



'A little patience would have been good'

SPORTS REPORTER

The key word from Bangladesh top-order batsman Nazmul Hossain Shanto after the first day's play where the visitors were bundled out for just 233 runs against Pakistan in the first Test in Rawalpindi was 'patience.'

Despite losing both openers Tamim Iqbal and Saif Hasan inside the second over of the day, Nazmul, skipper Mominul Haque and Mahmudullah Riyad all got the starts but were unable to convert into a big partnership.

It was Mohammad Mithun who struck the only fifty in the Bangladesh innings as the visitors fell apart against a quality Pakistani bowling attack led by Shaheen Shah Afridi, who bagged four wickets.

I think they bowled well throughout the day. Although the pitch was good, their bowlers showed good patience and kept bowling in one area. I think from that point our batsmen made some mistakes and if we had a little more patience, it would have been good for us.

NAZMUL HOSSAIN SHANTO
BANGLADESH BATSMAN

Nazmul, who was the second highest run-getter with 44, pointed to a lack of patience from the Tigers' batsmen while praising the patience of the Pakistani bowlers, which made the difference.

"I think the score could have been better. I think we managed to come back well after losing a few early wickets. Me, alongside Mominul Haque, had a good partnership. I think we should have converted those partnerships into big ones. What I am saying is if we were able to convert those small partnerships into big ones it would have been good for us.

"I think they bowled well throughout the day. Although the pitch was good, their bowlers showed good patience and kept bowling in one area. I think from that point our batsmen made some mistakes and if we had a little more patience, it would have been good for us," said Nazmul.

The left-hander kept saying that if they are able to bat well in the second innings there would still be a chance for Bangladesh to make a comeback in the Test match. However, that raised the question of what Nazmul was basing his confidence and optimism on. "The starts of the innings from our batters gives the confidence that we will be able to play well in the second innings."

The left-hander was also asked whether the Test match would go till the fifth day and Nazmul said that it was important for Bangladesh to bat well in the second innings. The 21-year-old also added that the Tigers need to bowl well to bundle Pakistan out for a small total.

A defeat in this match would make it six Test losses in a row for Bangladesh, who lost all five Tests in 2019.



BANGLADESH: First innings 233 all out (Nazmul 44, Mominul 30, Mahmudullah 25, Mithun 63, Liton 33, Tajjul 24; Afridi 4-53, Abbas 2-19, Sohail 2-11)



Nazmul Hossain Shanto looked very composed before he was dismissed after a 110-ball 44. Like Shanto, a number of batsmen got starts on the first day of the Rawalpindi Test against Pakistan yesterday. However, they failed to capitalise on the starts as Bangladesh were bowled out for 233 in 82.5 overs. (Inset) Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, who picked four wickets, remained the biggest thorn on the Tigers' path.

PHOTO: AFP

The final step of a long journey

SPORTS REPORTER

It has long been the dream of the fans of a cricket loving country like Bangladesh to see their team playing in a World Cup final. And come February 9, the dream will turn to reality, thanks to the Akbar Ali-led Bangladesh Under-19s, who made history by being the first ever Bangladeshi side to qualify for an ICC event final after they defeated their New Zealand counterparts by six wickets in the ICC Under-19 World Cup semifinal on Thursday.

Akbar and Co have done what the batch of Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan or the one of Mehedi Hasan

Miraz and Mosaddek Hossain were not able to do. The reason behind this batch's success is simple -- togetherness.

"This team and the ones who are managing it have been together for the past one and a half years. We played in England, New Zealand and then played home and away against Sri Lanka and then England came and played against us at home. During this time, you will see that almost 13 players were with the side throughout. So, everyone here, starting from players and management, everyone knows their role very well," said Hannan Sarkar, who has been the under-19 selector for the past two years.

This under-19 side was put together by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) back in September 2018 with the sole aim of

preparing the lot to represent the country in the 2020 U-19 World Cup. Since then, the team played a total of 30 youth ODIs, winning 18 of them and had the second-highest win percentage, just behind India, for youth teams that have played 15 or more games.

For Sarkar, who has seen the batch putting up excellent performances in the last year, it was not a surprise to see Mahmudul Hasan Joy playing a matured need-of-the-hour 127-ball 100 in the semifinal.

"As I said, everyone in this team knows their roles. Joy's is to play the anchor role. And this knock coming from Joy was nothing extraordinary or anything to be surprised by as he has been doing it

Everyone in this team knows their roles. [Mahmudul Hasan] Joy's is to play the anchor role. And this knock coming from Joy was nothing extraordinary or anything to be surprised by as he has been doing it regularly for the side.

HANNAN SARKAR
SELECTOR BANGLADESH U-19



The Bangladesh Under-19s, who have been playing together with almost an unchanged squad for more than a year, have even got their dance moves synchronised.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Three tons and a Taskin fifer

SPORTS REPORTER

While the national players in Rawalpindi were struggling to score runs, the scenario at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium Academy Ground in Cox's Bazar yesterday was the opposite. Three of the South Zone batsmen smashed tons against East Zone on the opening day of the second round of the ongoing Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL).

