1ST TEST IN CHITTAGONG

Battling duo takes game into 5th day

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



When England declared their innings with a mammoth lead and Bangladesh lost two quick wickets before lunch break, everybody was sensing the home side's defeat inside four days, but Zunaed Siddiqui and Mushfiqur Rahim staged a brilliant fightback to take the first Test into the fifth day at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here yesterday.

The two batsmen made sure that the Tigers were not going down without fight. The resistance came from them after Bangladesh lost five wickets for 110 runs in reply to an improbable winning target of 513 and their sixth wicket stand was intact for 81 runs before stumps were drawn for the day.

Left-handed Zunaed was not out on 68 while his partner Mushfiqur remained unbeaten on 47 as Bangladesh finished the day on 191 for five, still 322 behind the target.

Bangladesh however were unfortunate in losing their fifth wicket as umpire Tony Hill raised the dreaded finger against skipper Shakib Al Hasan although TV replays showed that the batsman in fact got a full glove on the sweep shot, it was tangled near his pads, but the ball came straight off the gloves and was squeezed into the ground.

The poor decision brought wicketkeeper Mushfiqur, who during the process reached the 1,000 Test runs in his 20th match, to the crease and the little right-hander continued his good form after making 79 runs in the first innings.

The most encouraging part of the sixth-wicket partnership was that they remained undefeated throughout the last session which denied England's early finish of the match.

Zunaed was struggling initially against the short balls but he looked to get back his confidence once Mushfigur joined him. The pair batted 142 minutes together to repair the early damage and it was Zunaed who stayed in the crease for long 199 minutes.

Spinner Graeme Swann gave the first breakthrough in Bangladesh's second innings by removing Tamim Iqbal, who **SEE PAGE 18 COL 8**



Bangladesh batsman Zunaed Siddiqui works the ball on the onside during his gritty knock of 68 not out on the fourth day of the first Test against England at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Rokibul meets **BCB** president

SPORTS REPORTER

Rokibul Hasan, the disillusioned former national cricketer, is inching towards a return to cricket, as it seems, less than a week after his bewildering decision.

The right-handed batsman who announced his resignation for being 'ignored' by the selectors went for a meeting with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal at his office yesterday.

However, what was discussed between the two was not made public. The board president only said he had met Rokibul and the details of their meeting will only be made public after the board meeting on the 19th.

There was speculation in the media that Rokibul submitted an apologetic letter to the BCB withdrawing his retirement, but the president declined to confirm the receipt of any such letters.

The BCB directors will weigh up the 'Rokibul' issue in the March 19 meeting. Some are talking about a punishment up to a two-year ban while others are in favour of giving him a light penalty.

The man in question Rokibul preferred to remain out of reach.

SuperSport5

Bangladesh v England First Test, Day Five Live from 9:30am SuperSport2

Indian Premier League Bangalore Royal Challengers v

Kings XI Punjab Live from 4:30pm Kolkata Knight Riders v Chennai Super Kings Live from 8:30pm

English Premier League

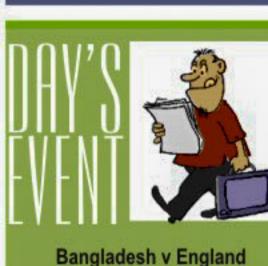
ESPN

Wigan v Aston Villa Live from 1:40am (Wednesday) SuperSport3

UEFA Champions League Chelsea v Inter Milan Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

SuperSport7 **UEFA Champions League**

Sevilla v Cska Moscow Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)



First Test, Day Five Time: 9:30am Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong Bangladesh League Farashganj v Muktijoddha Time: 5:00pm Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

Nabajagaran reach final

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Nabajagaran Sangsad moved into final of the Poura Gold Cup cricket tournament with a 46-run victory over Dashara Palli Mangal Samity at Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Nabajagaran batted first and were bowled out for 201 runs in 38.4 overs. Rubayet scored 41 runs from 40 balls while Pritom scored 27 from 53

Champak, Kamal, Liton and Tutul of Dashara Palli took two wickets each.

In reply, Dashara Palli were shot out for 155 in 29.4 overs. Tanvir remained not out on 46 while Masud added 24 runs. Bidyut picked up four wickets and Rubayet took two for Nabajagaran. Rubayet was later adjudged man-of-thematch for his all round performance -- 41 runs and two

wickets. Nabajagaran Sangsad will face Bandhu Ekadash in the final.

What to BANGLADESH V ENGLAND 1ST TEST, DAY-4

'Commitment the key'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Ctg

Bangladesh were suddenly five the job for the day that was Bangladesh in defeat. wickets down, courtesy of a admirable. poor leg-before decision from fourth day. But both the batsmen held sion without losing any wicket. their nerve against all odds, There has been a lot of particularly Mushfiqur who criticism about the Tigers' looks to getting better and ability in the longer-version of

Quite often the Bangladesh umpire Tony Hill against skip- side strike up a partnership per Shakib Al Hasan. Everyone that falls prey to an untimely thought that the match was on dismissal. So it was a pleasant the verge of finishing on the change to see that Bangladesh batted through an entire ses-

better with each innings. There the game but wicketkeeper determination in their batting gave the impression of a genuwhich was quite exceptional ine batsman in the making to and exactly what everyone in silence the critics. Zunaed, Bangladesh is crying out for. who was desperately looking The two batsmen's undefeated for a decent score to keep his 81-run sixth wicket partner- position in the team, was

ship may not change the fate of struggling initially to settle in the match but they ensured the middle but Mushfigur, The array of that Bangladesh had enjoyed who salvaged some pride for short balls their best moments in the first his team also in the first produced by Test match, thanks to Zunaed innings with a well-composed the England and Mushfiqur, after the 79-run knock, looked solid pace bowlers initially jolted humiliation of the first three from the very first ball. It was left-hander Zunaed Siddiqui. days. It was refreshing not not long ago the little right-Mushfigur Rahim also because they built a partner- hander struck his maiden received some nasty short balls ship after yet another top order hundred in January this year in his helmet, chest and shoul- collapse rather it was their against India that also salder. Just before the tea break, single-mindedness to finish vaged the pride for

What was the secret behind the determination and the fighting spirit?

"It was our commitment," said Zunaed Siddiqui.

"We were only trying to enjoy the game in the middle. Our main focus was on how long we could stay at the middle," said the tall left-hander, who was not out on 68 runs.

"What we thought that in was no shortage of grit and batsman Mushfigur Rahim hot condition it would not be an easy task for the England bowler to bowl in full rhythm if we could survive for long," he

> "I am not sure but I think I **SEE PAGE 18 COL 2**



Milan midfielder David Beckham lies on the pitch during their Serie A match against Chievo at San Siro on Sunday. Beckham ruptured his Achilles tendon that looks certain to rule him out of the World Cup.

WC blow for Beckham

AFP, Helsinki



Former England captain David Beckham will undergo surgery at a Finnish hospital on Monday afternoon on a ruptured Achilles tendon that looks set to rule him out of the World Cup.

"He will arrive in the afternoon, between 3:00 and 4:00 pm (1300-1400 GMT)," orthopaedic surgeon Sakari Orava told AFP.

England manager Fabio Capello said he had spoken to Beckham and that the 34-yearold looks set to miss this summer's World Cup after picking up the career-threatening yet." injury in AC Milan's 1-0 Serie A win over

Chievo. Beckham twisted his left ankle during the final minutes of the match at the San Siro and

limped off the field before being stretchered away in pain and in tears. Orava explained that the operation at the

sports injury clinic of Mehilaeinen hospital in

the western city of Turku would take less than an hour.

"It seems the problem is his Achilles tendon. We will have to see whether it's completely severed, partly severed, or something in between," Orava said.

"His recovery will depend on what kind of an injury this is, but it will likely take several months before it is completely healed," Orava said, adding Beckham could likely begin "light training" in a couple of months. Asked about Beckham's prospects of recov-

ering in time to compete in his fourth World Cup in South Africa, Orava said this "seems a little uncertain, even though I haven't seen him

The World Cup gets underway on June 11. Beckham was expected to remain in Finland for "a minimum of a couple of days" to recover, Orava said.

Orava added he had previously only seen Beckham on television, but had treated the football legend's teammates from AC Milan and England.

Shakib climbs

Rankings all-rounders with

Darren Sammy, Dwayne Bravo

and Kemar Roach have all

achieved career-best rankings

shared 23 wickets between

them in the series against

Zimbabwe which the West

Indies won 4-1 and have been

rewarded with big jumps in the

latest rankings at the end of New

Zealand-Australia and West

Indies-Zimbabwe ODI series

which concluded on Saturday

wickets in the series, vaulted

37 places to share 20th spot

with another Bangladesh left-

arm spinner Abdur Razzak,

Bravo jumped 20 places to

occupy 24th spot after picking

up seven wickets while Roach

Mitchell Johnson, who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy after

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Sammy, who took eight

and Sunday, respectively.

Sammy, Bravo and Roach

in the rankings.

West Indies fast bowlers

Shakib still leading the field.

Now the second best ODI bowler

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan jumped one place to become the second best one-



SHAKIB AL HASAN

day bowler when the International Cricket Council (ICC) released the latest ODI rankings in Dubai yesterday.

The left-hander with 711 being named as the 2009 ICC rating points edged out Zimbabwean Ray Price who slipped to third position with 696 points.

change in the ICC Player

Finn impressed

SPORTS REPORTER from Ctg

The fighting spirit of two

Bangladesh batsmen Zunaed

Siddiqui and Mushfiqur Rahim

on the fourth day of the first Test

at the Zahur Ahmed

Chowdhury Stadium also

impressed the English tent as

lanky paceman Steve Finn told

didn't score many runs but they

didn't play any loose shots, they

didn't give any chances a cou-

ple of lbw decisions weren't

given, and probably weren't out

either. The Bangladeshi bats-

men played well, but we expected that, coming over here

on their own turf, we were going

to have to work hard to take

their wickets," said the 20-year

old bowler who troubled the

cess in the second innings as he

it's something I've aimed

towards. Every young kid wants

to play Test cricket, and by no

means had I built up a picture in

my mind that it was going to be

easy, especially on a flat track,"

to come over here. By no means

did I think, ten days ago, lying in

bed, I'd be playing Test cricket in

ten days. But I played the warm-

up game, came out with no

inhibitions, and said I want to

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

"It's a fantastic opportunity

he said.

got the wicket of Imrul Kayes.

Finn however had one suc-

"Since I was seven or eight

home batsmen with his pace.

"They played very well, they

by Tigers

after the day's play.

has rocketed 23 places to sit in 80th position after snapping up eight wickets in the series. Australia fast bowler

cricketer-of-the-year at the ICC Awards in Johannesburg, has also returned to the top 10 after a stellar performance against New Zealand.

There was however no

Sehwag the **Daredevil**

CRICINFO, Ahmedabad

A disciplined performance by the Delhi Daredevils bowlers and a blistering innings from Virender Sehwag inflicted a dispiriting defeat on Rajasthan Royals, their second in as many games, in an Indian Premier League match in Ahmedabad yesterday.

Sehwag, the explosive India opener, smashed a 34ball 75 containing eight boundaries and five sixes as his side knocked down **SEE PAGE 18 COL 5**

Omari screamer lifts Sk Russel

SPORTS REPORTER



A second-half strike from Samir Omari helped Sheikh Russel KC end first-leg of the Bangladesh League with a victory over falling giants Brothers Union 1-0 in their last encounter of the first leg at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

took to the field with hope of returning to winning ways and they appeared as if they were determined to achieve it with a bang. Sheikh Russel might have taken the lead in the very first minute, but for some good defending from Sheikh Russel defender Apu. Maruf Ahmed ran down right the flank with the ball to earn a

corner. He himself floated it for Ghanaian Abass Inusah, whose well-judged header was headed out from goalline by Apu. Two minutes later Mohammad Rony fired the ball wide despite having goalkeeper Iran Sheikh alone inside the danger zone. With twelve minutes gone, Iran Sheikh thwarted a combined

effort of Sheikh Russel as he foiled all three shots from Maruf, Rony and Moro Mohammad. Four minutes later Rony failed to beat the goalkeeper again from a one-on-one situation.

Sheikh Russel players pressed hard for an opener till the



Kamal Hossain (C) of Sheikh Russel comes under challenge from a Brothers Union player during their Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

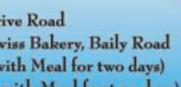
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