



PHOTO: AFP

LET THE CELEBRATION START: Bangladesh debutant off-spinner Mahmudullah Riyad (2nd from L) is being chased by teammates as he runs for joy after having West Indies batsman Ryan Austin (R) dismissed for a duck in the final session of the fifth and final day of the first Test at Arnos Vale in Kingstown on Monday. Mamudullah took five wickets to fashion Bangladesh's first-ever away Test victory.

## After all a win is a win

**Cricket**

BISHWAJIT ROY

Bangladesh landed in the West Indies with the tag of underdogs. But the moment the home side fielded a makeshift team following a boycott by the leading players ahead of the first Test -- the onus shifted to Bangladesh. It virtually left the Tigers with one choice: win the Test or be ready to suffer the blushes.

For the home team, who drafted seven debutants in a hastily assembled squad, there was nothing to lose but a lot was at stake for Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's men. Anything other than a win would only provide enough fuel to the critics who never make the mistake to raise their fingers towards the Tigers at the drop of a hat.

In the end what was refreshing for the cricket-loving people in the country was that a set of young cricketers under a new leader didn't succumb to untoward pressure in Kingstown, St. Vincent to bring more trouble for them after their poor

showing in the five-day game.

So, when they scripted the 95-run victory it was not only their first-ever away Test triumph or only the second success in 60 Tests rather they achieved something more than that.

The victory may not have greeted with the same vigour like in the first Test victory against Zimbabwe in 2005 or some tremendous wins against giants like Australia, India, South Africa and Sri Lanka in the abridged version but still Jamie Siddons' charges deserve some credit.

One may argue that the Tigers should have dominated the proceedings or in other words controlled it from the words go on against a bits and pieces team. Some may also point to the first innings where the Tigers top-order suffered an all too familiar collapse. But if one considers the whole caboodle, it was satisfying in the end. Especially, the way our bowlers showed the aggression to go for the kill. Besides, a win is always a win no matter who the opponents are.

One can't deny the fact that the visitors had to go through nervous moments

before achieving the victory. The reason was the same: the old dismal batting from the top order. And it was the late order act from Mashfiqur Rahim, captain Mashrafe and Shahadat Hossain, which salvaged the complete blushes in the first innings.

But they came back strongly in the second innings thanks to Tamim Iqbal and Zunaid Siddiqui who showed some character to give their team a total to fight.

During his maiden Test hundred Tamim might have showed recklessness but his determination to achieve the magical three-figure mark eventually paid off. He smashed four fours of successive deliveries off Darren Sammy after completing his hundred. It was enterprise but it would have been wise of him to consider not trying to smash every ball for four. Had he been out there for another hour and attempted a couple of odd boundaries in an over, something the best batsman in the world could not have done after just coming into the crease, it would have greatly helped in accelerating the run rate.

Zunaid also showed his patience to

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## Tigers trio fined for appealing

PTI, Dubai

Bangladesh spinner Shakib Al Hasan and fast bowler Shahadat Hossain were fined, while opener Imrul Kayes was reprimanded for excessive appealing during the first Test against West Indies at St Vincent in Kingstown.

In a hearing on Monday after Bangladesh's historic 95-run win over the hosts, ICC match referee Andy Pycroft fined Shakib and Shahadat 10 and five per cent of their match fees respectively.

Pycroft found all the three players guilty of breaching Level 1.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for excessive and prolonged appealing on a number of occasions during the last day of the match.

"The effect of prolonging the appeal is just the same as appealing more than once which means pressurising the umpires," Pycroft said in an ICC statement.

"The partnership was Pakistan's highest for the second wicket against Sri Lanka, surpassing the 151 by Mohsin Khan and Majid Khan at

## Historic win for Lanka

**Cricket**

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka clinched their first home series against Pakistan after the temperamental tourists suffered a spectacular collapse in the second Test here on Tuesday.

Pakistan, sitting pretty at 285-1 just before lunch on the third day, crashed to 320 all out after the break to leave Sri Lanka a victory target of 171 for a decisive 2-lead in the three-match series.

Sri Lanka cruised home by seven wickets with two days to spare, skipper Kumar Sangakkara leading the way with a fluent 46 after opener Malinda Warna made 54.

Of the previous five series between the two nations on Sri Lankan soil, Pakistan had won three and drawn two, but the tourists had only themselves to blame for allowing the hosts to re-write history.

Pakistan's meek surrender against the second new ball came after debutant opener Fawad Alam hit a superb 168 and shared a record stand of 200 for the second wicket with skipper Younis Khan (82).

The partnership was Pakistan's highest for the second wicket against Sri Lanka, surpassing the 151 by Mohsin Khan and Majid Khan at

Lahore in 1982.

The 23-year-old Alam batted for more than six hours to amass the highest score by a Pakistani batsman on Sri Lankan soil, surpassing the 151 by Salim Malik in 1997.

But Pakistan lost their last nine wickets for 35 runs, their third successive collapse in the series that highlighted their reputation as one of the most unpredictable sides in modern cricket.

Pakistan had seen eight wickets fall for 46 runs on the fourth morning of the Galle Test when just 97 more were needed to win the match.

The tourists then crumbled for a paltry 90 in 36 overs on the first day of this Test after electing to bat on a wicket that provided assistance to the seam bowlers.

Sri Lanka did not feel the absence of star spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, out of action with a knee injury, as left-arm slow bowler Rangana Herath claimed 5-99 and seamer Nuwan Kulasekara took 4-37.

"It was a very special win," said Sangakkara, leading Sri Lanka for the first time in a Test series after taking over from Mahela Jayawardene.

