

# SPORT

## Shakib shines with bat and ball

SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib al Hasan celebrated his ascension to the top of the ICC ODI all-rounders chart with a combative showing with both bat and ball in the Friends Life T20 clash between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire last night. Named as the top all-rounder in the world in the recently released ICC rankings, Shakib showed skill both with the willow and the ball as he led from the front in Leicestershire's comfortable seven wicket victory at home last night. Shakib was the most economical Leicestershire bowler with figures of 1-25 from his 4 overs as Nottinghamshire were restricted to 158 for six in their stipulated 20 overs. Shakib picked up the wicket of Alex Hales, who was caught behind. The Bangladeshi star did even better with the bat, with a whirlwind unbeaten 21-ball 43 that included three sixes and three fours. Shakib was particularly severe on Samit Patel whom he hit for three consecutive boundaries at one stage. Shakib was partnered with Joshua Cobb who scored a sparkling 67 not out and also hit the winning runs as Leicestershire wrapped up a comfortable seven wicket victory.



England batsman Ian Bell pulls one during his sparkling unbeaten 95 on the third day of the first Ashes Test at Trent Bridge yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Bell tolls for Aussies

REUTERS, Nottingham



Ian Bell and Stuart Broad shared an unbroken century partnership to lift England to 326 for six on a compelling third day of the first Ashes test against Australia on Friday.

England eked out a lead of 261 runs in an atmosphere of great tension at Trent Bridge as controversy erupted in the final session when Broad edged young spinner Ashton Agar to Michael Clarke at first slip via the gloves of wicketkeeper Brad Haddin.

Umpire Aleem Dar did not give the all-rounder out and he refused to 'walk' as he left the tourists, who had used up their two referrals, fuming.

Bell was dropped by a diving Haddin moments later and tensions spilled over on the pitch and the Australian balcony where coach Darren Lehmann was seen shaking his head and looking upset.

The 31-year-old Bell was unbeaten on 95 at the close with Broad on 47 and England will now look to push their lead beyond 300 on Saturday.

The day started sedately as Alastair Cook and Kevin Pietersen continued to adopt a cautious approach after resuming on 80 for two.

Pietersen drove Mitchell Starc to the cover boundary, one of his 12 fours, to reach his half-century and moved confidently to 64.

The batsman was then distracted by a spectator moving behind the bowler's arm and dragged

the next ball from James Pattinson on to his stumps as he tried to force it through the off side, ending a third-wicket partnership of 110.

Cook's four-hour vigil was over shortly after he reached his half-century, the captain edging a top-spinner from Agar to slip where opposing skipper Clarke held a fine one-handed catch high to his left to leave England in trouble on 131 for four.

It was a first test wicket for Agar who played an extraordinary innings of 98 batting at number 11 to turn the match Australia's way on Thursday.

The tourists were cock-a-hoop and the crowd fell quiet as Pattinson and Starc obtained significant reverse swing to trouble

Bell and Jonny Bairstow who had to work hard to take England through to lunch on 157 for four.

Bairstow had fought for 62 deliveries to make 15 when he edged Agar to Haddin and Matt Prior joined Bell.

Prior struck six crisp fours on his way to 31 off 42 balls but he perished trying to hit another, pulling Peter Siddle to mid-wicket where Ed Cowan leapt to take a sharp catch above his head.

Bell brought up his half-century with two off Pattinson, reaching 6,000 test runs in the process, and he clipped Starc for his eighth four to a loud cheer from a generally subdued crowd before England went to tea on 230 for six.

Broad smeared Starc to the extra cover boundary to bring up the half-century partnership as England edged their lead past 200.

### SCOREBOARD

<b>ENGLAND: First innings 215</b>				
<b>AUSTRALIA: First innings 280</b> (Agar 98, Hughes 81 not out, Smith 53; Anderson 5-85)				
<b>ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 80-2)</b>				
Cook c Clarke b Agar	50			
Root c Haddin b Starc	5			
Trott lbw b Starc	0			
Pietersen b Pattinson	64			
Bell not out	95			
Bairstow c Haddin b Agar	15			
Prior c Cowan b Siddle	31			
Broad not out	47			
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-1, nb-3)	19			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 133 overs)	326			
To bat: Swann, Finn, Anderson.				
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-11, 3-121, 4-131, 5-176, 6-218.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Pattinson	28	7	89	1
Starc	27	7	66	2
Agar	35	9	82	2
Siddle	28	10	63	1
Watson	15	11	11	0

## Naveed's squad today

SPORTS REPORTER



Players' fitness, response at the training, recent performance graph and performance at the practice matches will be the key considerations in selecting the 24-member squad of the national hockey team as Pakistani head coach Naveed Alam has taken one more day to trim his 33-member preliminary squad.

The players yesterday played three trial matches among themselves at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, each game having 30-minute duration. The players are supposed to play two more trial matches today before Naveed declares his 24-member squad.

"Before selecting 24 members, we will certainly consider criteria such as recent performance graph, the training sessions that we conducted and the games the players

will be playing in two days," said Naveed just before the start of the first trial match yesterday.

"It is now time for the players to show what they have learnt in the past few sessions. The boys worked hard in 14 sessions and we will be trying to pick 24/25 of the best players, who will lead Bangladesh," said the former Pakistan coach, who took charge of the national side on July 2 ahead of the Asia Cup in Malaysia.

Naveed believes that Bangladeshi players have lacking in physical fitness and they have the tendency of playing individually. However, the coach wants to ensure that all the players play as a team for Bangladesh.

"Normally the players play in their way but I want them to play as a team for more success. Hockey is a team game and everybody should put their concentration and focus on it," said Naveed.

Naveed later informed that he would cut the 24-member squad again to 18 members after the Eid-ul-Fitr.

## Steely Dhoni steers India

AFP, Port of Spain



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni dragged his side to a pulsating one-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the final of the Tri-Nation Series at Queen's Park Oval on Thursday.

Returning to the team after seeming to be ruled out from the rest of the tournament with a hamstring injury eleven days ago, the inspirational wicketkeeper-batsman smashed 16 runs off three deliveries in the final over, bowled by Shaminda Eranga, to take the tournament favourites to 203 for nine in reply to Sri Lanka's 201 all out off 48.5 overs.

Less than three weeks after lifting the Champions Trophy to add to the World Cup title of 2011, Dhoni held a rapidly imploding innings together in compiling an unbeaten 45, carting the hapless Eranga for a six, a four and then a six off successive deliveries.

"I thought I could target the bowler in that last over because he's not as experienced as some of the others," said the India captain.

"I didn't want to take any chances against someone like a (Lasith) Malinga or a

(Angelo) Mathews. I think I'm just blessed with good cricketing sense."

Last-man Ishant Sharma was only required to survive at the other end and managed to achieve just that, although there were a few anxious moments between his arrival at the crease at 182 for nine and when the captain took responsibility to win the match on his own in the final over.

India were actually cruising along at 139 for three in the 32nd over in the best weather of the tournament.

But the dismissal of Suresh Raina triggered a collapse which saw four wickets falling for 13 runs, left-arm spinner Rangana Herath turning the screws with two wickets in two balls to finish with the best figures of four for 20.

Opening batsman Rohit Sharma's top score of 58 was inevitably overshadowed by Dhoni's heroics.

Sri Lanka endured an even more calamitous collapse after they were put in at the start of the day, losing their last eight wickets for 30 runs after at one stage being promisingly poised at 171 for two in the 38th over.

A 122-run second-wicket partnership between Kumar Sangakkara (71) and Lahiru Thirimanne (46) had placed their side in

that excellent position.

However a succession of injudicious shots saw batsman after batsman gifting his wicket away.

Dhoni marshalled his forces superbly while effecting three stumpings and playing his part in strangling the opposition when they would have been expected to be flourishing and racing towards a formidable total.

Ravindra Jadeja benefited most from the rash of indiscretions, claiming four for 23 with his left-arm spin.

