

## Raina's captaincy was uninspiring

Sunil Gavaskar, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2010

India faces a tough task to qualify for the final of the tri series in Zimbabwe and by the time you get to read this you will know if they have beaten Sri Lanka again and have given themselves a good chance of getting into the finals. They have been inconsistent alright and with the batting not really clicking; apart from Rohit Sharma it has been tough for the rest of the team. Suresh Raina in his first essay as skipper has got some things right and some not so correct but that is what you would expect from a first time captain. What is important is that he is a keen learner and looking to do better than his previous match and that is always a good attitude to have. The problem is with those who are happy and content with what they have done and are not looking to improve. There is always room for improvement in life and not just in sport.



In England, Bangladesh put up a better than expected show and took the hosts into the final day of the test match. With some more application in batting by the middle and lower order and with a bit of sensible bowling in the second innings they could have got away with a draw which would have been an achievement indeed. Tamim Iqbal's century in the second innings was a terrific effort and he had good opening stands in both the innings which unfortunately did not get the support from the others which otherwise would have made a huge difference to the result. The two opening stands should put into perspective the excitement that England supporters are feeling at the wickets taken by Steve Finn in the match. He is a really tall bowler who though not express in speed is nippy and gets bounce with his height. The Brit media consumed as they are with the ashes that takes place later in the year are already talking about how the Australians are quaking in their boots about the prospect of facing Finn. That is laughable since if he was that good then Bangladesh should not have got off to the starts in both innings that they did in the first test. It is one thing bowling in the cool climes of England where the English ball swings a lot more and quite another to bowl in the hot temperatures of most Australian grounds and the hard pitches there too. Not to forget the kookaburra balls which lose its hardness after a dozen or so overs and the seam becomes virtually nonexistent. Still if he can maintain his progress then he will take wickets and make the ashes a little more exciting.

While the Aussies will not be too worried about Finn at the moment they will keep an eye open for Jonathan Trott who has shown a liking of playing long innings and though he did not have a great test series in South Africa on similar pitches, he is the kind of gritty customer that is hard to dislodge once he gets in. His double century in the lord's test makes him the CEAT Cricketer of this Week.