

SPORT

BD-NZ SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings: 469 (K Williamson 114, Watling 103, Fulton 73, Razzak 3-147)				
BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 380-7)				
Tamim c Williamson b Boult	0			
Anamul lbw b Bracewell	3			
Ayub c Watling b Anderson	25			
Mominul lbw b Anderson	181			
Shakib c Watling b Williamson	19			
Mushfiquir c Taylor b Bracewell	67			
Nasir c Williamson b Sodhi	46			
Gazi not out	101			
Razzak lbw b Boult	7			
Robiul c Taylor b Bracewell	33			
Rubel c McCullum b Sodhi	4			
Extras: (b-5, lb-8, w-1, nb-1)	15			
Total: (All out in 148.5 overs)	501			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-8, 3-134, 4-180, 5-301, 6-301, 7-371, 8-387, 9-492				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Boult	24	9	50	2
Bracewell	25	2	96	3
Martin	27	3	113	0
Sodhi	28.5	3	112	2
Anderson	17	7	34	2
Williamson	27	4	83	1
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings				
Fulton not out	44			
Rutherford lbw b Nasir	32			
Williamson not out	28			
Extras: (b-11, lb-2)	13			
Total: (For one wicket in 40 overs)	117			
Fall of wicket: 1-48				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Razzak	7	2	13	0
Rubel	1	0	12	0
Gazi	6	0	21	0
Shakib	9	1	19	0
Nasir	9	4	20	1
Robiul	4	1	9	0
Mominul	4	0	10	0



WELCOME THE HERO: Bangladesh captain Mushfiquir Rahim (C) and other members of the team congratulate Shohag Gazi (L) as he returns to dressing room after hitting a century against New Zealand on the fourth day of the first Test in Chittagong yesterday. (inset) Gazi's celebration upon reaching the three-figure mark.

PHOTO: STAR

KEY FACTS

The stand between Shohag Gazi and Robiul Islam was only Bangladesh's second century stand for the ninth wicket in Tests.

Their innings of 501 all out marks only the third time that Bangladesh crossed the 500 mark in Tests, and the first occasion they have done so against New Zealand.

In playing 148.5 overs, Bangladesh notched their second-longest innings in Tests in terms of overs, the first being the 196 they faced against Sri Lanka in Galle earlier this year.

Draw on the cards after Gazi ton 'It means a lot to me'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

When Shohag Gazi and Abdur Razzak strode out on the fourth morning of the first Test at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday, Bangladesh were still 89 runs behind. And with only three wickets left, not many expected the hosts to put in a good effort with the bat. But a maiden Test century from Gazi ensured that Bangladesh took a 32-run lead and, barring an unlikely collapse, achieve only their ninth draw. When stumps were drawn because of rain at 3:30pm, one hour before the scheduled close, the visitors had reached 117 for one in their second innings with a lead of 85. Play will start at 9am today to make up for

the lost time as the match heads for a draw.

They lost Hamish Rutherford (34) -- who was trapped in front by Nasir Hossain while attempting a sweep -- in the 23rd over. Peter Fulton (44) and Kane Williamson (28) took the visitors past the 100-mark and to stumps.

Gazi's brilliant effort, which included three sixes and ten boundaries, changed the script of Bangladesh's innings as they posted 501 -- only the third time that Bangladesh crossed the 500 mark in Tests. He was ably supported by Robiul Islam (33), with whom he shared a stand worth 105 runs for the ninth wicket.

Gazi paced his innings to perfection. Initially he was content to be defending a majority of the



deliveries and seeing off maiden overs. However, once his partner Razzak was sent back to the pavilion in the fifth over of the day, Gazi decided to up the tempo.

He began by hitting Doug Bracewell for two boundaries in the sixth over of the day and continued to hit at least one boundary an over. The off-spinner reached his maiden 50 in style by dispatching a full Corey Anderson delivery straight back past the bowler.

From there Gazi played with no pressure whatsoever; particularly

because Robiul batted with a compact defensive technique at the other end.

Slow left-armer Bruce Martin was brought on and Gazi welcomed him by coming down the track and hitting him for a six over long off. Leg spinner Ishant Sodhi too was not spared as he hit him for three boundaries.

