

## 'We were outplayed'

SPORTS REPORTER

India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni described the series defeat to Bangladesh as disappointing and admitted that the visitors were outplayed by the hosts.

Speaking to reporters following the match at Mirpur yesterday, he said, "It was quite disappointing... we were completely outplayed. We didn't put up runs on a decent wicket and our start wasn't right either."

When asked if this was his career's most disappointing moment, Dhoni said, "No. We can't forget the World Cup," referring to the 2007 World Cup, where India were eliminated in the first round.

While Dhoni mainly blamed his batsmen for the defeat, he said that fatigue could have also played a role in their abysmal displays.

"Well it has been a long season... four months in Australia, two months in England. It could be a reason... very difficult to say. It's almost the same team that keeps playing in such conditions."

## Magnificent

FROM PAGE 14

for a hat-trick, a chance he also created in the first game. Ravichandran Ashwin survived the hat-trick ball but soon became the fifth victim of someone who has appeared in the horizon with a golden left arm. An unfriendly rain appeared to have stopped the bowler with only delivery of his quota of 10 overs left. But after the rain had stopped and play resumed he came out to bowl Ravindra Jadeja to complete a performance the world cricket has hardly witnessed.

Mustafizur became only the second, after Zimbabwe's Brian Vitori to take two five-wicket hauls in his first two matches.



Shakib Al Hasan scored a steady 51 not out, picking up five boundaries, and his stability proved vital to the victory over India in the second ODI in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## India can think twice

BISHWAJIT ROY



Bangladesh sent a strong message to their Indian counterparts by clinching the three-match ODI series last night with one match in hand. A series victory over India for the first time itself is a great achievement for the Tigers, and the brand of cricket they played deserves more accolades and attention from their next-door neighbours.

Without a doubt any cricket fan would love to watch this brand of cricket that the Tigers have been playing since the World Cup. So definitely it has gained the commercial value. India is the only country which has yet to host Bangladesh for a full bilateral series. The reason has never been disclosed from the authorities but everybody knows that India always emphasises the commercial viability.

Now hopefully the Tigers' terrific performance will play a role in changing the hearts of the powerful Indian authority, as this series victory was no fluke considering their gradual progress in international cricket in last few years. The Tigers now can claim at their own credit that they deserve to play cricket all around the world because they have got

the talent and skill to entertain true lovers of the game.

Who would not love to watch a pace-attack like Bangladesh's from the stands? Surely people would love to enjoy the craft of pace bowling from young Mustafizur Rahman. Shakib Al Hasan has become the hottest property in world cricket long ago, and nobody knows better what Tamim Iqbal can do than India. There may be some other senior players, but probably the arrival of players like Soumya Sarkar and Sabbir Rahman made the current crop more gorgeous and attractive to watch.

With the historic win against second-ranked India, the Tigers took a giant step for a strong footing on the world cricket map.

It's no secret that everybody wants to perform well against India not only to show their on-field strength but also for their commercial value, so a series victory against them, who are called the big brothers of world cricket, means a lot to Bangladesh.

Nobody will mind if someone from the team considers it as their biggest ODI success despite the fact that they reached the World Cup quarterfinals and white-washed teams like New Zealand and Pakistan.

A new era, a new hope began with this success. And the Tigers deserve respect

## Siddikur ends on third

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman claimed his second top-tier finish of the Asian Tour season after ending the Queen's Cup in joint third position yesterday. The 30-year-old golfer returned a card of three-under (68) in the final round for an aggregate of 10-under (274) to end four shots behind eventual champion Prayad Marksang of Thailand.

The two-time Asian Tour winner traded four birdies for a single bogey. This was the second time, after a seventh-place finish in the Hero Indian Open, that Siddikur managed to finish inside top ten this season.

"I will head home to prepare for the Omega European Masters next month. My coach will be going there with me for the first time. Hopefully it will be a good outing in Switzerland," Siddikur hoped.

The fine effort earned Siddikur a paycheque of 16,950 dollars, lifting him up to 24th position in the AT Order of Merit and is likely to bring him back into eligibility list for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

## 'Things are going well for us'

SPORTS REPORTER



While it was one of those tough days for India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who encountered a hostile press conference with journalists trying to crucify him for yet another disappointing defeat, his Bangladesh counterpart Mashrafe Bin Mortaza received a completely different ovation. One enthusiastic local reporter held the Tigers' captain up while he was on his way to the press conference.

And when he finally arrived at the media briefing room along with a shy Mustafizur Rahman for a second successive time, the mood turned

extremely festive.

A broad smile on Mashrafe's face even before he uttered a word explained how big an achievement the series victory against India was.

"It is one of the biggest achievements actually. I think the boys are really confident. Maybe we didn't expect to win that way. But we were always going to play to win and fight till the last ball and obviously I know that if we play our best cricket, it will be competitive and we can win as well. I will say that a lot of luck was also involved," said Mashrafe in response to a question about whether it was their biggest success in one-day cricket.

The inspirational Bangladesh skipper expressed his satisfaction

over the success but he was not at all overwhelmed.

"Look, consistency was our biggest problem. At the moment things are going well for us and I hope it will continue. In cricket, momentum is very important. Hopefully the boys will keep it up. There were a lot of challenges in the last 15 years but keeping this form is going to be a greater challenge for us. I think it's a good pressure. When you win everything comes out well. Hopefully the boys will now deliver regularly," he said on his upcoming challenges.

Mashrafe once again said that it was their fearless approach which was bringing them success and also said that he always loves to play attacking cricket.

Termed Nasir Hossain as one of the best off-spinners in the team, Mashrafe said that as per his analysis India lost quite a few wickets to off-spinners in the last one and a half years. And that was the reason why Nasir was brought on early in the game on Sunday. The bowler took two wickets and bowled a tidy line.

Regarding the third and final game, Mashrafe said: "No, there is no pressure, nobody told us ahead of the match that we will win this series 2-0. India also said that we have nothing to lose so now we will just come on the field and enjoy. If we do that the result will be there. But we are not worried or thinking about a whitewash. We are just hoping to do our best."

## Argentina toil for victory

AFP, Santiago



Argentina marked Lionel Messi's 100th cap with an unconvincing 1-0 win over Jamaica to reach the Copa America quarter-finals as group winners on Saturday as holders Uruguay advanced

### RESULTS

Argentina 1 (Higuain 11) Jamaica 0  
Uruguay 1 (Gimenez 29) Paraguay

to the last eight.

Napoli striker Gonzalo Higuain rifled home the only goal for Argentina as the tournament favorites downed the Reggae Boyz in Vina del Mar to clinch top spot in Group B ahead of Paraguay and Uruguay.

Earlier Saturday, Uruguay made sure of their place in the last eight from Group B after battling to a 1-1 draw with Paraguay in a rematch of the 2011 final.

## Nasir revels...

FROM PAGE 14

Yesterday was no difference. With Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli cruising, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza decided to bring in Nasir. In only his second over of the day, he trapped the dangerous Virat Kohli in front. Three miserly overs later, he got rid of Dhawan with a beautifully tossed up delivery.

The arrival of Nasir in the eleventh over of the match also put a lid on the run flow. He never did anything special; but just ensured bowling to his field, something that was evident with the way he bowled against Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Off the 32 deliveries he bowled to Dhoni, 19 of them were dot balls. The number of times he forced the India skipper to merely defend the ball to either a square leg or short mid-wicket, was very noticeable.

But of course, it wasn't the first time that Nasir bowled with such impeccable accuracy. His bowling average this year, in fact, has overshadowed the top bowlers of Bangladesh.

In 2015, Nasir bowled 50.4 overs, taken eight wickets at an average of 29.62. Only Mustafizur and Arafat Sunny have better bowling averages. But then again, they both played lesser number of matches. While Nasir has played eight ODIs, Mustafizur and Arafat have featured in two and four ODIs respectively.

What makes Nasir's bowling stats a lot more phenomenal is the fact that he has bowled almost thrice as many overs this year as compared to the first three years of his career.

Since 2011 to 2014, Nasir bowled 60.1 overs, gained three wickets and averaged a disappointing 100.33. Nasir was never able to provide a clear-cut answer regarding his bowling improvement.

However, many reckon that it was the decision to drop the player prior to the Zimbabwe series last year that brought out the best in him.

It was big decision, considering that Nasir's World Cup slot was at stake. The player, as he would go on to state later, feared that his career would come to an end.

It was his ability to force the selectors to bring him back for the World Cup that changed the course of his career yet again.

At the moment, Nasir knows that he doesn't have an assured place in the side. A powerful Sabbir Rahman can bat in the same position as he did in his first three years, while a host of spinners are always in contention.

For Nasir to continue living his ODI dream he needs to be at his best; and at the moment it seems to be a challenge

## IND SCOREBOARD

INDIA	R/B	4/6
R Sharma c Sabbir b Mustafizur	0/2	0/0
Dhawan c Litton b Nasir	53/60	7/0
Kohli lbw b Nasir	23/27	3/1
Dhoni c Soumya b Mustafizur	47/75	3/0
Rayudu c Nasir b Rubel	0/3	0/0
Raina c Litton b Mustafizur	34/55	3/0
Jadeja b Mustafizur	19/26	1/0
Patel lbw b Mustafizur	0/1	1/0
Ashwin c Litton b Mustafizur	4/10	0/0
Kumar c Litton b Rubel	3/10	0/0
Kulkarni not out	2/2	0/0
Extras: (lb-6, w-8, nb-1)	15	
Total: (All out in 45 overs)	200	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-74, 3-109, 4-110, 5-163, 6-174, 7-174, 8-184, 9-196.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mustafizur	10	0	43	6
Taskin	4	0	24	0
Mashrafe	7	0	35	0
Nasir	10	0	33	2
Rubel	7	0	26	2
Shakib	7	0	33	0

BANGLADESH	R/B	4/6
Tamim c Dhawan b Kulkarni	13/21	3/0
Soumya lbw b Ashwin	34/47	2/1
Litton c Dhoni b Patel	36/41	5/0
Mushfiqur run out	31/34	3/1
Shakib not out	51/62	5/0
Sabbir not out	22/23	3/0
Extras: (lb-4, w-9)	13	
Total: (For 4 wkts in 38 overs)	200	
Did not bat: Nasir, Mashrafe, Rubel, Taskin, Mustafizur.		
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-86, 3-98, 4-152.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	5	0	32	0
Kulkarni	7	0	42	1
Ashwin	10	2	32	1
Jadeja	7	0	28	0
Patel	7	0	48	1
Raina	2	0	14	0

Result: Bangladesh won by 6 wickets (D/L method) and lead the 3-match

## 7-star Yasir crushes SL

AFP, Galle

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah claimed a career-best seven for 76 as Pakistan stunned Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the first Test on Sunday to take the lead in the three-match series.

Yasir spun a web around the Sri Lankan batsmen to skittle them for a paltry 206 in their second innings just before tea on the fifth and final day.

Pakistan, set a victory target of 90, raced home in 11.2 overs with Mohammad Hafeez unbeaten on 46 and Ahmed

Shehzad on 43 at the Galle International Stadium.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 300  
PAKISTAN: First innings: 417  
SRI LANKA: Second innings 206 all out (Karunaratne 79, Sangakkara 18, Thirimanne 44, Chandimal 38; Wahab 2-46, Yasir 7-76)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 92 for no loss (Hafeez 46 not out, Shehzad 43 not out)  
Result: Pakistan won by 10 wickets and lead 1-0 in three-match series.

Player-of-the-match: Sarfraz Ahmed

A product of EDISON Group

**B for Bangladesh V for Victory**  
বিজয়ের উল্লাস কথা হোক  
Symphony V40-তে

**NUMBER ONE**  
MOBILE HANDSET BRAND  
OF THE COUNTRY

**SYMPHONY V40**

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 4.5" FWVGA TN Display
- 5 MP + 0.3 MP Camera
- 1.3 GHz Quad Core
- RAM 512 MB & ROM 4 GB
- 1700 mAh battery
- OTG & OTA

Price: **Th. 5,990**

www.facebook.com/symphonymobile CALL CENTER: 16272 09666700666 \*Call Center: 8am - 10pm (Except Friday & Govt. Holiday) www.symphony-mobile.com

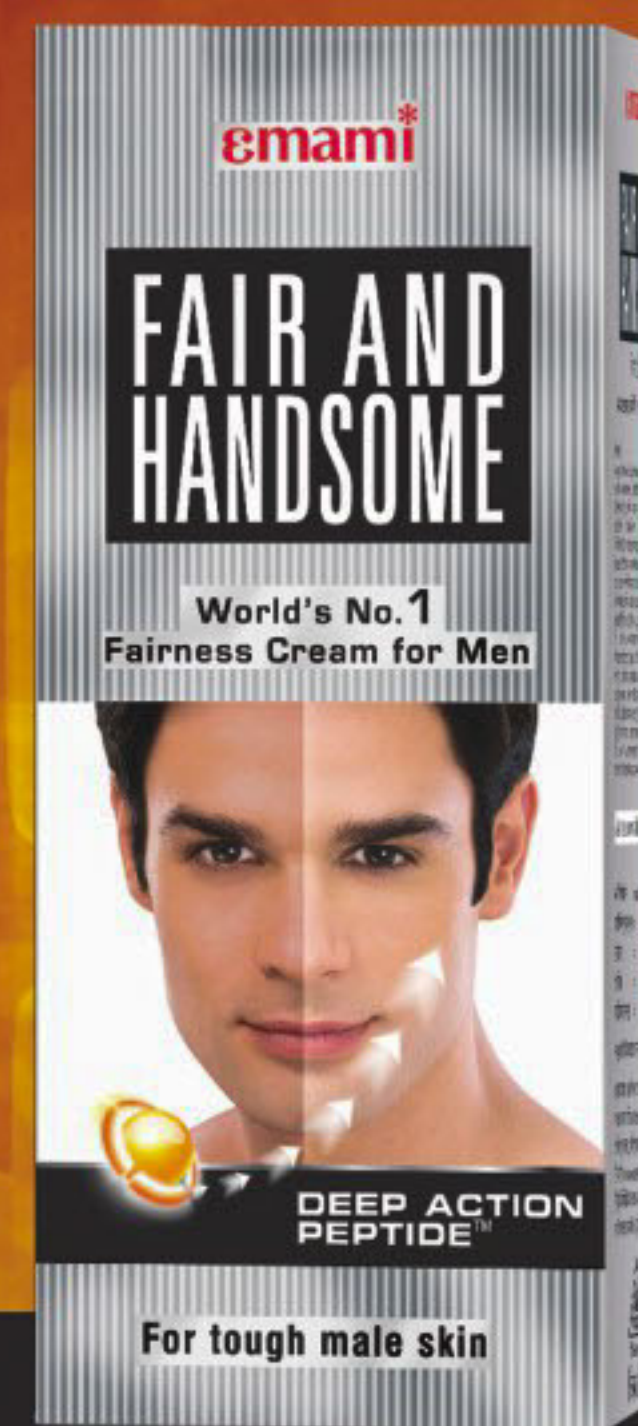
**ONE YEAR WARRANTY**

ফেয়ার এন্ড হ্যান্ডসাম  
কারণ পুরুষদের চাই  
বেশি

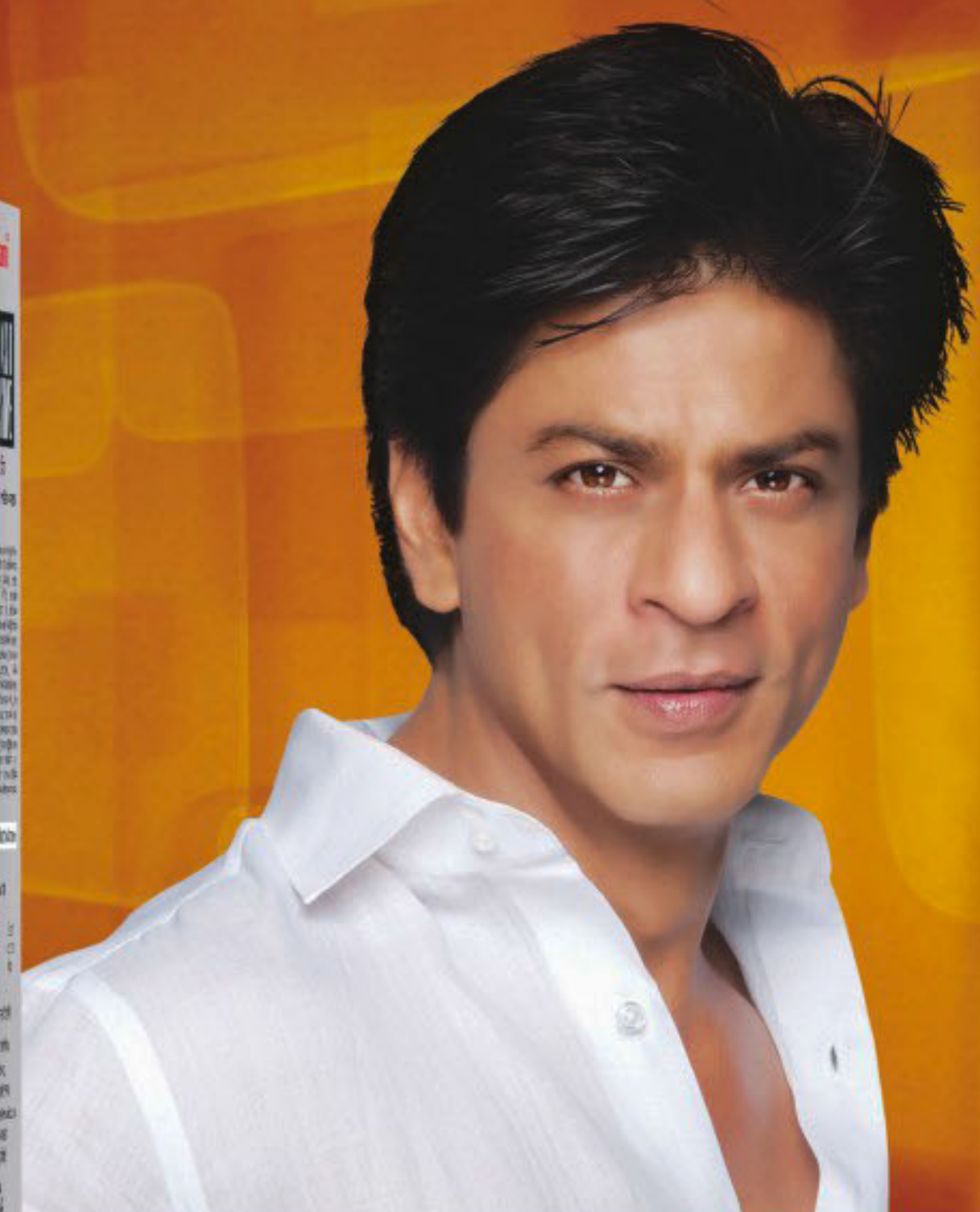
- বেশি স্কিন ময়েশ্চারাইজেশন
- বেশি ডার্ক স্পট রিডাকশন
- বেশি সান প্রোটেকশন
- বেশি সোয়েট কন্ট্রোল
- বেশি ফেয়ারনেস

আপনাকে করে আরো

বেশি হ্যান্ডসাম



For tough male skin



পুরুষদের জন্য  
বিশ্বের ১নং ফেয়ারনেস ক্রিম