

SPORT

ENGLAND V INDIA
TIME TO CONSOLIDATE

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Magnificent MUSTAFIZUR

Brian Vitori of Zimbabwe set a unique record in 2011. In his very first two one-day internationals, the left-arter took two five-wicket hauls. That feat was against Bangladesh, with both matches played in Harare. Now thanks to Mustafizur Rahman, that record has been bettered. The 19-year-old left-arter from Satkhira followed up his brilliant five-for on debut with a six-for against India in Mirpur yesterday.

AL-AMIN



The Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur turned into a fever pitch on Saturday as the whole nation focused its attention to one lithe boy, who was bowling in a playful mirth. He was clapping after the fall of an Indian wicket, smiling profusely after outfoxing yet another batsman. And whenever he claimed each of his six scalps -- his teammates converged to congratulate him. And those moments gave an impression that the proud parents of a child, who has just started walking and was playing in front of them, were enjoying every bit of it with awe.

That little kid is Bangladesh's boy wonder Mustafizur Rahman, a gift to the cricketing world. And what the 19-year-old left-arm paceman did in the second one-day international was some-

thing too good to believe. It was not just his second five-for against a vaunted Indian batting line-up but a Viking effort that laid a solid platform for the Tigers to create a small piece of history -- a first-ever series win against the two-time world champions.

The biggest question before the second match was how Mustafizur would react after his magnificent 5-50 in the first ODI that the Tigers won by a

massive 79 runs. He quickly buried all speculation the moment he came out to bowl the first over on Sunday. He hurled one outside the off-stump and gave enough weights for Rohit Sharma to drive. The batsman fell in the trap and played straight to the point where Nasir Hossain took a spectacular diving catch. He conceded 30 runs in his first spell of five overs. When he returned, his deadly cutters end a resolute innings of Suresh Raina, who could only manage to guide it to wicketkeeper Litton Das.

Mustafizur's third and the most important scalp was India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Deceived by the slow off-cutter, Dhoni, who literally lied on the wicket playing hardly attacking shot during his 75-ball 47, went with his shot early and ballooned a simple catch at short cover.

Mustafizur had Axar Patel caught in front of the wicket for a first ball duck to create an opportunity

MuSTAFIZUR RAHMAN's figures of 6 for 43 is the third best bowling performance by a Bangladeshi

He also became only the second bowler in ODIs to take five-wicket hauls in his first two matches

Prior to yesterday, India had just once lost consecutive ODIs in a bilateral series in Asia in the last five years



While Mustafizur Rahman (L) was busy making the second ODI against India his own, Nasir Hossain (above, 2nd from L) too was an integral part of the game and saw the back of opener Shikhar Dhawan after the big Virat Kohli wicket, in Mirpur Sunday.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

Nasir revels as a bowler

NAIMUL KARIM

Mustafizur Rahman might have stolen the show with a gentle twist of his wrist; the left-hander's off-cutters have already been deemed 'legendary' amongst Bangladesh's cricket fans, but spare a thought for Nasir Hossain, whose tidy off-spinners and flawless catching pegged back India in the first 35 overs of the match at Mirpur yesterday.

Over the last six months, Nasir's bowling has quietly become a force to reckon with. He has been thrown the ball at various stages of the game and no matter what the challenge, he gracefully accepted the offer every single time.

Be it the risky Powerplay scenario against India during the World Cup or the crucial death overs against New Zealand, the 23-year-old, in the recent past, has been a stabilising force for Bangladesh's bowling attack, gladly answering the call whenever the specialist bowlers needed a break.

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SUPERCRETE CEMENT

SUPER PERFORMER OF THE DAY

Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd.

NASIR HOSSAIN

Nasir Hossain's contribution in yesterday's win cannot be undermined. The part-time offie got rid of Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan when these two were taking India to a strong position after losing Rohit Sharma early. Nasir also took a brilliant catch to remove Ambati

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