Gazi however, did enjoy a good share of fortune. He was dropped twice; the first was on 65 by Martin who dropped a caught and bowled opportunity off a full toss and the second was by Trent Boult on 93, when the bowler was unable to latch on to a drive from the batsman.

There was a brief lull when Gazi was in his 90s. He wanted to reach his 100 before lunch but could not

execute his shots properly.

Immediately after lunch Robiul was caught at slips off a top edge. Gazi needed just three runs at that point and he faced anxious moments.

However, he got the strike in the next over and just like his half-century, brought up his first hundred in style with a brilliant cut through gully for four.

The stirring lower order fightback and the resultant lead drove New Zealand's intentions of forcing a win -- with which they started the day -- to the background. Even if rain does not play a part tomorrow, the likelihood of New Zealand getting a large enough lead and then having enough time to bowl Bangladesh out is slim.

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

By the time Bangladesh had crossed the 300 mark in the second innings on the third day, they had already lost their middle order. The trio of Mominul Haque, Mushfiquir Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan were dismissed and the hosts were still more than 150 runs behind.

At that point in the game, when Shohag Gazi came to bat with Nasir Hossain at number eight, there was talk about how Bangladesh might end up paying for not playing an eighth batsman in the side. When Nasir Hossain uncharacteristically gave away his wicket towards the end of the day, it seemed like Bangladesh's strategy could misfire.

However, all those thoughts were brought to an end with Gazi's maiden Test century at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium a day later yesterday. He became only the fourth Bangladeshi to score a century against the Kiwis. He also became the third number eight batsman to score a century for Bangladesh. Mahmudullah and Khaled Mashud were the previous ones.

His epic celebrations after he reached his ton -- which saw him almost dash into Rubel Hossain in excitement -- was ample demonstration of how much it meant.

"I was a little excited when I scored my first 50 but then reaching a 100 was altogether a different feeling. This century means a lot to me," Gazi said after the end of the fourth day.

The off-spinner who has a first-class century said that he planned his innings just like he would in domestic cricket.

"I just tried to play like I play in the national leagues. And I received plenty of support from Robiul [Islam] as well," he said. "Robiul was telling me that he was playing for me, for my hundred, so I told him that as long as you are there I will try to get to my 100," he added.

He further stated that New Zealand's last-wicket partnership of 127 inspired the pair.

"We were telling ourselves if they can do it, why can't we?" said Gazi.

The century will probably not see him talked of as an all-rounder. After all, the wicket had no devils in it and New Zealand's spinners are not the mysterious he will come across, but what it does show is his stomach for a fight. It was something first glimpsed in his debut Test when he took the wicket of Chris Gayle after being smacked for two sixes in the first over of his Test career.

As he puts it, "My bowling was okay... but I really wanted to contribute to the team in a bigger way and I needed to perform."

Razib suffers first defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Enamul Hossain Razib suffered his first defeat in the Indonesia Open Chess Championship when he lost against Indian GM Abhijit Gupta at Grand Shahid Jaya Hotel in Jakarta on Friday.

Razib, who was scheduled to take on IM Emmanuel Sedor of Philippines late yesterday, has 1.5 points from three matches.

Queen's Baton Relay Monday

SPORTS REPORTER

The Queen's Baton Relay for next year's 20th Commonwealth Games will be held in the capital tomorrow, where some of the prominent athletes and organisers from all the national federations will take part.

Muhammad Faruk Khan, minister of civil aviation and tourism, will receive the Baton from the Relay team led Mrs Louise Martin, Mr Louis Rosa and Miss Rebecca Hill before handing it over to

Commonwealth Games gold medallist shooter Asif Hossain Khan. The Relay will start from the airport and end at Aftab Nagar, informed Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Syed Shahed Reza at a press conference at the BOA auditorium yesterday.

The Baton will be taken to Dhaka's British High Commission on an open-top jeep in the afternoon. The 20th Commonwealth Games will get underway in Glasgow, Scotland from July 23, 2014.

Pakistan hold U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh completed their campaign of the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers with a barren draw against Pakistan in their last match of Group C at the F Hariri Stadium in Iraq yesterday.

