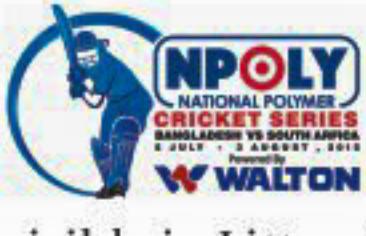


'We're ahead in this game'

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong



Beautifully timed on-drives, elegant hits down the ground and plenty of patience against the faster bowlers were the features that were most visible in Litton Das's maiden half-century.

While the 20-year-old is yet to cement his place in the Test squad, he surely did display the extent of maturity that one requires to be here. It was because of the sheer fluency of the innings that left many at the Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in disbelief when he got caught behind in the 102nd over. The way he mapped his innings, he seemed to be heading for a bigger knock.

His was a wicket that fell against the run of play. With three wickets remaining, many reckoned that Litton would go after the bowlers once he reached his 50, however, a gem of a delivery from Simon Harmer dismissed him.

While the 20-year-old did enjoy the knock, he regretted not being able to score a big one.

"I wanted to make a bigger score, since I was the only regular batsman at the crease at that point of time and the rest were lower-order batsmen. I think I played quite well for as long as I batted."

"I wanted to play the maximum number of deliveries with the bowlers. But unfortunately I got out. Batsmen get out for a reason and I think maybe I made a wrong decision against that delivery that got me out," explained Litton.

Despite not being able to reach his desired score, Litton reckons that the hosts are still ahead in this game at this point of time.

"The wicket is very slow and it isn't very easy to play shots. I had to be careful. Every day you need to play differently and so today the situation demanded me to be a bit cautious."

"I tried to play for the team. I thought my 50 was helpful. Our target was to score as many runs as possible after securing the lead. It would have been better had we



got more runs, but I will still say that we are ahead in this game. The 78-run lead is good enough," opined Litton.

"I think if we can dismiss them to a total that provides us a target of around 150 to 200, that will be good for us because the wicket is quite slow and you can't score runs that easily here," he added.

Having spent an ample amount of time at the crease yesterday, Litton also had some advice for Bangladesh's bowlers.

"Firstly we have to bowl a disciplined line. If we can do that it will be possible [to restrict them]. The plus point is that we are still ahead."

"My advice to the bowlers would be to bowl accurately and bowl wicket-to-wicket, because this pitch has a lot of help for them," he reckoned.

At the moment, Litton, who is playing just his second Test, seems to be enjoying himself. He took two brilliant catches behind the wicket in the first innings of the Test and followed that up with a composed knock.

Asked if he was enjoying himself, Litton merely replied with a word, 'Naturally'. While he seems to be on a roll, one would hope that the rest of the team shares his emotions, for the next two days are going to change the balance of this game, which is currently evenly stacked.



Bangladesh ace Shakib Al Hasan may have gotten away with one lofted pull shot during the third day of the first Test against South Africa in Chittagong, but the second one saw him take the long walk back to the pavilion after making a fighting 47.

PHOTO:
ANURUP KANTI DAS



BD-SA SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 248 (Elgar 47, Van Zyl 34, Du Plessis 48, Bavuma 54, Philander 24; Mustafizur 4-37, Jubair 3-53)

BANGLADESH: First Innings (overnight 179-4)

Tamim b Elgar 57

Imrul b De Kock b Van Zyl 26

Mominul b Harmer 6

Mahmudullah lbw b Philander 67

Mushfiqur lbw b Steyn 28

Shakib b Duminy b Harmer 47

Liton b De Kock b Harmer 50

Shahid c Van Zyl b Philander 25

Tajul c Elgar b Steyn 9

Mustafizur b Duminy b Steyn 3

Jubair not out 0

Extras: (lb-7, nb-1) 8

Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-55, 3-144, 4-178, 5-195, 6-277, 7-311, 8-319, 9-325

Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-55, 3-144, 4-178, 5-195, 6-277, 7-311, 8-319, 9-325

Bowler O M R W

Steyn 22.1 5 78 3

Philander 20 2 40 2

Morkel 19 2 52 0

Harmer 35 8 105 3

Van Zyl 13 4 23 1

Elgar 3 0 6 1

Duminy 4 0 15 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Second Innings

Van Zyl not out 33

Elgar not out 28

Extras: 0

Total (For no loss in 21.1 overs) 61

To bat: Amla, Du Plessis, Bavuma, De Kock, Duminy, Philander, Steyn, Harmer, Morkel.

Bowler O M R W

Mustafizur 5 0 21 0

Tajul 2 0 4 0

Mahmudullah 1 1 0 0

Shakib 5 0 19 0

Shahid 6 1 12 0

Jubair 2.1 1 5 0

'We didn't get a chance'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

NPOLY NATIONAL POLYMER CRICKET SERIES 2014-15 1ST TEST DAY 3, 24-25 JULY 2015
WALTON

Bangladesh's first innings ambled at a slow run-rate of 2.80 in the first Test and the reason behind that was South Africa's accurate bowling. None of Bangladesh's batsmen could free their arms. At the end of the third day, it turned out to be a game of patience at the Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday and the visitors' bowling side won that battle.

All of Bangladesh's frontline batsmen -- Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Litton Das -- fell after making significant starts. Of all the bowlers though, it was spinner Simon Harmer who was the most effective. He bowled cleverly to get the wickets of both Shakib and Litton. While he taunted Shakib with a slightly short delivery which the batsman skied up into the air, he also bowled a beautiful loopy turner to get rid of Litton.

At the end of the day, the spinner said that he enjoyed bowling on the 'deteriorating' track.

"It took me a while to get into things. Pace is a key factor and you can't bowl too much of the same thing," said Harmer at the post-day press conference in Chittagong, when asked how different the wickets in the subcontinent were for spinners compared to the ones back home.

"It was enjoyable bowling on these wickets. I came around the wicket and the ball was still turning. Back home you might not get that sort of purchase from the wicket," he added.

Despite putting in a good performance, the bowler believed that it was still too early to set any targets for this match.

"I think we can't look too far ahead in terms of targets and stuff like that because there is still a lot of cricket left to be played in this game. Our focus is going to be on the first session tomorrow morning."

"Dean [Elgar] and Stiaan [Van Zyl] did a good job in the evening to go unscathed in that last session, especially with the bad lighting and the rain. I think the first session [on Thursday] is going to be our target tomorrow and not too much past that," said Harmer.

"They [Bangladesh] batted well. A couple of their players batted really well. They didn't give us any chances. It's not like we were dropping a lot of catches or anything like that."

"Our seamers did a phenomenal job by setting the tone this morning and even if you are not going to be bowling teams out, you don't want them to be scoring at par run-rate, but they did that phenomenally well. I think what we bowled them out for is a respectable total," he concluded.



Bangladesh pace sensation Mustafizur Rahman saw many of his appeals turned down yesterday, but he will hopefully not be denied any more once the first Test against South Africa resumes today.

SUPERCRETE CEMENT

SUPER PERFORMER OF THE DAY

Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd.

LITTON DAS



Bangladesh were going through nervous times when their skipper Mushfiqur Rahim was trapped in front with a fierce delivery from Dale Steyn. There were fears that the hosts wouldn't even be able to break even at that point of time. However, Litton Das came in

and changed the perception. His sweetly-timed drives and the patience that he displayed in Chittagong yesterday gave us just a hint of what this 20-year-old is capable of. He may have gotten out just for his 50, his maiden half-century, but the way he unleashed the on-drives and the hits down the wicket, suggest that the player could be here for a long time.

Mishra recalled for SL Tests

AFP, New Delhi



India's selectors took a cue from Pakistan on Thursday when they recalled leg-spinner Amit Mishra after four years for next month's three-Test series in Sri Lanka.

Mishra, 32, who has taken 43 wickets in 13 matches, last played a Test at the Oval during the England tour in 2011.

But the success of Pakistani leg-spinner Yasir Shah during the recent series in Sri Lanka, where he claimed 24 wickets to lead his team to a 2-1 win, prompted the selectors to go with Mishra.

"Having seen how the Sri Lankan batsmen fared against Pakistan, our preference was for Mishra who has also done well in domestic cricket," chairman of selectors Sandeep Patil told reporters in New Delhi.

Mishra will partner two off-spinners -- Harbhajan Singh and Ravichandran Ashwin -- in India's first Test-series in the island nation since 2010, when the three-match series ended in a 1-1 draw.

Mishra replaces injured leg-spinner Karn Sharma in the only change to the 15-man squad selected for the rain-ruined drawn Test in Bangladesh in June.

Young batsman Lokesh Rahul, who missed the Bangladesh trip due to dengue fever, was back as one of the seven specialist batsmen.

SQUAD: Virat Kohli (captain), Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan, Lokesh Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Harbhajan Singh, Amit Mishra, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Varun Aaron, Ishant Sharma.

It's another AB



South Africa batsman AB de Villiers and his wife Daniella on Wednesday became proud parents of their first child. The couple were blessed with a baby boy.

South Africa's cricket board - Cricket South Africa congratulated their skipper as they tweeted a picture of de Villiers and his wife with their son.

While South Africa are currently on tour of Bangladesh - the AB is on paternity leave and flew back from sub-continent to his country to be with his wife.

As per the CSA tweet - the child was named AB as well.

-INTERNET

De Kock fined

AFP, Chittagong

South Africa wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock has been fined for shoulder barging Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal during the ongoing first Test in Chittagong, the International Cricket Council said Thursday.

De Kock, 22, was fined 75 per cent of his undisclosed match fee for walking in front of the stumps to physically confront the batsman at the stroke of lunch on the second day on Wednesday.

De Kock pleaded guilty to charges of "inappropriate and deliberate physical contact" laid by match referee Chris Broad, the ICC said in a statement.

Quinton de Kock walked in front of the stumps to confront Tamim Iqbal. In doing so de Kock deliberately brushed Tamim Iqbal's shoulder and rib area," Broad said in the statement.

"This resulted in a heated exchange between the two, initiated by the contact made by de Kock. This type of incident has no place on

PHOTO:
STAR