

# SPORT

TIME TO CONSOLIDATE



Leg-spinner Jubair Hossain (C) gives Shakib Al Hasan (R) a high-five after dismissing India skipper Virat Kohli cheaply yesterday. The Bangladesh youngster later removed Wriddhiman Saha on a rain-curtailed third day of the one-off Test in Fatullah.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 'None better than Jubair'

NAIMUL KARIM

For the first time since the Zimbabwe series last year, Bangladesh's bowling seemed to rediscover its panache.

The combination of Shakib Al Hasan and Jubair Hossain bowled 16.2 overs in tandem, in two spells, and finished with figures of 5 for 84 before rain stopped play on the third day of the one-off Test yesterday.

And these figures were posted despite the fact that both bowlers are on a comeback trail.

While Shakib gracefully flighted the deliveries, Jubair's googly was hard to read; it was like watching a 'tag-team' wrestling match with each bowler taking their turn. The pair approached with an attacking intent which is rare for Bangladesh in Test cricket.

That is perhaps because players like Jubair, a rare aggressive leg-spinner, remain underrated and underutilised in domestic circuit.

In fact, had it not been for a special recommendation from the coach, the selectors would have ignored him for this series.

"It's difficult for Jubair. If he doesn't get a chance to play in the Bangladesh Cricket League and the Bangladesh Premier League it will be bad both for him and the national team.

"I feel that those who are watching and observing should do something about it. He can be someone who can take 300 to 400 wickets for our country," Shakib said after yesterday's play.

Describing the leg-spinner as an asset to Bangladesh cricket, Shakib said, "It's not his fault if he was a bit inconsistent. Firstly, he is a leg-spinner. On top of that he isn't selected in domestic leagues. And then he is asked to bowl against a tough opposition. It's bound to be difficult," said the left-arter.

When certain domestic coaches were asked about Jubair's exclusion earlier this year, some of them pointed out that Jubair's accuracy was just thirty percent and that he bowled bad spells in the nets. Shakib, however, criticised their reasoning.

"In the nets, you will find many players who might seem like Sachin Tendulkar or Rubel Hossain. What matters is who performs during matches. You can't judge someone without giving them an opportunity.

"We will be playing most of our matches in our country and for pitches like these I don't think there's a better bowler than Jubair," said Shakib.



## Rain dampens exciting day

BISHWAJIT ROY

The surprisingly clear sky in the morning, the turn-up of a decent and enthusiastic holiday crowd, India's thirst for quick runs and a crafty bowling performance from two of the Bangladesh spinners -- Shakib Al Hasan and Jubair Hossain -- injected life into an otherwise rain-curtailed third day of the one-off Test in Fatullah.

Only 47.3 overs were bowled in the two stop-start sessions before a spell of heavy rain forced an early tea break and eventually compelled the umpires to call off the day's play.

Shakib Al Hasan returned with a four-wicket haul after an ordinary showing against Pakistan, while young leg-spinner Jubair Hossain took two scalps, including the prized one of Indian skipper Virat Kohli, who failed to read the googly and got bowled for only the fourth time in his Test career.

India seemed to be in one-day mode in an attempt to make up for the lost time due to rain

and rode on Murali Vijay's 150 and Ajinkya Rahane's punishing 98 off 103 balls. They finished on a comfortable 462 for six.

223 runs were hammered off 47.3 overs. If the rains stay away and Bangladesh's batsmen get nervous, the match might yield a result, but the weather forecast isn't promising.

return catch and became the first Bangladeshi bowler to take 100 wickets at home.

Shakib, who looked to regain his bowling rhythm and tried to loop the ball more, was quick to find his second triumph as Rohit Sharma went for a big drive through cover but the ball beat the inside edge and crashed into the off stump.

Jubair, who got a place in the side after tussles between the selectors and the team management, made an impressive attacking partnership with Shakib and took the big wicket of Kohli with a googly before lunch.

India lost three wickets before lunch but managed 159 runs in 37 overs with Vijay reaching his sixth Test hundred. As the morning session ended, it began to drizzle. That was when the game went on stop-start mode, as the rains arrived in spurts. Despite the dull weather, Shakib shone and struck again by dismissing Vijay when play resumed after a 14-minute break. Within 6.2 overs, India lost two more wickets to Shakib and Jubair before rain had the last say.



