

Nadals sell out Mallorca shares

Tennis world number two Rafa Nadal and his uncle Miguel Angel Nadal sold their 10 per cent shareholding in Spanish football team Real Mallorca on Monday, the club said in a statement. German businessman Utz Claassen bought the shares to increase his stakeholding to 20 per cent. Nadal, a Real Madrid fan who lives on the Mediterranean island, had joined a consortium that invested in financially troubled Mallorca in 2010. His uncle Miguel Angel, a former Spain and Barcelona defender, became then coach Michael Laudrup's number two.

—REUTERS



Shakib's rare feat, yet Pakistan favourites

BISHWAJIT ROY



Shakib Al Hasan achieved a rare feat after taking six wickets on the fourth day but the day belonged to Pakistan, who were sensing victory in the second Test following yet another collapse by the home team's top order at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

It was an eventful day. If the achievement of Shakib, the Magura lad who entered the elite all-rounders' club with a hundred and a six-wicket haul in the same match, was the highlight of the day, then the dropped catches by Bangladesh fielders and the poor umpiring that rubbed salt on the home team's wounds were the low points.

Finishing at 114 for five in their second innings with a first innings deficit of 132 runs meant the writing was all but on the wall for Mushfiqur Rahim's men. But it could have been a different story if the hosts held all their chances -- they missed as many as six catches and one stumping to help Pakistan pile up 470 in their first innings -- and if the umpiring was of a better standard.

Starting the match as rank underdogs, Bangladesh were especially unfortunate to get the wrong end of the stick as far as some umpiring decisions went during the course of the four days' play. The incidents also brought into sharper focus how desperately Bangladesh need the Umpire Decision Review System.

Robiul Islam, Mahmudullah Riyad and Elias Sunny were culprits of dropped catches on the fourth day, but

it was umpire Billy Doctrove who worsened the pain by raising his finger to send back Tamim Iqbal. The left-handed opener did not get a touch on his attempted hook off Umar Gul, the ball ricocheting off his helmet and landing in the palms of Misbahul Haq at first slip.

The leg before wicket decision against Shahriar Nafees, who played sensibly during his 97-run knock in the first innings, was also not above question as height may have been an issue. It may also be mentioned here that Nazimuddin was the victim of a poor decision from SK Tarapore in the first innings. In light of these errors by both umpires, the Bangladesh team management lodged a complaint to the match referee David Boon after the day's play. Tamim was stunned at the decision but one can easily raise the question as to why an out-of-form batsman went for the hook so early in his innings. Meanwhile, Riyad committed an unpardonable indiscretion by throwing away his wicket to a rash shot after looking well set.

Aizaz Cheema got his second wicket when Riyad, batting on 32, decided to chase a delivery wide outside off and tried to loft it straight but only managed to get a top edge down to deep point.

Nazimuddin failed to carry his good form into the second match as he was bowled by left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman for 12 runs. The biggest celebration from the Pakistan fielders however came when they initiated the biggest blow by dismissing first innings hero Shakib, who stretched to steer Aizaz Cheema down to third man, but could only find Azhar Ali at gully, who

took a sharp, low catch.

The end might not have been encouraging, but it was still a memorable day for Shakib, who followed up his 144 runs in the first innings by taking six wickets for 82 runs to elevate himself to new heights as an all-rounder of world class. It was the first time that a player took a six-wicket haul and slammed a century in the same match since Pakistan great Imran Khan's achievement in 1983.

It was also the ninth five-wicket haul for Shakib.

Earlier, Pakistan were dismissed for 470 runs half an hour before the extended tea break after resuming the day on 292 for three to take a 132-run lead. Younis Khan missed his half century by one run but skipper Misbah

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Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan bowls on his way to becoming the first man since Imran Khan in 1983 to take six wickets in an innings and score a hundred in the same Test. (L) Pakistan skipper Misbahul Haq plays the ball square during his 70-run knock on the fourth day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Hafeez looks for positive intent

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez praised Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan for his brilliant performance in the second Test match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"Shakib's performance was great I should say. I think he was under some pressure for not scoring in the ODIs. He came out with a strategy and executed them well. He bowled really well after scoring the hundred which is something special. I praise him because he is doing a wonderful job for Bangladesh," said Hafeez, affectionately call 'professor' by his teammates, after the fourth day's play yesterday.

Hafeez also thanked their two new balls bowlers Umar Gul and Aizaz Cheema for enabling his team to finish the day on a high note.

"We knew that there will be some movement with the new ball. So we were very sure that if we can bowl in the right areas, we can get some wickets. I think the effort from Umar Gul and Aizaz Cheema was brilliant they bowled really well and they used the conditions very well," he opined.

He said that his side was very much on track to win the match and the series by a 2-0 margin. Pakistan won the first Test by an innings and 184 runs.

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Swift dismayed by more drops

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh fielding coach Jason Swift was left disappointed by the dropped catches yesterday.

Pakistan took a 132-run lead in the first innings and were aided by the three misses greatly as they extended their innings to 154.5 overs after beginning the day on 292-3 in 96 overs.

"It is always [frustrating] when there's dropped catches. People don't do it deliberately. It's disappointing," said Swift at the end of the fourth day's play at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. "We do a lot of fielding practice. It's the focus in the field, maintaining that concentration when you're under the pump."

Robiul Islam, Mahmudullah Riyad and Elias Sunny joined Mushfiqur Rahim, Shahriar Nafees and Shahadat Hossain in the list of gully fielders.

