



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			MASHRAFE'S RUN		
WICKETS	MATCHES	YEAR	WICKETS	MATCHES	YEAR
50	50	2008	50	41	2006
100	88	2010	100	78	2008
150	119	2011	150	120	2011
200	156	2015	200	157	2015
BEST BOWLING 4-16 V WEST INDIES, 2011			BEST BOWLING 6-26 V KENYA, 2006		



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 popgun attack' while referring to South Africa's poor total of 162 in the second ODI.

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 popgun 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 though 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.

WHAT THEY SAY

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.



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.



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.



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 b Mustafizur		7/8	1/0	
Amla c Mushfiqur b Shakib	15/35	2/0		
Du Plessis c Mushfiqur b Shakib	6/17	0/0		
Rossouw c Mushfiqur 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		
M 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	O	M	R	W
Mustafizur	8	0	24	2
Mashrafe	5	0	29	1
Shakib	8	0	33	3
Rubel	6	0	29	2
Nasir	8	0	30	0
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, Mushfiqur, Sabbir, Nasir, Mashrafe, Rubel, Mustafizur.				
Fall of wickets: 1-154.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Abbott	5	0	27	0
Rabada	6	0	41	0
M Morkel	5	0	36	0
Tahir	6.1	1	37	1
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.				

Roads join in Chittagong

Shakib, Mash in 200-wkt club

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong



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	157
WKTS	207	201	200
AVG	29.29	28.35	30.88



catch, Mashrafe ran all the way towards Shakib and hugged him. They were all smiles.

Mashrafe, who got his first 100 wickets in 78 matches, took an extra ODI, 79, to scalp the next 100.

Shakib was the first one to reach the mark yesterday. He could have reached the landmark in the India series, but he managed to get just three out of the five required wickets. And after he went wicket-less in the first two ODIs against South Africa, there were fears amongst his fans that the left-arm would not be able to break the 200-wicket barrier, considering the fact that there was just one more ODI to go.

However, all those concerns were laid to rest when one of his turners got the slightest of edges off the bat of Hashim Amla in the 14th over and was devoured by Mushfiqur Rahim.

A player who isn't concerned much about the numbers; there wasn't any special celebration from Shakib. But that by no means depleted the magnanimity of his achievement.

Not only is he just the second Bangladeshi player to break the 200-wicket barrier, after Abdur Razzak, but also he became the seventh player to score 4,000 runs and take 200 scalps.

The list he has joined contains the names of Sanath Jayasuriya, Jacques Kallis, Shahid Afridi and a number of other successful all-rounders. Shakib is also the fastest to score 4,000 runs and scalp 200 wickets. He achieved the feat in 156 matches. The next best is New Zealand's Chris Cairns, who achieved the feat in 214 matches.

Shakib made a slow start to his career with regards to his bowling. It took him 50 matches to scalp his first 50 ODI wickets. The frequency of wickets gradually improved once he got the hang of it. His next 50 wickets came off 38 matches. And finally, the last 100 scalps came in 68 matches.

The three wickets that he took yesterday took his overall tally of scalps in Bangladesh to 123. He is now the highest wicket-taker in the country.

SUPERCRETE CEMENT

SUPER PERFORMER OF THE DAY

Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd.

SHAKIB AL HASAN



Shakib Al Hasan might have gone wicketless in the first two matches of the ODI series against South Africa, but his bowling was quite meagre on those occasions. Shakib conceded only 30 runs in his ten overs in the second ODI, exerting the pressure

which eventually helped get the visitors out for 162. Yesterday in the third ODI, Shakib was both economical as well successful as the Tigers kept the Proteas to 168 in 40 overs. Shakib's 3 for 33 made him the fastest man to get to 200 wickets and 4000 runs in ODIs and the second Bangladeshi to reach the 200-wicket mark.

'Outplayed in every department'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



South Africa all-rounder JP Duminy said that his side were outfoxed by Bangladesh's disciplined bowling and use of variations as his team crashed to a nine-wicket defeat in the series-deciding third ODI in Chittagong yesterday.

"They've been successful with their seamers and I think their strength has been the variations.

They've got a good combination in terms of their bowling attack and that's how it has been for a period of time now," said the all-rounder at the post-match press conference.

Duminy also praised Bangladesh's opening batting pair of Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar for the way they made a meal of the run chase.

"The opening pair has been formidable in the last two games which is exciting for them (Bangladesh). Some great cricket is coming through Bangladesh," said the 31-

year-old.

While Duminy admitted that his side were the favourites going into the series, he said that they knew that it was going to be a tough challenge.

"I remember saying back home that it's going to be a tough series. Yes, we played well in the T20s and the first ODI but Bangladesh came back well," conceded Duminy.

Duminy stressed that his teammates found it difficult to adjust to the conditions, but admired

Bangladesh's strategy in using those conditions to their strength.

"You've got to give credit to Bangladesh. Not only have their spinners done well, their seamers have done well too. They've used these conditions to their strengths.

"I think any series loss is a big one. On any given day it's about the performance that you put in as a team and over the last two games Bangladesh have outplayed us in every department," concluded Duminy.