

# SPORT

## Siddikur flies to Delhi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman flew to New Delhi yesterday to take part in the Panasonic Open India, beginning on Thursday, after recovering from a back pain which kept him out of action for the last five months.

The two-time Asian Tour winner, whose last win came at the Hero Indian Open at the Delhi Golf Club in November 2013, was hoping for a return to the top with a good performance at his favourite golf course.

"After a long hard time with injury, I'm going back to participate at the Panasonic Open India. I'm feeling great; thanks to almighty and all my well wishers. Hopeful about getting back my performance," said a message Siddikur posted on facebook prior his departure for Delhi in the afternoon.

After playing the King's Cup in Thailand in the first week of June, Siddikur was sidelined with a backstrain for two two-and-a-half months. The 29-year-old golfer made a return to action at the Omega European Masters in Zurich in the first week of September, but aggravated the injury after a day's play. The ace golfer went through months of physiotherapy before returning to training two weeks ago.

## India rout Sri Lanka

ANS, Cuttack

India defeated Sri Lanka by 169 runs in the first of the five one-day internationals at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday.

After being put in to bat, India had posted a mammoth total of 363 for 5 in their 50 overs with openers Ajinkya Rahane (111) and Shikhar Dhawan (113) scoring centuries.

Sri Lanka's batting could never sustain a regular partnership, and the visitors lost wickets at regular intervals which led to their being bowled out for 194 in 39.2 overs.

The second ODI will be held in Ahmedabad November 6.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**INDIA:** 363 for 5 in 50 overs (Dhawan 113, Rahane 111, Raina 52; Randiv 3-78, Gamage 1-59)  
**SRI LANKA:** 194 all out in 39.2 overs (Jayawardene 43, Perera 29, Tharanga 28, Mathews 23; Ishant 4-34, Yadav 2-24, Patel 2-24)  
**Result:** India won by 169 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Ajinkya Rahane.

### PAK-AUS SCOREBOARD

<b>PAKISTAN:</b> First innings 570 for 6 declared (Younis 213, Azhar 109, Misbah 101); Starc 2-86					
<b>AUSTRALIA:</b> First innings 261 (Marsh 87, Clarke 47; Imran 3-60)					
<b>PAKISTAN:</b> Second innings (overnight 61-2)					
Shehzad b Johnson	14				
Hafeez c Starc b Johnson	3				
Azhar not out	100				
Younis lbw b Smith	46				
Misbah not out	101				
Extras: (b-23, lb-4, nb-1, w-1)	29				
Total: (For 4 wks in 60.4 overs dec) 293					
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-31, 3-43, 4-101					
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>W</b>
Johnson	7	1	45	2	
Lyon	18	3	48	0	
Starc	11.4	2	56	0	
Siddle	14	4	48	0	
Smith	6	0	54	1	
Marsh	4	1	15	0	
<b>AUSTRALIA:</b> Second innings					
Rogers c Shaqib b Babar	2				
Warner c Shah b Hafeez	58				
Maxwell lbw b Babar	4				
Clarke b Babar	5				
Smith not out	38				
Marsh not out	26				
Extras: (b-4, nb-1, pen-5)	10				
Total: (For 4 wks in 48 overs) 143					
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-31, 3-43, 4-101					
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>W</b>
Rahat	5	4	1	0	
Imran	5	1	33	0	
Hafeez	12	1	33	1	
Babar	17	1	65	3	

## 'Batters should value their wickets'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim said yesterday that there was a chance for him to bat at number five instead of six in the second Test at Khulna.

There have been opinions that a promotion would give the team's best batsman more time to get settled and eventually contribute more for his side.

This is one scenario that the team management has been discussing. However, the home side's discussions have been revolving around the improvement of their batting in the second Test, as the Bangladesh batsmen were guilty of throwing away their wickets in the first Test which the home side barely edged through.

The opening pair of Tamim Iqbal and Shamsur Rahman did not click, while the middle order wobbled on a bouncy track. The possibility of including an extra batsman and playing just one seamer was also a thought that was reportedly discussed by the team's think tank yesterday.

While 'one-pacer attack' strategy is not likely to be applied, the team management is considering a new batsman for the number seven position, where Shuvagata Hom played in the last Test. It could either be Marshall Ayub or Anamul Haque.

While replacements are required, they won't necessarily solve Bangladesh's batting fragility. The top order, according to chief selector Faruque Ahmed, needs to bat more like a 'Test team'.

"I want to see 'Test-like' batting. Honestly speaking batting has been a real concern for the team and we hope they can apply themselves properly. If someone is settled then he must ensure that he carries on," said the former national skipper.

Faruque, however, had no complaints about his bowling department.

"I am very confident about our spin attack and believe they will be more dangerous here. It was also nice to see our pacer [Shahadat Hossain] get the early breakthroughs in the first Test," he said.

His colleagues Minhazul Abedin and Habibur Bashar echoed similar sentiments. "Their main objective should be to stay in the middle for as much time as possible. The first five wickets should be able to give us at least 270 runs on the board. The batsmen should understand the value of a wicket," said Minhazul, considered as one of Bangladesh's finest batsmen of the pre-Test era.

Bashar emphasised the importance of the top order as well. The concern stems from the fact that Bangladesh's top five batsmen have failed to put on more than 200 runs seven out of nine times this year.

"The top order desperately needs to score big. I believe one or two big knocks will change the whole scenario. And personally I think this series gives the batsmen their biggest opportunity to score, since they are playing against a comparatively weak bowling attack," said Bashar.



Mushfiqur Rahim will lead the Tigers for the 18th time in Test cricket, equalling Habibur Bashar's feat, when Bangladesh take on Zimbabwe in Khulna today.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 'Patience will be key'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

The last time Bangladesh played a Test match in Khulna, it was Abul Hasan's rare feat -- a century on debut as a number ten batsman -- that was lauded despite the thumping ten-wicket defeat at the hands of West Indies in 2012.

Two years on, and the plot is a different one. The Tigers, who will face Zimbabwe in the second Test from today, have an opportunity of achieving a rare series win and only a victory can satisfy the fans and the cricketers themselves.

A hard-fought win at Mirpur gave them a much required boost -- their first win over a Test nation in any format this year. However, they now need to work on widening the gap from their nearest rivals. A win in the second Test will not only give them the series but will also help the Tigers overtake Zimbabwe, who are currently ranked ninth, in the Test rankings.

There are a host of records in the offing ahead of this Test. Mushfiqur Rahim will lead Bangladesh for the

18th time in Test cricket and by doing so will equal Habibur Bashar's record. If the Tigers do manage a win, it will only be the second time that they will have achieved consecutive wins ever since their entry into Test cricket. The feat will no doubt be a lot sweeter than the wins they had against a depleted West Indies side in 2009.

In a lengthy pre-match press conference yesterday, a calm Mushfiqur told reporters that his side was hungry for success, following a torrid year. While the first Test did end within three days, the hosts were 'mentally ready' to play five days of cricket, Mushfiqur opined.

His mantra was simple: stay focused until the job is done. The captain demands a better show from his batsmen, who disappointed in the first Test. The wicket in Khulna is likely to be a bit more batting-friendly than the one in Mirpur.

"At the end of the day the main objective is to follow the processes. If we can keep them right and execute the plan, then everything will fall in place," said Mushfiqur.

"One or two poor dismissals can take place in any Test match. But if that

number extends to five or six then that is just scary. Here comes the question of concentration and we are working on that," added the captain.

He further emphasised the importance of being patient. "You cannot show patience in the middle automatically. It's a virtue that can only be earned through practice," he explained.

He further warned that there was no scope to underestimate Zimbabwe, who had fought neck and neck in Mirpur.

"Zimbabwe is not an easy opponent. Though our batsmen made mistakes, the way they fought with only 100 runs on the board was really outstanding. And now they know about our bowling attack and our plans against them," reckoned Mushfiqur.

A similar warning was sounded by Bangladesh's former coach Dav Whatmore, who is currently in town as a TV commentator, in an interview two days ago. Whatmore urged the Tigers to show the spirit they had shown nine years ago to fight out a draw against Zimbabwe in the second Test and win the series.



### FASTEST CENTURY

Misbah equalled the 28-year-old record held by West Indian legend Viv Richards for the fastest Test century off 56 balls

### FASTEST FIFTY

Misbah smashed the fastest Test half-century off 21 balls

MAGICAL MISBAH: Who says Misbahul Haq can't smash them out of the park? The Pakistan captain raises his arms after speeding to two of the fastest Test records. PHOTO: AFP

## Misbah sets records rolling

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan were on the verge of their first series win over Australia in 20 years and victory in the second Test after skipper Misbahul Haq rewrote the record books with his belligerent batting in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

Misbah smashed a 56-ball hundred, equalling West Indian legend Viv Richards's record made against England at Antigua in 1986, minutes after breaking the mark for the fastest fifty which he made off just 21 balls at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Misbah's stunning blitz set up Pakistan to declare their second innings at 293-3, setting a daunting 603-run target for Australia who suffered another batting collapse before reaching 143-4 at stumps on the fourth day.

They need another 460 runs on the

final day to avoid their first series defeat against Pakistanis since a 1-0 loss in 1994.

Earlier Misbah, notorious for his slow batting in one-day internationals, removed all doubts about his credentials.

In all he hit 11 boundaries and five sixes off 57 balls during his two centuries in the match, a blitz which overshadowed Azhar Ali's feat of 100 not out, making this only the second occasion in Test cricket's history when two batsmen scored a century in each innings in the same match.

Australian brothers Ian and Greg Chappell scored centuries in each innings against New Zealand at Wellington in 1973.

Misbah beat the previous record of the fastest half-century held by South Africa's Jacques Kallis scored against Zimbabwe at Cape Town in 2004.

Misbah hit two boundaries off paceman Mitchell Starc to reach his hundred, punched the air in delight and waved his bat to teammates.

This is also the second fastest hundred in terms of time, behind Australia's Jack Gregory who reached a hundred in 70 minutes against South Africa at Johannesburg in 1921.

Misbah took 74 minutes to reach the mark.

In all Misbah hit four boundaries and as many sixes in his fifty. He pushed Starc for three to complete the fastest Test fifty ever which took only 24 minutes.

The previous fastest fifty in terms of time was held by Bangladesh's Mohammad Ashraful who took 27 minutes for his fifty against India at Dhaka in 2007.

The previous fastest Test half-century by a Pakistani batsman was by Shahid Afridi who took 26 balls to reach the mark, against India at Bangalore in 2005.

Majid Khan previously held the record for the fastest hundred by a Pakistani, scored off 74 balls against New Zealand in Karachi in 1976.

## Taylor hopes to 'reverse' luck

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna



Focusing on one's own strength has always been considered the key to success. As a result while Bangladesh are hoping to pin the visitors down with spin, Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor has said that he would rely on his pacers to bring the visitors back into the series.

Zimbabwe's pacers, especially Tinashe Panyangara, Tendai Chatara and Elton Chigumbura, bowled well in the first Test and are likely to be the main threat in Khulna as well.

"We are not as blessed as Bangladesh in our spin department. We proved to be a good unit in Dhaka with our seam bowlers. Yes we are aware that the pitch is going to be different but we have got what we've got and we've got to make use of it," said Taylor in the pre-match briefing yesterday, adding that the SG ball would help them to get reverse swing.

The usage of SG ball is a new phenomenon in this series as the Tigers have generally played with the Kookaburra ball.

"It's a different pitch from Mirpur, but they do have the skill of reversing the ball on an abrasive surface. I don't think there is going to be that kind of bounce. But ours are good enough to reverse the ball. That's a danger to any batsman when the ball is reversing and hopefully we can do that," he added.

## Taskin out for 2 weeks

SPORTS REPORTER



Pacer Taskin Ahmed has been diagnosed with a side-strain and asked to rest for two weeks, making the player uncertain for the ODI series against Zimbabwe which begins in Chittagong on November 21.

The player, who complained of pain in the left portion of his body, had an MRI on Saturday. The results confirmed the injury yesterday.

Taskin, however, was relieved and described the injury to be a 'minor' problem.

"If this was a serious injury then I would have been out for at least three months. But the positive part is that it's a minor injury. I need to rest for two weeks. I have not been given a programme to follow as yet but I think I can start bowling after two weeks," Taskin told The Daily Star.

"It still too early to say whether I will be fit for the ODIs, but I will do my best," said the 19-year-old right-arm.

BCB's sports physician Debashish Chowdhury has said that they will plan a programme for the player as soon as possible. "We have to sit with him and analyse the injury first. Even the slightest of side-strains generally takes up to two to three weeks to recover completely, so we have to see how it goes," said Debashish.

## BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP Singapore, Malaysia confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

Singapore and Malaysia have officially confirmed their participation in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup International Football Tournament, said a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) official yesterday.

The game's governing body is working with two slots -- from December 27 to January 5 and January 17 to 28 -- to host the tournament which will feature six teams -- Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Bahrain, Laos and hosts Bangladesh.

Singapore football federation has given its consent over the first schedule while Malaysia is available for both the slots.

"We have sent two schedules to the teams along with the invitation and there is a strong possibility to stage the tournament on the first slot as both Singapore and Malaysia have agreed to participate during that time period," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

## Muktis set to lure Sise

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad are all set to rope in Feni Soccer Club's former coach Omar K Sise for the upcoming season following the contact expiration of Shaful Islam Manik, who coached the All Reds in the last three seasons.

"The management of Muktijoddha Sangsad has decided to appoint Gambian coach Omar K Sise and a contract in this regard will be signed soon after his arrival in Bangladesh," said the club's manager Firoz Mahmud Tito yesterday, adding that Sise has been asked to bring some quality players from his native Gambia.

## Djokovic stays Paris Master

AFP, Paris

World number one Novak Djokovic won his 600th ATP match on Sunday as he defeated Canadian seventh seed Milos Raonic 6-2, 6-3 to win the Paris Masters for the second straight year.

The 27-year-old Serb also extends his advantage over Roger Federer in the race for the year-ending number one spot while Raonic can take consolation that his run to the final has booked his place at the World Tour Finals in London.

## NAT'L SCHOOL HOCKEY 130 schools show interest

SPORTS REPORTER

Some 2000 school students are expected to participate in next month's First Security Islami Bank National School Hockey Championship which will get underway from December 17 in 11 different venues across the country.

A total of 130 schools from 64 districts, 29 more than the number of teams in the last edition, have showed their interest to participate in the tournament. The Bangladesh Hockey Federation will provide 16 sticks to each of the new participating teams and nine sticks each of the old ones. Nine match balls will be distributed among all the participating teams while 32 schools of the final round will be provided with a goalkeeper's set each.

Leandro Negre, the president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), is expected to inaugurate the championship for the second successive time.