

SPORT

Jubair 5-for spins out Zimbabwe

Tigers take lead to 152

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

Bangladesh's spinners, yet again in the series, proved to be Zimbabwe's Achilles' heel, as the turners scalped seven wickets in Chittagong on the third day of the final Test, to bowl out the visitors for 374 and achieve a sizeable lead.

The only difference here was that instead of Bangladesh's traditional slow-left arm attack it was the loopy leg-spin of young Jubair Hossain, who took his maiden five-wicket haul, that left the Zimbabweans short of their expected score on a track that still seemed good for batting.

After the innings turnover, Bangladesh reached stumps at 23 for no loss.

Beginning the day at 113 for one, Hamilton Masakadza and Sikandar Raza continued with their aggressive approach and reached 150 in 36.1 overs. The pair posted Zimbabwe's highest ever stand against the Tigers, beating Tatenda Tauba and Brendan Taylor's stand of 150 achieved in 2005.

However, ten runs later Masakadza's attempt to force one to the leg side led to him being trapped in front by Shafiqul Islam for 81. That led to a mini-collapse for the visitors.

From 169 for one, they crumbled to 209 for five.

Captain Taylor attempted to drive a flighted delivery from Jubair, only to edge it to mid-off. Two balls later, Raza got the edge off a leg-break that looked to have had an extra inch of turn and returned for 82. Craig Ervine, whose only escape against Jubair seemed to be the sweep, paid the price for a pre-meditated hit as Jubair bowled a faster full-length delivery to hit the timber.

Elton Chigumbura and Regis Chakabva shared a 113-run stand for the sixth wicket to frustrate the hosts. While Chigumbura attempted to counter the attack with some aggressive hits, Chakabva remained firm at the other end.

The partnership did witness its share of missed opportunities, which on another day could have resulted in wickets. Chakabva misread a googly from Jubair and left it. The ball struck his pad and the batsman was adjudged not out. The Tigers' review failed due to the umpire's call. Mushfiqur, visibly irritated with the decision, was seen discussing the issue with the umpire while leaving the field for tea.

Mahmudullah Riyad dropped Chigumbura twice at the slips. The first instance was off Rubel Hossain, as Riyad failed to get down in time to collect the edge. The second one was a difficult chance and saw an edge induced by Taijul Islam flash past Riyad's head. The breakthrough eventually came after an in-swing from Shafiqul trapped Chakabva in front. From there on, Zimbabwe went on in a downward spiral. Slow-left armers Shakib Al Hasan and Taijul Islam took a wicket each and Jubair did the rest.

The 19-year-old removed Chigumbura for 88 with a teasing leg-break that the batsman edged to slips after attempting a heave outside the off-stump. His five-wicket haul was completed after Natsai M'Shangwe's slog against the bowler ended up reaching the hands of Mahmudullah at deep cover.



Leg-spinner Jubair Hossain holds the cherry after his maiden five-for skittled Zimbabwe out for 374 in the first innings on the third day of the third Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

With 18 wickets in this series, Shakib Al Hasan has equalled Enamul Haque Jr's record of the most number of wickets in a series for Bangladesh. While Enamul completed it in two matches, Shakib needed an

Bangladesh's spinners have now taken 43 wickets in this series. The highest by any

Hamilton Masakadza and Sikandar Raza's 160-run stand is Zimbabwe's highest against Bangladesh for any wicket.

Jubair Hossain is only the second leg-spinner after Imran Tahir to pick up a five-wicket

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

'Was waiting for my day'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

19-year-old Jubair Hossain expressed his elation after reaching his maiden five-wicket haul in Chittagong yesterday. His family's presence in the stadium made the occasion even more special for the teenager.

"I think the best thing about this performance was that my parents had come here to watch the match. They had come in the previous matches as well but I could not perform. So now that everyone's happy, I am happy," exclaimed the leg-spinner at the post-day press conference yesterday.

While Jubair bowled well in the first two Tests, his wickets column was not heavy, as Taijul Islam and Shakib Al Hasan ran through the Zimbabwean middle order in Dhaka and Khulna. On a relatively flat track in Chittagong where the slow-left armers were barely getting any purchase, Jubair turned out to be lethal with his flighted turners.

"In cricket everyone has their day and I was waiting for mine. That came today and I was able to capitalise on it. I thank God for that. The wicket was not an easy one. We had to be patient and bowl in one area and that's why we were successful," claimed Jubair.

Jubair thanked his senior colleagues for their guidance. "Shakib [Al Hasan] bhai and Tamim [Iqbal] bhai calmed me down whenever I tried to bowl in a hurry. They repeatedly asked me to bowl in one area. After I got four wickets, my bowling was a bit disorganised, that's when Mushfiqur [Rahim] bhai told me to relax and that it would only be a matter of time before I got the fifth wicket," he explained.

