



Spinner Nayeem Hasan was the pick of the Bangladesh bowlers with four wickets for 68 runs as the hosts clawed back on the opening day of the one-off Test against Zimbabwe despite Craig Ervine's maiden Test hundred as captain at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

Zimbabwe	R/B	4s/6s		
Masvaure c & b Nayeem	64/152	9/0		
Kasuzo c Nayeem b Jayed	2/24	0/0		
Ervine (c) b Nayeem	107/227	13/0		
Taylor b Nayeem	10/11	1/0		
Raza c Hlilton b Nayeem	18/62	3/0		
Maruma lbw b Jayed	7/35	1/0		
Chakabva not out	9/25	1/0		
Tiripano not out	0/0	4/0		
Extras (b-4, lb-4, w-3)	11			
Total (In 90 overs for six wickets)	228			
Yet to bat: Nyauchi, Ndlovu, Tshuma				
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-118, 3-134, 4-174, 5-199, 6-226				
BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Ebadat	17	8	26	0
Jayed	16	4	51	2
Nayeem	36	8	68	4
Tajjui	21	1	75	0

WI survive Thai scare

ICC

Stafanie Taylor's all-round class helped West Indies survive a scare against debutants Thailand in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 opener in Perth yesterday.

Captain Taylor held their Group B opponents to 78 for nine with her three wickets. Captain Taylor and Shemaine Campbelle then stayed firm and their unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership of 53 sealed the seven-wicket win.

In another match, New Zealand (131-3 in 17.4 overs) defeated Sri Lanka (127-7 in 20 overs) by seven wickets in Perth.

'Wanted to grind them out'

SPORTS REPORTER



Zimbabwe's Craig Ervine notched a cool and composed hundred against Bangladesh in a wicket he said was 'surprising'. He marked his debut innings as captain by carrying his side throughout Day One of the one-off Test while the other batsmen failed to apply themselves and play a longer innings.

Runs were hard to come by. In fact, the tourists had not scored their first runs till the sixth over. The Bangladesh pacers started off on the right foot and maintained pressure with Abu Jayed swinging the ball both ways. He soon gave Bangladesh the breakthrough, picking up the wicket of Kevin Kasuza.

From that point on, Ervine carried the innings, finding the right balance between attack and defence and always showing great patience.

"Upfront they bowled very well and they hit the areas. It's Test cricket, it's five days so there isn't any rush to score. To basically grind the opponent out was our plan," he said about the slow build-up and having to come in and settle down before starring in a

Definitely. I think me getting out towards the end tipped the scales a little bit

CRAIG ERVINE
ZIMBABWE CAPTAIN

111-run partnership with Prince Masvaure.

His record against Bangladesh away had not been very uplifting before yesterday. That challenge was made harder after the batting crumbled against Nayeem Hasan late in the day. Ervine held his own, even as he found rotating the strike difficult against some disciplined bowling.

"Any hundred away from home is special. I always struggled a bit in Bangladesh but to be able to play an innings like today, I am obviously very chuffed," he said.

"The wicket was pretty good today and Bangladesh bowled really well and consistently bowled a very tight line. For me it was just a case of being patient and there wasn't too much happening with the wicket but they were hitting good areas. I was just trying to apply myself," he surmised.

Ervine looked like he would carry on till stumps before he was bamboozled by a fine delivery from Nayeem just two overs before stumps. His departure, coupled with Zimbabwe's slow run-scoring, meant Bangladesh had a slight upper hand at the end of day one.

"We would have liked more runs today since we lost six wickets. We're surprised as the wicket was quite good. Generally, in Dhaka, people say they don't expect what's going to happen. I think it was a good wicket and maybe that's why Bangladesh are a bit ahead. We probably lost two or three too many wickets.

"Definitely. I think me getting out towards the end tipped the scales a little bit," he added.

Nayeem ends with a gem

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh team management's mantra to rid the Tigers of their dependency on spin at home was evident as a sporting pitch awaited at the centre of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur during the first day of the first Test against Zimbabwe yesterday.

Although the surface did not offer tremendous assistance to the hosts' bowlers, the Tigers, led by Nayeem Hasan, worked hard and were rewarded for bowling a tight line and length.

The off-spinner bowled a marathon spell of 32 overs at one point and completed a total of 36 overs, ending with four wickets for 68 runs.

Among his four wickets, the scalp of centurion Ervine just before the stumps gave the hosts a thin upper hand as Zimbabwe will resume on 228 for six.

Nayeem made good use of the opportunity after coming into the eleven in place of off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who was dropped for the first time in home Tests since making his debut in 2016.

Miraz, who missed the Tigers' previous Test against Pakistan due to a finger injury, has endured a lean

patch since getting 15 wickets against the West Indies at home in 2018.

Despite the lack of help from the surface, Nayeem showed his mettle by mixing his deliveries with pace, bounce and a certain line and length for major parts of the day.

The cricketer from Chattogram produced the ball of the day to dismiss Ervine as a quicker delivery zipped through the left-hander's tired legs and went through the gate between pad and bat before taking a deflection off his back leg and going on to hit timber.

Nayeem's strategy was simple: bowl consistently at a particular length. He found success by preferring the off-stump line, forcing batsmen to offer shots and waiting for mistakes.

Even earlier, Zimbabwe had found Nayeem to be only threat after opting to bat. The off-spinner dropped a tough return catch from opener Prince Masvaure and was denied a first wicket of the day, but he compensated soon after by taking a sharp catch off his own bowling to dismiss Masvaure and break the 111-run second-wicket stand.

