



I think we need to win. I think we need to focus on what are the good things we have done yesterday [Thursday]. At the same time, we want to continue the good things and finish off the series on a good note. We started 2018 on a very good note and will look to finish the series tomorrow [today] on a positive note so that we can all have our Christmas and New Year gifts.

**SUNIL JOSHI**  
BANGLADESH SPIN BOWLING COACH

# Spinners expected to lead the pack

SPORTS REPORTER



After an incredible batting display which helped Bangladesh post their highest ever T20I score on home soil, the spinners played a key role to ensure the 36-run victory over the current T20 World champions -- West Indies -- in the second T20I and level the three-match series 1-1 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Thursday.

Captain Shakib Al Hasan's figures of five for 21 runs, his career-best in T20Is, speaks for itself while the impact made by the other two spinners -- Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Mahmudullah Riyad -- on a cold night with dew playing its role, can be fully understood when their economy rate and the number of boundaries conceded are taken into account.

Out of the 15 boundaries and six sixes struck by West Indies, only one boundary and a six were struck off Miraz's overs while Shakib was the victim of a six hit by Nicholas Pooran before the star all-rounder took his wicket off the very next ball.

The three spinners -- Shakib, Miraz and Mahmudullah -- accounted for seven of the Windies wickets and their miserly economy rate of 5.25, 7.6 and 3 respectively proves their vital role in restricting West Indies.

After hailing Shakib for his incredible performance, Miraz and Mahmudullah were also rightly acknowledged by Bangladesh spin bowling coach Sunil Joshi.

"Of course it's the bowling unit which actually matters, not only the fast bowlers, the spinners also matter. Mehedi got a crucial wicket, Riyad came in and chipped in."

Going into the series-decider today, Bangladesh will be banking on their spinners yet again to yield a positive result to clinch the T20I series.



Bangladesh coach Steve Rhodes (C) got hold of pacers Mustafizur Rahman (R) and Mohammad Saifuddin outside the team hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Following tame performances in the first two T20Is against West Indies, Rhodes surely advised the two to pick it up in the final match today.

# Fifth round yields no result

SPORTS REPORTER



It was a given that the two fifth round Bangladesh Cricket League matches between North Zone and Central Zone at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi and South Zone and East Zone at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura, would end in draws as both matches rolled onto the field from the second day due to inclement weather halting the first day's play at both venues.

However, North's Sunzamul Islam made a huge impact as he ran riot with a five-wicket haul on the final day against Central. Sunzamul's six for 103 runs helped North bundle out Central on 294 runs even though the latter had started the day in a commanding position -- a three-run lead with nine wickets in hand. Central opener Saif Hassan was the left-arm spinner's first victim, adding only nine runs on the day as he scored 75 runs off 160 balls before being trapped in front. The other overnight Central batsman Abdul Majid was the next one to fall after scoring 54 runs. After that, Central kept losing wickets at regular intervals and eventually ended the innings with 294 runs on the board.

In reply, knowing that the match could in no



**SUNZAMUL ... 6 for 103**

SCORES IN BRIEF	
<b>EAST ZONE V SOUTH ZONE</b>	
EAST ZONE: First innings 262 for 8 decl and second innings 159 for 5 decl (Rony 58, Ashraful 54; Mahedi 3-60)	
SOUTH ZONE: First innings 175 for 8 decl and second innings 132 for 5 (Mahedi 39 not out; Reza 2-37)	
<b>Result:</b> Match drawn.	
<b>NORTH ZONE V CENTRAL ZONE</b>	
NORTH ZONE: First innings 146 and second innings 113 for 3 (Junaid 47, Farhad 33 not out; Taibur 1-12)	
CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 294 all out (Saif 75, Nazmul 67, Majid 54; Sunzamul 6-103)	
<b>Result:</b> Match drawn.	

way yield a result, North scored a total of 113 for the loss of three wickets in the remaining 30 overs of the day. Opener Junaid Siddique top-scored for the side with a 79-ball 47-run knock.

It was the same story between South and East in Bogura as that match also ended in a draw as expected. South started the day with 136 runs for three on the board but could only add 39 more before declaring on 175 for eight, 87 runs behind East's first innings total.

Coming in to bat, East also declared after posting 159, riding on two quickfire innings from Rony Talukdar (58 runs off 39 balls) and Mohammad Ashraful (54 runs off 37 balls) in just 21.5 overs with a staggering run-rate of 7.28.

Chasing a 247-run target, South finished the day with the board reading 132 for five as the match eventually ended in a draw.

## BD, WI fined for slow over-rates

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh and West Indies have been fined for slow over-rates in their second T20I in Mirpur, which Bangladesh won by 36 runs on Thursday.

The ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees fined Bangladesh as the side was found to be one over short of its target when time allowances were considered while the Windies were two overs short.

In accordance with Article 2.22.1 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Players Support Personnel, players are fined 10 per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time, with the captain fined double that amount.

As such, Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan has been fined 20 per cent of his match fee while his players received 10 per cent fines.

West Indies skipper Carlos Brathwaite was fined 40 per cent of his match fee while his players received 20 per cent fines. Both captains pleaded guilty to the offences after the end of the match and accepted the proposed sanctions.

# I had the opportunity to stop it: Smith

AFP, Sydney



Disgraced Steve Smith admitted Friday he failed as a captain by turning a blind eye to the ball-tampering scandal and said it has been hard watching from the sidelines as Australia struggled in the aftermath.

The former skipper is still serving a one-year ban from the international and domestic game for his part in the incident that rocked the cricket world, in which sandpaper was used to try and rough up the ball in South Africa.

Asked what went on in the changing rooms at Cape Town before Cameron Bancroft attempted to cheat, he said: "For me in the room, I walked past something and had the opportunity to stop it and I didn't do it and that was my leadership failure."

"It was the potential for something to happen and it went on and happened out in the field," he added.

"I had the opportunity to stop it at that point rather than say, 'I don't want to know anything about it'."

"And that was my failure of leadership. And, you know, I've taken responsibility for that."

Speaking to the media in Australia for the first time since he broke down in tears at a press conference following the scandal in March, Smith said it was the only incident of ball-tampering that he knows about.

"In any game you play you want the ball to try and move, but obviously you want to do it in a legal way," he said.

Widely considered among the finest batsmen in the world today, Smith admitted there had been "dark days" as he grappled with his fall from grace.

But with his suspension running out at the end of March, Smith now can see light at the end of the tunnel and is desperate to return, with the World Cup and the Ashes next year in his sights.

"I'm just moving forward day to day, and doing what I need to do to prepare to hopefully get another opportunity to play for Australia," he said.

"And if that's World Cup and Ashes, so be it. And no doubt the English crowd will be incredibly hostile. I'm ready for that, if that happens."



I think we need to cooperate with the batsmen and as we witnessed they [Bangladesh] attack in the power-play. So we have a plan for that now which we would like to execute and probably it will work for us to win the game. We will definitely go out there tomorrow [today] and give 110 per cent and look for a victory to win the series.

**KEEMO PAUL**  
WEST INDIES ALL-ROUNDER



(Anti-clockwise) Shakib Al Hasan endured quite a topsy-turvy year. The star all-rounder suffered a finger injury in a tri-nation encounter with Sri Lanka at home in January and underwent surgery in September. He made brief comebacks, and was always on top, capping things off with a match-winning performance in the second T20I against West Indies on Thursday where he scored 42 runs and took five wickets for 21 runs.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

# Still Shakib stands tall

MAZHAR UDDIN



As Bangladesh take on the West Indies in the series deciding third T20I today, bringing an end to an action-packed calendar year, the one man that stands out in the Tigers' ranks in terms of performance across all formats is Shakib Al Hasan.

It has not been smooth sailing, though, for the champion all-rounder as he suffered a debilitating injury to the little finger on his left hand during the final of the tri-nation ODI series against Sri Lanka at home in January, which eventually forced him to miss four Tests, five ODIs and three T20Is in various patches.

Despite missing those matches, Shakib still managed to remain among the top five Bangladeshi performers across all formats this year, with the only exception being the top run-getters' list in Tests where he finished sixth.

Since missing out on the two-match Test and T20I series against Sri Lanka in January, the left-hander was called up in the middle of the Nidahas Trophy in March where he played two matches including the final.

Shakib then took part in the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan in Dehradun in June and went to the Caribbean in July where he made a

2018 RECORDS OF BANGLADESHI PLAYERS									
MOST WICKETS IN TESTS					MOST RUNS IN TESTS				
Player	Matches	Wkts	Ave		Player	Matches	Runs	Ave	100/50
Tajjul Islam	7	43	22.97		Mominul Haque	8	673	44.86	4/0
Mehedi Hasan Miraz	8	41	22.12		Mushfiqur Rahim	8	490	35.00	1/1
Shakib Al Hasan	4	17	19.35		Mahmudullah Riyad	8	476	39.66	2/1
MOST WICKETS IN ODIs					MOST RUNS IN ODIs				
Mustafizur Rahman	18	29	21.72		Mushfiqur Rahim	19	770	55.00	1/5
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	20	26	31.00		Tamim Iqbal	12	684	85.50	2/6
Shakib Al Hasan	15	21	26.80		Shakib Al Hasan	15	497	38.23	0/5
Mehedi Hasan Miraz	15	18	29.72		MOST RUNS IN T20Is				
MOST WICKETS IN T20Is					Mahmudullah Riyad	15	403	36.63	0/0
Mustafizur Rahman	12	18	22.88		Mushfiqur Rahim	15	396	33.00	0/3
Rubel Hossain	11	13	28.46		Liton Das	13	290	22.30	0/2
Shakib Al Hasan	10	12	19.08		Shakib Al Hasan	10	248	27.55	0/2

comeback in the longer version during the two-match Test series. While the Tigers were humbled in the Test series, they won both the ODI and T20I series, with Shakib leading from the front with both bat and ball.

Despite regaining full fitness, the 31-year-old, who played four games in the Asia Cup, had to go under the knife so as to not let his injured finger get any worse and then he travelled to Melbourne for further consultation.

After missing out on the two-match Test and three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe at home, Shakib made another comeback against the West Indies and immediately broke into the

record books after the first Test in Chattogram.

The all-rounder became the first Bangladeshi cricketer to take 200 wickets and became the fastest to complete the double of 200 wickets and 3000 runs, achieving the feat in one Test less than Ian Botham's long-standing record of 55. The all-rounder also bagged the man-of-the-series award in that series.

The Tigers went on to clinch the three-match ODI series, and Shakib was again instrumental before he almost singlehandedly gave his team a series-leveling win in the second T20I on Thursday, thanks to a maiden five-for and 42 runs.