"We kept taking wrong options because if we had batted properly we would have gotten 230-240," said a rueful Sri Lanka captain Mathews in reflecting on another opportunity for silverware lost.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA:** 201 all out in 48.5 overs (Jayawardene 22, Sangakkara 71, Thirimanne 46; Kumar 2-24, I Sharma 2-45, Ashwin 2-42, Jadeja 4-23)

**INDIA:** 203 for 9 in 49.4 overs (R Sharma 58, Dhawan 16, Karthik 23, Raina 32, Dhoni 45 not out; Eranga 2-50, Herath 4-20)

**Result:** India won by one wicket.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni.  
**Player-of-the-series:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

## Aussies toast Ashton Day

AFP, Sydney



Ashton Agar was acclaimed a national sporting hero by Australia's press Friday after the youngster's record-breaking 98 on debut that has turned the opening Ashes Test against England.

The tabloid Sydney Daily Telegraph devoted four pages to Agar's heroics, under the banner headline "Our 11th Hour Saviour, while The Australian emblazoned "Agar the capable saves Aussies' batting pride".

Australian pace great and fellow number 11 Glenn McGrath said Agar's innings may have set the tone for the rest of the Ashes for Australia, who went into the five Tests series as underdogs.

"That was a big innings for this series. It could have really set the tone for the rest of the series," McGrath told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"We've shown we have some fight and we're not going to lie down and die. Hopefully the attitude of that young fellow will go through the camp."

Leg-spin legend Shane Warne tweeted: "Wow!!!! Congrats to Mr Agar. Well done buddy, awesome... Wickets for you now too please."

Even Prime Minister Kevin Rudd got into the act, calling for Ashton Agar Day through social media.

The country's newspapers were full of

praise for Agar, who was only brought to England originally as a "development player" for the first two Tests and now may become an indispensable team member.

"If ever a debut Test innings deserved to be capped by a century it was this one by Agar," The Australian's Wayne Smith said.

"No Test cricketer has ever reached three figures batting at No.11 and there's a very good reason why not. Not only can the last man in not afford to make a mistake but neither can his batting partner."

The Australian's cricket analyst Gideon Haigh wrote: "Here was a thrilling initiation in international cricket, and a stunning riposte to the surrounding (Andy) Murray mania and British Lionising, pitching England's cricketers' into a triple-dip recession if not the country itself.

"A week ago, he (Agar) was unsure if he would be remaining with the squad, or jetting off to join an Australia A tour of Zimbabwe ... so perhaps it is not completely surprising that the outstanding performance has come from the player of whom least was anticipated, and in his secondary skill at that."

The Telegraph said Agar has become part of Ashes legend.

"Teenage debutant Ashton Agar has written himself into Ashes folklore with a spectacular innings of drama and tragedy that has completely changed the momentum of the first Test," the newspaper's Malcolm Conn said.



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (L) holds the Tri-Nation series trophy with teammate Virat Kohli after leading India to a nerve-racking one-wicket win against Sri Lanka in the final at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

## Six clubs still adamant

SPORTS REPORTER

Six clubs of the premier division hockey league yesterday reiterated their decision of not taking part in any activities under the newly-elected executive committee of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

The announcement came after the officials of the six clubs including Mohammedan SC and Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club sat for a meeting at the Mohammedan SC tent.

"We are anxious to see that media is providing rather confusing information regarding the clubs who boycotted the BHF election, quoting the so-called general secretary Khwaza Rahmatullah. We want to make it clear that we are still determined not to take part in any activities under the illegal and disputed committee. This announcement will hopefully clear all the confusion," read a statement.

Meanwhile, the newly-elected committee will sit for their first meeting tomorrow.

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews has been suspended for two ODIs and his teammates have been fined 40% of their match fees for their slow over-rate in the final of the tri-series against India in Port-of-Spain.

Match referee David Boon handed the suspension after Sri Lanka were found three overs short of their target at the end of the match, after time allowances were taken into consideration. Mathews accepted the suspension which avoided a formal hearing.

## Mathews suspended for two ODIs

CRICINFO, Ports of Spain

The suspension means Mathews will miss the first two of the five ODIs against South Africa on July 20 and 23 in Colombo.