



# Tamim breaks silence with triple ton



334\*

Balls: 426  
Minutes: 585  
4s: 42  
6s: 3

Tamim Iqbal is congratulated by captain Mominul Haque and other teammates as the left-hander walks back to the pavilion after a record-breaking triple hundred on the third day of the BCL first-round match between Central Zone and East Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. With a mammoth unbeaten 334, Tamim broke Rakibul Hasan's record for the highest individual score -- 313 unbeaten -- in Bangladesh's first-class cricket. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SPORTS REPORTER

The last time Tamim Iqbal spoke to the media was during the three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka in July last year, when he led Bangladesh in the absence of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. Since then, a long time has passed without the dashing left-hander interacting with the media.

Tamim was ruled out of action during the following series and did not even speak to reporters upon his return to cricket during the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League. He opted to maintain his silence after the first phase of the tour to Pakistan last month, where his strike rate in the three-match T20I series was widely criticised.

But the 32-year-old finally broke his silence yesterday after a rather special achievement as Tamim registered the highest individual score by a Bangladeshi in first-class cricket. He was unbeaten on

334 before East Zone declared their first innings on a mammoth 555 for two on the third day of a Bangladesh Cricket League match against Central Zone.

Tamim became the second Bangladesh player to register a triple hundred after Rakibul Hasan, who was actually the first one to congratulate him on the field after the left-hander took a single off Shuvagata Hom to reach the milestone. Tamim did not stop there and went on to surpass Rakibul's record for the highest individual score, set at 314, which the right-hander had proudly claimed for over twelve years.

All eyes were on Tamim after he resumed the third day on 222 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The southpaw, who played with a rather attacking approach to reach his double ton the previous day, remained calm and watchful while approaching his triple hundred.

There were celebrations upon his return to the dressing room as Tamim was given a guard of honour from his

teammates.

A jubilant Tamim later said that he had never imagined he would score a triple hundred.

"It's a special feeling to score a triple hundred because I never imagined I

It's not about how many runs I scored, the most pleasing was the way I batted. I am happy but I hope I can continue like this," Tamim told reporters yesterday.

Tamim who struck 42 fours and three sixes on his way to reach the

proper cricketing shots. The left hander also informed that he didn't even think of reaching triple hundred until he reached 280 runs as it might have hampered his mindset after the way he was building his innings.

"Scoring 300 against any opponent at any level of cricket is special. It's very difficult. If it was easy then you might have seen someone scoring a triple hundred every month. It will have a very special place in my heart for sure," Tamim said.

The cricketer from Chattogram also made fun of Rakibul, saying that he might have been praying for Tamim to be dismissed on 299. However, he did praise his former national teammate for being first to the feat.

Tamim also spoke about complaints that national-team players were not keen on playing domestic cricket. According to Tamim, national players have to play a lot of matches round-the-year in international cricket and it is important that they are given enough rest.



As a player you will always want your record to remain right on top all the time and from that point, I also felt the same. But still I am happy to see Tamim finally break the record since the way he batted was something tremendous.

RAKIBUL HASAN  
CENTRAL ZONE BATSMAN

## TOP FIVE INNINGS IN FIRST CLASS CRICKET

PLAYER	RUNS	TEAM	AGAINST	SEASON
Tamim Iqbal	334*	East Zone	Central Zone	2019-20
Rakibul Hasan	313*	Barisal Division	Sylhet Division	2006-07
Nasir Hossain	295	Rangpur Division	Barisal Division	2017-18
Marshall Ayub	289	Central Zone	East Zone	2012-13
Mosaddek Hossain	282	Barisal Division	Chittagong Division	2014-15

would score a triple hundred. Everyone dreams of it but I never thought it would happen in this game. The most important thing for me was how I batted.

milestone where he faced 426 balls and spend over nine hours at the crease and according to the left hander, he tried to keep things simple and played

## Riyad, Nafees and Shamsur tons set up South Zone

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Tamim Iqbal's triple hundred for East Zone in the match against Central Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur and a treble of tons from South Zone's Shahriar Nafees, Shamsur Rahman and Mahmudullah Riyad at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium against North Zone marked day three of the National Cricket League yesterday.