The draw means Bangladesh's hopes of qualifying for the 16-team final round as one of the six best runners-up among nine groups has all but extinguished with four points from three matches. The second position of the group will be decided after the Iraq versus Kuwait match which was scheduled to be held last night. Iraq have six points while Kuwait have three points from two matches.

Bangladesh's progress to the final round also depends on the results of other eight groups in which most of the second-paced sides have more points than Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, who went to the game on the back of morale-boosting 1-0 win over Kuwait, needed an outright victory against Pakistan to see them in the second position of the four-team table. But they failed to break the deadlock and had to be content sharing points with Pakistan, who finished bottom of the table with a single point from three matches.

Kiwis still seeking win

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



New Zealand pacer Trent Boult reckons that the visitors are still in with a chance

of winning the first Test, despite the fact that the last hour of the session yesterday was called off due to inclement weather.

Speaking to reporters at the post-day press conference yesterday, Boult said: "There's still a day left and it's a good opportunity. If some good cricket is played then I can definitely see a result. Hopefully the weather will stay away."

New Zealand who are poised at 117 for one, currently lead the game by 85 runs. Boult stated that the visitors' first target would be to pile on the runs.

"We have a lot of batting to do really. We can't get too far ahead of ourselves [and think of setting a target]. We need to add

more runs and see what happens from there," he said.

Boult, who has been New Zealand's go-to bowler in the last few series, took two wickets in the first innings including that of Tamim Iqbal for a first ball-duck. He however, wasn't too happy about the wicket.

"It's very tough for the bowlers -- flat surface and pretty unresponsive. The ball tended to scuff up quite quickly as well, so the new ball was very important; very testing as a seam bowler specifically," he said.

"I think it kind of shows. Number eleven batsmen are getting runs as well, so it's obviously a good surface," he added.

He also spoke of the frustration that Bangladesh number eight Shohag Gazi's maiden century caused his side.

"He batted very well. He paced his innings very nicely and played some nice shots. But from a bowling point of view it was frustrating not to get him out."



PHOTO: STAR

Just-elected Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon (R) is being presented with a bouquet by directors Naimur Rahman (L) and Khaled Mahmud at the National Sports Council yesterday.

BCB's first elected chief

SPORTS REPORTER



Nazmul Hassan Papon has become the first elected president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for a four-year term, ending all controversies surrounding the elections of the country's most high-profile sport body.

Chief election commissioner Abdur Rahman yesterday declared Papon, a lawmaker of ruling Awami League, as the president of BCB's board of directors after a brief election procedure at the National Sports Council (NSC).

The 23 directors present unanimously passed the nomination of Papon as the lone presidential candidate in a 'voice vote' in a crowded NSC room.

A few hundred -- including organisers, umpires, scorers -- gathered at the NSC premises with banners and festoons welcoming Nazmul Hassan Papon as the new BCB president much before the election process started.

Papon's assumption of the BCB presidency has never been in doubt after his rival Saber Hossain Chowdhury withdrew from the race, claiming that if he had contested the October 10 BCB polls it would have been a 'contempt of court'.

Papon, who led the board for almost a year as a government-nominated president of a 23-member ad-hoc committee, has now got the mandate to run

the show for another four years unless the Appellate Division, which cleared the controversial amended 2012 BCB constitution for holding the elections, revokes its decision about the validity in a full bench hearing. But that looks like a highly unlikely proposition.

"I'm happy to become the first elected president of the BCB. But I'm happier to see the peaceful conclusion of the elections against all odds and legal wrangles. It was my most important job as an ad-hoc committee chief," Papon told reporters at the NSC. "It was a challenging job for us as there had been some obligations from International Cricket Council (ICC) and we have completed the elections before the ICC deadline of October 17. Now the next crucial meeting of the ICC executive committee will be held with the elected president from all its 10 full members," added an elated BCB boss.

The new elected board will have its first meeting at its Mirpur headquarters today.

Papon said that his first priority would be to draw up a long-term plan over the next three months with action plans on where we want to see our cricket in the future. His victory leaves a director's post vacant, and the NSC will soon nominate a director -- possibly Gazi Ashraf Hossain -- to take Papon's place in the 27-member board of directors.