

Star SPORT

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Beckham's crowning moment

David Beckham wrapped up a six-year stint in America by playing his final game in the MLS Saturday, capping his time with the Los Angeles Galaxy with back-to-back championship titles. The former England captain Beckham went out with a bang, leading the Galaxy to a 3-1 win over Houston and their fourth MLS Cup crown on Saturday. Beckham is now set to begin a new chapter with another club in a brilliant football career that has allowed him to also win titles in his final games with Manchester United and Real Madrid.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

A great Bijoy

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

There was more than a little consternation before the five-ODI series between Bangladesh and West Indies at the fact that Bangladesh were going in with four debutants against a team that performed so powerfully in the preceding Test series. By the end of yesterday's second match at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, those doubts would have been blown out of the water. One of the newcomers, Anamul Haque, was the player-of-the-match after a match-winning 120 while another, Mominul Haque, who was playing his first innings, was instrumental in Bangladesh plundering 68 runs off the last five overs to set up their 160-run win. What doubters may not have realised was elucidated by veteran left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaq after the victory in the first match on Friday. He said that these were not the type of debutants who get nervous or bowed by pressure. Perhaps he was hinting at a new, even more fearless type of Bangladesh cricketer not weighed down by memories of a team being beaten from pillar to post.

Whatever the reason, Anamul, nicknamed Bijoy, was certainly fearless as he took the team from a precarious 21 for 2 to a formidable 292 for 6. Answering questions in the press conference after the match, he displayed the same precocious streak with which he hammered 20 runs off seven balls after reaching his hundred in the 47th over.

"I have scored 10 hundreds in 11 months this year -- five in the NCL, two in the DPL, two in the U-19 WC and one here [actually eight in less than eleven months -- two for Abahani in the Dhaka Premier League, three for Khulna in the National Cricket League, two for the Bangladesh under-19s and one for Bangladesh]," he said when asked about the difference between scoring hundreds at lower levels and at the international level. "The difference is in the experience of the bowlers, they bowl fewer loose balls and they have variations. There's crowd pressure and playing for the country, so there's a difference."

This new era of brave performers and convincingly beating higher-ranked opposition

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Anam's century shows the fire in the belly

Nando's Peri-Peri Chicken Restaurants

BUTTERFLY CHICKEN STEAK MEAL

LOOKS DID KILL: Teammates rush to congratulate a tiger at heart Mashrafe Bin Mortaza after he has just dismissed dashing West Indies opener Chris Gayle (R) in the second one-day international that Bangladesh won by a massive 160 runs at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

21 for 2? No problem

SAKEB SUBHAN from Khulna

Third youngest centurion

Tamim Iqbal 129: 19 years 2 days v Ireland

Shakib Al Hasan 134 not out: 19 years 341 days v Canada

Anamul Haque 120: 19 years 352 days v West Indies

Biggest winning margins (by runs)

By 160 runs v West Indies

By 146 runs v Scotland

By 131 runs v Kenya

Unbeaten in Khulna (in ODIs)

Won by 9 wickets v Kenya, 20 Mar 2006

Won by 9 wickets v Zimbabwe, 30 Nov 2006

Won by 7 wickets v West Indies, 30 Nov 2012

Won by 160 runs v West Indies, 2 Dec 2012

Highest partnerships

Habibul Bashar & Rajin Saleh 175 not out, 4th wicket, v Kenya

Anamul Haque & Mashfiqur Rahim 174, 3rd wicket, West Indies

Mehrab Hossain & Shahriar Hossain 170, 1st wicket, v Zimbabwe

Third wicket partnerships

Anamul Haque & Mashfiqur Rahim 174 v West Indies

Mohammad Ashraful & Raquibul Hasan 141 v UAE

WI's biggest defeats (by runs)

By 209 runs v South Africa

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal had scored five consecutive half-centuries leading up to the second ODI against West Indies. The first those was in the Asia Cup match against Pakistan in Dhaka in March, nine months ago. So

it was hard to imagine Bangladesh would get off to a good start or make a competitive score without Tamim's contribution, especially with their champion cricketer Shakib Al Hasan not there to shore up the middle-order.