After a controlled first hour in which the visitors scored 43 runs for the loss of one

wicket, Robiul dropped a sitter at mid-on after Misbah-ul-Haq mistimed a drive off Shakib Al Hasan. Perhaps the paceman was mulling why he wasn't asked to bowl till that point but the drop didn't win him any points with the captain who kept him away till the lunch break.

A while later, Mahmudullah Riyad missed a sharp chance when Asad Shafiq edged a cut shot off Sunny. The bowler himself later dropped Adnan Akmal at midwicket when the wicketkeeper tried to chip Nasir Hossain.

Catches were dropped at gully, deep midwicket and at short-leg yesterday, raising the question whether the Tigers are poor in the field or there is a lack of specialists in the close positions.

"When you're dropping good players, you're giving them two chances at bat. There's no excuse, there are no 38-year-olds running out there. They are all in their mid twenties. Young men should be fighting fit for 4-5 days," said head coach Stuart Law

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Nikola going on 'leave'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football coach Nikola Ilievski leaves for Macedonia tonight for a one-month vacation, which is thought to be his final departure from Bangladesh.

Sources inside the Bangladesh Football Federation informed that Ilievski has already resigned from his position of head coach following mutual understanding between him and the BFF as the football's governing body has lost its interest on the Macedonian following Bangladesh's poor performance in the SAFF Championship.

The National Team Management Committee (NTMC) however has called for a press conference today to clarify their stance on Ilievski who was installed as coach in June 2011 for a one

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First since Imran to take six wkts & hit century in a Test

MOHAMMAD ISAM



Shakib Al Hasan finally completed his dream "double" in a Test match but the Tigers' predicament means that the talented all-rounder is expected to do more. If that's humanly possible.

The left-handed all-rounder had already scored a first innings century and added the five-for to become the first Bangladeshi to accomplish such a feat -- 144 runs and 6/82.

But he was quick to appreciate the situation that the team is in, the Tigers staring down the barrel as they approach another fifth day of a Test match without much in the kitty.

"It is a personal dream come true, but there's nothing to be proud of when the team result isn't good," said Shakib.

"Everything else is after the team's performance. There's nothing called my own. At the end of the day, it is all for the team."

He becomes the first all-rounder after Imran Khan (in 1983 against India) to take six wickets and score a century.

After Jacques Kallis in 2002 when the South African great did the double against Bangladesh, Ravichandran Ashwin and Shakib have completed the rare feat this year. The gap of nine years isn't due to a lack of all-rounders in international cricket. Shakib himself has missed the double a few times in the last three years.

On two occasions, Shakib was as close as anyone could get. Against Sri Lanka in December 2008, Shakib fell just four runs short of a century after he had taken 5-96 in the first innings. The next instance came six months later when he had the exact same figures

with bat and ball against West Indies at St George's.

After picking up Azhar Ali on the third day, Shakib removed Misbah-ul-Haq early on the fourth before having a go at the Pakistan tail. The left-arm spinner took the last four wickets to fall and completed his five-for when Saeed Ajmal missed a slog sweep.

"I don't set targets. But after picking up three wickets, I thought of two more," he said, though Shakib was unlucky too when Mushfiqur Rahim missed the stumping of Taufeeq Umar and Robiul Islam dropped Misbah at mid-on.

His luck ran out when he guided an Aizaz Cheema delivery into the hands of Azhar Ali at gully late in the day as Bangladesh fell into deep trouble in the second innings.

There was a clamor for a nightwatchman at that stage, especially given the

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Zia marches towards title

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman continued his march for the title of the Walton 37th National Chess Championship after beating International Master Abu Sufiyan Shakil in the eighth round at the BOA media room yesterday. Zia has 7.5 points from eight matches, and is followed by Grand Master Niaz Murshed who has six after he defeated Shafik Ahmed in this round.

Meanwhile, IM norm aspirant Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, who is in third position with 5.5 points, must beat Zia in the ninth round today to win the norm, after he drew his eighth round match against Debaraj Chatterjee yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (R) and International Master Abu Sufiyan Shakil are rapt in concentration during their Walton 37th National Chess Championship eighth round match while Grand Master Niaz Murshed (L) looks on at the BOA Hallroom yesterday.

PCB picks Kamal

BCB president all set of ICC role

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

AHM Mustafa Kamal is all set to take the two-year vice-president's role at the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The current Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president has won the hearts of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which has already nominated him as their candidate for the post. All that remains now for Kamal is to receive the nomination from his own board as its executive committee will meet today to finalise their nomination for the role.

It would be a unique achievement for Kamal who is going to be the lone candidate for the vice-president's role

at the game's highest governing body, provided he gets the approval from the ICC's executive committee, where he needs seven votes out of ten.

Kamal was understandably delighted at the support of the PCB but he was not ready to make any comment yesterday regarding his chance to get the nod from his own board.

"Let see what happens in the board meeting. You have to wait for that. The board members can choose anybody," said Kamal when asked about his chances of getting the nod from the BCB.

If everything goes smoothly for Kamal, his two-year term as ICC vice-president will start from 2012 and then he will take over the helm as ICC president in 2014.

Previously, the cricket world had seen a lot of drama and controversy

regarding the nomination of the vice-president last year.

The ICC had demanded a fresh vice-presidency candidate after former Australian premier John Howard's nomination was rejected by its executive board in Singapore in June last year.

Sir John Anderson, a former chairman of New Zealand Cricket, was New Zealand's original choice for the role before an independent panel decided Howard was the best candidate as the countries' joint nomination. Howard was the initial Australasian nominee for the role, but he did not have sufficient support within the ICC board. No vote was taken and Cricket Australia and New Zealand Cricket were asked to re-nominate a candidate by August 31.

Later ICC approved the nomination

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