean up the century two balls later. With that, the tourists' hope of an upset slipped away.

The Bangladesh tail came out playing their shots, taking to Jeetan Patel's bowling in particular, but it was only a matter of time before the New Zealanders finished it off, Southee taking two more in successive deliveries to have the visitors all out for 282.

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the only Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Friday:  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 553 for 7 decl (Ingram 42, Taylor 40, Guptill 189, McCullum 185; Rubel 5-166)  
**BANGLADESH:** First innings 408 (Tamim 68, Shakib 87, Mahmudullah 115; Martin 3-116, Tuffey 2-84, Vettori 3-88)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings 258 for 5 decl (McIntosh 89, Taylor 51, Guptill 56 n o; Mahmudullah 2-84)

**BANGLADESH:** Second innings (overnight 88-5)  
 Tamim c Tuffey b Vettori 30  
 Imrul b Patel 29

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Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan raises his bat after striking a majestic maiden hundred on the fifth day of the Hamilton Test against New Zealand yesterday.

# 'Self-belief has improved'



CRICINFO, undated

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan was pleased with his team's performances over the tour, particularly the mettle they displayed in the final one-day in Christchurch, and in the one-off Test.

"We improved ourselves over the tour. Every time we did something better," Shakib said. "We fought hard in this match and we don't often take the match into the fifth day. Mahmudullah and the fast bowlers did their job well and I'm happy with the way the team is progressing."

The Bangladesh captain was also relieved to finally have a maiden Test century in the bag after being dismissed for 87 in the first innings, but said there was nothing particularly motivating his brutal assault against Daniel Vettori's bowling this morning. He tore into his counterpart, smashing 18 off his first over before taking ten runs off the first three balls of his next over to bring up his fifty. "The ball was there to be hit and I backed myself to play those shots and it came off," Shakib said.

Looking forward to their upcoming home series against England, Shakib was optimistic, claiming, "We now have the belief that we can beat any team in our home conditions, so we are looking forward to it."

Bangladesh coach Jamie

Siddons took a similar line towards the team's performance on this tour and for the future. "If you look at the individual achievements, we had three centuries and a five-for and we scored our highest Test total against New Zealand," Siddons said. "We've had a lot of achievements but not a lot of results. We've smashed several Bangladesh batting records recently and our (batsmen) are getting better individually. It's just a case of putting it all together and becoming more consistent in the future."

Mahmudullah, who scored 115 in the second innings, has maintained his consistency during this tour but is likely to remain lower down the order.

"We are just letting him develop at the moment. He is just in his sixth Test, and he's doing well but we are wary of pushing him up to a four or five," Siddons said. "It may be too high for him at the moment. He is handy with his offspin as well, as he showed in the second innings, so we are just letting him develop."

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori was also satisfied with the way his team performed, reserving special mention for Martin Guptill and Brendon McCullum, whose partnership of 339 took the game away from Bangladesh on the second day. "We're happy with the way we played," Vettori said. "The way Martin Guptill and Brendon McCullum batted was

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## Asians grab top ESPNcricinfo awards

CRICINFO, undated

Virender Sehwag has won the Test batting prize for the second year running in the ESPNcricinfo Awards. Sehwag's audacious 293 against Sri Lanka in Mumbai was chosen over Andrew Strauss's 161 at Lord's in the Ashes and Chris Gayle's unbeaten 165 in Adelaide, by a jury of former cricketers, commentators and Cricinfo's senior editors.

The six awards, for performances in the three international cricket formats in 2009, were shared between players from three countries: India, Pakistan and West Indies. Gayle won the Twenty20 batting award for his 50-ball 88 against Australia at the Oval in the World Twenty20. His West Indies teammate Jerome Taylor's rout of England in Jamaica was voted the Test bowling performance of the year.

The ODI batting award went to Sachin Tendulkar for his fighting 175 in a match India lost by three runs to Australia.

Shahid Afridi, who was nominated for his Twenty20 bowling as well, won for his career-best 6 for 38 in Dubai, also against Australia.

The award for Twenty20 bowling went to Umar Gul, who was nominated twice in the category, for his five-wicket haul against New Zealand at The Oval, also in the World Twenty20 - a performance of reverse-sewing bowling in which, according to former Australia captain and jury member Ian Chappell, "for three overs he looked like he was going to take a wicket every ball and damn near did".

## AFC CHALLENGE CUP

# Booters must beat SL

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh go into their last group match against winless Sri Lanka today in a must-win situation at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo as they fight to keep their semifinal berth alive in the AFC Challenge Cup finals.

Myanmar all but confirmed their place in the last four with a maximum six points while Bangladesh and Tajikistan are level on three points. There would be no other choice than victory for Bangladesh and as well they have to wait for the result between Myanmar and Tajikistan who also played at the same time of 3.30pm.

"We are not thinking about any equation rather our main focus is to play our best game and thus ensure the best result. The confidence is very high despite the defeat against Myanmar in the second game because the result hardly reflected the real picture of the match," Bangladesh coach Saiful Bari Titu told the Daily Star Sport over telephone last night.

"I believe it will not be a big task to beat Sri Lanka who have nothing to lose if we can play

our natural game," he added. Bangladesh made a high flying start in the tournament with a 2-1 victory over Tajikistan in the opening match but went down by the same margin against the higher-ranked Myanmar team in the second game.

"The standard of the Myanmar team is good and we spoiled too many chances against them and you know it's difficult to get a positive result against stronger opponents if you miss too many chances," Titu said rueing over missed opportunities.

Titu believes in an attacking brand of football and he wants to maintain it against Sri Lanka also.

"We maintain the same strategy in the last group match which we followed against Tajikistan to secure a 2-1 victory and also it's worked against Myanmar, so there is no reason for us to change our strategy," he said.

Titu informed that defender Rezaul will not play the match as he is booked with two yellow cards. "I'm also thinking about bringing changes in the starting eleven because Zahid Hossain impressed me with his play as a substitute in the last two games."

# SA to host Champs League



CRICINFO, undated

The 2010 Champions League Twenty20 will be held in South Africa from September 10-26, Cricket South Africa have announced. This ends weeks of speculation over the venue of the tournament, given concerns over security in India; England and even the USA were thought of as possible venues.

The tournament, which was hosted in India last year, will feature 12 teams, including three from the IPL this year. The competition will take place across three venues, two of which will be the home grounds of the Standard Bank Pro20 finalists this year.

CSA President, Dr Mtuzeli Nyoka was quoted in a media release as saying: "This is a prestigious tournament involving seven of the

world's top cricket nations. It will be another feather in South Africa's cap as a host of world-class sports events and will not clash in any way with the FIFA World Cup 2010.

"It will also be a big boost to the local franchisees, their players and supporters which will feature in the tournament."

However, given there hasn't been a change in dates, the participation of England players remains in doubt, for the tournament clashes with England's one-day series against Pakistan, the final two rounds of County Championship matches, plus the semifinals and final of the ECB40 competition. Lalit Modi, the Champions League commissioner, had said the dates were the only window available for the event, as India are due to play Australia in a one-day series in early October, and hoped the ECB could make minor adjustments to their domestic schedule, which the ECB chairman, Giles Clarke, ruled out.

The experienced pair of Shane Bond and Scott Styris have returned to the New Zealand squad for the one-dayers and the Twenty20s against Australia starting next week. The players to miss out from the pool that was picked for the recent Bangladesh series are the fast bowling pair of Andy McKay (injured) and Ian Butler.

Bond comes back into the national squad for the first time since he tore an abdominal muscle during his Man-of-the-Match performance in the Dunedin Test against Pakistan last November. Australia are among Bond's favourite opponents, particularly in the one-day format where he has 35 wickets at 14.45 in 12 matches against them, including five four-wicket hauls.

"We are very happy with Shane's progress," Mark Greatbatch, national selector and coach, said. "He's had five or six games now with Canterbury and club cricket and he's ready to go."

"He's very, very excited about playing for New Zealand again in the one-dayers and Twenty20s again against Australia and has

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## ITF tennis kicks off

SPORTS REPORTER

UCB International Junior (U-18) tennis championship kicked off at Jafar Imam Tennis Complex in Rajshahi yesterday. 138 players including 63 girls from 23 countries are participating in the eight day long event.

Rajshahi mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton will formally inaugurate the tournament today.

Co-sponsors UCB and Partex Group are contributing Taka seven lakh for the tennis meet.

## Badminton Gold Cup

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Jubo Ekadosh became champions in the First ESDO Badminton Gold Cup tournament with a 3-1 set victory over Dinajpur Purnabhaha Bahumukhi Samoboy Samity team at Gobindanagar village in the Thakurgaon municipality area on Thursday.

Eco Social Development Organisation (ESDO) organised the tournament where 32-team from different northern districts including Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Thakurgaon took part.

## AUSTRALIA V WEST INDIES-FIFTH ODI

# Aus finish with a thump



CRICINFO, undated

In a summer of big one-day wins, Australia saved one of their heaviest victories for last. After Ricky Ponting, James Hopes and Shane Watson set up a daunting 5 for 324, Doug Bollinger continued his torment of Chris Gayle and the West Indies top order crumbled -- again -- to leave the crowd in no doubt about the approaching result less than five overs in to the chase.

The 125-run triumph maintained Australia's chances of going through the summer undefeated in all forms of the game, with two Twenty20s against West Indies all that remain. Already they have equalled their effort of 2000-01, the only other home season when they did not lose a Test or ODI. Back then the team boasted Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Adam Gilchrist and Mark Waugh, and faced West Indies and Zimbabwe.

The developing Australia of this summer will be extra pleased with their record, although their opponents Pakistan and West Indies have been weak. Here West Indies dropped five catches and for the third time in the series they were three down by the end of

the fifth over. Little wonder that at the end of a string of such one-sided contests, only 15,538 fans turned up -- the fewest ever for an ODI between the two teams at the MCG.

Those who did attend saw Bollinger snuff out West Indies' chances when he picked up Gayle's wicket for the sixth time in seven matches this summer. The only Test or ODI in which he failed to do so was the Sydney wash-out, when West Indies batted for six balls. Two top-edged sixes from Gayle were followed by a leading edge to cover and Bollinger had two wickets having trapped Travis Dowlin lbw from the second ball of the chase.

Ryan Harris added Narsingh Deonarine, who played on for 4, and Wavell Hinds, who gave Steven Smith his first ODI catch. Kieron Pollard's 45 featured two sixes but when he holed out to Smith in the deep off Hopes, all that was left for the crowd to look forward to was Smith's maiden wicket, an lbw against Denesh Ramdin, and a fighting 47 not out from Darren Sammy. Still, they had been treated to some exciting strokeplay during the Australian innings.

Ponting and Watson built the platform with half-centuries before Hopes and

Adam Voges blasted them past the 300-mark in the final stages. Their 82-run partnership in 7.1 overs featured superb placement from both men, especially Hopes, who struck ten fours and found the gaps with ease. He made his third ODI half-century and took only 24 balls to do it, giving him the fifth-quickest one-day fifty by an Australian.

Hopes finished unbeaten on 57 while Voges remained not out on 45. Hopes was put down at long-on by Hinds late in the innings and it continued a woeful fielding effort from West Indies. The selectors also made the strange decision to make no changes to the side that lost in Brisbane, despite the strike bowler Kemar Roach being passed fit.

It meant that the openers Watson and Brad Haddin were confronted with medium pace new-ball offerings and they enjoyed hitting through the line, down the ground and over the top. Dwayne Smith and Ravi Rampaul obliged by serving up half-volleys and both men watched sixes sail back over their heads.

Watson in particular butchered the bowling and he brought up his half-century from 49 balls with perhaps the best of his three sixes, a searing pull over wide midwicket off Sammy. Two deliveries later

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## What to WATCH

ESPN

English Premier League  
 Arsenal v Sunderland  
 Live at 8:55pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League  
 Everton v Man United  
 Live from 6:40pm  
 Wolves v Chelsea  
 Live at 8:55pm

Portsmouth v Stoke City  
 Live from 11:25pm

SuperSport7

Primera Liga  
 Barcelona v Racing  
 Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

SuperSport3

Primera Liga  
 Mallorca v Sevilla  
 Live from 3:00am (Sunday)



Australians celebrate the dismissal of West Indies all-rounder Narsingh Deonarine (R) during the fifth one-day in Melbourne on Friday.

PHOTO: INTERNET