

Star SPORT

'Batsmen gifted wickets'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

Coming into the Test series after an eleven-month break the Tigers showed very little aptitude for the longer-version game. Mushfiqur Rahim's men finished the Test series against West Indies with a heavy 10-wicket defeat on the fifth day of the second and final Test at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium here on Sunday to continue in the rut they have been enduring since receiving Test status in 2000.

There had been some individual achievements -- off-spinner Shohag Gazi's made an impressive debut, Naeem Islam hit a patient hundred, some other batsmen like Nasir Hossain, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad scored notable runs although missing deserved hundreds, Abul Hasan smashed that superb debut century batting at number 10 and pacer Rubel Hossain made a brilliant comeback from injury. As a team they scored 500-plus runs for the first time and one can also point out Bangladesh's achievement of taking both Tests into the fifth day. Still, the truth was that they suffered huge defeats in both Tests mainly because of the same old problem in batting; a lack of patience and application.

This of course begs the question, itself an old one, of how long Bangladesh will repeat the same mistakes and when they will actually learn the lessons. Things could have been different if the top order batsmen displayed some common sense instead of gifting their wickets on placid pitches. It seemed that Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim was also not sure of the answer after the way their batting was found wanting on flat tracks. The wicketkeeper-batsman admitted all of their mistakes during the two-match Test series against the rejuvenated West Indies while talking at the post-match conference at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on Sunday.

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Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (R) shares a light moment with West Indies spinner Sunil Narine during the presentation ceremony at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna on Saturday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Siddikur struggling in Catalunya

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman continued to struggle in 118th position after the third round of European Tour Qualifying School Final Stage at the PGA Catalunya Resort's Tour Course yesterday.

Siddikur racked up 7-over-par 221 after the third round with 75, 73 and 73 in the three rounds respectively.

Lampert Moritz of Germany was holding the lead at 12-under-par 202, some 19 shots ahead of Siddikur. There are only 30 places up for grabs, from an assortment of 200 golfers, who will play directly in the European Tour events next one year.

Win delights Sammy

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

West Indies captain Darren Sammy was delighted with the way his team executed the plan to win the Test series against Bangladesh 2-0; the target they had set before the tour. The Caribbeans have now won two Tests in successive series for the first time since 1992-93, when they beat Australia (2-1) and Pakistan (2-0).

"It is a good feeling when you're winning. It is even better when plans are executed, and your teammates go out and perform consistently," said a delighted Sammy after his team clinched the series 2-0 by winning the second and final Test by 10 wickets.

"The more we play, the more we know about each other. The nucleus of the team is quite settled. The guys are performing consistently in the last 6-12 months. It's a good sign for us," he added.

When asked about what made the difference between the teams, the ever-smiling West Indies skipper said: "We

Fans attack bank for ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JESSORE

Cricket fans in Jessore on Monday morning ransacked the glasses of a Social Islami Bank branch after failing to get the tickets of the one-day games between Bangladesh and West Indies.

Although the tickets of the first two ODIs to be held at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna is scheduled to go on sale from October 28, about two hundred people flocked at the Jessore branch of SIBL from early morning reportedly fuelled by a rumour of ticket sales.

