

Facts about
the 3rd ODI

SPORTS REPORTER

- This was Bangladesh's biggest win over a major Test-playing nation in terms of balls remaining -- 60 balls. It beat the previous best of winning with 43 balls to spare against Sri Lanka in January 2009.
- Yesterday's win equals the biggest in terms of wickets (7-wicket victory). The previous 7-wicket win also came over these opponents in 2008.
- The Tigers have now won three times each against a second major Test-playing nation after three victories over the West Indies.
- Sohrawardi Shuvo's bowling figures of 10-2-14-3 was the most economical spell by a Bangladeshi against a major Test-playing nation.
- The 127-run opening partnership between Shahriar Nafees and Imrul Kayes was the best against New Zealand.
- It was the seventh first-wicket stand that crossed the 100-run mark.
- It was also the second highest partnership for the Tigers in 2010.
- Shahriar's 73 was his highest against New Zealand, his 11th half-century overall in ODIs.
- Ross Taylor now has the most runs -- 435 -- in New Zealand-Bangladesh ODIs after his unbeaten 62.

SPORTS POLL
TODAY'S QUESTION

Can Australia level the Test series against India?

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FORTY-NINE NOT OUT: India's batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar spreads his arms to salute the crowd on reaching his 49th hundred on the third day of the second Test against Australia at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday. Sachin was still at the crease with 191 when the stumps were drawn for the day.

PHOTO: AFP

Sachin approaches double ton

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

Sachin Tendulkar smashed his 49th Test century and Murali Vijay his first as India matched Australia's batting prowess in the second and final Test on Monday.

Australia managed just three wickets as the hosts took their overnight score of 128-2 to 435-5 by stumps on the third day at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore.

India, who lead 1-0 in the short series after winning the first Test in Mohali by one wicket, are 43 runs away from Australia's 478 with five wickets in hand.

Tendulkar finished the day unbeaten on a monumental 191 and opener Vijay scored 139 during a record stand of 308 runs for the third wicket -- a remarkable recovery from 38-2 in Sunday's last session.

It was the highest third-wicket partnership in India-Australia Tests, surpassing the 222-run stand between Aussies Allan Border and Kim Hughes in Chennai in 1979.

Tendulkar, the world's leading batsman who also has a record 46 one-day hundreds against his name, slammed 19 boundaries

and two sixes in his seven-hour vigil at the crease.

The Mumbai-born batsman, who started the day on 44 and was stuck in the eighties for almost 45 minutes, reached his century by smashing off-spinner Nathan Hauritz for two sixes over long-on.

Vijay, playing the Test only because Gautam Gambhir was ruled out with a knee injury, languished for an hour in the nineties before reaching his maiden hundred with a single midway through the afternoon session.

The opener, who was reprimanded by match referee Chris Broad for breaching the players' code of conduct for sporting several advertising logos on his batting pads, hit 14 fours and two sixes.

Australia went wicketless in the first two sessions before they struck twice in one over from fast bowler Mitchell Johnson soon after the tea interval.

Johnson had Murali edging a catch to wicketkeeper Tim Paine, before he trapped debutant Cheteshwar Pujara leg-before with a ball that kept alarmingly low.

Suresh Raina (32) put on 61 for the fifth wicket with Tendulkar when he drove Michael Clarke to mid-on where Ben Hilfenhaus took a low catch.

Tendulkar reached his 58th Test half-century in the day's first

over with two pedal-sweep boundaries off Hauritz.

At the other end, Vijay drove Johnson through the covers to bring up the 100-run partnership with Tendulkar.

Vijay survived an anxious moment when he was on 49 as he charged down the wicket, but a direct throw from Hauritz narrowly missed the stumps.

Tendulkar was severe on Johnson, flicking him to fine-leg before pulling the next ball for another boundary.

The duo scored 60 runs from 14 overs in the first hour, but an accurate spell from debutant fast bowler Peter George after the drinks break slowed down the run-rate.

The lanky South Australian, who conceded 18 runs in five overs late on Sunday, gave away only 12 runs in his five overs in the morning session.

Hauritz was the most expensive Australian bowler with 0-153 from 39 unsuccessful overs, while Johnson took 3-89 from 23 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 478 (Watson 57, Katich 43, Ponting 77, Hussey 34, North 128, Paine 59; Ojha 3-120, Harbhajan 4-148)

INDIA: First innings 435 for 5 (Vijay 139, Sehwag 30, Tendulkar 191 not out, Raina 32, Dhoni 11 not out; Johnson 3-89)

DELHI DIARY

SPORTS REPORTER from New Delhi

Bangladesh ended lowly in weightlifting of the XIX Commonwealth Games when Bidyut Kumar Roy finished 10th among 11 competitors at the Jawaharlal Nehru Complex on Sunday night.

