

## **Tendulkar was as sublime as only he can be**

28<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Sunil Gavaskar

IT's been a week of some truly memorable cricket. The narrow win for India in Jaipur, the fight back by Bangladesh against New Zealand and then the unforgettable double century by Sachin Tendulkar, the first ever in the history of one day internationals!

The Bangladesh team having played a tough series against India showed that they weren't going to be pushovers and though their bowling hardly made a mark, the batsmen showed determination to hang in at the crease. What Bangladesh needs to do is get over sentimentality and look at performers and not the past.

Mohammad Ashraful has played some terrific innings in the past but these innings come once in a few years and not as consistently as they should for a batsman of his ability. It is quite simply a matter of temperament as he throws it away time and again. It is here that Shakib Al Hassan has shown why he is such a fine cricketer. He got a gutsy hundred in the second innings having missed out on a ton in the first innings by only 13 runs. He had support from Mahmudullah who also has the makings of a fine cricketer but for some strange reason bats at number eight for Bangladesh. He was left stranded short of a maiden Test century against India, but got it in New Zealand and that too when his team was down in the dumps.



In India, the hosts squeezed to a narrow win off the last ball in the first one dayer but came back strongly to win the next one by a big margin. That was thanks to some brilliant batting from Sachin Tendulkar who became the first batsman to get to a double century in limited overs internationals. It was truly awesome and with Dhoni joining him in the final assault, the 400 was reached off the last ball off the innings.

Dhoni was brutal as he smashed the ball to all corners with that strong bottom hand of his, while Tendulkar played sublimely as only he can. There was hardly any competition to the master as he with his 200 is the CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.