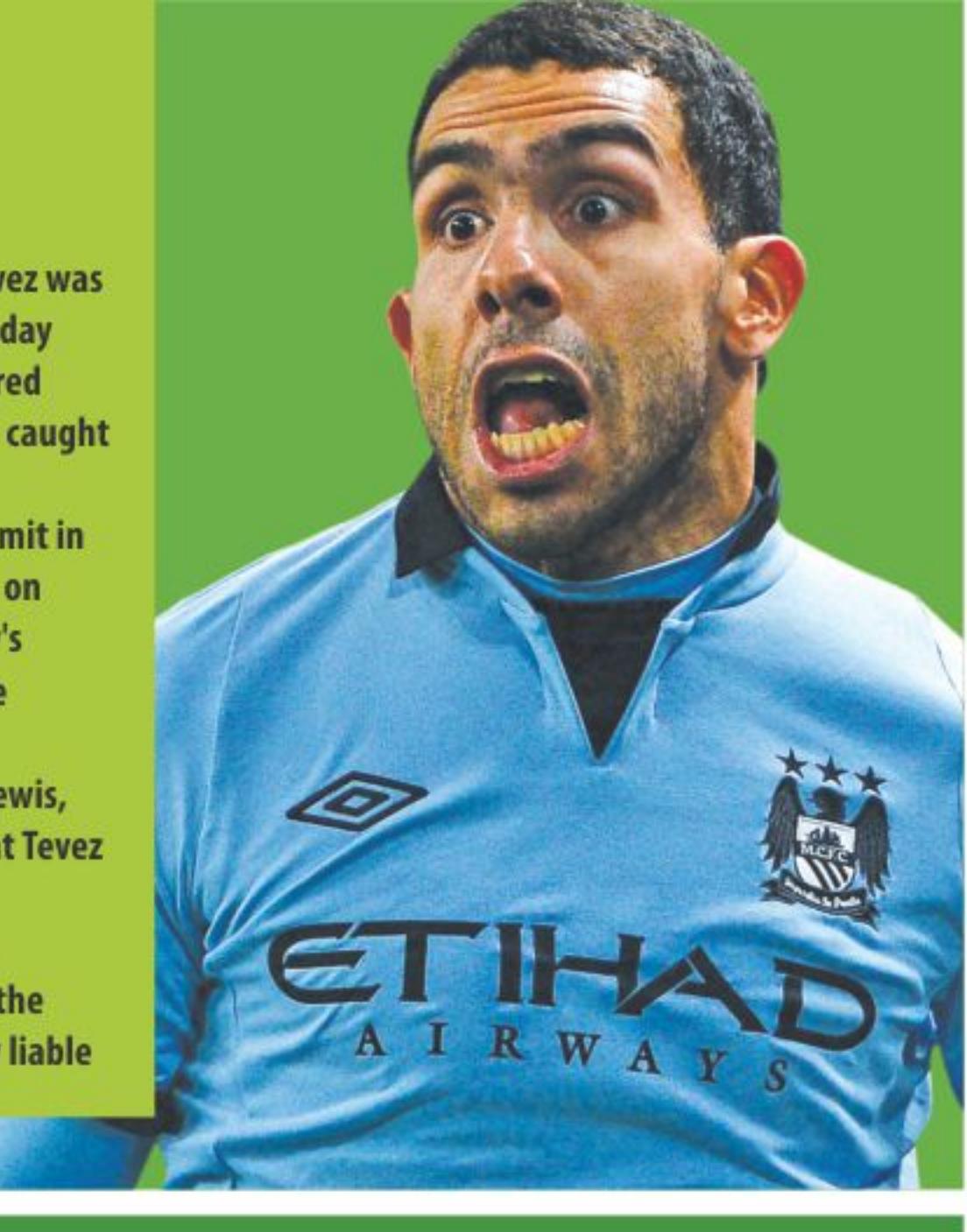
Vice president of the bank AMA Sobahan while talking to this correspondent said that cricket fans got angry after bank officials told them 'tickets have not yet reached' the branch. They pelted stones and broke windows and door glasses before leaving the scene in disgust.

Jessore is about 60km away from Khulna. Still, there is high demand for tickets for the one-day games. It was learnt that only 6,000 tickets will be on sale for public and the authorities are yet to decide how many will be allocated for the Jessore SIBL branch.

The first ODI will take place at the 10,000 capacity Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on November 30 while the second one will be held on December 2.

Tevez barred from driving

Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez was disqualified from driving on Monday after failing to provide the required documentation when his car was caught speeding. Tevez's vehicle broke the speed limit in Morecambe, northwest England, on March 28 when he played for City's reserve team against Morecambe reserves. The Argentine's solicitor, Gwyn Lewis, told magistrates in Lancaster that Tevez accepted he did not provide identification -- which carries six penalty points -- and that under the totting up procedure he was now liable



Shakib's spot up for grabs

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

The two practice matches ahead of the five-match ODI series between Bangladesh and West Indies starting on November 30 takes on special importance as it offers a chance for a player to fill the void left by star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who will miss the first two ODIs due to a shin injury sustained during the recently concluded second Test against the West Indies.

Both practice matches and the first two ODIs will take place at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. The first practice match today will be between Bangladesh and BCB XI, who will take on the West Indies in the second warm-up tomorrow.

There has been speculation that Shakib, a left-arm spinner, may be replaced by a bowler rather than a batsman, which means BCB XI left-arm spinners Elias Sunny and Enamul Haque Jr would want to put on a strong show over the next two days. Other than them seam-bowling all-rounder Forhad Reza there are no other options in the all-round department.

