

# SPORT

## Tigers loving it in Kiwiland

SPORTS REPORTER



With waves crashing in the background and the sound of the sea breeze substituting for the catchy song, the members of the Bangladesh cricket team completed the mannequin challenge at the Ruakaka beach in New Zealand yesterday, enjoying a rare day off ahead of the gruelling tour that is set to begin with the first warm-up game against a New Zealand XI in Auckland on Thursday.

The mannequin challenge is a viral Internet video trend where people remain frozen in action like mannequins while a moving camera films them, usually with the song "Black Beatles" by Rae Sremmurd playing in the background.

In the video posted by Taskin Ahmed on his Facebook page, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and co are seen frozen in their poses -- some good, some bad and some downright hilarious. For example, the concept of the mannequin challenge may have to be

explained one more time to the likes of Tanveer Haider and Taijul Islam; the former clearly looked up just when the camera focused on him, while the latter was blinking away.

There were also some interesting poses from Test skipper Mushfiqur Rahim and Taskin himself, poses the duo might want to reconsider if they ever want to be featured in slightly more rarefied surrounds, such as say the Madame Tussauds wax museum.

If you have not seen the videos, please scan the QR code provided with this article or visit <http://www.thedailystar.net/sports/cricket/frozen-tigers-mannequin-challenge-1332226>.

Taskin also added another video (which you will also find in the link and code), in which the young and bubbly fast bowler took flash interviews of his teammates at the beach, most of whom were busy taking selfies of themselves. It offers a rare view of the Tigers away from the public eye and having fun among themselves.



Taking advantage of a day off before their tour of New Zealand starts in earnest, the Bangladesh cricket team took the drive up from Auckland to Ruakaka beach where they had a fun day out yesterday taking the mannequin challenge, posing for selfies and this picture, which Taskin Ahmed posted on his Facebook page with the caption 'Family...!'

## Nair after Sobers and Simpson

### India post record 759-7 declared

AFP, Chennai



Karun Nair cracked a brilliant triple century as India took total control against England in Chennai on Monday, posting their highest-ever Test score.

Right-hander Nair, who finished on 303 not out, reached the landmark with a boundary before India declared their first innings on a huge 759 for 7 for a lead of 282 in the fifth and final Test.

England ended the day on 12 without loss, with skipper Alastair Cook (three) and Keaton Jennings (nine) at the crease, and a day's play still to survive to secure a draw.

The day belonged to 25-year-old Nair, who had previously never scored a century for India but battled through three sessions to frustrate England's bowlers on a flat pitch.

Nair was playing in just the third Test match of his career. He recorded his maiden century in the morning session before expertly converting it into a double and then a triple in the evening.

He became only the third batsman to convert a maiden Test hundred into a triple century, joining the elite company of West Indies' Garry Sobers (365 not out) and Australia's Bob Simpson (311).

Nair's knock came off 381 balls and was laced with 32 fours and four sixes. He reached the feat with a cut shot off Adil Rashid and raised his helmet to a standing ovation.

Nair, who started the day on 71, shared three hundred-plus partnerships with Rahul, Ravichandran Ashwin (67) and then Ravindra Jadeja (51).

His 181-run sixth-wicket partner-

ship with Ashwin stood out as India registered their highest-ever innings score of 759, surpassing their 726 against Sri Lanka in December 2009.

Earlier in the day debutant England all-rounder Liam Dawson, who ended with two scalps, got his first Test wicket with his left-arm spin.

Dawson, who scored an unbeaten 66 in England's first innings, pinned Murali Vijay in front of his stumps and he was given out lbw.

India have already secured the series with a 3-0 lead.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 477

INDIA: First innings 759 for 7 decl (Rahul 199, Patel 71, Nair 303 not out, Vijay 29, Ashwin 67, Jadeja 51; Broad 2-80, Dawson 2-129)

ENGLAND: Second innings 12 for no loss (Cook 3 not out, Jennings 9 not out)

#### KARUN AND INDIA'S EPIC

Karun Nair is only the third batsman in Test history to convert his maiden Test century into a triple hundred. Sir Garfield Sobers of West Indies (365 not out against Pakistan, Kingston 1958) and Australia's Bobby Simpson (311 against England, Manchester 1964) are the two other players.

Although his 303 not out is lower than both Sobers and Simpson's maiden tons, he has far bettered the former greats in the number of Tests he needed to compile his epic; he did it in just his third Test while Sobers needed 17 and Simpson 30.

Nair is the second Indian to score a Test triple hundred, after Virender Sehwag, who reached the mark twice in his career.

India's 759 for seven is their highest ever Test score, beating the 729 for nine at Mumbai in December 2009. It is also the highest total ever conceded by England, beating the 751 for five West Indies scored against them at St. Johns in April 2004.



India's Karun Nair celebrates his scintillating triple century against England on the fourth day of the fifth and final Test in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Eng security plans leaked

CRICINFO, Chennai

The England management have been left concerned and unimpressed after the security plans for their stay in Chennai were found on a public computer.

The plans, which included the details of which hotel rooms the players were in and how many staff were on guard on each floor, were found by an England supporter saved on the desktop of a publicly accessible computer in the lobby of a different hotel. It also contained details about the plain-clothes officers on duty and the location of officers on nearby rooftops overseeing the surrounding area.

The document, named "Bandobust", was a Chennai Police Operational Order addressed to the Joint Assistant Commissioners of Chennai Police. It was not password protected.

The supporter immediately alerted the England team who took the issue up with the local authorities.

## Pakistan fall just short of history

AFP, Brisbane



Australia prevented a world-record, 490-run chase by Pakistan on Friday to win a gripping first Test by just 39 runs and preserve their 28-year unbeaten streak at Brisbane's Gabba ground.

Relieved skipper Steve Smith ran out Yasir Shah for 33 to take the last wicket and end Pakistan's brave attempt to reel in the mammoth target on the last day of the day-night Test.

"I think I lost all my fingernails. Some game of cricket, wasn't it?" said Smith.

"A lot of credit has got to go to the way they played. But I thought our bowlers stuck at it all day, we bowled a lot of overs, our quicks just kept coming back."

The highest ever successful Test run chase of 418 for seven was set by the West Indies against Australia in Antigua in 2003.

And Pakistan looked on course to beat that on the back of Asad Shafiq's magnificent knock of 137, but he was caught shortly before Yasir's run out.

His superb innings came to an end when a Mitchell Starc lifter came off the shoulder of his bat and lobbed to David Warner in the gully for the crucial catch.

Man-of-the-match Shafiq faced 207 balls in 336 minutes and hit 13 fours and a six. While he was at the wicket, Pakistan's hopes of a remarkable victory were still realistic.

"That was one of the classiest innings I've ever

seen.... in the context of the game, the way he handled the pressure, playing with the tail. He made a match out of nothing," Pakistan captain Misbah-ul Huq said about Shafiq.

"As a skipper, I'm happy to see the team playing like that, chasing 490 in the last innings after being out for 142 in the first innings. That was wonderful and that sets the tone for the series. At the moment, I could not explain how happy I am for the guys, especially for Asad," said



Pakistan batsman Asad Shafiq despairs after getting out for a magnificent 137 that took his country close to a famous win on the fifth day of the first Test against Australia in Brisbane yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## V-Day sports

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP, POLICE RUN RIOT Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan (BKSP) and Bangladesh Navy got off to flying starts in the Marcel Victory Day Hockey tournament on the opening day at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

BKSP secured a 11-0 victory against Chandgaon Sporting Club of Chittagong in the opening match of the six-team tournament while Navy notched a 13-1 win against Bangladesh Police in the day's second match.

BGB, ANSAR IN HANDBALL FINAL Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Bangladesh Ansar will play in the men's final of the Victory Day Handball Tournament at the National Handball Stadium today while BJMC and Bangladesh Police will play the women's final on at the same venue today.

In the men's group, Ansar beat Quantum Foundation by 37-33 goals while BGB outplayed Police by 34-19 goals.

In the women's group, Police notched a 16-5 goal victory over Handball Training Centre while BJMC secured a 33-18 goal win against Bangladesh Ansar.

## NCL resumes today, asking to be noticed

SPORTS REPORTER



The focus will be on New Zealand, where the Tigers are now preparing to play a full series, starting with a limited-overs practice match on December 22. It is to be expected that the national heroes will hog the spotlight, especially as they are in a position to take the country's cricket to new heights.

However, when the country's first-class competition, the National Cricket League (NCL), resumes today at four different venues across the country, it deserves the attention of the country's cricketing authorities because although the national team may be the final destination, the first-class competition is the womb for future cricketers. Former captain turned national selector Habibul Bashar aptly said: "The National Cricket League is the base of our cricket."

In the fourth-round encounters, Khulna will take on Barisal at BKSP, Dhaka and Dhaka Metro lock horns at Fatullah, Rangpur face off with Chittagong at Sylhet while Rajshahi meet Sylhet at Bogra.

Bangladesh cricket recently saw the arrival of some brilliant new talent, with Mustafizur Rahman and Mehedi Hasan Miraz definitely shining brightest among them. Talent-wise, one can easily say that Fizz is a little freakish but still he had some experience of playing first-class cricket while many, including veteran left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak, believes that the confidence in Miraz has developed through exposure to first-class cricket.

"Longer-version cricket is nothing new to Mehedi as he has played in the National Cricket League for the last few seasons with

utmost sincerity, so he had every chance to make his presence felt in the Test arena," was the comment from Razzak after Miraz took a five-for on debut against England in October.

So it is important to keep a close eye on the competition, which will resume after a two-month break, even though the national players will not be available for the rest of the competition.

The NCL had been postponed after three rounds due to rain. They had to push the remainder of the league after the Bangladesh Premier League. The postponement of the NCL came at a time when calls for better first-class cricket were being made in Bangladesh. Even after Bangladesh's historic Test victory against England, Bangladesh Test captain Mushfiqur Rahim advocated for a higher level of first-class competition.

The quality of the tournament or the amount of importance that it receives should not fluctuate with regards to the absence or presence of the national cricketers because it is not a question of glamour; the question instead is whether the competition is taking place in a proper manner and under the proper conditions.

It had been a long-standing desire from different quarters that the first-class competition should be played on sporting wickets and that some grassy pitches should be prepared so that our cricketers can become accustomed to the movement when they play in different conditions abroad.

Conditions have improved a little over the last few seasons but everyone is looking forward to seeing matches played on sporting wickets and even on grassy wickets as the weather is now fantastic and the pitches have gotten enough rest.

## Proud in defeat

AFP, Karachi



Former Pakistan greats on Monday hailed the team's remarkable fightback in the first Test against Australia, saying Misbahul Haq's charges had made the country proud even in defeat.

Pakistan fell 39 short of a mammoth 490-run target on the fifth and final day of the Test, with Asad Shafiq scoring a magnificent 137 at Brisbane.

"Great fightback by Pak in Brisbane led by gutsy Shafiq," he tweeted. "There is no shame in losing when the team fights till the last ball. They have made us proud," said former Pakistan captain Imran Khan.

"The Brisbane pitch became easy on the last two days so it suited batsmen but one must praise Pakistan's fightback because they almost did what no team has achieved before," said Javed Miandad.

"It's very rare that Pakistan loses like this, they fought hard and fought till late and it left Australians sweating," said fast bowling great Wasim Akram.

"The way Pakistan have fought will put them in good stead for the next two Tests and Australia will know that they have fight at hands."

#### HIGHEST FOURTH INNINGS TOTALS

Team	Opposition	Score	Venue/Date	Target
England	South Africa	654/5	Durban, Mar 1939	696
New Zealand	England	451	Christchurch, Mar '02	550
South Africa	India	450/7	Johannesburg, Dec '13	458
Pakistan	Australia	450	Brisbane, Dec '16	490

the Pakistan captain.

"There is energy, we have to go for the match here, so that's what I was aiming for, for the match," said Shafiq after the match.

Shafiq's tremendous innings enabled Pakistan to post their highest fourth innings total, surpassing their previous best of 382 for three to beat Sri Lanka in Pallekele last year.

The victory, in the first day-night Test at the Gabba, extended Australia's unbeaten record to 28 Tests at the venue since their last defeat in 1988.

It was also Australia's second straight win after Test series defeats to Sri Lanka and South Africa this year prompted a team shake-up.

Australia have now won all three of the pink-ball Tests they have played at home over the last 12 months.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 429

PAKISTAN: First innings 142

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 202 for 5 decl

PAKISTAN: Second innings 450 all out (Azhar 71, Younis 65, Shafiq 137, Sarfraz 24, Amir 48, Riaz 30, Shah 33; Starc 4-119, Bird 3-110, Lyon 2-108)

Result: Australia won by 39 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Asad Shafiq.

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