Tamim carried on from his unbeaten 222 yesterday to register the highest individual score in Bangladesh's first-class cricket with an unbeaten 334 -- only the second batsman from Bangladesh to hit a triple hundred in Bangladesh following Rakibul Hasan's unbeaten 313 in the 2006 season -- during a 585-minute stay at the crease over two days.

The opener, who had starred in a 296-run partnership with Mominul Haque on the second day, yesterday combined in an unbroken 197-run partnership for the third-wicket with Yasir Ali, who was on 62 as East Zone

declared at 555 for two after lunch. The triple century also saw Tamim enter the seven thousand-run club in first-class cricket.

Central Zone lost three top-order batsmen in Saif Hassan, Soumya Sarkar and Nazmul Hossain -- the latter hitting a team-high 54 -- before reaching 115 for three at stumps with East Zone firmly on top with a 227-run lead. East Zone's Nayeem Hasan bagged the wickets of Saif and Nazmul to finish with two for 36 while Abu Jayed bagged one wicket for 13 runs.

South Zone were in a similarly dominant position after the third day. Opener Shahriar Nafees starred in a 206-run stand with Shamsur Rahman for the second-wicket before the former fell after a 251-ball 111, having entered the eight thousand-run club. Shamsur Rahman reached his ton before falling one over later for a 218-ball 109. Anamul Haque, who had retired hurt on the second day, came back to the crease to partner Mahmudullah Riyad. The duo upped the scoring-rate, notching a 110-ball 155-run partnership for the fourth wicket, with Riyad hitting an unbeaten

70-ball 100 laced with eight fours and five sixes. Anamul scored a 59-ball 64 before South Zone declared at 398 for three. Mizanur Rahman and Rony Talukdar took North Zone to stumps without losing any wickets, trailing by 432 runs.

Despite the flurry of runs on batting-friendly pitches yesterday, it will be a tough ask for North Zone and Central Zone batsmen today to rescue the game with both East Zone and South Zone firmly on top with big leads.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**CENTRAL ZONE:** First innings 213 and second innings 115/3 in 40 overs (Saif 33, Nazmul 54; Nayeem 2-36)

**EAST ZONE:** First innings 555/2d in 139.5 overs (Tamim 334 not out, Yasir 62 not out; Mukidul 1-71)

**SOUTH ZONE:** First innings 262 and second innings 398/3d in 102 overs (Nafees 111, Shamsur 109, Mahmudullah 100 not out; Ariful 2-51)

**NORTH ZONE:** First innings 207 and second innings 22/0 in 6 overs (Mizanur 15 not out, Rony 7 not out)

## India sweep series

AFP, Mount Maunganui

India hailed their "winning habit" as they rallied to pull off a dramatic seven-run win over New Zealand in the fifth and final Twenty20 at Mount Maunganui on Sunday to sweep the series.

New Zealand looked on course for a consolation win until India engineered a collapse that saw six wickets fall for 25 runs with Jasprit Bumrah finishing with an impressive three for 12 off his four overs. It was the third consecutive game the tourists had successfully fought back when New Zealand were in a position of strength.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**INDIA:** 163 for 3 in 20 overs (Rahul 45, Sharma 60 rtd hurt; Kuggeleijn 2-25)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** 156 for 9 in 20 overs (Seifert 50, Taylor 53; Bumrah 3-12)  
**Result:** India won by 7 runs & clinched 5-match series 5-0.  
P-o-m: Jasprit Bumrah.  
P-o-s: KL Rahul.

## Tigresses off to Australia

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The Bangladesh women's team flew for Australia yesterday to take part in the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup. The Tigresses will conduct a 11-day conditioning camp before starting their official ICC pre-World Cup campaign.

Bangladesh will play five warm-up matches in Australia before beginning their World T20 campaign proper when they face India on February 24 in Perth.

The Tigresses will then take on hosts

Australia in Canberra on February 27. Salma Khatun and her troop will face New Zealand in Melbourne on February 29 and then Sri Lanka on March 2 at the same venue.

"We lack in our batting department specially against spinners. We worked on that and also on our fielding. We batted against male bowlers in the nets so overall, we are prepared well. On top of that we are travelling early and this will help us cope with condition," said Bangladesh all-rounder Jahanara Alam yesterday.



Bangladesh cricketers board the team bus in Mirpur yesterday prior to their departure for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Australia. PHOTO: BCB