Bidyut lifted a total of 270 kgs -- 120 in snatch and 150 in clean and jerk while gold medalist Niusila Opeloge lifted 338 kgs -- 147 in snatch and 191 in clean and jerk.

SHUTTLE-CUM-MODEL

Kate Kune Foo, wearing a skimpy black skirt and a sleeveless top, dazzled like a model on a ramp at the Siri Fort Stadium on Sunday's night and the Mauritian shuttler is indeed a part-time catwalk model.

Foo, who lost her second round women's singles match to Nigerian Caroline Black, said she wanted to compete in Olympics and help the country do well in badminton and modeling to him was an exciting thing.

INDO-PAK BATTLE

While most of the Games venues have been struggling to attract spectators, the National Hockey Stadium in New Delhi saw a huge crowd turned up to watch a hockey match between bitter rivals India and Pakistan.

It was a crucial match for hosts India to make it to the semifinals and they convincingly beat Pakistan. According to a local media report, some 30,000 spectators turned up at the big bowl as Indian beat Pakistan 7-4 in an entertaining encounter on Sunday night to move into the semifinals and Indian coach Jose Brasa termed the crowd was better than a Real-Barca class.



NEO Cricket

India v Australia

Second Test, Day 4

Live from 10:00am



PHOTO: AFP

Imogen Cairns of England performs in the women's artistic gymnastics floor final of the XIX Commonwealth Games at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi yesterday. Cairns won the gold.

Sushil on a roll

SPORTS REPORTER

DELHI 2010
COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Delhi yesterday.

The wrestler laughed and made the crowded conference room laugh, made them cheer with humorous but intellectual replies. The wrestler is Sushil Kumar, who became a national hero in India after winning a bronze medal in Beijing Olympics in 2008, emulating the feat of Kasab Yadav achieved 56 years ago in Helsinki.

Since that bronze medal two years ago, the 27-year old wrestler has won the 66-kg title in the world championship this year in Moscow before giving India another gold in the same category at these Commonwealth Games. But it was not a sudden or meteoric rise for Sushil, who had won gold medal in World Cadet Games in 1998 and then went on to win gold in the Junior Asian Wrestling championship two years later.

So, it was not unexpected that all the atten-

tion at the press centre was on Sushil, and his partners Yogeshwar Dutta and Narsingh Yadav were almost sitting idle as Sushil sat in middle of them and took all replied to journalists' queries.

There were few funny questions thrown at the star wrestler, such as what he liked to eat, whether he would want to act in Bollywood, the report of his marriage, and whether he got a promotion at his Indian Railway office where he serves as an assistant commercial manager. The famed wrestler was equally expert and humorous in handling these questions.

"I am a vegetarian. I am not thinking of acting in film. I am basically confined to the practice hall and my room. Apart from practice, I play football and basketball. You [journalists] know about my marriage, I still don't," were some of the answers from Sushil, who is now targeting November's Asian Games in China.

Wrestling is an ancient and popular sport in subcontinent. Also known as Mallah-Yuddha locally, the sport is played mostly in villages. Wrestling is considered as India's most popular sport after cricket, shooting and boxing though the game is played mostly in Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

"Each sport has a certain region where it thrives. Look at West Bengal from where great footballers have been produced. I think these states fertile land for producing good wrestlers," said Indian Wrestling Federation president G.S. Mander.

Soon after the conclusion of Commonwealth Games, the Indian wrestlers will start their training for the Asian Games. But the federation is eyeing bigger achievement as general secretary Tartar Singh said they expect

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Runs helping Nafees & team's cause

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Over the years, Bangladesh cricket has always seen the dark side of talented batsmen. Especially when it came to fighting for a position at the top of the order, the Mr. Hyde in every batsman seemed to emerge and condemn him to the scrap heap of also-rans.

In those early days, a half-century was a sporadic and celebrated event; batting partnerships only came from the lower order in lost causes and the top order was a pack of cards waiting to fold. Over the years, there have been so many early burnouts from highly talented batsmen that now every debutant is eyed with a pinch of cynicism.

Things however slowly started to change with the advent of batsmen like Shahriar Nafees and Tamim Iqbal. But the fortunes of both have polarised in the last few years. While the latter provided both the spark and the consistency that Bangladesh so craved, the former faded away, almost to the point of no return.

In the last couple of years, Tamim, along with Zunaed Siddiqui, Imrul Kayes and Rokibul

Hasan have out-batted the more illustrious Mohammad Ashraf, Aftab Ahmed and Alok Kapali with both Tamim and Imrul featuring among the top one-day batsmen of 2010.

With the Chittagonian left-hander out injured for the series, the selectors asked Shahriar Nafees to plug the gap in the opening slot and the stylish left-hander has certainly answered the call so far.

In his second coming for the Tigers (barring the single Test against India in January where he looked unprepared), Nafees got 35 in the first game and yesterday, smashed a run-a-ball 73 in the seven-wicket win. It was a splendid effort that made the New Zealand bowling attack look hapless.

Not one of his 13 boundaries was streaky. He cut and drove anything that had width or was on a wrong length and while his cover-drive to reach 50 won him the "Fastest Fifty" award, it was certainly a stroke to remember.

Along with fellow left-hander Imrul Kayes, Nafees added 127 for the opening stand, Bangladesh's best this year but certainly not their first. In fact, the Tigers have five such 100-plus partnerships and 27 (yes, you read that right) fifty-plus partnerships this year.

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Ctg MSC beat Victoria

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Mohammedan opened the account in their first match of the Grameenphone Federation Cup 2010 beating Victoria Sporting Club 1-0 in the lone match at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium at Kamalapur yesterday.

After a relatively dry first half, the match sprung to life as Mohammedan skipper Ariful Kabir Farhad scored the decisive goal in the 55th minute. It was a wonderful solo effort from the veteran as he took it on his own from the midfield to the edge of the box before unleashing a grounder that evaded a diving Victoria keeper and nested itself into the net.

Victoria crated a couple of good opportunities to score in the second half, and should have at least come out with a point, but their strikers failed miserably to find the target.

India win historic gold

AFP, New Delhi

DELHI 2010
COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Australia's world pole vault champion Steve Hooker claimed Commonwealth gold on Monday while Richard Mateelong upstaged his more illustrious Kenyan countrymen to win the 3,000m steeplechase title.

On a day overshadowed by the Games' first positive drugs test, India pulled off a stunning clean sweep in the discus, winning the country's first athletics gold in 52 years and only their second ever.

Kenya's Nancy Langat, meanwhile, bagged a 800-1500m double when she powered to the shorter distance gold medal, making the most of the absence of world champion Caster Semenya.

Seven gold medals were decided at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, with Hooker, who is also Olympic champion, clearing 5.60 metres to easily defend his title.

Hooker is the only vaulter to pass the magical 6.0m barrier in 2010 with no-one else in the Delhi field having jumped higher than 5.50m this year.

While many nations have diminished teams in New Delhi, Kenya has a strong squad and Mateelong stamped his authority on the steeplechase to lead a Kenyan 1-2-3.

The African champion crossed the line in a pedestrian 8:16.40 but ahead of world cham-

pion Ezekiel Cheboi and Olympic champion Brimin Kipruto.

A Kenyan victory was always on the cards with the country winning every Commonwealth men's steeplechase final since 1990.

Imogen Cairns of England won her second gold at the gymnastics competition, collecting the floor title to add to her vault crown.

Cairns beat Australian star Lauren Mitchell, who had been tipped to win her fifth gold medal on the floor after topping the qualifying round.

Cairns, 21, came back from serious feet injuries to compete in Delhi and had planned to retire afterwards, but she has admitted she would now make no immediate decision on her career and may even aim for the 2012 London Olympics.

Ashleigh Brennan of Australia took the bronze. With one more medal to be won, Australia had won nine gymnastics' golds with England collecting four.

Meanwhile, Australia's Sally Pearson, who was stripped of her 100m gold medal for a false start, bounced back in emphatic fashion to win the 100m hurdles title, adding it to her Olympic silver medal.

She was the red-hot favourite and never looked like losing, crossing the line in a new Games record time of 12.67 seconds.

The action came after the Games was

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Metropolitan TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra, Armanitola JS and Biman won their respective matches of the super league stage of senior division table tennis championship at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium in the city yesterday. Sheikh Russel beat Palolik Group in 3-2 sets, Biman defeated Shishir TT Academy in 3-1 sets while Armanitola won in straight sets against Wari Club.

In the women's league, Freedom Motors and Dhaka Women's Club won in straight sets against their opponents Sohail Smriti Sangsad and Bangladesh Chemical Company respectively.



DAY'S EVENT

GP Federation Cup

Muktijoddha v Bangladesh Navy

Time: 3:30pm

Farashganj v Bangladesh Air Force

Time: 5:45pm

Venue: Kamalapur Stadium