

Bangladesh record first Test win over Australia

DHAKA, Aug 30 /-/ Bangladesh spun their way to a first Test victory over Australia on Wednesday, with Shakib Al Hasan's second five-wicket haul of the match securing a memorable 20-run win inside four days at the Shere Bangla National Stadium. Overnight batsman David Warner struck a belligerent 112 and added 130 runs with skipper Steve Smith but their efforts were in vain as the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. Chasing 265 to win, Australia lost five wickets in an eventful morning session, and whatever hopes they had were snuffed out when Shakib bowled Glenn Maxwell with the first delivery after the lunch break. Pat Cummins scored an unbeaten 33 down the order to inject some drama but it was not enough in the end as Australia were all out for 244. Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim was delighted to record the country's first victory over Australia. "Obviously a great day for Bangladesh, Australia," he said at the presentation ceremony. "A great effort by the boys, especially Shakib and Tamim (Iqbal) were outstanding," he said of the duo, who featured in a 155-run partnership to rescue Bangladesh from a top order collapse in their first innings. Shakib (5-85) celebrated his 50th Test appearance by scoring 84 in the first innings and finishing with a 10-wicket match haul, a performance worthy of his status as the world's top-ranked Test all-rounder. He was the obvious choice for Man of the Match. Resuming on 109-2, Warner batted with calculated aggression, while Smith was content to play second fiddle as they continued the good work they had started on Tues-



Bangladesh celebrate their maiden Test win over Australia

day evening with some generous assistance from Lady Luck. Warner survived a review before the southpaw brought up his 49th Test century, a second in Asia. Then, when the opener was on 106, he pulled a Shakib delivery and the ball flew past leg-slip before the fielder could put his hands together. Smith was on 29 when Tamim spilled him at mid-on but Shakib was lurking round the corner with his left-arm spin to change the complexion of the match. Shakib first trapped Warner leg-before for 112 and, four overs later, had Smith caught behind for 37 to pile the pressure back on Australia. On a turning track where their frontline batsmen had struggled against Bangladesh's three-pronged spin attack, Peter Handscomb, Matthew Wade and Ashton Agar fell in quick succession prior to lunch. Cummins hit a couple of sixes in his aggressive innings but ran out of partners after Tajul Islam trapped Josh Hazlewood leg-before. Smith said falling to pile up runs in the first innings had made their job tougher.

"It was a great Test match, credit to Bangladesh the way they played," he added. "We probably let ourselves down in the first innings with the bat, probably should have made a few more there. It was pretty difficult batting here in the second innings and I thought we did pretty well to get 240 in the end." Australia will slip one place to fifth in the Test rankings even if they level the series by winning the second Test in Chittagong from Monday. A second defeat would see them lose another place.

A 'triple hundred' for Dhoni as India look to consolidate lead



India's captain Virat Kohli (c) celebrates with his teammates Kedar Jadhav and Shikhar Dhawan, ahead of their fourth One Day International match against Sri Lanka —REUTERS

COLOMBO, AUG 30 /-/ Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be the cynosure of all eyes as he gears up for his 300th ODI with a marauding India ready to tighten the noose around beleaguered Sri Lanka in the penultimate encounter of the five-match series, here tomorrow. And there is a good opportunity for the former India captain to come up with a memorable performance in his milestone match since Sri Lanka have hardly come across as respectable rivals in the lop-sided series. Considered one of the greatest finishers in 50-over cricket, Dhoni will join India's elite 'Club 300', which has Sachin Tendulkar (483), Rahul Dravid (344), Mohammed Azharuddin (334), Sourav Ganguly (311) and Vuvraj Singh (304). Dhoni should be in fine fettle after playing a significant role in bailing out the team in back-to-back tricky chases against the hosts, slowly falling apart. The unbeaten knicks of 45 and 67 under pressure is a proof that he is still not finished and his eyes are firmly set on the 50-over World Cup of 2019. From being a world class finisher to playing a

second fiddle to Rohit Sharma and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Dhoni has added another dimension to his game. Although one can't dismiss the fact that a rag-tag Sri Lanka bowling attack, save mystery spinner Akila Dananjaya, has failed to keep up the pressure on Dhoni and Co. after making initial inroads. The series already sealed with an unassailable 9-0 lead, Virat Kohli's next aim would be to give a chance to players who have only warmed the benches so far such as Kuldeep Yadav, Manish Pandey, Ajinkya Rahane and Shardul Thakur.

Kohli himself had a couple of low scoring games and he would look to get back to scoring some more runs along with KL Rahul, who has not exactly looked comfortable in an unfamiliar No. 4 position. The only man who would feel a bit of pressure is Kedar Jadhav after successive ducks. More than the two blocs, what will bother the Jadhav is the fact that he is unable to read Dananjaya's deliveries. In the first match, he was fooled by a googly and in the second match,