Since Shakib's debut in August 2006, Bangladesh have scored 250-plus runs in ODIs 23 times, yesterday's match being the 24th.

Only twice -- against Zimbabwe in 2009 and against England in 2010 -- had they done so with both Tamim and Shakib scoring less than 30. In 15 of the other games, at least one of the two scored a fifty. At the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday, Tamim went in the fourth over of the match, caught at deep square leg off a pull off Andre Russell for five.

Hearts stopped, heads dropped in the stands.

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PARTNERS IN RHYME: Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and Anamul Haque are milking runs during a match-winning third wicket stand of 174 runs against West Indies yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CLEAR MEN

Today's Score Card

BANGLADESH

Tamim c Pollard b Russell	5
Anamul c Narine b Rampaul	6
Narine c Narine b Rampaul	79
Mashfiq c Simmons b Rampaul	4
Nasir c Gayle b Rampaul	31
Mominul c Pollard b Rampaul	3
Mahmudullah not out	18
Mashfiq not out	26
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-19)	292
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)	292
Did not bat: Shohag, Hasan, Razzaq	
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-21, 3-195, 4-201, 5-265, 6-265	
Bowler	O M R
Rampaul	10 1 49
Russell	9 0 58
Sammy	5 0 35
Narine	10 1 48
Smith	9 0 46
Samuels	7 0 50

WEST INDIES

Simmons c Tamim b Shohag	9
Gayle c Mashfiqur b Mashrafe	15
Bravo c Mashfiqur b Razzaq	28
Samuels c Mashfiqur b Shohag	16
Smith lbw b Razzaq	0
Pollard b Naeem	25
Thomas b Razzaq	0
Sammy csub (Jahurul) b Mahmudullah	12
Russell run out	9
Narine c Tamim b Shohag	10
Rampaul not out	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-6)	8
Total: (All out in 31.1 overs)	132
Fall of wickets 1-11, 2-32, 3-63, 4-65, 5-78, 6-78, 7-100, 8-111, 9-132	
Bowler	O M R
Shohag	7.1 2 21
Mashrafe	6 0 26
Razzaq	5 0 19
Hasan	1 0 9
Islam	7 0 28
Mahmudullah	5 0 27

Result: Bangladesh won by 160 runs and lead 5-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Anamul Haque.

Amer's ban revoked

SPORTS REPORTER

The professional football league committee of Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday revoked its decision of instilling a one-month ban on Brothers Union manager Amer Khan after the suspended manager appealed to exempt the

'Don't count us out'

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Even Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, when speaking

on the eve of the second ODI against West Indies, said that getting their opponents out for 199 runs in the first match was 'too good', and maybe something that will not be repeated.

So when yesterday Bangladesh dismissed the tourists for 132 to beat them by 160 runs at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium here, West Indies skipper Darren Sammy seemed resigned to the fact that Bangladesh had outplayed them in a manner not thought possible, while insisting that there was fight left in them.

"They played some good cricket and they are showing us how to play one-day cricket on these pitches. They have assessed these conditions well, I guess they would know it, and they played

accordingly," he said at the post-match press conference.

The ever-smiling and polite skipper identified his team's poor shot selection and the Anamul Haque-Mashfiqur Rahim partnership as the key to why they leave Khulna 2-0 down, after losing the first match of the five-match series on Friday by seven wickets.

"I think it's about being more selective. If you look at the kind of players we have, once we stay at the crease we are going to score runs, but we keep getting out," said Sammy. "If you look at the way the match went, we got two early wickets and then the captain [Mashfiqur] and Anamul, they came and put on a good partnership. In any cricket partnerships are very important. So far we haven't been able to put good partnerships together. And we haven't bowled as well as we could, so hence the result is 2-0 to Bangladesh."

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