



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shakib Al Hasan, the two Bangladesh bowlers who joined the 200-wicket club yesterday, celebrate after the latter took a wicket.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PLAYERS WITH AT LEAST 4000 RUNS AND 200 WICKETS

SANATH JAYASURIYA	JACQUES KALLIS	SHAHID Afridi	ABDUL RAZZAQ	CHRIS CAIRNS	SHAKIB AL HASAN	CHRIS HARRIS	
MATCHES	445	328	398	265	215	156	250
WICKETS	323	273	395	269	201	201	203
RUNS	13,430	11,579	8,064	5,080	4,950	4,382	4,379

SHAKIB'S RUN

WICKETS	MATCHES	YEAR
50	50	2008
100	88	2010
150	119	2011
200	156	2015

BEST BOWLING 4-16 V
WEST INDIES, 2011

MASHRAFE'S RUN

WICKETS	MATCHES	YEAR
50	41	2006
100	78	2008
150	120	2011
200	157	2015

BEST BOWLING 6-26 V
KENYA, 2006

Roads join in Chittagong

Shakib, Mash in 200-wkt club

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

NPOLY NATIONAL POWER CRICKET SERIES
WALTON

It was in a BKSP camp in Narail where Shakib Al Hasan first met Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. Back then Shakib was a mere member of the 20-player group selected from the division, while Mashrafe, who had gone there to see the players train, was already considered as the next big thing.

Years on, both players have gone on to mould their respective places in the national side. They may have begun playing international cricket at different times; they may vary quite a bit when it comes to their cricketing attributes, but it's the one common aspect that they have that has helped redefine Bangladesh's cricket in the last one year; their aggressive mindset.

Both aggressive players of the game, the Mashrafe-Shakib combination has worked wonders and it was therefore fitting to see them both break the 200-wicket barrier in the third and final ODI against South Africa in Chittagong yesterday.

That both the players enjoyed the coincidence was evident from the way they celebrated after Mashrafe got the dangerous David Miller caught at point in the 30th over. After Sabbir Rahman completed the wicket with a diving

TOP BANGLADESH BOWLERS		
ABDUR RAZZAK	SHAKIB AL HASAN	MASHRAFE MORTAZA
MAT	153	156
WKTS	207	201
AVG	29.29	28.35
		30.88



It's still bleeding

AL-AMIN

If the South Africans had felt that it was a Bloody Sunday after their cricket teams' thrashing seven-wicket defeat at the hands of Bangladesh in the second one-day international, then yesterday must have been a black Wednesday for them. It was a day they suffered a more embarrassing nine-wicket defeat against the 'abject minnows'.

That was how one of their own portrayed the Bangladesh cricket team, which after Wednesday's thumping victory in the third ODI in Chittagong, not only completed a never-seen-before turnaround but also completed a maiden series win against South Africa - their fourth on the trot following wins against Zimbabwe, Pakistan and India.

The gentleman, who termed the Bangladesh team as abject minnows and mocked them with their nickname as 'hitherto tigers', is revered South African cricket writer Telford Vice. He did not stop there in an article published in South Africa's Sunday Times, where he termed the Bangladesh bowling 'a pogon attack' while referring to Zimbabwe, Pakistan and India.

Vice is a freelance writer. He is one of those cricket columnists whose in-depth articles anybody will enjoy. This reporter first came across the soft-spoken South African gentleman way back in 2001 in Zimbabwe while covering Bangladesh's first full series. A second meeting with the Cape Town-based writer was during the 2003 World Cup in South Africa. On both occasions he was so caring with this reporter and so sympathetic towards Bangladesh despite all those demoralizing defeats that it was moving to say the least.

But the adjectives he used while writing from two oceans away was unlike someone who has set a high standard for others to follow. May be he still has got the same impression about Bangladesh that he had seen in Zimbabwe and South Africa long ago.

But after what the Tigers did in Chittagong, we can at least safely say that Sunday was not a fluke. The 'hitherto tigers' played like true Tigers in their own den against the African lions. The pogon attack popped up again like real guns to floor a vaunted batting line-up. There were two teams in the middle on Wednesday and it was South Africa that looked like a hitherto lion, at least for a day.

South Africa might have desperately missed their batting genius, AB de Villiers, in the one-day series. And one can rest assured that it's going to a big issue just to belittle Bangladesh's outstanding success.

This is not something new. It had happened after Bangladesh's 3-0 win against an 'inexperienced' Pakistan and 2-1 success against a 'burnt out' India. Nobody likes to be defeated because it hurts. And the Tigers are now increasingly becoming a team that invites the big names to their home turf only to hurt them hard on the playing field.

And they don't care if anyone likes it or not.

'This win is special'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Three series wins against three top-notch sides; as far as Bangladesh's ODIs are concerned, 2015 has been a flawless year. They have crushed teams whom they had never beaten in the past, they have found bowlers who are near-impossible to read on the first go and they have found an opening pair that is on its way to becoming one of the most exciting in international cricket.