Having already managed to threaten the visitors with his turners, Jubair expects himself to play a bigger role in the fourth innings of the match.

"The fourth and fifth day will be much better for the bowlers. We are playing to win this Test," exclaimed Jubair.

A gutsy new addition

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

At first sight Jubair Hossain doesn't appear to be a bowler whom a batsman would worry about. He is the third shortest member of the Tigers' lineup, bowls with a baby-face and, prior to this series, had just two first-class matches to his name. Why would the Zimbabweans worry about him?

And yet on a flat deck in Chittagong where Bangladesh's most lethal weapons -- the slow-left armers -- failed, Jubair consistently teased the visitors with his flighted deliveries. He may have been whacked for a few sixes and fours

and been a touch expensive, but the 19-year-old never stopped bowling those looping deliveries. He bowled well disguised yorkers and time and again slipped in the flipper, which almost hit the timber and left Sikandar Reza clueless for a moment.

Long story short, Jubair's performance was a rarity. It was something that Bangladesh's spectators aren't used to witnessing. If watching a slow-left armers is

If watching a slow-left armers is equivalent to eating rice, then Jubair's leg-breaks were like pasta or true Arabian shwarmas, which we barely get but when we do, we just can't have enough

eating rice, then Jubair's leg-breaks were like pasta or true Arabian shwarmas, which we barely get but when we do, we just can't have enough.

And the statistics prove that too. Yesterday, Taijul Islam and Shakib Al Hasan got one wicket each. Of the 127 innings in Test cricket, this was only the 38th time that the slow-left armers scalped two or less wickets for the Tigers. More than one-third of Bangladesh's Test wickets have come through left-arm spinners.

While the art has no doubt been Bangladesh's major strength, the lack of variety in the attack has led to their downfall a number of times.

Going by Bangladesh's history, it's quite early to predict Jubair's growth in international cricket; players have come and gone for various reasons over the years and Jubair still has a lot left to prove. However, yesterday's performance showed that, should he can manage to stick it out, he will be a gift for Bangladesh's bowling. The potential was quite evident in yesterday's game.

However, the question that remains is whether the gutsy bowler has the courage to aim high and avoid becoming just another face in the crowd.

Gazi, Abahani keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajin Saleh became the first local batsman to score a century in this season's Dhaka Premier League (DPL), but his effort was not good enough for ParTex Sporting Club, as they succumbed to a 25-run defeat against defending champions Gazi Tank at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Young left-arm spinner Nayeem Islam claimed six wickets for 33 runs to help Gazi defend their total of 226 runs and secure their second consecutive victory, while Abahani also continued their winning run as they outclassed Prime Doleshwar by eight

wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, courtesy of Liton Kumar, who scored 98 runs in the low-scoring match.

Left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny grabbed five wickets for 18 runs, after 24-year old English right-hander Liam Dawson scored an unbeaten 113 as Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club recovered from defeat in their opening match to secure a massive 122-run victory against Kalabagan Krira Chakra at BKSP.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PRIME DOLESHWAR: 147 all out in 48.4 overs (Malan 27, Habibur 41; Al-Amin 2-26, Shuvashis 2-34, Ziaur 2-26, Nazmul 3-22)
ABAHANI: 148-2 in 37.2 overs (Liton

98, Majid 27; Sunny 2-40)
Result: Abahani won by eight wickets.
GAZI TANK: 226-9 in 50 overs (Junaed 44, Zaidi 45, Faisal 52 not out; Azim 2-48, Sabbir 2-56, Rahman 2-34)
PARTEX SC: 201 all out in 48.1 overs (Rajin 105, Mehrab 53; Nayeem 6-33)
Result: Gazi Tank won by 25 runs.
SHEIKH JAMAL: 296-5 in 50 overs (Amit 33, Nafees 65, Liam A. Dawson 113 not out, Sayeem 44; Hasan 2-42, Fariduddin 2-30)
KALABAGAN KC: 174 all out in 47.1 overs (Shamsur 54, Tasamul 43, Nasum 26; Arafat Sunny 5-18)
Result: Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club won by 122 runs.



Abahani's Liton Das plays one on the leg side during his knock of 98 which helped his side win against Prime Doleshwar in the Dhaka Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Can't play for a draw'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

At the end of the third day the Zimbabweans would be unhappy with their first innings score of 374. Having conceded a lead of over a hundred runs they are likely to face the task of surviving four sessions on the last two days of the Test, in order to achieve a draw and avoid a 3-0 whitewash.

The scenario could have been extremely different had any of their four half-centurions carried on their innings on a track that seemed good for batting. Sikandar Raza, Hamilton Masakadza and Elton Chigumbura were removed in their 80s, while Regis Chakabva was sent back for 65.

Regardless, Chigumbura maintains that

the Zimbabweans can pull one back in this series.

"You can't play the game to try and draw after five days. We play every game to win. If we get a chance, we will go for it."

"They have a 152 run lead so far. But it is our duty to make sure we restrict them to a chase-able score. It's going to be a big day for us tomorrow," said Chigumbura at the post-day press conference yesterday.

The Zimbabwean expects the pitch to crumble on the last two days of the Test and is confident that his side can battle the obstacles that come along with batting in the fourth innings.

"In any Test match the wicket will change on Day 4 and 5. So we have to adapt to that, work hard, and hopefully we can win this game."

BCB XI squad announced

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced the BCB XI for the one-day practice match against Zimbabwe on November 19, scheduled to be held at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

Following the practice match, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will play two ODIs in Chittagong and three in Dhaka.

Squad: Anamul Haque, Shamsur Rahman, Rony Talakder, Shabbir Rahaman, Soumya Sarker, Nasir Hossain, Shuvagata Hom, Mosaddek Hossain, Muktar Ali, Shafiqul Islam, Abul Hasan, Md Shahid, Nazmul Hossain Shanto.

Zahid, Pintoo set to be free

SPORTS REPORTER

After having lifted the suspension of midfielder Kamruzzaman Rana last month and proposing to lift suspension of forward Russel Mahmud Jimmy earlier this month, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is moving towards lifting suspensions of goalkeeper Zahid Hossain and defender Imran Hasan Pintoo.

The Working Committee of BHF proposed lifting of suspension of Zahid and Pintoo in a meeting on Thursday, but kept the case of Pintoo pending upon payment of Tk one lakh fine, which he was fined for breach of discipline during the Bangladesh Games in April last year.

"Pintoo was punished for disciplinary reasons even before the Asia Cup. The Working Committee has discussed proposing the removal of suspension of Pintoo and Zahid to the Executive Committee, but Pintoo's case will only be finalised once he pays off the fine of Tk one lakh," said BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah.

"I have been working hard for some time to get back my fitness. The possible decision of lifting my suspension is assuring for me. I will now appeal to the federation to waive the monetary fine," said Pintoo, in his reaction.

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD				
BANGLADESH: First innings 503 (Imrul 130, Tamim 109, Shakib 71; Raza 3-123, H Masakadza 2-23, Panyangara 2-70, S Masakadza 2-77)				
ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 113-1)				
Raza c Mahmudullah b Jubair	82			
Chari c Mushfiqur b Rubel	0			
H Masakadza lbw b Shafiqul	81			
Taylor c Taijul b Jubair	1			
Chakabva lbw b Shafiqul	65			
Ervine b Jubair	14			
Chigumbura c Imrul b Jubair	88			
Mutumbami lbw b Shafiqul	20			
S Masakadza c Mahmudullah b Taijul	0			
Panyangara not out	6			
M'Shangwe c Mahmudullah b Jubair	8			
Extras: (b-6, lb-1, nb-2)	9			
Total: (All out in 106 overs)	374			
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-169, 3-172, 4-172, 5-209, 6-322, 7-356, 8-357, 9-360.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shafiqul	18	5	50	2
Rubel	9	1	46	1
Taijul	30	2	100	1
Shakib	25	4	67	1
Jubair	20	1	96	5
Shuvagata	1	0	1	0
Mahmudullah	3	0	7	0
BANGLADESH: Second innings				
Tamim not out	8			
Imrul not out	11			
Extras: (b-4)	4			
Total: (For no loss in 9 overs)	23			
To bat: Mominul, Mahmudullah, Shakib, Mushfiqur, Shuvagata, Taijul, Shafiqul, Rubel, Jubair.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
S Masakadza	2	0	4	0

Premier Division Chess Titas Club in sole lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Titas Club enjoy the sole lead in the points table with six points from three rounds after Team beating Fire-Service & Civil Defence Sports Club by 4-0 points in the Walton Premier Division Chess League at the Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.

FM Debaraj Chatterjee, Shafiq Ahmed, FM Mohammed Abdul Malek and FM Mohammad Fahad Rahman won their boards against FM Rezaul Haque, Mohammed Enayet Hossain, Mohammed Mainuddin and PJ Bakul Barua respectively.

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Navy are jointly in second position with maximum four points from two matches after Navy beat Pritam-Prism Chess Club of Narayanganj by 4-0 points in their second match yesterday.