



**WELLINGTON:** Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan waves to the crowd as he walks from the field after being bowled during day two of the first international Test cricket match between New Zealand and Bangladesh at the Basin Reserve. — AFP

## SHAKIB DOUBLE CENTURY CRUSHES NEW ZEALAND

**WELLINGTON:** Bangladesh hammered New Zealand with a double century by Shakib Al Hasan in a record-breaking second day of the first Test in Wellington yesterday. But they kept declaration plans after reaching 542-7 on day two, and New Zealand insisted they were still in the game. Shakib scored a Bangladesh innings record of 217 and captain Mushfiqur Rahim added 159 in a 359-run stand, which set a record for any Bangladesh partnership. Mushfiqur described the tourists' position as "really satisfying".

"Let's see," was his message to New Zealand when questioned whether a declaration was likely overnight. "That's one job done but there's still three days to go. Anything's possible," he said, adding Bangladesh were determined to erase their nightmare build-up to the Test when they lost all six one-day and Twenty20 matches.

Shakib called his seven hours at the crease "one of proudest days" of his career as he moved up to second on the list of prolific Bangladesh batsmen with 3,146 to his name behind Tamim Iqbal's 3,405. He said he did not realize he had broken Tamim's record for the highest Test innings by a Bangladesh player until he reached 207 and saw the opener stand and applaud in the stands. "I thought his score was 214 but when I ran that single and saw Tamim was clapping I thought OK—the highest."

### Black Caps still hopeful

But as Bangladesh bathed in the glory of dominating the first two days of the Test, and blasting 388 runs at nearly four an over on the second day, New Zealand fast bowler Tim Southee refused to accept a result for the home side was out of the question.

"They've come out and played extremely well after losing the toss and they've played in an aggressive manner," he said, indicating the Test could go down to the wire on the fifth day. "We'll come back with a plan of hopefully knocking these (last three wickets) over and then trying to go as big as we can." Shakib and Mushfiqur both fell in the final session after setting Bangladesh up for their 542, which is the third-highest first innings at the traditional bowl-first Basin Reserve in its 59-Test history.

With the wind and rain that disrupted day one out of the picture, New Zealand had early success in the fourth over when Mominul Haque fell for 64 and honours were even with Bangladesh at 160-4. But for the next 82 overs Shakib and

Mushfiqur were in command as they batted at nearly 4.4 an over and with an element of luck.

Shakib was dropped on four by Mitchell Santner late on the first day and dropped by Ross Taylor on 189. He survived a tight appeal on 137 when wicketkeeper BJ Watling took what appeared to be a sensational diving catch down the leg side only for replays to show he briefly grounded the ball on hitting the turf.

It was Wagner who eventually claimed the wicket when a tired Shakib chopped an attempted cut onto his stumps. Mushfiqur had a heart-stopping moment on 78 when an inside edge off Trent Boult brushed the stumps but the bails stayed on and the ball went through to the boundary. Boult eventually claimed his wicket with a wide delivery that Mushfiqur attempted to drive but succeeded only in edging to Watling. Wagner was the most successful New Zealand bowler with three for 124 while Boult had two for 121 and Southee two for 144. — AFP

## WADE TON HELPS BEAT PAKISTAN IN 1ST ODI

**BRISBANE:** Matthew Wade hit a thrilling last-ball century to set up a 92-run victory for Australia over Pakistan in the first one-day international at the Gabba yesterday. Wicketkeeper Wade boosted Australia to 268 for nine off their 50 overs after the batting top order had slumped to 78 for five. Seamer James Faulkner then took four wickets for 32 to help Australia dismiss Pakistan for 176 off 42.4 overs.

Pakistan were well placed with Australia five down in the 17th over before Wade and Glenn Maxwell (60) put on 82 runs for the sixth wicket to push on. The tourists could not put any pressure on the Australians in their innings with skipper Azhar Ali injuring a hamstring and Babar Azam topscoring with 33. Mohammad Amir struck early with the key wickets of adventurous opener David Warner and skipper Steve Smith with successive balls to have Australian rocking at 13 for two in the fifth over.

"It was challenging at the top, it was swinging and seaming around," man-of-the-match Wade said. "Maxi (Maxwell) took the pressure off me, and I was just looking to get him on strike. I was absolutely cooked (by the last over). Wade, who has been under pressure to score runs after a lean spell, hit seven fours and two sixes in his knock for his first ODI century.

### Quirky best

Maxwell was at his quirky best with reverse sweeps and improvised stroke-making in his 60 off 56 balls with seven boundaries before he was out to a false shot. Maxwell was dismissed in the 31st over with Australia at 160 for six when he attempted to flick Hasan Ali over mid-wicket only to hit the ball with the high part of his bat and dolly an easy catch to Mohammad Hafeez.

Pakistan soon struck trouble in their innings losing the free-scoring Sharjeel Khan for 18 off 22 balls, falling to Faulkner. Skipper Azhar Ali injured a hamstring and retired hurt only to return in pain and try and help his side late innings before he became another Faulkner victim for 24. "It's a bit sore, but hopefully it will recover soon," Azhar said. "The physio will have a better look and see how far I can get. Hopefully I can take part in the next game."

Babar Azam, batting at No.4, top scored with 33 off 46 balls before he edged to Steve Smith at slip off Pat Cummins. "We thought from five down for 78 we can get them out early, but unfortunately it didn't happen," Azhar said. Smith said Australia paid for being in too much of a hurry at the top of their innings. "It was a pretty average start. We were in a bit of a hurry, to be fair," Smith said. "I thought Matthew Wade played an exceptional innings. 270 was around par, it was a bit of a slow wicket. "We bat all the way down. Mitchell Starc is batting at No. 10 at the moment. We've got a long order. The second match in the five-ODI series will be played in Melbourne tomorrow. — AFP

## DHONI: TEAM WILL SEE SUCCESS UNDER KOHLI

**PUNE:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni, widely seen as Indian cricket's best captain, said yesterday the team would do even better under his replacement, Virat Kohli, days ahead of a limited-overs clash with England. Kohli had a squad of young players and fast bowlers that could produce an unprecedented run of wins, Dhoni said in his first comments to the media since stepping aside from captaining the limited-overs side earlier this month. Kohli took over, becoming the skipper in all three formats of the game.

"You look at the kind of talent they have got and at the same time the age group they are in," Dhoni told reporters in Pune, where the hosts will meet England in the first of the three one-day international series tomorrow. "If everything goes well they have the potential to plan for the next 10-12 years if not more ... We have a pool of fast bowlers who can bowl well in any conditions." Dhoni rose from the cricketing backwaters of India's Jharkhand to lead the game's most passionately-followed team, before quitting test cricket in late 2014.

The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman has captained

India to the three International Cricket Council trophies - the 50-over World Cup, the World Twenty20 and the Champions Trophy.

"This team has the potential to do well in all formats irrespective of where we are playing ... When it comes to winning games, they should win games more than any other captain or team has won," Dhoni said.

Dhoni said he never believed in multiple captains and he had made up his mind long back to hand over the reins to Kohli, who replaced him as test captain earlier. "I am somebody who believes... split captaincy is something that doesn't really work," Dhoni said. "I always believed that with the Indian team, one player leading the team in all formats is something very crucial.

"It was something that was always in my mind. Virat took over the test captaincy and I wanted him to have some time over there and then get into the full captaincy role. He was always ready." India are already the world's top-ranked test side, second in the shortest Twenty20 format and third in the 50-over version of the game. — Reuters