



PHOTO: STAR

RUNS FLOW THIS WAY: Bangladesh lower-order batsman Naeem Islam glides one between gully and slip during his unbeaten knock of 59 on the second day of the second and final Test against England at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Tail-up Tigers

England 170-3 in reply to Bangladesh's 419

MOHAMMAD ISAM



Strong tail-end batting got Bangladesh to 419 eventually but the second Test match is far from over as England ended the second day solidly despite a few blows. The visitors were 170 for three at stumps yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

After Nayeem Islam and Shafiqul Islam batted purposefully to score maiden half-centuries in the first session, England made sure they were still in the reckoning but struggled to score at a faster rate.

However the heroes on this scorching hot day of few runs and wickets were Nayeem and Shafiqul as the Test match progressed to what could be some thrilling three days of cricket.

The two overnight batsmen, who came in late on the first day with the Tigers hoping for a score that would be 350 at best, frustrated the England fielders and then dominated for almost two hours in the morning.

Nayeem farmed the strike for most of the first hour but as England started lea-

ing runs, particularly through gaps in the slip cordon, Shafiqul felt confident enough to take on the pacemen. Soon he struck boundaries through the tight off-side field, hitting the likes of Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann and James Tredwell. He got on a roll and reached his half-century off 47 balls with a carved boundary over the covers.

Nayeem at the other end was contented with squiring boundaries through the slip cordon off Tim Bresnan and three overs later, he also reached a first half-century. The two added 74 for the ninth wicket, a record in Bangladesh-England Tests, before Shafiqul edged one to Matt Prior who dove in front of the first slip to take the catch off Bresnan.

If England thought they could wrap it up quickly, the Tigers No 11 Rubel Hossain came out and slammed four boundaries in his 22-ball 17 to make sure a healthy first innings.

Shakib brought himself and Abdur Razzak into the attack within an over into the England innings and soon after lunch, Razzak had England captain Alistair Cook caught at mid-wicket for 21.

It would have been a far even worse

day for tourists had the Tigers held the only chance they got from opener Jonathan Trott, who ended the day on an unbeaten 64.

He had Ian Bell for company when the day ended but Trott, who took 33 balls to get off the mark, had a reprieve when debutant Jahurul Islam dropped a simple chance at short leg off captain Shakib Al Hasan with England on 41-1.

Thereafter, Trott and Kevin Pietersen, who also had a strong lbw appeal against him turned down, took the visitors to tea safely in a 76-run stand but within minutes, the Tigers were back with two key wickets.

First, Kevin Pietersen was beaten in length by Shakib and toed it to short cover where Imrul Kayes took a simple catch. Seven balls later, Paul Collingwood fell leg-before to Rubel Hossain who used an otherwise futile old ball to good effect.

England soon restored parity with Bell, hitting three confident boundaries in his 25, and Trott reached his second Test fifty. The two have added 64 for the fourth wicket so far, confirming a long hard day for Tigers bowlers on a non-responsive wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and England at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur on Sunday:

BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 330-8)

Tamim c Prior b Tredwell	85
Imrul c Finn b Broad	12
Junaed lbw b Swann	39
Jahurul lbw b Swann	0
Mahmudullah c Collingwood b Finn	59
Shakib lbw b Tredwell	49
Shakib lbw b Tredwell	49
Mushfiqur c Prior b Bresnan	30
Naem not out	59
Razzak lbw b Swann	3
Shafiqul c Prior b Bresnan	53
Rubel c Prior b Swann	17
Extras: (b-1, lb-10, nb-2)	13
Total: (All out in 117.1 overs)	419
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-119, 3-122, 4-167, 5-226, 6-254, 7-301, 8-314, 9-388, 10-419.	

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They're not on top: KP

Siddons eager for new ball

SPORTS REPORTER



Seven wickets in hand but 248 runs behind, Kevin Pietersen still believed Bangladesh were not in a dominating position over England at the end of Day Two of the second Test in Mirpur.

England were frustrated for the first couple of hours as Bangladesh took their overnight score from 330-8 to 419 all out. Then the tourists lost three key wickets, including that of Pietersen, as they closed the day on 171 runs. But the England talisman who was dismissed for 45 had faith in the rest of the batsmen.

"I don't think they've dominated us. I would say we're even," said Pietersen when asked if Bangladesh had dominated all six sessions of the Test match.

