

SPORT



Yesterday was one of those days when an ordinary member of the Tigers hogged the spotlight. Here Rubel Hossain (R) is seen punching the air after taking the lone Zimbabwe wicket on the second day after hitting a vital unbeaten 45. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Run-fest continues

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

Shakib Al Hasan's 17th half-century and an aggressive knock from Rubel Hossain, which saw the number 10 batsman employ a number of baseball-like hits over mid-wicket, helped Bangladesh post 503 by tea on the second day of the third Test against Zimbabwe in Chittagong yesterday.

In reply, the visitors reached 113 for 1 in just 26 overs by stumps. Brian Chari was the only batsman to be dismissed. Sikandar Raza, who bowled 36 overs and took three wickets with the ball, and Shakib however calmed the nerves for a brief period. The latter in particular looked in terrific touch. His first runs came through a beautiful drive through cover off Tinashe Panyangara in only the third ball he faced. The next delivery saw a gorgeous drive back past the bowler. However, right before lunch Mushfiqur Rahim, already going through a bad time with the bat in this series, edged a Hamilton delivery to the

RUNS	OPPONENTS	VENUE	YEAR
638	SRI LANKA	GALLE	2013
556	WEST INDIES	DHAKA	2012
503	ZIMBABWE	CTG	2014
501	NEW ZEALAND	CTG	2013

slip cordon after adding three runs to his overnight 45. Mahmudullah Riyad was the next to depart for 15 after he failed to bring his bat down in time to an in-swinging delivery from Shingi Masakadza.

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MAGIC numbers

Runs	264
Balls	173
4s	33
6s	9
1s	68
2s	5
Dots	58

ROHIT (India)	Against Sri Lanka	264
SEHWAG (India)	Against West Indies	219
ROHIT (India)	Against Australia	209
SACHIN (India)	Against South Africa	200
SAEED ANWAR (Pakistan)	Against India	194
COVENTRY (Zimbabwe)	Against Bangladesh	194



ROHIT racks up highest score

PTI, Kolkata

Rohit Sharma scripted history on Thursday by notching up the highest-ever individual score in one-day internationals, scoring a breathtaking 264, as India thumped Sri Lanka by 153 runs in the fourth game of the five-match series at Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

During his rollicking knock which came off just 173 balls, Rohit surpassed the previous record set by countryman Virender Sehwag, who smashed 219 against West Indies at Indore, back in 2011.

Rohit also became the only player in world cricket to score two double hundreds in the 50-over format with his previous best of 209 coming against Australia at Bangalore in November last year.

After electing to bat, India raced to 404 for 5 in their allotted 50 overs, thanks to Rohit and captain Virat Kohli, who remained not out on 66. In reply, the visitors could manage only 251 before being bowled out in 43.1 overs.

Asked if he was tired after his epic knock, a smiling Rohit said, "Not really. I have had a break due to injury and I am not tired at all. I could have continued for another 50 overs."

Rohit also broke Shikhar Dhawan's List A record score of 248 scored against South Africa A in Pretoria last year. He hit 33 boundaries and nine sixes with his last 214 runs coming in only 101 balls.

His 33 boundaries were highest number struck by an individual in an ODI innings. Rohit said that once he got to 50, he had

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Tough to get a wicket: Rubel

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

As far as Bangladesh's performers were concerned the second day of the third Test against Zimbabwe belonged to Rubel Hossain. Not only did the pacer come in at number ten and smack a vital 45, but he also took the lone wicket for the Tigers on the day. For a bowler who has one of the worst averages in Test cricket, 78.79, this kind of days doesn't come very often. While Rubel had 'fun' with the bat, he reckons that bowling on the flat wicket at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium would be no fun at all.

"The wicket is really good for batsmen. There isn't any swing or turn for the spinners. The main thing for us is to be patient. Getting wickets here will be tough," the pacer admitted at the post-day press conference yesterday.

"But still we are in a good position after putting up a good score. There will be runs on this wicket, but what we have to do is try to get wickets in the morning session. I can't say for sure if there will be any cracks here," he added.

At 45 for 9, Bangladesh were headed for a below-expectation total and that was when Rubel surprised everyone. He smacked four sixes -- something he claims not to have done in alley cricket either -- and a couple of boundaries to help Bangladesh get past the 500-run mark.

"It's always fun when a batsman times the ball well. I swung my bat and the wicket was good, so everything just fell into place. I timed it well so I felt really good. I honestly didn't expect to bat

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Momentum is with us: Raza

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

The track at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium has already produced 616 runs in two days for the loss of only 11 wickets. And if this trend continues, which is a possibility, the third and final Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe is destined for a draw.

But Zimbabwe opener Sikandar Raza claims that the visitors can still win this match.