A source close to the team said that almost all of Bangladesh's top players will be in action today, which will help the selectors make their decision. Yesterday was an off day for the teams after the first Test finished on Sunday, and five players -- captain Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal, Naeem Islam, Elias Sunny and Anamul Haque -- went in for an optional practice session in the morning. The rest of the team spent the day at the hotel.

Shakib was diagnosed with a stress reaction of the right tibia after going for a scan on Saturday following the fourth day's play. He had bowled 52 overs to take four wickets in the West Indies first innings before scoring 97 in Bangladesh's second, falling in what turned out to be the last ball of the day. Bangladesh were skittled out the following morning and West Indies went on to win the Test and sweep the series 2-0, fulfilling their stated aim before the series.

Chief selector Akram Khan said on Sunday that the selection panel had not yet decided on the all-rounder's

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CLEAR MEN

Today's Score Card

BANGLADESH: First innings 387 (Hasan 113, Mahmudullah 76, Nasir 52; Edwards 6-90)

WEST INDIES: First innings 648-9 declared (Samuels 260, Chanderpaul 150 not out, Bravo 127; Shakib 4-151)

BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 226-6)

Tamim b Best 28

Nazimuddin Ibw b Edwards 0

Shahriar C Sammy b Best 21

Naeem b Best 2

Shakib C Best b Permaul 97

Mushfiqur b Permaul 10

Nasir b Best 94

Mahmudullah c Ramdin b Permaul 2

Shohag b Best 7

Hasan not out 7

Rubel Bravo b Best 14

Extras: (lb-3, nb-1, w-1) 5

Total: (All out in 70.1 overs) 287

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

82, 6-226, 228-7, 254-8, 9-269.

Bowler O M R W

Edwards 17 0 95 1

Narine 9 0 48 0

Permaul 20 2 67 3

Best 12.1 1 40 6

Gayle 4 0 15 0

Sammy 8 3 19 0

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Gayle not out 20

Powell not out 9

Extras: (w-1) 1

Total: (For no loss in 4.4 overs) 30

Did not bat: Bravo, Chanderpaul, Samuels, Ramdin, Sammy, Permaul, Narine, Best, Edwards.

Bowler O M R W

Shohag 1 0 8 0

Rubel 2 0 14 0

Naeem 1.4 1 8 0

Result: West Indies won by ten wickets

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Hockey team withdraw from Lal Bahadur

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh as well as other foreign participating teams, pulled out of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hockey Tournament in New Delhi as the organisers did not take permission from the International Hockey Federation (IHF), said a Bangladesh Hockey Federation official yesterday.

"We might have face suspension if we participated in this tournament which is not recognised by the IHF. Besides, teams from Pakistan, Malaysia and Oman have refused to take part. That's why we withdrew our name," said Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah yesterday adding that the tournament would get underway from today.

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All teams win big

SPORTS REPORTER

A highly one-sided fifth round of the National Cricket League (NCL) came to an end yesterday which witnessed two out of the four games finish within three days. The battle at the top of the table was won by Khulna as they raced to a 10-wicket victory over Sylhet. The win further extends Khulna's dominance in the competition.

Meanwhile, Nadir Chowdhury's century led Dhaka to an innings victory over Chittagong.

Reigning champions Rajshahi bounced back from their previous loss with a thrashing win over Dhaka Metro. And at the bottom of the table, Barisal beat Rangpur to take over the seventh spot.

CHITTAGONG v DHAKA

Dhaka had to bat just once to defeat Chittagong at their home ground, the MA Aziz Stadium as they raced to an innings victory on Sunday with a day to spare. The victory took Dhaka to the second position.

BARISAL v RANGPUR

Rangpur's 514 proved too good for Barisal as they won the match by an innings and 40 runs. Centuries from Dhaman Ghosh and Alauddin Babu, the player-of-the-match, ensured that Rangpur came out victorious at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

SYLHET v KHULNA

Khulna eased to a 10-wicket win over Sylhet on Sunday, with a day to spare, at the Cricket Garden in Rangpur as the leaders continued to increase their lead at the top. Left-arm spinner Murad Khan, with six wickets, ran through Sylhet as they were bundled out for 130 in the second innings.

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The West Indies players celebrate with the Sahara Cup after winning the two-match Test series against Bangladesh 2-0 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR