



Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan scored a 69-ball 51 to help post a challenging 263-run target for Afghanistan in Southampton yesterday. The star all-rounder then returned with the ball to pick up five wickets for 29 runs from ten overs.

PHOTO: AFP

Classical Shakib trumps the new age

SPORTS REPORTER *from Southampton*

With the pitch at Southampton being a slow one, on which Afghanistan's spin trio of Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Mohammad Nabi had bullied the famed Indian batting lineup on Saturday, there was fear of how Bangladesh would fare against the same trio on the same wicket.

It was not the hard-to-pick, fast googlies of Rashid, nor the carrom balls of Mujeeb that won the day. It was the guile, loop and arm balls of Shakib Al Hasan that was the main difference at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton yesterday. Those are all old-fashioned tools and so do not garner much attention.

Yesterday, on a wicket that resembled Shakib's beloved Mirpur more than it did any English surface, Shakib truly came into his own.

When given a wicket where the ball will grip and his subtle changes of pace, allied with the unerring accuracy he employed, Shakib has the ability to make even the best batsman struggle. That is not to say that Shakib has been markedly less effective in other matches as he has performed the dual role of wicket-taker and run-stopper, much as he does with bat and ball.

Whereas he used the same tools to stifle the runs in the matches other than the one against Australia, yesterday Shakib knew that the batsmen cannot just play him like a slow-medium bowler. With the pitch taking turn, his arm-balls become lethal, as Mohammad Nabi found out

'Our team is capable enough'

ICC

Shakib Al Hasan is making history look easy at this World Cup but the all-rounder knows his fine form must continue if Bangladesh are to make the semifinals.

The all-rounder hit 51 and then took a five-for in their 62-run win over Afghanistan yesterday which kept them in contention to catch England in the top four.

Shakib has now passed 400 runs and taken ten wickets in the same World Cup – a feat never before achieved by an all-rounder at this tournament.

But personal achievements are not the priority for the 32-year-old, who has passed 50 every time he has batted this summer, except for against Australia when he made a run-a-ball 41.

"I don't rank my performance at all, but it is very satisfying when I'm contributing with both ball and bat rather than just in one sector," he said. "It was needed and important from my perspective and the team."

"Luckily I have been doing this, I am very happy with the way the tournament is going, but there are still two very important matches. India are the top side, someone who is looking at the title, it is not going to be easy but we will give it our best shot."

"Experience will help, we have to play our best cricket to be able to beat India. They have

He is the world No.1 all-rounder so he has a lot of experience. He took his time in the middle with the wicket when he batted. He batted really well and also bowled really well according to the plan. The wicket was not turning that much, especially for Bangladesh's bowling, but he bowled in the right areas. He bowled in the right spots and that's why he got the wickets.

Afghanistan skipper Gulbadin Naib



got world-class players who can take the match in their own hands. We have to be at our best but I believe we are a capable enough team.”

The win at the Ageas Bowl on Monday owed

The win at the Ageas Bowl on Monday owed

much to a patient batting performance.

In addition to Shakib, keeper Mushfiqur Rahim also notched a half century to get them to 262 for seven – and Afghanistan were then knocked over for 200.

"To be honest, we thought we had enough runs on the board. It wasn't a wicket where teams could score 300-350, we knew it was always going to be difficult," he added.

"They have three quality spinners and we had to handle them well. That is why we managed 262, our target was to bat 50 overs and get 240 as a minimum.

"I thought it was good thinking, we wanted to bat the overs and if we got more we would take that as a bonus. That gave us enough, to go out there and bowl Afghanistan out."

Bangladesh's final two games in this tournament are against India and Pakistan, and both must be won if they are to catch England and secure a place in the knockout stages.

"England have got three more matches and need to win one," Shakib continued. "We have two and have to win both. It is difficult mathematically but that's cricket, anything can happen."

"It will be tough but we have belief that we can play well and get the result. That is all we can do and then we have to look at the other results."

RAHIM STEEL



Shakib Al Hasan continued his terrific run in the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup as the champion all-rounder once again remained instrumental for the Tigers with both bat and ball against Afghanistan yesterday. The left hander struck his fifth fifty-plus total in the flagship event, scoring 51 off 69 balls on a pitch which was tough for batting against the heavily equipped Afghan spin attack. The fact that Shakib struck just a single boundary during his fifty reflects the amount of responsibility the experienced cricketer took during the innings. He along with Mushfiquur Rahim added a 61-run third wicket stand, which laid the foundation for a challenging 262 for seven total in fifty overs. Shakib was also on top with his left-arm spin as the southpaw remained economical while providing a breakthrough for Bangladesh when he picked up the wicket of Afghanistan opener Rahmat Shah before going on to scalp another four wickets.

STRATOSPHERIC SHAKIB

- Shakib Al Hasan becomes the only player to score 1,000 runs and take 30 wickets in World Cup history.
 - With yesterday's fifer, Shakib Al Hasan became the first Bangladeshi man to take a five-wicket haul in a World Cup match.
 - His figures of 5-1-6-3 are the best bowling figures for Bangladesh in World Cups and are the best bowling figures in the 2019 World Cup.
 - The only other player who scored 50-plus runs and took a five-wicket haul in the same World Cup match was Yuvraj Singh against Ireland in the 2011 edition. Shakib joins Yuvraj and Kapil Dev as the only players to have scored a century and claimed
- a fifer in a World Cup.
- After yesterday's performance, Shakib has the most wickets and most runs by a Bangladeshi in World Cups. He also climbed to top of the run-getters' list in this World Cup.
 - Shakib became the only player with 400+ runs and 10 wickets in a World Cup.
 - Shakib became the first player in World Cup history to score two centuries and claim two 4-wicket hauls. Both centuries came in this edition while on fifer came against New Zealand in 2015.
 - Shakib also became the first Bangladeshi to win three player-of-the-match awards in World Cups.
- 
- A photograph of Shakib Al Hasan in his Bangladesh cricket uniform, batting during a match. He is wearing a green jersey with 'BANGLADESH' written on the front, green trousers, and a green helmet. He is in a batting stance, holding a bat with both hands. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.



Karnaphuli

ROAR AGAIN TIGERS

RENAULT
Passion for life

Bangladesh beat India
in World Cup 2007
at Trinidad, West Indies

Showroom: HR Bhaban, 26/1, Kakrail Road Dhaka. Cell: 01777765001, 01777765010,
sales.renault@karnaphuli.com, Website: www.renault.com.bd

f t in Renault Bangladesh