"These were two very absorbing Test matches. The key for us was that whenever we needed someone to step up, someone put their hand up.

"Kulasekara and Herath were fantastic. There was not much in the pitch but it shows

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## Victory celebrated

**Cricket**

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladeshi cricket fans braved monsoon rains to stage an early hours celebration, after the national side beat the West Indies to notch up only their second Test win and the first on foreign soil.

Four years and six months after they beat Zimbabwe at home in a Test match, Bangladesh sealed their second victory when they defeated a makeshift West Indies side by 95 runs at Kingstown, St Vincent.

Soon after the match ended at about 3:00 am local time (2000 GMT Monday), hundreds took to the streets to celebrate the victory despite the driving rain.

"Even though there was a heavy downpour, we turned out on the streets to celebrate the joyous occasion," said university student Faozul Kabir. "Such an easy win for Bangladesh was unexpected."

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## No sign of peace in WI

**Cricket**

AFP, Kingstown

Striking West Indies players on Tuesday seemed bent on testing the West Indies Cricket Board's ultimatum to apologise by Wednesday or face the consequences.

At the same time a depleted West Indies side was crumbling to a 95-run defeat to Bangladesh on Monday here, executive president of the West Indies Players' Association Dinanath Ramnarine was drawing up battle lines.

"We are meeting with our lawyers... We are exploring all our options," Ramnarine told the Express newspaper in his native Trinidad & Tobago.

The former West Indies leg-spinner disclosed that the striking players are unfazed by the WICB's demand for an apology or face non-consideration for selection to the squad that will take part in the ICC Champions Trophy this September in South Africa.

The victory missed newspaper print deadlines for Tuesday but online news sites were abuzz in the cricket-mad nation, and singled out debutant off-spinner Mahmudullah for special praise.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was swamped by phone calls, text messages and emails congratulating the team, board director Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu said.

"We have been receiving so many good wishes from Bangladeshis all over the world," said Lipu, who is a former captain.

"We are celebrating at the BCB too. It's such a great victory for the team at a time when there was a lot of public pressure over the captaincy."

Fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was named as captain just before the team's departure, replacing Mohammad Ashraful, who was sacked after the side's first-round exit from the World Twenty20 in England.

Mortaza, however, spent the entire West Indies second innings off the field nursing a knee injury.

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"They are very strong," said Ramnarine. "They want to play cricket for the West Indies. But playing under the same conditions, they don't feel that it is right, and no human being should be asked to play under the conditions under which the WICB is asking them to play."

The striking West Indies players are protesting playing four previous series - including the Twenty20 World Cup - without a contract, outstanding pay and other issues.

But the WICB said it was ready, willing, and able to pay the players - and would do so despite the protest as an act of "good faith".

The WICB also pledged its "unswerving commitment and support" to all the players that have indicated they were available for the first Test against Bangladesh in a news release following an emergency meeting here on Saturday.

They added that their continued commitment to the group of players taking part in the Test ensures there will always be a solid pool of approximately 29 contracted players from which to draw for the future tour commitments.

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## U-19's under pressure

SPORTS REPORTER

England Under-19s tightened their grips on the visiting Bangladesh Under-19s on the third day of the second four-day match at the County Ground, Derby yesterday.

The home team extended their lead to 208 with all second innings wicket intact as they scored 118 for no loss in their second essay when the last report came in.

Earlier Bangladesh Under-19s rode on Anamul Haque's 71 to score 302 all out in 96.4 overs in the first innings in reply to the home boys' 392 runs.

## Brac Bank fall to shock loss

SPORTS REPORTER

The Ascent Group five-a-side indoor corporate soccer cup continued at Scholastica's STM Hall in Uttara yesterday with Dhaka Bank trouncing BanglaTrac 6-1 in the day's high scoring game.

The first walkover of the tournament was gained by Beximco Pharma after the feasted side were given a walkover by Bangla Cat. Although the pharmaceuticals gained the points, they failed to add to their already prodigious goal tally.

Mutual Trust Bank put up a solid fight but fell prey to a rampaging bangalank side as the oranges won 4-2.

FAVOURITES Brac Bank however fell prey to a surprise

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Sri Lanka paceman Nuwan Kulasekara (R) successfully appeals for a leg before decision against Pakistan batsman Misbahul Haq during the third day of the second Test at the P Sara Oval in Colombo yesterday. Kulasekara took a match haul of nine wickets.

**Cricket**

AFP, London

England remain optimistic Andrew Flintoff will be fit enough to play in the second Test against Australia here at Lord's after the all-rounder's latest injury setback.

Fast bowler and middle-order batsman Flintoff twisted his right knee while fielding during the drawn first Test in Cardiff last week.

He tore the meniscus of the same knee in April while playing in the Indian Premier League and then underwent an operation which ruled him out of England's early season home series against the West Indies and the World Twenty20.

England coach Andy Flower, speaking to reporters at Lord's here on Tuesday, told reports that Flintoff, 31, had undergone a scan

on Monday and that initial indications from the medical staff were encouraging.

"He saw his surgeon, I think it was the surgeon who operated on his knee quite recently. His surgeon was quite optimistic about him playing in this game," said Flower.

But with the second Test starting on Thursday, England don't have much time left to finalise their plans and such is Flintoff's importance to balancing their team that his absence could pose several problems for the selectors.

"He won't bowl today [Tuesday] but he'll have a bat and a bowl tomorrow [Wednesday] and we'll assess it and make a decision then," former Zimbabwe batsman Flower explained.

He added that Flintoff had had an injection on Monday to aid his recovery.

"The suggestion is he should be okay," Flower said. "But we can only make that decision tomorrow [Wednesday]."

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## Flintoff may play

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AFP, London

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