"If we bat all day tomorrow (Monday) which we can do given our batting strength that goes

down to number ten, we can be in a very strong position at the end of Day Three.

"Every single session has been quite hard. Wicket was very flat. Bangladesh have 419 runs but we are 171 runs already. If we bat well tomorrow we can be 500 for three or 500 for five and we will be on top," he said.

However Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons thought the match is very much in the balance and a new ball which is only 16 overs away, may give them an edge in the first innings.

"We dominated parts of the match. Like today (Sunday) we were on top in the first session but the second one was balanced. They are 171-3 so I would say it's still even," said Siddons while talking to the reporters at the end of day's play.

"We are hoping the new ball will have more spin and it would grip on the surface," he added.

Pietersen, though, gave his reasoning on

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Shafiqul's bat smiles

ATIQUÉ ANAM



Bangladesh tail wagged in the second morning of the Mirpur Test yesterday to take the score past 400, a feat they have achieved only for the seventh time in Test cricket. And the man who played the lead role in the surge was least expected to be a hero with the bat.

Shafiqul Islam, the 20-year-old paceman from Bogra led the early charge on the English bowlers as he quickly surpassed his more able partner in Nayeem Islam. Shafiqul's cameo of 53 included eleven boundaries long before Bangladesh a 74-run ninth wicket partnership and pushed them towards a substantially big total.

Shafiqul started the day on eight with his senior partner Nayeem on 33 but soon took over the charge from Nayeem. Shafiqul raced to his fifty with a flurry of boundaries long before Nayeem as the latter enjoyed being more a spectator.

"I didn't perform that well for the national team before. But I had the self-belief," said Shafiqul.

"When I started negotiating the spinners well, I told Nayeem bhai I was confident enough to take more of the strike. I just tried to

score off bad balls while leaving the good ones," added the soft-spoken Shafiqul.

But it was not the usual unconvincing shots of a tail-end, rather genuine batsman-like shots that brought up his half-century. And the most important thing about his innings was that he didn't let his young blood take better cause.

"The fielders around were even geeing me up to play big shots, but I was committed I should play along the ground," he said.

Having done better than his share with the bat, Shafiqul will be looking to emulate his feat with the ball which is his main trade. He bowled six overs in the day conceding 13 runs but remained wicketless. He will be hoping to get on the wickets column today, which he knows won't be easy on a flat deck.

"It was difficult to bowl on this pitch. The instruction was to bowl as many dot balls and maidens as possible," said Shafiqul.

Coach Jamie Siddons is also of the impression that it's going to be hard work to pick up wickets before a new ball is taken which is still sixteen overs away.

"It is very difficult to have any purchase with the old ball. We are hoping the new ball will have take more spin and grip than the old one and which may give us wickets," said Siddons.

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MIRPUR MASALA

SPORTS REPORTER

There wasn't much masala in the Mirpur stands but a lot of heat.

Hardly a thousand spectators bothered to turn up yesterday in the oppressive weather. They were scattered all over the stadium with most hanging in what little shade they could find.

Most of those who came were school and college students, making their way in small numbers in the galleries. The VIP and club house stands saw some action with the Barmy Army creating an atmosphere with similar coloured t-shirts and choruses.

The heat, weekdays and the fact that Bangladesh weren't batting were reason enough for Dhaka residents to stay and watch it on television but there's some truth in the opinion that even after 10 years, Test cricket has not garnered enough popularity.

THE MODERN TAIL-ENDER

In the four matches in his short Test career, Nayeem Islam has mostly batted with tail-enders -- the likes of Abdur Razzak, Shafiqul Islam, Rubel Hossain, Shahadat Hossain and Enamul Haque.

He bats at number eight so is he also a tail-

ender? A 'modern tail-ender' perhaps.

Modern or not, he's a genuine batsman who just has to bat that deep in the order as a team strategy.

On the second day, he made sure two of his several work as a No 8 was fulfilled. He got himself a half-century and guided Shafiqul and Rubel as Bangladesh added 89 for the last two wickets.

FASTEST TO 5000

When Kevin Pietersen tapped Rubel Hossain to square-leg to move from 44 to 45, he became the fastest English batsman to reach 5000 Test runs in his 60th game for his adopted country.

The effort also meant he is now the fourth youngest to reach the landmark behind David Gower, Michael Atherton and Marcus Trescothick.

But he would now have to wait till the second innings to add to his new milestone as he was dismissed four balls later, miscuing Shakib Al Hasan to Imrul Kayes at extra cover.

