

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thecitizenstar.net

## SHAKIB AL HASAN

became the second Bangladesh bowler to take 100 wickets, after Mohammad Rafique and also become the highest wicket-taker (102) for Bangladesh. - Shakib has been dismissed in the nineties on three occasions. - Shakib is also the **fastest Bangladeshi player** to take 100 wickets.

**Test debut** Bangladesh v India at Chittagong, **May 18-22, 2007**

Span: **2007-2012**

Matches: **28**

Innings: **46**

Overs: **1160.3**

Maidens: **229**

Runs scored: **3322**

Wickets: **102**

Bowling Average: **32.56**

Economy rate: **2.86**

5 Wickets in an innings: **9**

Batting Average: **35.12**

100: **2, 50: 11**

**Best bowling** figures in an innings: **7/36** vs New Zealand in Chittagong on 17 October 2008. He also took his best

Shakib Al Hasan was the shining light on the fourth day of the Khulna Test; claimed his 100th wicket and then pulled the Tigers out of the gutter with a fluent 97 against the West Indies. But his one stroke of madness in the last over stunned the whole nation into silence.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Nasir defends meltdown

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

**SAHARA CUP 2012** Shakib Al Hasan was the hero of the day. But Shakib Al Hasan also broke the hearts of millions in the country yesterday after the end of the fourth day's play at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium. After taking four wickets the left-hander hit 97; an outstanding effort by an all-rounder. But the stats do not always speak the whole truth. Obviously Shakib once again showed his calibre but one can easily question whether he fully understands the meaning of responsibility; otherwise how can a player like him play a shot like he played in the last over of the day.

It would have been nice if he explained the reason behind his sudden madness, but the charismatic all-rounder ducked the post-day press conference. The whispers doing the rounds were that Shakib was not interested in facing the press, although he was the top performer for Bangladesh, but the media manager informed that the all-rounder was having problems in his right shin bone and had gone for an MRI scan, which is why he didn't

appear in the press conference.

Instead Nasir Hossain, the other successful batsman who remained unbeaten on 64, came to explain the reason behind his side's pathetic batting performance. But his explanation defending his batsmen's 'natural' stroke-playing only raised further questions about whether the problem lies in the thinking and approach of the batsmen.

"Shakib Al Hasan became what he is by playing like this. I think everyone should play their natural game. You can't ask Tamim Iqbal to defend all day, he can't do that. They tried to play to their ability, it didn't come off," Nasir defended Shakib.

"When Shakib hit Narine (Sunil), I realised that he wanted to complete the hundred today. Before that over I had told him to just pick the singles and reach the hundred. A lot of things work in your mind when you reach that stage. (Sachin) Tendulkar's knee also shivers when he's nearing a hundred," he added.

"There's a lot to learn from Shakib, and I don't think anyone else is able to give such services to Bangladesh. In terms of skills, I don't think there's anyone less skilled than him. I think Shakib is mentally very strong," he

said when asked about what made Shakib different than the others in the team.

Nasir was also not ready to accept that Bangladesh do not have the ability to put in a better batting display, although the team have been making the same mistakes time and again.

"We have much better ability, but I think the ones who got out, there were some mistakes in their planning. I think it will not happen again. We will do something better."

The young all-rounder however contradicted his earlier view about his teammates' natural approach when talking about his batting approach on the slow pitch.

"In my case, I knew today that the ball is keeping low. I didn't want to play any lofted shots, and that's how I have batted," said Nasir, and added, "Scoring hundreds is a matter of habit. If we could have played more NCL matches, it would have helped us."

Regarding their inability against the short balls, he said: "The wicket has to be even if one wants to play bouncers properly."

Nasir also said that they still have some batsmen left, so they will try to bat as long as possible and not think of innings defeats.

## Tigers face defeat

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

**SAHARA CUP 2012** It could have been a fantastic day for champion all-rounder

Shakib Al Hasan but just one bad shot spoiled his party and saw Bangladesh end the fourth day's play in a pathetic state at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium yesterday. After achieving a historic feat with the ball the left-hander, along with Nasir Hossain, restored sanity to the Bangladesh batting after the top order's madness to take the match into the fifth day, which at one stage looked a distant hope for Bangladesh.

With a 261-run lead, West Indies declared their first innings at 648 for nine - the highest total made against Bangladesh, eclipsing the 610 runs made by India -- after the lunch break. That the visitors took a handsome lead was no surprise, but it was Shakib who suddenly hogged the spotlight by taking four wickets in the morning session to become the leading wicket-taker (102) for Bangladesh and only the second bowler to scalp 100 Test wickets after another left-arm spinner, Mohammad Rafique. Shakib's bat seemed to be putting his bowling in the shade as he shouldered the side's burdens when Bangladesh were reeling at 82 for 5. But the southpaw batsman missed his deserved hundred by only three runs and had only himself to blame for missing a glorious hundred and shattering Bangladesh's hopes of ending the day on a high note. Bangladesh might avoid an innings defeat as they were only 35 runs

behind with four wickets in hand before stumps were drawn for the day, but will need a miracle if they want to save the match and avoid yet another heavy defeat.

It is difficult to guess Shakib's thinking; his dismissal and the manner of it stunned everyone because it was just the last over of the day. Shakib looked in a hurry to reach his hundred when he needed to finish the day unbeaten, and finally he and his team paid the price. He went down the track and tried to sledge left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul but didn't get it off the middle off the bat, instead top-edging it to Tino Best at mid-off for a simple catch. Shakib's 97 came from 117 balls with the help of ten fours and a six.

It was a brilliant recovery with Shakib and Nasir adding 144 runs for the sixth wicket and batting for most of the evening session, but the last wicket changed everything because they had already lost five in the previous session. Nasir displayed patience and remained not out on 64.

Shakib once again showed that he is a cut above his teammates as he bowled 52 overs and then watched the first five batsmen walk back to the pavilion after a senseless display of stroke-making on a pitch where even a dashing batsman like Marlon Samuels batted patiently to score his maiden double hundred. But in the end, Shakib fell to the same lack of patience that Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees and Mashfiqur Rahim had shown to raise the old question about when the Bangladesh players will finally learn from their mistakes.

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## CLEAR MEN

Today's Score Card

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 387 (Abul Hasan 113, Mahmudullah 76, Nasir 52; Edwards 6-4)

**WEST INDIES:** First innings (overnight 56-4)

Gayle c Rahim b Sohagh 25

Powell c Shakib b Rubel 13

Bravo lbw b Sohagh 127

Samuels c sub (Sunny) b Rubel 260

Chanderpaul not out 150

Ramdin c Mishfiqur b Shakib 31

Sammy c Mahmudullah b Shakib 0

Permaul c Sohagh b Shakib 13

Narine c Nafees b Shakib 0

Edwards c Shakib b Sohagh 2

Extras: (b-10, lb-7, nb-8, w-2) 27

Total: (For 9 wkt in 200.3 overs declared) 648

Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-43, 3-369, 4-546, 5-621, 6-621, 7-639, 8-639, 9-648

**Bowler O M R W**

Sohagh 57.3 4 167 3

Abul 24 0 113 0

Rubel 31 8 86 2

Islam 14 1 43 0

Shakib 52 11 151 4

Mahmudullah 10 0 42 0

Nasir 12 1 29 0

**BANGLADESH:** Second innings

Tamim b Best 28

Nazimuddin lbw b Edwards 0

Nafees c Sammy b Best 21

Naem b Best 2

Shakib c Best b Permaul 97

Mashfiqur b Permaul 10

Nasir not out 64

Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-1) 4

Total: (For 6 wkt in 56.1 overs) 226

To bat: Mahmudullah, Sohagh, Abul and Rubel

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-49, 3-51, 4-62, 5-82, 6-226

**Bowler O M R W**

Edwards 11 0 65 1

Narine 9 0 48 0

Permaul 16.1 2 51 2

**Tino fit & kicking!**

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Tino Best's early departure on the first day of the second Test raised concerns in the West Indian dressing room. The fact that he didn't come to bat for the visitors in the first innings made it seem like the pacer was out of the game.

However, much to the surprise of the hosts, Best took the new ball in the eighth over and ran through the batting-order. He began his spell in the second innings by bowling left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal with his very first delivery.

He then regained his composure and almost put the hosts out of the game very early in the

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West Indies pace bowler Tino Best (C) feasts on the fragile Bangladesh top-order on the fourth day of the second Test at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

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## Nadif, Dhaman hit hundreds

SPORTS REPORTER

Centuries from Nadif Chowdhury and Dhaman Ghosh put their respective teams, Chittagong and Rangpur, in strong positions yesterday as both these sides headed towards victory against Dhaka and Barisal respectively.

While Khulna piled on the runs against Sylhet as they took a lead of 112 runs, reigning champions Rajshahi gained the upper hand against Dhaka Metro after bowling them out for 129 runs.

### CHITTAGONG/DHAKA

Nadif's century ensured that Dhaka post 401 before being bowled out at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong. Dhaka, who were 123 for 3 overnight, rode on some good batting from Nadif and Nazmul Milon, 77. Yasir Arif was the top wicket-taker for Chittagong as he finished with figures of 3 for 66.