Powered by centuries from Anamul Haque, Nurul Hasan and Mahedi Hasan, South Zone finished the day on top, scoring 443 for six before the day's play ended prematurely due to bad light. Things however did not look so bright for South Zone at the start. The BCB-run team lost three wickets very early in the innings and were struggling at three for 16 after six overs. Al-Amin and Anamul did start the rebuilding process but Al-Amin's departure in the 15th over after a 30-ball 18 again put South Zone in a spot of bother.

It was then a 190-run fourth wicket stand between Anamul and Nurul followed by another 175-run fifth wicket stand between Nurul and Mahedi that changed the whole complexion of the game. Anamul laced his 155-ball 129 with 14 boundaries and four maximums before falling to a run-out in the 58th over. Mahedi was even more gutsy and aggressive as the 25-year-old, who had made a name for himself for big hitting in the last Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League while playing for Dhaka Platoon, smashed 10 boundaries and eight maximums during his quick-fire 85-ball 112. Meanwhile, Nurul was a bit more calm and collected, evidenced by his unbeaten 155 off 220 balls.

In Sylhet, it was pacer Taskin Ahmed's fifer that helped North Zone bundle out Central Zone for 170 before North Zone went on to score 89 for three at the close. Taskin, who picked up three quick wickets in his opening spell that had Central Zone reeling at four for eight after 5.2 overs, ended with figures of five for 54 in 14 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH ZONE: First innings 443 for 6 (Anamul 129, Nurul 155 not out, Mahedi 112; Rejaur 3-79)

EAST ZONE:

CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 170 all out (Rakibul 70, Shuvagata 21, Jaker 19, Arafat 25 not out; Sakil 2-35, Taskin 5-54)

NORTH ZONE: First innings 89 for 3 (Rony 19, Junaid 47, Naeem 18 not out; Arafat 1-8, Shuvagata 1-1)

SHORT CORNER

Rain stops SA-Eng game

Rain interrupted South Africa's innings after just 6.3 overs in the second one-day international against England at Kingsmead in Durban on Friday.

South Africa were 38 for 1 when play was halted as the rain returned. Reeza Hendricks was unbeaten on 24 with Temba Bavuma two not out. --AFP

Sachin likens Marnus to himself

Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar paid Australian batsman Marnus Labuschagne the ultimate compliment on Friday, singling him out as the player most like himself.

Labuschagne emerged from nowhere to become Test cricket's leading scorer last year with 1,104 runs, including 896 since November -- beating the great Neil Harvey (834) for the most scored by an

Australian in a five-Test summer.

None of this may have happened if Labuschagne had not grabbed his chance as a concussion substitute for Steve Smith during Australia's Ashes campaign in England last August.

He made the most of the opportunity, reeling off four consecutive half-centuries and finishing the Ashes with 353 runs at 50.42, before an incredible summer series against Pakistan and New Zealand.

Tendulkar was at Lord's when Labuschagne came on as Test cricket's first-ever concussion substitute and was immediately impressed.

"I saw Marnus getting hit (on the helmet) off the second ball from Jofra Archer and post that, the 15 minutes he batted, I said 'this player looks special, there is something about him'."

"Footwork is not physical, it's mental," he added. --AFP

Jamieson to make debut for NZ

Second ODI against India today

REUTERS, Wellington

Towering fast bowler Kyle Jamieson will make his international debut for New Zealand against India in the second one-day match in Auckland on Saturday, the team have said.

The 2.03m (6'8") tall Jamieson was called into the national squad for the final two Tests against Australia but did not play and was not in the side for the opening one-day match against India in Hamilton on Wednesday.

Bowling coach Shane Jurgensen, who is temporarily in charge of the team with Gary Stead taking a week off, told reporters on Friday that Scott Kuggeleijn would not be considered due to flu-like symptoms.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi's release to play for New Zealand 'A' had also meant Jamieson would make his debut at Eden Park.



"He's obviously a huge man, at 6 foot eight he's quite an imposing sight, so we are looking forward to seeing what he can do," Jurgensen said.

"He's got good skills with the new ball, he's a good athlete and he can bat a bit as well, so has a lot of potential."

Jamieson played three one-day matches for New Zealand 'A' against India 'A' in Christchurch last month where had figures of 0-60, 2-69 and 4-49.

The New Zealand side also received some welcome news on Friday with injured captain Kane Williamson (shoulder) and fast bowler Lockie Ferguson (calf) attending training at Eden Park.

Ferguson's calf strain after bowling just 11 overs in the first test against Australia in Perth last December was the catalyst for Jamieson's surprise elevation to the national squad.

Williamson was ruled out of the first two games of the three-match one-day series because of a shoulder injury he sustained in the Twenty20 matches against India.

New Zealand ended an eight-match losing streak in the first game at Seddon Park with Ross Taylor's 21st one-day century leading them to a four-wicket win.