"We are definitely playing as though we want to win this game. For that to happen we have to bat out of our socks. Coming into today they were 303 for 2 and no one would have thought they would be 500 or something all out.

"And having said that the last partnership put 50 odd runs on the board, so if you take that away, it could have been 460. So we will keep on believing and we will definitely want a win so that we can take the momentum into the ODI series," said Raza at the post-day press conference yesterday.

Having ended the day on 113 for 1, Raza believed that the momentum was

Pakistan take 1-0 lead

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan's Misbahul Haq became his country's most successful captain as his team strolled to victory by 248 runs in its first Test against New Zealand on Thursday, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The victory gave Misbah 15 wins in 33 Tests, bettering the 14-win record of the illustrious Imran Khan (48 Tests) and Javed Miandad (34 Tests).

"It's a great feeling to be part of the winning team. It's a young team, nobody expected us to perform like this," said Misbah. "I have always believed in myself and in my team and that paid off."

Pakistan had needed two wickets after their opponents resumed at 174-8 but it took only 16.3 overs for them to reach their target as New Zealand folded at 231 in 70.3 overs.

Misbah said it was nice to have a turn around after losing the Test series 2-0 in Sri Lanka in August.

"Sometimes you have to be patient. It was an absolute disaster for me, I didn't get any runs in Sri Lanka and one-day series against Australia, but I kept calm through that."

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum said he was disappointed.

"Obviously we were clearly second in this Test match," said McCullum.

"Congratulations to Misbah and his team. They were dominant in this Test match and we have a fight on our hands in the next two games. We've got to make sure we keep improving. Spin is obviously a threat but so is reverse swing."

Kiwi Mark Craig, who along with Ish Sodhi (63) had delayed Pakistan's defeat after batting for 14.5 overs on Wednesday, couldn't prolong his resistance as he was bowled by leg-spinner Yasir Shah for 28 off the first ball of the second over in the day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 566 for 3 in 170.5 overs (Shehzad 176, Misbah 102 not out, Younis 100 not out, Hafeez 96, Azhar 87; Anderson 2-68, Sodhi 1-162)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 262 all out in 87.3 overs (Latham 103, Anderson 48, Watling 42, Sodhi 25; Rahat 4-22, Babar 3-79)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 175 for 2 decl (Hafeez 101 not out, Azhar 23, Younis 28; Sodhi 2-66)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 231 all out (Latham 20, McCullum 39, Williamson 23, Anderson 23, Craig 28, Sodhi 63; Rahat 2-48, Imran 2-37, Babar 2-48-2, Shah 3-74)

Result: Pakistan won by 248 runs and lead 3-match series 1-0.

Player-of-the-match: Rahat Ali.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	20.4	2	70	2
Chigumbura	14	4	40	0
S Masakadza	25	5	77	2
M'shangwe	47	5	149	0
Raza	36	2	123	3
Chari	2	0	9	0
H Masakadza	9	1	23	2

The dream comes true

Salahuddin's BFF Academy begins its journey

ANISUR RAHMAN from Sylhet

Ever since Kazi Salahuddin became the president of Bangladesh Football Federation in April 2008, he nurtured a dream of building a football academy in the country. His dream came true yesterday with the inauguration of the BFF Academy in north-eastern city of Sylhet.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith launched the much-awaited academy amid a festive mood and promised to extend financial support to it from the government as much as they can in the future.

"The atmosphere here today proves how much we love football. These sports infrastructures of BKSP in this division were build long ago and I gave it to the BFF when Salahuddin approached me. Now I am happy to see it functional as a football academy. Why can't we take football forward? We can and must do it," said Muhith in his speech as the chief guest.

"I cannot give as much money as the BFF wants, but I will provide some of it for the development of the sport not only in Sylhet but across the country," promised the



The tranquil settings of the BFF Academy compound in Sylhet that started its humble journey with 40 students yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

finance minister after Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, who attended the programme as a special guest, requested the finance minister to provide the BFF Tk 20 crore per year.

"I know why Salahuddin invited me here though my ministry has nothing to do with football. Bangladesh is making progress in

3RD SAFF C'SHIP BD women fly in first game

SPORTS REPORTER

Krishna Rani Sarker scored a hat-trick as the Bangladesh women's football team got off to a flying start in the 3rd SAFF Women's Championship, thumping Afghanistan 6-1 at the Jinnah Football Stadium in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad yesterday.

Afghanistan drew the first blood through a 23rd minute strike from Marjan, but Maynu Marma cancelled out the lead in the 34th minute. Krishna then scored her first goal two minutes later, helping Bangladesh take a 2-1 lead by the half-time.

After the break, Krishna struck two more goals and Sabina Khatun and Munmun Akter scored one each.

Bangladesh will meet India tomorrow in their second group match.