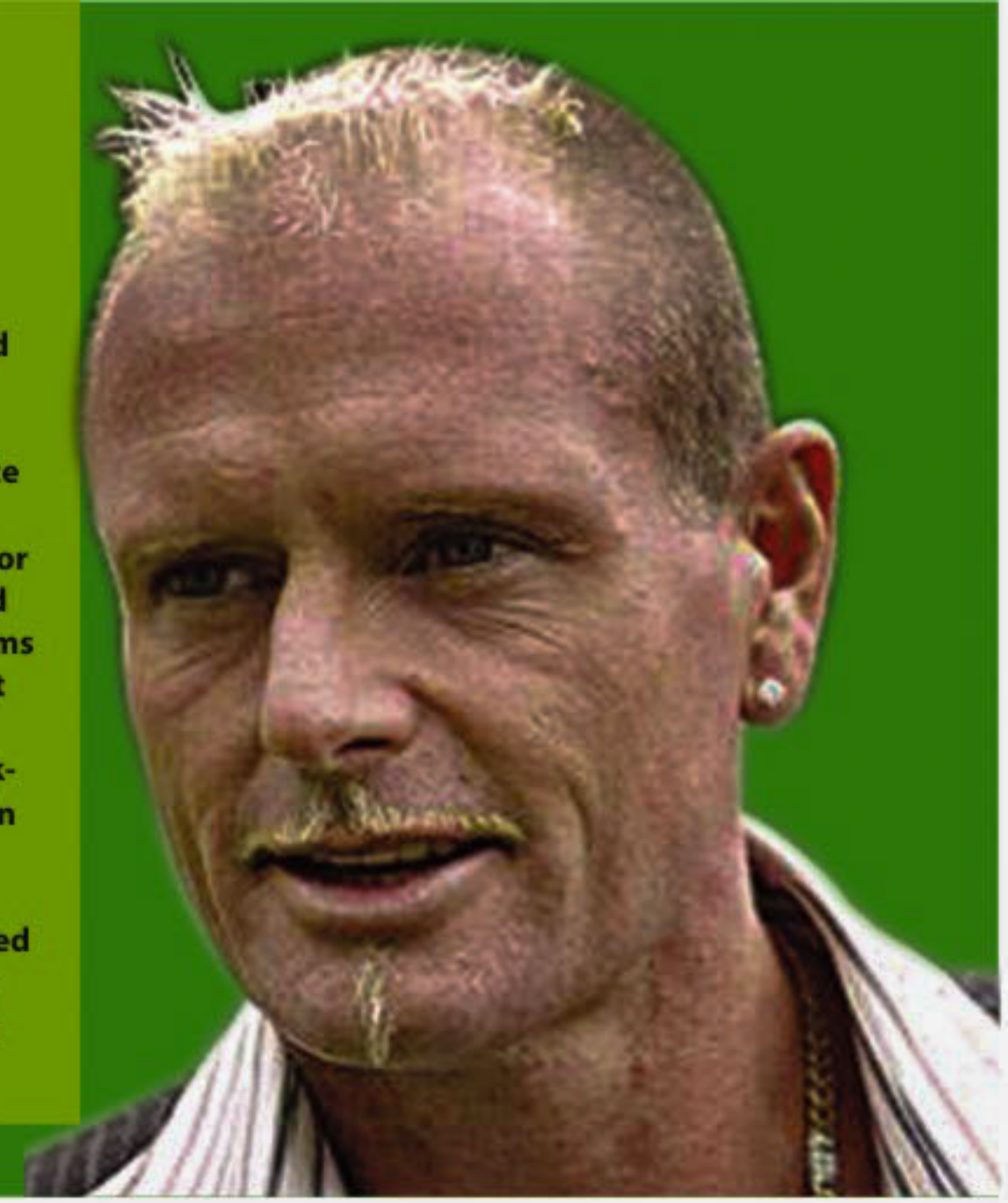


## Gazza at it again

Former England football star Paul Gascoigne has been charged with drink-driving after officers stopped him in Newcastle on Friday. He will appear at the Newcastle Magistrates' Court on Oct. 20, police said.

The 43-year-old former midfielder for teams such as Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur has had problems with alcoholism since his retirement from the game, and is due to stand trial next month on a separate drink-drive offence allegedly committed in North Yorkshire in February. A Northumbria Police spokesman said: "A 43-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving in the Jesmond area. He was charged with driving with excess alcohol."



**HAPPY HUNTERS:** Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan (L) and young left-arm spinner Sohrawardi Shuvo go airborne as they celebrate the fall of another New Zealand wicket during the third one-day international at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Black Caps left harmed

MOHAMMAD ISAM



It takes a well-oiled machine of a batting line-up to tackle three left-arm spinners.

But the third one-day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur saw Bangladesh's three-man left-arm spin attack destroy New Zealand and pick up a 7-wicket win with ten overs to spare.

The trio that picked up six of the ten wickets to fall consisted of the right ingredients needed for such an attack. Shakib Al Hasan's guile, the steady experience of Abdur Razzak and Sohrawardi Shuvo's liveliness was a little too much for the New Zealand batsmen to handle. They looked desperately short of experience and in a bid to up the run-rate, tumbled like a pack of cards.