Resuming the day on 239 for no loss, Bangladesh needed wickets and Shakib provided the breakthrough by removing left-handed Shikhar Dhawan for 173 runs.

Dhawan came down the track and looked to flick the ball, but only managed to edge it back to the bowler. Shakib gracefully accepted the

### BD-IND SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings (overnight 239-0)

Vijay lbw b Shakib	150
Dhawan c & b Shakib	173
R Sharma b Shakib	6
Kohli b Jubair	14
Rahane b Shakib	98
Saha b Jubair	6
Ashwin not out	2
Harbhajan not out	7
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-1)	6
Total: (For six wickets in 103.3 overs)	462
To bat: Yadav, I Sharma, Aaron.	
Fall of wickets: 1-283, 2-291, 3-310, 4-424, 5-445, 6-453.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahid	22	2	88	0
Soumya	3	0	11	0
Shuvagata	14	0	52	0
Shakib	24.3	1	105	4
Tajjul	20	0	85	0
Jubair	19	1	113	2
Imrul	1	0	3	0

BANGLADESH: Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Soumya Sarkar, Litton Das, Shuvagata Hom, Jubair Hossain, Tajjul Islam, Mohammad Shahid.



Murali Vijay raises his bat to the crowd after reaching his century against Bangladesh on the third day of the one-off Test in Fatullah yesterday. The India opener was dismissed on 150.

PHOTO: STAR

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## Remodelled Shakib strikes back

Becomes first Bangladeshi Test player to take 100 wkts at home

NAIMUL KARIM

Going into the India Test, Shakib Al Hasan had his back against the wall. He had posted his worst ever bowling average in the recently concluded two-match Test series against Pakistan and had taken just three wickets in the last three Tests.

The decline in Shakib's form was one of the major reasons why Bangladesh's bowling attack in Tests seemed somewhat desperate in recent times.

His four-wicket haul yesterday though seemed to help him take baby steps towards regaining his confidence. It wasn't a typical Shakib show. He wasn't exactly confusing the batsmen with his turners and armers, but it was a much better display than what

he has produced of late.

He made it a point to flight the deliveries and patiently kept nagging the batsmen on a good line and length.

It was a much-needed boost of confidence for a player who took his tally of wickets in Bangladesh to 103.

Shakib, according to his childhood coach Nazmul Abedin Fahim's advice, bowled with a different action. It was a move that Shakib said paid dividends yesterday.

"I had a chat with him because I wasn't bowling well in the last three or four Tests. There are certain areas in my action, like my foot movement, where I can improve a lot. That helped me," said Shakib at the post-day press conference.

"I am not completely confident yet. I bowled well initially for a few overs and then went back to my old form later on. I need to do more drills with

the new advice that I got in mind. I just spoke to my coach last night and tried to apply whatever I could. I will only get better with time," he added.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Fahim, who currently works for the BCB's game development, said that he asked Shakib to bowl with a more open-chested action in order to gain more power.

"He moved away from his original action mainly because of the problem with his shin. In order to avoid that he eventually started bowling with an action that could be described as post side-on and consequently couldn't generate much power.

"It has to do with the way he lands his back foot. I thought he enjoyed himself a lot more on the third day, but he still needs to work on it. He was able to loop the ball more frequently," said Fahim.

## 'We are going for a result'

SPORTS REPORTER

India were praying for good weather in the remaining two days of the one-off Test to set a win in motion against Bangladesh in Fatullah. Opener Murali Vijay made it clear after the rain-interrupted third day that India were looking for a victory.

Only 103.3 overs have been bowled in first three days, thanks to rain, but Vijay still said: "I think we're in a good position now and hopefully we can do something special in the last two days."

"Hopefully, weather permitting, we can push for a win and that's our attitude and mindset at the moment. If weather permits, we are going for a result," he added.

He also said that they pinned their hopes on the two spinners, Harbhajan Singh and Ravichandran Ashwin, to secure a victory in the match.

"They (Harbhajan and Ashwin) are different type of bowlers. The wicket is deteriorating and it's going to help both of them."

When asked about their aggressive batting, Vijay said: "It all depends on the situation and it demanded of us to be positive so that we could put as many runs on the board as possible and put them (Bangladesh) under pressure. That was our primary target, and I thought we achieved it. Rahane was selfless and he played a brilliant knock."

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