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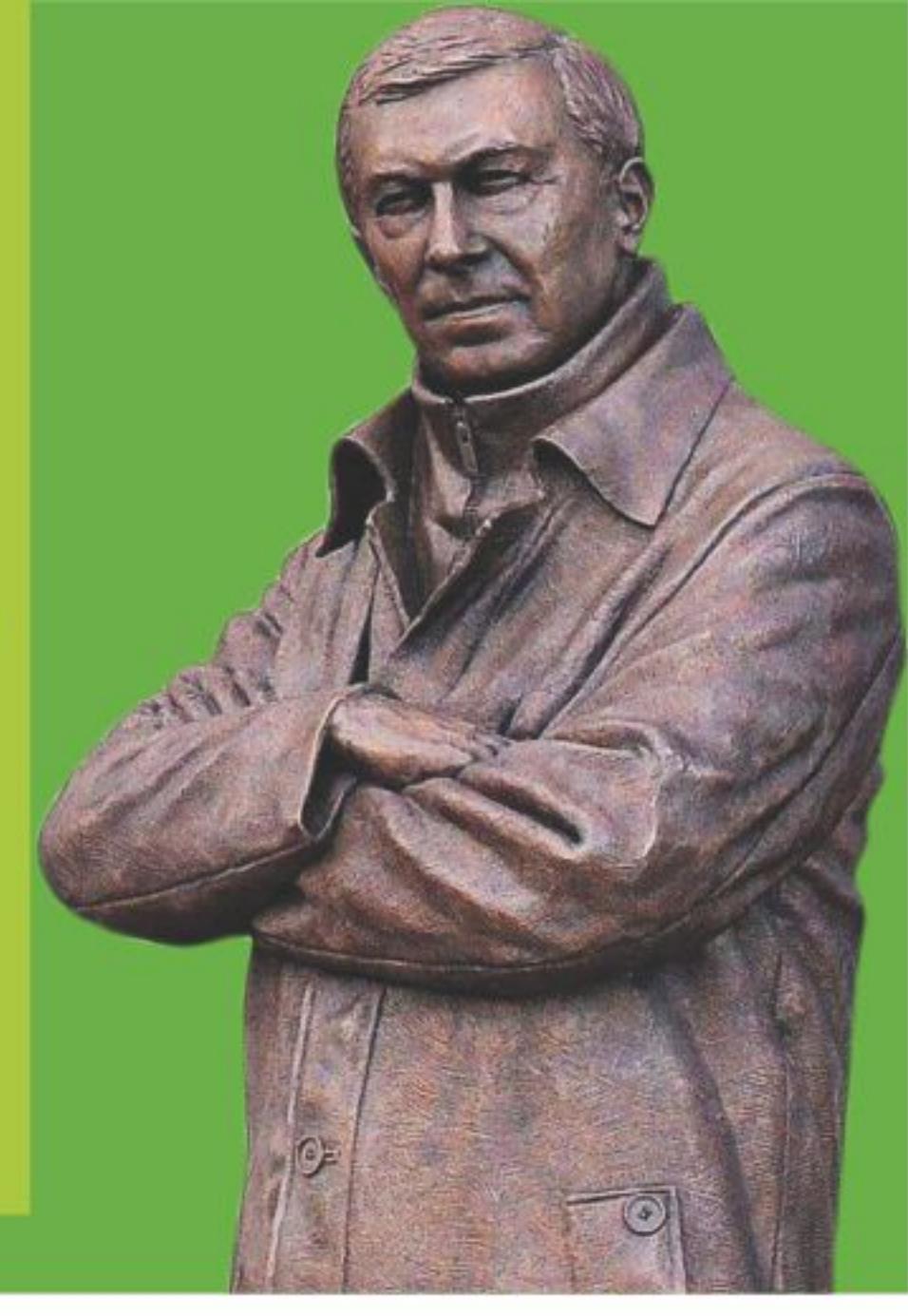
## খুব খাল্চি আরাম পাচ্ছি

শত বছরের খানানী লাচ্ছি এবার  
সবার হাতে-হাতে, রাস্তায়-রাস্তায়  
দোকানে-দোকানে, মুখে-মুখে।  
ঝাল্সমৰ্মত প্রাণ লাচ্ছি যথন-তথন  
যেখানে-সেখানে, আরাম থাকুক প্রাণ।

## Fergie statue unveiled

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson quipped that he was "out-living death" after a bronze statue of him was unveiled outside Old Trafford on Friday.

The nine-foot statue was commissioned in November last year to mark Ferguson's 25th anniversary at the club, when the North Stand was renamed in his honour. The statue was revealed by Ferguson's wife, Cathy, in front of a star-studded cast of present and former United players, as well as fans.



Lemon Lassi 2012