This potent mix of spin have so far given mixed results for the Tigers, but yesterday it was a match-winning combination.

During the 2007 World Cup for example, Bangladesh used Shakib, Razzak and Mohammad Rafique to good effect and won matches against India and South Africa. Normally one or two take the plaudits but on this occasion, it was a combined effort.

New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori gave the perfect explanation for why a think-tank would employ three spinners of the same kind.

"If you can fit them in the team and they are good enough, it doesn't matter what they bowl," Vettori told the reporters after the match.

"Bangladesh has the luxury of having a player like Shakib [Al Hasan] batting high up the order and him being an all-rounder. [Abdur] Razzak bowled well and the new guy [Sohrawardi Shuvo] also did well today," he added.

Thanks to Shafiqul Islam's first over dismissal of the visitors' most experienced batsman Brendon McCullum, the spinners knew they had one vital cog removed from the New Zealand wheel.

Shakib later said that McCullum's dismissal was a "turning point" and it took off a lot of pressure.

"After Shafiqul [Islam] removed McCullum in

the first over, it was easier for the spinners to bowl as we kept them tight in the first ten overs," said Shakib.

Soon enough, Bradley Whatling mistimed his charge at Razzak in the 14th over to put an end to a fine 55-run second wicket stand with Jesse Ryder, who himself fell seven balls later. The left-handed Ryder flattered to deceive, holding out at deep mid-wicket where Imrul Kayes took the catch off Shuvo, playing only his fifth one-day.

The Rangpur-born Shuvo has been touted for the past few years to be a Tigers shoe-in and he made his first big impact in international cricket after spending several seasons in the fringes.

"[Sohrawardi] Shuvo bowled exceptionally well," said Shakib.

The man himself said that he tried to stick to what he knew best. "I tried to bowl normally, according to the basics of line and length," said Shuvo, who added that it was important for him to grab the opportunity.

But it was probably his worst delivery that got the most important wicket of the New Zealand innings. Skipper Daniel Vettori top-edged a full toss back to Shuvo for nine off 15 balls.

On home conditions that offered a playing surface full of turn and favourable overhead conditions, Bangladesh also enjoyed the bonus of having Shakib as the captain.

He bowled a tight first and second spell during which he beautifully foxed Grant Elliott with a classic left-arter's dismissal, beating the batsman's defence and crashing into off-stump.

He rotated the three left-armers and the pacemen smartly to keep the New Zealanders in check during the middle period, particularly with Ross Taylor at the crease.

Shanan Stewart, hogging a lot of the strike during his laboured 19-run stand with Taylor, missed a straight one from Shuvo to give away his wicket. Soon, Rubel Hossain came back to clean up Nathan McCullum to reduce the Kiwis to 101 for seven, after which however the Tigers took their foot off the gas.

Taylor, along with Kyle Mills, added 72 for the eighth wicket in only 56 balls with both

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

# Tigers aim for galaxies beyond

BISHWAJIT ROY



The mood in the Tigers camp was understandably jubilant after an emphatic seven-wicket victory that gave them an unassailable 2-0 lead over New Zealand in the five-match series. But captain cool Shakib Al Hasan was his usual self, keeping his emotions well in check, with an eye on even bigger prizes against the Black Caps.

Monday's achievements were a rare feat for Bangladesh cricket; consecutive victories over a top-class opponent has now created the opportunity for them to script perhaps their biggest success in one-day cricket.

The rain may have done them a favour in the nine-run win in the first match, but yesterday Shakib's men dominated from the off and closed out the match in emphatic fashion. Initially the spinners wrapped up New Zealand for 173 and then Shahriar Nafees and Imrul Kayes put together a 127-run opening stand to ensure that the Tigers can now no longer lose the series.

But captain Shakib was in no mood for defensives. "Now the 4-0 is very possible. We played good cricket in the last two games but we want to improve our performance in the next two games because there are lots of areas of improvements. We are capable of playing much better cricket and what I believe is that we are yet to play our best cricket in the series," said the always-confident Shakib.

"Things will fall into place automatically if we can improve our performance," he added.

Shakib particularly praised the effort of opener Shahriar Nafees, who smashed a run-a-ball 73 before he chipped Nathan McCullum to Brendon McCullum at mid-on, but he was dissatisfied with the way the two openers were dismissed to kill the chance of 10-wicket victory.

"We could have won the match more convincingly. A 10-wicket victory was very much possible after the way the two openers started. It was a good knock from Nafees as he punished every bad ball and most importantly he was positive in his innings. I don't know what played in his mind but he could have easily make a hundred," observed Shakib.

"As usual Imrul Kayes started cautiously and settled in nicely but frustratingly he also could not finish the game. We must focus on this area and should make sure we do not make same mistakes in the next games," he continued.

Undoubtedly the brightest part in the second game was the performance of the slow bowlers led by left-arm spinner Sohrawardi Shuvo, who caused major damage in the New Zealand innings by taking three wickets for 14 runs in a miserly

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



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