Barely a year ago, such a scenario would have been described as a dream. And that's exactly how skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza described Bangladesh's ODI run this year. "We used to dream of beating big teams. Now we are beating them. After some time we will realise that as a professional team we should all have our feet on the ground. We should maintain discipline because there will be a lot of tough challenges coming up," a calm and composed Mashrafe said at the post-match press conference.

"I knew that if we had a good World Cup, we would be set up for the rest of

the year. That's what has happened. We have four Tests coming up and I will hope these wins will help us," he added.

While every win helped Bangladesh surpass a new boundary, Mashrafe thought described their win against South Africa as a bit more special.

"It is special. When a team starts losing a few matches, there's talk from outside and the team goes under pressure. Many of them are young. The average age of our side is 23. It was important to see how they would turn around.

"I think it is a sign of a good team how we have made a comeback. Credit goes to the boys and team management," said Mashrafe.

Yesterday's match witnessed Mashrafe and Shakib Al Hasan break the 200-wicket barrier. The achievement is one that the skipper will celebrate.

"I am feeling good that I got 200 wickets, more so because of the win. It is a very small milestone in world cricket but I have come through many obstacles in my career to come even this far," said Mashrafe.

Listing down some of the most memorable moments of his career

Mashrafe talked about Bangladesh's win over India in the 2007 World Cup, a match, which saw him scalp four wickets. He also talked about the win over New Zealand in 2008 after a host of Bangladesh's players left for the Indian Cricket League.

While player-of-the-match Soumya Sarkar was happy with his defiant knock, he however, regretted the opportunity of not being able to win by 10 wickets.

"Obviously I am really happy. More than missing my hundred, I am sad that we couldn't win by ten wickets. That would have been good for the country, team and we could have had a new record," said Soumya.

"I can't tell my feeling. But the one thing that I try to do is extend my boundary every day and improve myself with every match," he added.

The left-hander hopes that wins like these can compel other teams to arrive and invite Bangladesh for tours.

"I heard before that no big teams liked to play against Bangladesh. So I hope there comes a time when teams will want to play against us and invite us regardless of the format," he said.

TAMIM IQBAL

It definitely feels really good. I don't think you have to ask me regarding how I rate this series win. I think the entire atmosphere says it all. It feels really good.



SABBIR RAHMAN

Which catch? I think I dropped a catch [laughs]. Jokes apart I feel really good. The wins have confirmed our spot in the ICC Champions Trophy and as a team we are all really happy.



WHAT THEY SAY

CHANDIKA HATHURUSINGHA

I think you can see how happy I am just by looking at me. I am very, very, very happy. This is definitely a great win. Not just this series, all of them... against India, Pakistan, all of them are great wins. I won't compare one win to the other, I have enjoyed all of them thoroughly.



MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD

This is obviously one of our greatest wins. To win like this after going a game down in the opener, hats off to our team. The players deserve this. Personally for me too this has been great. To comeback from an injury and to be able to perform, it feels really good.



BD-SA SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA	R/B	4/6	
De Kock c Mustafizur	7/8	1/0	
Amla c Mashfiqur b Shakib	15/35	2/0	
Du Plessis c Mashfiqur			
b Shakib	6/17	0/0	
Rossouw c Mashfiqur			
b Mahmudullah	17/27	2/0	
Miller c Sabbir b Mashrafe	44/51	5/0	
Duminy c Liton b Rubel	51/70	3/0	
Behardien c Sabbir b Shakib	12/16	1/0	
Rabada b Mustafizur	1/5	0/0	
Abbott b Rubel	5/10	0/0	
Morkel not out	1/3	0/0	
Extras: (lb-3, w-4, nb-2)		9	
Total: (For 9 wkts in 40 overs)	168		
Did not bat: Tahir			
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-19, 3-45, 4-50, 5-113, 6-149, 7-155, 8-167, 9-168.			
Bowler	0	M R W	
Mustafizur	8	0	24
Mashrafe	5	0	29
Shakib	8	0	33
Rubel	6	0	29
Nasir	6	0	30
Mahmudullah	5	0	20
		1	
BANGLADESH	R/B	4/6	
Tamim not out	61/77	7/0	
Soumya c Amla b Tahir	90/75	13/1	
Liton not out	5/5	1/0	
Extras: (lb-5, w-9)		14	
Total: (1 wicket; 26.1 overs)	170		
Did not bat: Mahmudullah, Shakib, Mashfiqur, Sabbir, Nasir, Mashrafe, Rubel, Mustafizur.			
Fall of wickets: 1-5.			
Bowler	0	M R W	
Abbott	5	0	27
Rabada	6	0	41
M Morkel	5	0	36
Tahir	6.1	1	37
Duminy	4	0	24
		0	
Result: Bangladesh won by 9 wickets (D/L method) and clinched the 3-match series 2-1.			
Player-of-the-match: Soumya Sarkar.			
Player-of-the-series: Soumya Sarkar.			