he misread the length, trying to go for a sweep shot. It will be interesting if the team management decides to give Pandey a go instead of Jadhav. The only thing that can save him is his flat off-breaks, which gives Kohli an additional bowling option. Jadhav has picked three wickets in the series so far. Pacer Thakur has looked sharp in the nets but Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah have only played three matches and would not like to take rest. The India captain has already hinted that he wants to rotate players and chinaman Kuldeep may get a look-in. In that case, either Yuzvendra Chahal or Axar Patel will make way while India has some 'happy problems' to deal with, Sri Lanka are in deep trouble, trying to field a potent first XI. To begin with, the selection committee headed by Sanath Jayasuriya has resigned. Sri Lanka Cricket has accepted their resignation. However, they will continue to hold office until the end of this series but there will be intense spotlight on their selection decisions as has been the case for a while now. Lack of consistency has been a key element of this Jayasuriya-led committee's selection process. They have picked 40 players in ODIs in the past year alone, and the same merry-go-round can be foreseen ahead of this fourth match as well. Dinesh Chandimal has been ruled out of the series with a hairline fracture on his right thumb after enduring a hit in the previous ODI. To add to their headache, stand-in skipper Chamara Kapugedara has been ruled out of the remainder of the series as well, owing to an aggravated back injury (he received medical attention whilst batting during the third ODI). Lasith Malinga will lead the side in the fourth ODI, with suspended captain Upu Tharanga expected to handle the reins in the final ODI on September 3 as well as the solitary T20I on September 6. Dhyanjaya de Silva and Dilshan Munaweera have been added to the squad as covers. They also have Thisara Perera and Wanindu Hasaranga on the bench. Whether the back-to-wall, volatile situation inspires a fightback remains to be seen though.

TEAMS

India: Virat Kohli (c), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey, Ajinkya Rahane, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Shardul Thakur.

Sri Lanka: Lasith Malinga (c), Dhyanjaya de Silva, Dilshan Munaweera, Lahiru Thirimanna, Angelo Mathews, Niroshan Dickwell (wk), Kusal Mendis, Milinda Siriwardena, Malinda Parnell, Akila Dananjaya, Lakshan Sandakan, Thisara Perera, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera, Vishwa Fernando, Upu Tharanga (for fifth ODI). (PTI)

Match starts at: 2.30pm IST.

Sri Lanka steps up security after crowd trouble

COLOMBO, AUG 30 /-/ Sri Lanka will deploy unprecedented security for Thursday's fourth one-day international against India to prevent a repeat of crowd trouble which broke out following a humiliating defeat for the home side, police said. Some 1,000 additional police will be deployed at the 35,000-seat capacity Premadasa Stadium in Colombo while CCTV cameras will be used to monitor the crowds, police said in a statement. "Any spectator who throws any bottles or projectiles at the players will be immediately arrested," they said. Large number of fans lobbed bottles and other missiles and disrupted play for 32 minutes as Sri Lanka headed for their one-day international series defeat to India last Sunday. Soon after play resumed

at Pallekele with police evicting the rowdy supporters. India went on to record a six-wicket win. Sri Lanka's chief cricket selectors, who resigned en masse on Tuesday, said they were heartbroken when crowds turned against the team. "The heartbreaking incidents of unruly behaviour we witnessed at Pallekele last Sunday were the last straw for us," they said in a statement Wednesday explaining their decision to quit. On August 24 Sri Lankan players had to remain inside the dressing room until police cleared hostile crowds after the team lost the second ODI by three wickets. The ODI series loss came hard on the heels of India's Test series whitewash of Sri Lanka on home soil. Selectors have borne a fair share of recent criticism, with Sri Lanka's

World Cup-winning skipper Arjuna Ranatunga accusing them of 'fucking' T20 cricket. The latest losses only compounded the misery for the national side, which suffered a humiliating ODI home series defeat against bottom-ranked Zimbabwe and bowed out early from the Champions Trophy in England. They have also been beset by injury to batsman Dinesh Chandimal ruled out of the remaining ODIs with a thumb injury and Chamara Kapugedara also likely to miss the matches. Fast bowler Lasith Malinga is expected to lead Sri Lanka in the next game. Sri Lanka will play the remaining two ODI matches against India this Thursday and Sunday, and a one-off Twenty20 match against the visitors on September 6.

All India Railways Bridge Championship concludes



(Left to right) S N Agrawal, General Manager, South Eastern Railway handing over the Champions Trophy to the Winners Eastern Railway in the 40th All India Railways Bridge Championship organized by South Eastern Railway Sports Association at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach today. S N Agrawal, General Manager, South Eastern Railway handing over the Runners Up Trophy to South Eastern Railway Team in the 40th All India Railways Bridge Championship organized by South Eastern Railway Sports Association at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach today—EOI Pkts

GM, SER gives away prizes

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, AUG 30 /-/ The 40th All India Railways Bridge Championship organized by South Eastern Railway Sports Association concluded today at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach. In the Team Event, Eastern Railway emerged champion while South Eastern Railway bagged runners up. The third position was secured by Central Railway. In the Board-A-Match Event, South Eastern Railway secured 1st position while Metro Railway and Eastern Railway secured 2nd and 3rd respectively. In the Open Pair Event, Chittaranjan locomotive Works (CLW) bagged 1st position while Eastern Railway secured 2nd and 3rd positions. S. N. Agrawal, General Manager, South Eastern Railway graced the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest and gave away prizes to the winners. General Manager, Mr Agrawal while encouraging the Railways' sportsmen, said that they have done exceedingly well especially in the various

National and International Tournaments. Railways sports persons have got many laurels for the country, General Manager added. The participating teams in the 3-day Championships were South Eastern Railway, Central Railway, Eastern Railway, Metro Railway, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and Kolkata Port Trust. Altogether 50 players from various Zonal Railways, Production Unit and Kolkata Port Trust took part in this tournament. The prominent players who represented Eastern and South Eastern Railways were Rana Roy, Amarnath Banerjee, Paiban Agarwal, Debashree Bose, Bijit Datta & Sayantan Kushari (ER), Subir Kr. Mazumdar, Sandip Datta, Hasibul Hasan, Prambh Roy, Biswanath Saha & Subhasish Sarkar (SER), Anirban Datta, Addl. General Manager, Zarina Firdausi, Chief Personnel Officer of S E Railway along with other Senior officers and Sports lovers attended the programme. Debabrata Roy Chowdhury, Director, West Bengal Bridge Association conducted the 3-day Tournament.