A 400-PLUS START

Bangladesh reached a score in excess of 400 in the first innings for the fifth time and seventh time overall in Test cricket. Yesterday's 419 in

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SuperSport5

Bangladesh v England
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 9:30am

SuperSport2

Indian Premier League
Mumbai Indians v Kolkata Knight Riders
Live from 8:30pm
New Zealand v Australia
First Test, Day 5
Live from 3:30am (Tuesday)

ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm



Bangladesh v England

Second Test, Day 3
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium

Bangladesh League

Ctg Mohammedan v Shuktara
Time: 3:30pm
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
Arambagh v Farashganj
Time: 5:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

SCHOOL H'BALL

Sunnydale champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunnydale regained the title of the Sunnydale Mini Handball (Boy's) School tournament when they handed an 8-5 defeat to Dhanmondi Tutorial in the final at the newly-built Handball Stadium yesterday.

Sunnydale dominated the game after taking a 4-0 lead in the first half before they faced a stiff challenge from Dhanmondi Tutorial in the second half but they finally came out as winners by adding four goals to their first half's four against Tutorial's five second half goal.

However, it was a pleasure for the losing Dhanmondi Tutorial, whose student Ali was adjudged the best player in the tournament.

It was the third title for Sunnydale, who emerged champions BIS 8-3 while Dhanmondi Tutorial defeated Scholastica also by an identical 8-3 margin.

Scholastica, however, finished third thrashing BIS 12-1 in the place-deciding match.



PHOTO: BANGLRCHOKH.COM

The victorious Sunnydale players celebrate with the trophy after beating Dhanmondi Tutorial in the final of the Sunnydale Mini School tournament at the Handball Stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh paceman Rubel Hossain (R) is over the moon after having dismissed England batsman Paul Collingwood (L) for a duck on the second day of the second and final Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Punjab's Super win over CSK

SPORTS REPORTER

Kings XI Punjab came from behind to beat Chennai Super Kings in the Super Over after their IPL match was tied at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai last night.

In a memorable finish, Chennai made nine runs in the over before Punjab pulled it off with two balls to spare with a reverse swept four by Yuvraj Singh.

Earlier, both sides were locked at 136 runs each after the end of the match.

Parthiv Patel struck sweetly timed boundaries in his 57 but it was not enough as Chennai collapsed from 96-1 in 13 overs to tie the score in the final over.

BRIEFScores

PUNJAB: 136-8 in 20 overs.
CHENNAI: 136-7 in 20 overs.
Result: Match tied (Chennai Super Kings won in Super Over).

\$ 703m for Pune, Kochi

CRICINFO, undated



The financial might of the IPL was on display again on Sunday when Pune and Kochi became the league's two new franchises, being sold for a value in excess of the original eight franchises combined.

The Sahara Group, the biggest patron of sports in the country, became owners of the Pune franchise after offering a staggering US\$370m. The other new franchisee is a consortium of five companies called Rendezvous Sports World, which bid US\$333.33m for Kochi. There were three other qualified bidders, including Adani Enterprises and VC digital solutions Pvt Ltd (Videocon), who were in the fray to become part of the IPL, which will be heartening for any existing franchise owners looking to offload their stake.

"It only shows there is no recession for the IPL and it is on the upswing," Lalit Modi, the league's commissioner, said after announcing the new franchises in Chennai.

Sahara, who have been sponsoring Indian cricket for the past 15 years, had bid for the

same amount for three cities, but ultimately chose Pune over Ahmedabad and Nagpur. "When we considered the cities, in terms of infrastructure and logistics, Pune came first," Abhijit Sarkar, the head of Sahara's corporate communications, said. "It is also close to Mumbai - the commercial capital of India - and Aamby Valley (an upmarket township owned by the Sahara group)."

Ajay Shirke, president of the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) and a prominent businessman from Pune, said he was obviously happy about Pune being rated as the most popular venue at the auction with three out of the five bidders preferring Pune as their home base over the rest of the 11 cities.

"MCA has always maintained that we will support all bids that are made for Pune," Shirke, who was present at the auction venue in Chennai, told Cricinfo. "That only increases Pune's association with cricket manifold."

"What they [the bidders] would have kept in mind was the market of Mumbai and Pune are nearby. Then there are private cities like Lavasa and Aamby Valley, which are about 20 kilometres from the ground."

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