

# Shakib's eye on series win

'Number 1 ranking a motivation'

SPORTS REPORTER



Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has said that he is not enjoying the shortened bowling run-up that he has been employing ever since his injury.

Shakib was Mushfiquur Rahim's third-choice spinner in the first Test, having bowled fewer overs than Abdur Razzak and Shohag Gazi.

He had suffered from a stress fracture to his shin, which led to him bowling a limited number of overs against Zimbabwe on the last tour. He also suffered a fracture on his thumb leading up to the current series against New Zealand.

The team management ever since has put a 'measured' load on the player.

"I am not sure what will happen if I bowl a certain amount of overs. I would be happy if I could do everything that I did earlier but I have to look after my health," Shakib told reporters at Mirpur yesterday.

"The extent of bowling that my body can currently take is unknown and that is the reason they are trying to increase the load gradually," he added.

Despite the restrictions though, the good news for the all-rounder is that he was once again named the number one all-rounder in Test cricket last week. The ranking is something that he says inspires him to do better.

"It does not have a lot of meaning and at the same time it does. It makes me happy as it inspires me and makes it easy to be motivated. When there is a competition against a superstar, there is a drive to do better than them," he said

The all-rounder also believed that an increase in the number of performers in the national team has led to a great deal of progress for the Tigers over the years.

"These days we don't have to depend on one or two players as the whole team can contribute. There are at least four to five players who can contribute," said Shakib.

"When I started my career seven years back our target was to play for five days and later we eyed earning a draw and now we are focusing on the win. This team has been playing as a unit for a long time and it is becoming easy for us to perform," he added.

The sign of unity was also depicted in the manner in Shakib's dive, all the way from leg slip to first slip, to take the catch which completed Shohag Gazi's hat-trick.

"I am happy that I could hold on to that catch as this kind of achievement is not very common and I am happy that Gazi could do it. He is the first to achieve such a feat and I am proud to be part of it," said Shakib.

With a number of positive individual performances in the first Test, the left-hander hopes that the Tigers can seal the series in the second. "We are all hoping to win the series. There is a chance. Why shouldn't we give it a try?"



No. 1 Test all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (R) is chased by pacer Al Amin as the Bangladesh team resumed their training for the second Test against New Zealand at the Mirpur National Cricket Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# 'Tougher than expected'

SPORTS REPORTER

Corey Anderson did not make a special start to his Test career last week. He scored just one in the first innings and was a victim of Shohag Gazi's hat-trick in the second. With the ball he got the crucial wicket of Mominul Haque in the first innings and ended with figures of two for 34.

It was a debut that Anderson described as 'tougher' than expected. "The first Test in Chittagong, for my taste, was tougher than I thought. It was much higher intensity than I am used to. I guess it's a lot different from the four-dayers at home," he told reporters towards the end of New Zealand's first practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The all-rounder though was confident about making a positive return in the second Test.

"The conditions were a bit difficult in the first Test, but I guess it's good that that's under my belt now. We have had a decent first game and we hope to come out with a bit of a bang in the second one," he said.

The all-rounder also hoped that his side get inspired by Kane Williamson, who scored a century in the first innings, 74 in the second and bowled a good line as well.

"Kane is an incredible batter. It [his performance] was inspirational, he's a hell of a player. If he can come out and do that again, that would be awesome," he said.

Apart from going through gym sessions, the visitors also played some golf during the Eid break.

## Kohli blitz pulls off stunner

PTI, Jaipur

An inspired India pulled off an incredible nine-wicket victory over Australia in the second one-dayer on Wednesday, achieving the second highest ever run chase in ODI history.

Chasing a mammoth victory target of 360 on a belter of a track at the Sai Man Singh Stadium, India crossed the line with 40 balls to spare as records tumbled like nine pins.

This is also India's highest ever successful run chase as the hosts restored parity 1-1 in the seven-match series.

Rohit Sharma (141 not out), Virat Kohli (100 not out) and Shikhar Dhawan (95) were the main contributors for India.

This is his 16th ODI century in 115 matches. His innings had eight fours and seven sixes.

Rohit Sharma (141 not out from 123 balls) got a well-deserved third ODI century.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**AUSTRALIA:** 359 for 6 in 50 overs (Finch 50, Hughes 83, Watson 59, Bailey 92 not out, Maxwell 53; Vinay 2-73)  
**INDIA:** 362 for 1 in 43.3 overs (R Sharma 141 not out, Dhawan 95, Kohli 100 not out; Faulkner 1-60)  
**Result:** India won by 9 wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Rohit Sharma.

## SRT farewell at Eden, Wankhede

CRICINFO, Mumbai

Eden Gardens in Kolkata and the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai will host India's two Tests against West Indies in November, which will mark the end of Sachin Tendulkar's 24-year career.

While Eden Gardens will host the first Test from November 6 to 10, Tendulkar's farewell Test will be played at his home ground from November 14 to 18. The decision was taken during the BCCI's tour programme and fixtures committee meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday.

# Siddikur leads in Macau

ASIANTOUR.COM



Siddikur Rahman produced a blazing finish to snatch the second round lead at the 800,000-dollar Venetian Macau Open on Friday as he eyed a dream final day showdown with the tournament's top draw, Ernie Els.

The slightly built Siddikur birdied three of his last four holes for a five-under-par (66) at the tricky Macau Golf and Country Club to edge one shot ahead of Korea's Baek Seuk-hyun (65), Filipino Elmer Salvador (66) and rookie Ben Campbell of New Zealand (68).

Four-time Major Els moved one behind Siddikur after a brilliant 65.

With five top-10s this season, Siddikur is eyeing a second career victory at the Venetian Macau Open after finishing tied third in last year's edition. With its tight fairways, the 29-year-old believes the course fits perfectly to his straight-hitting game.

"It was a great round. Lovely weather and I felt good. My ball striking was perfect, especially my putting as it all went in," Siddikur was quoted as saying by the Asiantour.com website, who is currently 10th on the Asian Tour's Order of Merit.

"This is a placing course which I like very much. I finished third here last year and I had good thoughts coming back. I'm hitting it good. I'm in good shape. Same thing tomorrow, fairways and greens which is always my goal," Said Siddikur, who is currently 10th on the Asian Tour's Order of Merit

The Bangladeshi trailblazer has not finished lower than 17th on the rankings in the past three seasons, saying that the Brunei victory provided the launchpad for his burgeoning career which has made him a household name in Dhaka.

"I won long ago, the 2010 Brunei Open. After that, I had a couple of seconds, thirds and fifths. After winning, I got good confidence and I don't have any problem. I can follow up on my rhythm. That was the key to come further up in my career," said Siddikur, who has taken only 25 putts in the last two rounds.

He hopes to get a chance to tee up alongside Els in the weekend rounds. "Ernie is my idol. I've been waiting for a long time to play with him. Last few years, I've missed playing with him so hopefully this week."

# Marshall finding his feet

Tigers back to practice

SPORTS REPORTER

Marshall Ayub dominated the press long before he made his international debut against New Zealand in Chittagong last week. His impeccable form in domestic cricket, where he scored two double centuries in the longer version domestic competitions in the last two seasons was enough to get him through to the bench during Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka.

But Mohammad Ashraful's 190 in the first Test meant that the 24-year-old would have to wait before making his debut. His propensity for long innings was depicted yet again when he scored a 157 in Bangladesh's only practice match leading up to this series.

With Ashraful out on fixing charges and Marshall in such fine form, the latter's Test debut against New Zealand this month was the odds on possibility.

On a flat deck at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Marshall looked composed. In his first innings, a 109-ball 25, he was part of a century partnership with Mominul Haque that



revived the hosts from eight for two in the first innings. The second innings saw him bat fluently with a four and a six, before falling for 31 while attempting to chase a wide one.

It was a start that by no means matched Marshall's standards and the player himself acknowledged the fact at Mirpur yesterday, when the Tigers returned to their training camp following their Eid break.

"I really wanted to have a good start, but things unfortunately did not go according to plan. But runs were a little difficult to come by and I played a false shot under pressure in the second innings. It was a wide delivery. But I will try to do better in the next match," said Marshall, who felt that he should have at least scored a 50 in his second innings.

It's just a start in Marshall's

efforts to make the step up from domestic to international cricket. "There is no extra pressure in international cricket. We lose early wickets in domestic cricket as well, so we are used to batting in that situation, like in the first Test," he said.

"It's just that the number of good balls bowled in an over in Test cricket, are higher than in domestic cricket; that is the main difference. So far it's been good," he added.

The number three spot in the batting order has always been a volatile position for Bangladesh. Habibul Bashar came closest to filling that spot on a consistent basis. He played 43 matches and scored more than 2500 runs at number three. The next best are Junaid Siddique, Shahriar Nafees and Mohammad Ashraful who lasted for 12, 10 and seven matches at the position respectively. Marshall's fine domestic performance leads to high expectations, but only time can tell if the player can crack the number three puzzle.

The second Test between the teams begins on October 21.

# U-19s beaten, but still up 3-2

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19s suffered defeat in the fifth game against their West Indian counterparts after three consecutive wins and still they lead the seven-match one-day series 3-2.

The sixth one-dayer will be played today in Georgetown.

In the fifth match on Wednesday, the home side bounced back to keep the series alive with a 67-run victory.

## Agarkar calls time

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Ajit Agarkar, the former India seamer, has announced his retirement from all competitive cricket on Tuesday.

Agarkar had led Mumbai for whom he played all his Ranji Trophy cricket, to the domestic first-class title in the 2012-13 season. He played 110 first-class games in all, taking 299 wickets at 30.69, as well as 270 List A games and 62 T20s in a career that began in 1996-97.



Siddikur Rahman watches his shot at the last hole on the second day of the Venetian Macau Open at the Macau Golf and Country Club yesterday.

PHOTO: ASIANTOUR.COM

# Pakistan halt SA march

AFP, Abu Dhabi



Wily spinner Saeed Ajmal took four wickets to fire Pakistan to a seven-wicket win over world number one South Africa in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

The off-spinner (4-74) was superbly supported by left-arm pacer Junaid Khan (3-57) and fellow spinner Zulfiqar Babar (2-51) as South Africa collapsed to 232 in their second innings on the fourth day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

That left Pakistan to score 40 runs for their overall fourth win over South Africa and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Pakistan made heavy weather of the small target losing openers Shan Masood (nought), Azhar Ali (three) and Khurram Manzoor (four) in the space of seven runs by the fourth over.

Vernon Philander took 2-11 while Dale Steyn had 1-7.

## SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 249 (Amla 118, Durniny 57; Irfan 3-44, Babar 3-89)					Bowler				
PAKISTAN: First innings 442 (Manzoor 146, Misbah 100, Shafiq 54; Philander 3-84, Steyn 3-88)					Irfan				
SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings					Junaid				
Smith st Akmal b Ajmal					32				
Peterson c Akmal b Irfan					17				
Amla c Akmal b Babar					10				
Kallis lbw b Junaid					90				
De Villiers c Masood b Junaid					0				
Steyn b Babar					7				
Durniny lbw b Junaid					0				
Du Plessis c & b Ajmal					9				
Peterson not out					47				
Philander c Akmal b Ajmal					10				
Morkel c and b Ajmal					0				
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-2)					232				
Total: (All out; 82.4 in overs)					Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-57, 3-58, 4-72, 5-104, 6-109, 7-133, 8-190, 9-232.				
					PAKISTAN: Second innings				
					Manzoor c De Villiers b Philander				
					Masood c De Villiers b Philander				
					Azhar c Kallis b Steyn				
					Younis not out				
					28				
					Misbah not out				
					9				
					Extras: (lb-1)				
					1				
					Total: (For 3 wkts in 13.5 overs)				
					45				
					Did not bat: Shafiq, Akmal, Ajmal, Babar, Junaid, Irfan.				
					Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-7, 3-7.				
					Bowler				
					Steyn				
					5				
					3				
					7				
					1				
					Philander				
					5				
					1				
					11				
					2				
					Morkel				
					2				
					0				
					12				
					0				
					14				
					0				