



SPORTS REPORTER

However, Shakib's hopes of Bangladesh reaching the 'next level' in Tests unfortunately never materialised as the Tigers' trajectory in the format trended downhill, with only a few achievements in between.

SPORTS REPORTER

"The squad is very excited and everyone is looking forward to tomorrow's match. I think it's a completely different wicket. It's completely different to what it was four years ago. It looked a better wicket to me and I think it will be

"It will be a very good thing for Bangladesh cricket. At this moment, it seems like we are playing so much cricket but not with a big number of players. But within a year and a half, a lot of players will come up because of injuries and that it will help us. If they start performing, then there will be a healthy competition," Shakib added.

Even in his second stint as Test skipper, which also began with Tests away to West Indies in 2018, Shakib saw Bangladesh suffer a horrible whitewash. In that two-Test series, Bangladesh were bundled out for just 43 in Antigua – still their lowest total in a Test innings.

It is at the same ground in Antigua that Shakib will begin his third stint as the Test captain. And the premier all-rounder will definitely be hoping to banish those dreadful memories and help Bangladesh go to the ‘next level’ as he had hoped back in 2009.

SPORTS REPORTER

The wicketkeeper-batter will leave for Antigua on June 17 and will be available for the second Test which begins in Saint Lucia on June 24.

[illegible]