However, Nayeem did not get enough support from the other end from his bowling partner, left-arm spinner Tajjui Islam, who had a tough day at the office and went wicketless during 21 overs that yielded 75 runs.

Nayeem still teased the Zimbabwe batsmen and picked up the crucial wickets of Brendon Taylor and Sikandar Raza cheaply to break through the middle order and give the hosts much-needed momentum.

Nayeem, who came into the game with 21 wickets in the last two Bangladesh Cricket League games for Islami Bank East Zone, believes that bowling long spells in first-class cricket had helped him immensely.

"My plan was to bowl at a certain area and I didn't try to do anything else. I picked up this habit [of bowling long spells] from the National Cricket League [first-class tournament]. I bowled long periods there and learned that bowling in one area can get you success," a soft-spoken Nayeem told reporters yesterday.

Although he came into this match with just four Tests under his belt, Nayeem displayed great maturity and pressed the need for pace variations from the spinners.

"It's important for our spinners to work on pace variations. We are trying to bowl at one line consistently for a longer period," he said.

With the visitors on 228 for six, Nayeem believes it will be important for the hosts to bundle out the opposition quickly when they resume the second day.



Craig Ervine jumps for joy after completing his hundred.

PHOTO: STAR



Our opening match in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup is against India [on February 24]. We defeated India twice in the Asia Cup, but it was long ago. Although we can take inspiration from those wins, we are actually looking forward to playing a new match against India. We have been playing as a unit and skill-wise we have taken good preparation, so we are confident we can do well against India. We will go to the field with an aim to win every match in the competition.

Bangladesh all-rounder **JAHANARA ALAM** exuded confidence ahead of their match against India

Riyad misfires, but South make 305 for 6

SPORTS REPORTER

South Zone rode on a 136-run opening partnership between Fazle Mahmud and Anamul Haque to make a solid start against East Zone in the final of the Bangladesh Cricket League at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Fazle and Anamul appeared to have proved East's decision to bowl first wrong and batted brilliantly, going for lunch at 82 for no loss in 27 overs.

East got the breakthrough when Anamul fell victim to a run out and departed after making 76. Fazle also failed to reach three figures, being removed by spinner Saqlain Sajib. Fazle hit 86 off 155 balls that contained nine fours and two sixes.

The focus was on stalwart Mahmudullah Riyad after the selectors had decided to 'rest' him following his dismal showing in the Rawalpindi Test. But the right-hander failed to make any impact and was removed by Abu Hider after scoring just one run.

Ultimately, thanks to Shamsur Rahman's unbeaten 37 and Mahdei Hasan's 36, South crossed the 300-mark on the opening day with four wickets in hand.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH ZONE: First innings 305 for 6 in 88 overs (Fazle Mahmud 86, Anamul 76; Ruyel 2-58)



Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced yesterday that West Indian star Darren Sammy will be given the country's highest civil award and honorary citizenship on March 23. In a tweet, the PCB's media department said that citizenship will be conferred on Sammy for his "invaluable contribution to cricket in Pakistan". Sammy is currently in Pakistan to participate in the Pakistan Super League 2020, where he is leading Peshwar Zalmi.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ishant helps India claw back

AFP, Wellington



Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor combined to ensure New Zealand held a first innings lead in the first Test against India in Wellington yesterday but the advantage was not overwhelming.

India stayed in the hunt with three wickets in the final session including Williamson for 89 and Taylor for 44 and the wicket was showing early signs of taking spin.

"You always want your best players

to be at the crease. They (Williamson and Taylor) put on a great partnership, both looking nice for a long period of time, but if we can carry on and keep chipping away with the guys to come ... then it will set us up," New Zealand pace bowler Tim Southee said.

"If we can build those partnerships and eke out as big a lead as we possibly can that makes that second innings a little bit easier," he added.

Williamson and Taylor's 93-run stand for the third wicket was enough to lift New Zealand from 73-2 to be ahead of India's 165 before the tourists fight back.

When bad light brought an early end to the day, New Zealand were 216 for five, to lead by 51.

Ishant Sharma, coming back from injury and struggling th jetlag after arriving in New Zealand four days ago, was the pick of the Indian bowlers with three for 31 off 15 overs.

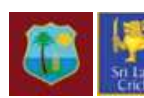
SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 165 all out (Rahane 46; Southee 4-49, Jamieson 4-39)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 216 for 5 (Williamson 89, Taylor 44; Ishant 3-31)

SL win a thriller

AFP, Colombo



A late cameo by Wanindu Hasaranga helped Sri Lanka pull off a thrilling chase to edge out West Indies by one wicket in the first one-day international yesterday.

Hasaranga, known for his leg-spin bowling, hit an unbeaten 42 after coming in to bat at number eight as Sri Lanka chased down their target of 290 with five balls to spare and lead the three-match series 1-0. Hasaranga held his nerve after Sri Lanka slipped to 253 for seven following the departure of Thisara Perera for 32 to register his highest ODI score.

He built crucial partnerships including a 38-run stand with Perera and then put on 27 runs with Lakshan Sandakan for the ninth wicket. With one to get off the last six ball Sandakan was run out but Keemo Paul bowled a no ball.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne and Avishka Fernando put on 111 runs for the opening wicket to lay the platform for what turned out to be the highest successful chase at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

The second match is in Hambantota on Wednesday.



India's Ishant Sharma celebrates the wicket of New Zealand's Tom Latham with teammates in Wellington yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS