



That Bangladesh were bowled out for 332 on a pitch which barely had anything in it for the bowlers, displayed the batsmen's lack of patience. This time there was no saviour; not even Shakib Al Hasan could perform, scoring only 25 runs.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



The monkey is back

AL-AMIN from Khulna

If the last ball of the first day was any indication of what was to follow the next day, then Bangladesh simply have refused to take note of that. And the impact was very painful, if not devastating, on the second day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

The Tigers were bowled out for 332, adding just 96 runs to their overnight total, a collapse that can be best described as the return of the monkey which apparently was off the Tigers' back a day before. With six wickets in hand and Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim at the wicket on the second morning it was expected that Bangladesh would build on their overnight total of 236. The batting discipline which was the demand of the hour went for a sabbatical against a Pakistan attack which was absolutely spot-on for a second successive day. And the moment Shakib, the prime culprit of throwing his wicket away, was smartly caught at leg-slip, edging a down-the-track lofted drive off left-arm spinner Zulfiqar Babar in the fourth over of the morning, the hopes of a big total suffered the first blow.

Debutant Soumya Sarkar (33) and Mushfiqur (32) put on 62 runs for the sixth wicket, with the young left-hander never looking assuring with his edgy approach, which was eventually ended with a miscued lofted shot that Asad Shafiq took spectacularly, running from cover to mid-off. Mushfiqur followed soon playing a half-hearted cut straight to his Pakistan counterpart Misbahul Haq. The Tigers went into lunch at 325-8 after Taijul was bowled round his leg by leg-

has won the first salvo but also scored full ten marks against Shakib's zero.

After winning a review while on 15, the right-hander, who had earlier captured two wickets with his off-spin, raced to his 100 hitting successive boundaries off Rubel. It was his eight Test century and third against Bangladesh. He struck a dozen of fours and two sixes in his 179 ball knock.

Azhar Ali, who put on 177 runs for the unbroken second wicket with Hafeez after debutant opener Sami Aslam had departed for 20, chanced his arms twice for a patient 65 that contained a couple of fours and a six.

Skipper Mushfiqur was culprit of dropping him twice, first at 11 off Shakib then at 28 off debutant pacer Mohammad Shahid. The wicketkeeper not only spilled the second one, a healthy edge straight to him, but in the process injured the ring finger in his right hand. He left the field in extreme pain during the final drinks break and was not available for the final one hour of the day, with Imrul Kayed doing the proxy.

Vice-captain Tamim Iqbal led the Tigers in that final hour and it appeared he was hardly enjoying that role, using the part-time bowlers for five overs when it was expected that the best bowlers including Rubel would bowl for a wicket.



spinner Yasir Shah.

Bangladesh's innings quickly folded after the lunch break.

It was then Pakistan's turn to assume the role of a predator against a wayward Bangladesh attack with Mohammad Hafeez leading the charge with an unbeaten 137 in an impressive total of 227-1 at stumps.

Before the start of the match Shakib said that he would definitely enjoy the battle of all-rounders with Hafeez. After the second day's play Hafeez not only

'Shouldn't have played that shot'

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Wickets thrown away, catches dropped, runs leaked at an uncomfortably quick rate, yesterday just wasn't Bangladesh's day. The Tigers experienced their first bad day of the tour at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday and the disappointment showed.

Test debutant Soumya Sarkar, following a torrid day on the field yesterday, described the hosts' performance as 'poor'. The batsman, who lost his wicket after a quick 30-odd, was cross with the way he began his Test career.

"We had a poor day. We lost six wickets. We couldn't bowl in the right areas and missed chances while fielding as well. [Mohammad] Hafeez was playing really well too," said a disappointed Soumya at the post-day press conference.

"They have been bowling well since the first day. They were bowling in very good areas. Sometimes they didn't bowl even one bad ball in an over. We made some small mistakes which cost us the wickets," he added.

While Soumya believes that the hosts can make a comeback on day 3, the ease with which the visitors batted yesterday signalled a bad omen for Bangladesh's bowlers. Hafeez, who scored a century yesterday, doesn't seem like he is in a mood to stop. In

addition, Pakistan's most experienced batsmen, Misbahul Haq and Younis Khan, are yet to arrive at the crease.

The left-hander however, believed that the hosts could still win it from here.

"The game will return to us if we bowl the right way. We will play to win," said Soumya. "We are waiting for one good session to come back to the game. If we can do that tomorrow morning, the momentum will swing back towards us," he added.

Playing his first match, Soumya admitted that he was bit nervous when his turn arrived.

"I was very excited before I went to bat today. But there was a change when I went to the middle. I wanted to play according to how I usually play. I wasn't focusing on who I was playing against and the circumstances of my debut.

"I shouldn't have played that shot at that time. I thought it was a bad shot after I had played it, may be I shouldn't have played the shot. I don't want to repeat the same mistakes," explained the youngster.

"I saw everything was different after I took the field. I realised it was my debut Test. I was quite nervous playing the first ball, and also the second ball. I got free from the third ball. Mushfiqur [Rahim] bhai told me to play normally," he added.

DRS nothing sans snicko

AL-AMIN from Khulna

The Decision Review System (DRS) is a technology meant to correct any confusion regarding an on-field umpire's ruling. And with the introduction of the DRS the fourth umpire sitting in front of all the monitors is increasingly becoming a very important cog to ensure a fair judgment on a cricket field.

But Paul Reiffel, a former Australian bowler, was hardly feeling comfortable with his role as the fourth umpire on the second day of the first Bangladesh-Pakistan Test at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium here yesterday.

The unavailability of snicko-meter, an important devise in DRS, was like Reiffel was asked to fire a shot without loading a bullet. Take for instance the review asked by Pakistan opener Mohammad Hafeez, who was given out by on-field Sri Lankan umpire Ranmore Martinez caught behind off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam. Hafeez, who was on 15 then, was not convinced that he edged an attempted cut.

It took Reiffel about four minutes to skate around different camera angles and in all those angles it was inconclusive that there was any deviation as the ball went past his bat. So, he gave the batsman the benefit of doubt and Martinez's decision was overruled. A

few overs later, Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim gloved one catch down the leg-side and appealed for a caught behind decision off the same bowler. This time the batsman was Sami Aslam, the young left-handed opener making his Test debut. The umpire was again Martinez and his decision was not out. Bangladesh asked for a review and it was again a tough task for Reiffel to confirm whether the ball had brushed the batsman's gloves. Again there was no conclusive evidence of any deviation. But Reiffel's final judgment was that the ball had brushed the gloves. So, Martinez again changed his original decision.

Interestingly, on both occasions, the help of snicko-meter was what Reiffel needed to make a precise judgment. It could not be confirmed whether both decisions were correct, but there was a tinge of disappointment Bangladesh may feel regarding the first decision because it was the umpire's call. And correct me if I'm not mistaken that an on-field umpire trusts his ears more than what he is seeing to make a decision about an edge. And Martinez was consistent about his two decisions, the first one off a bat that he was supposed to hear and the second one off the gloves he was not supposed to hear.

But whatever the decisions have been, DRS without the snicko is a curate's egg.



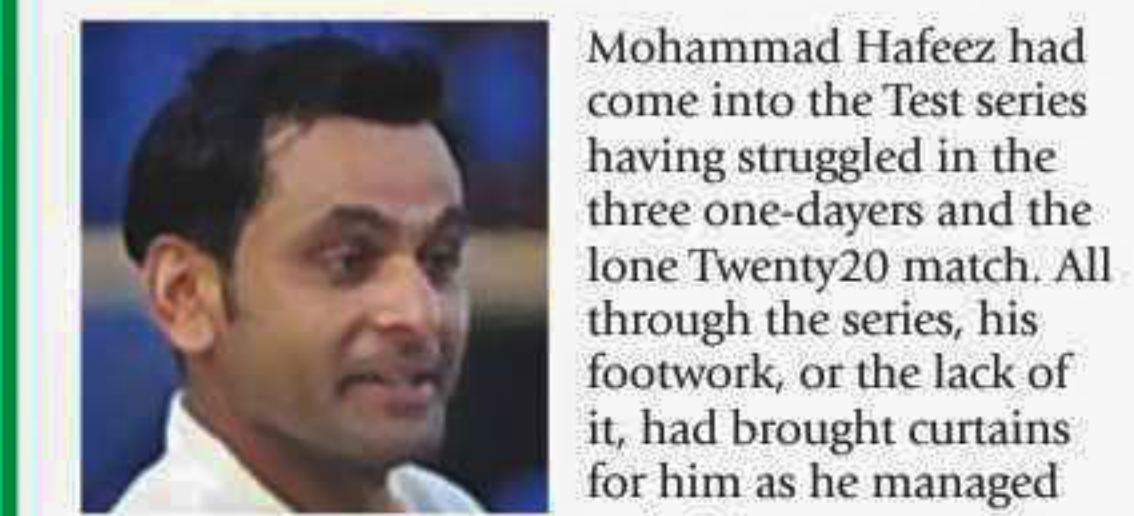
RANMORE MARTINEZ

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MOHAMMAD HAFEEZ



Mohammad Hafeez had come into the Test series having struggled in the three one-dayers and the lone Twenty20 match. All through the series, his footwork, or the lack of it, had brought curtains for him as he managed only 34 runs on aggregate.

However, it was a different Hafeez who turned up to bat in the first Test yesterday. The veteran all-rounder, who had scored two centuries in his previous two Tests looked positive from the very first ball he faced. His footwork was perfect, both against spin and pace, helping him scoring at a brisk pace. One could have been mistaken for thinking the veteran Pakistani was batting on a completely different surface from the one the Bangladesh batsmen did in their first innings. His unbeaten 137 off 179 deliveries also proved that there is no option but to be positive if a team want to win a Test match on a placid wicket like this one.

'Bowlers were key'

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Pakistan enjoyed their first good day of their tour at Khulna yesterday. With Bangladesh's best batsmen in, on a track that barely had anything in it for the bowlers, there was a chance the hosts could run away with the game and further attack Pakistan's low morale.

Instead, the visitors held their line and continued their disciplined bowling performance to bundle the Tigers out for a below-par score. The main difference yesterday was that the Pakistani fielders held on to their catches.

"We didn't believe that Bangladesh would collapse this way as the pitch was slow. But our bowlers bowled very well and the fielders today supported them to make it their day," remarked Pakistan's bowling coach Mushtaque Ahmed after the end of the day.

"The idea today was to avoid losing wickets and get a flow runs. This wicket requires some caution but you have to be positive as well. [Mohammad] Hafeez did very well. I will give him full credit for his outstanding performance," he added.

The former leg-spinner believed that wickets would be hard to come by on this pitch.

"It was really tough to get wickets here but quality bowlers adjust in any condition and our bowlers knew exactly how to test

the batsmen. The pitch wasn't even helping spinners. But we had a plan with our field placement for them today.

"I was expecting Yasir Shah and Zulfiqar Babar to take more wickets. The way they were bowling, they deserved it. They did well and, combined with our fast bowlers, we executed our plan well," believed Mushtaque.



Pakistan bowlers had a field day yesterday, dismissing six Bangladeshis for only 96 runs. PHOTO: STAR

Srinivasan facing axe?

AGENCIES, New Delhi



The BCCI's new regime under Jagmohan Dalmiya's leadership is exploring the option of an early Special General Meeting (SGM) in its bid to oust N Srinivasan as the Board's representative in ICC.

In order to reach a decision on ousting Srinivasan, an SGM needs to be called and Dalmiya along with Secretary Anurag Thakur is exploring that option.

However, they are yet to decide on a date as of now as the members need to be given three weeks of notice period.

"To oust Srinivasan, the ruling group will require two-thirds majority which is 21 units. If they can't ensure 21 votes, they won't call SGM for sure. Dalmiya and Thakur will have to ensure there are 21 votes in their favour," a member of Dalmiya faction said.

There are reports that the SGM will be called on May 24, the day of IPL final. Incidentally, Lalit Modi was suspended after the final of IPL 3 in 2010.

This comes a day after the internal feud within the BCCI took an ugly turn with Board Secretary Thakur launching a stinging attack on ICC Chairman Srinivasan, saying that he should actually share information on bookies with his own family members "whose involvement in betting has been proved".

A day after ICC issued an advisory to Thakur to stay away from suspected bookies, the BCCI secretary hit back at Srinivasan through an open letter in which he questioned the timing of the "counter offensive" initiated at the behest of the ICC Chairman.

Srinivasan though made it clear that he did not want to engage in a war of words with Thakur, saying he would take up the matter with him personally.

GLADESH-PAKIS SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First Innings				R/B	A/G
(overnight 236 for 4)					
Tamim c Azhar b Yasir	25/74	3/0			
Imrul c & b Hafeez	51/130	6/0			
Mominul lbw b Babar	80/162	8/0			
Mahmudullah c Sarfraz b Riaz	49/123	6/0			
Shakib c Shafiq b Babar	25/61	3/0			
Mushfiqur c Misbahul b Yasir	32/71	5/0			
Soumya c Shafiq b Hafeez	33/55	5/0			
Shuvagata not out	12/11	0/0			
Taijul b Yasir	1/11	0/0			
Shahid c Misbahul b Riaz	10/15	2/0			
Rubel c Sarfraz b Riaz	2/10	0/0			
Extras: (lb-5, nb-7)	12				
Total: (All out in 120 overs)	332				
Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-92, 3-187, 4-236, 5-243, 6-305, 7-310, 8-312, 9-329.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Junaid	16	2	40	0	
Riaz	26	7	55	3	
Hafeez	18	5	47	2	
Babar	32	3	99	2	
Yasir	28	4	86	3	
PAKISTAN: First Innings				R/B	A/G
Hafeez not out					
137/179	12/2				
Aslam c Mushfiqur b Taijul	20/36	2/1			
Azhar not out	65/136	2/1			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3)	5				
Total: (For 1 wkt in 58 overs)	227				
To bat: Younis, Misbahul, Shafiq, Sarfraz, Riaz, Yasir, Junaid, Babar.					
Fall of wickets: 1-50					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Rubel	11	0	50	0	
Shahid	7	0	29	0	
Taijul	16	2	43	1	
Shuvagata	8	0	34	0	
Shakib	12	0	57	0	
Mahmudullah	2	0	9	0	
Soumya	1	0	2	0	
Mominul	1	0	1	0	

Bhatti in for Rahat

AFP, Karachi

All-rounder Bilawal Bhatti will fill in for injured pacer Mohammad Rahat Ali for the second Test on Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh, an official said Wednesday.

"The national selection committee, in consultation with the team management in Bangladesh, has announced Bhatti as a replacement for the injured Rahat in the Pakistan Test squad," a statement from Pakistan Cricket Board said.

Bhatti, 23, is currently touring Sri Lanka with the Pakistan 'A' team.