



DOMINANCE VS RECOVERY



A ton, a five-for & a record win

NAIMUL KARIM



At the end of it all, the result of yesterday's first ODI merely reflected a performance that was expected of the hosts. In terms of the margin, the 145-run victory in Mirpur was Bangladesh's biggest ever against Zimbabwe.

However, beyond the numbers, what seemed to impress more was the motivation shown by certain players to meet their respective goals.

Take for instance the determination shown by Mushfiqur Rahim. The wicketkeeper-batsman had been going through tough times ever since he injured himself in the Pakistan series. Mushfiqur's 107 yesterday -- his fourth century overall -- was his first 50-plus score in his last five ODIs.

The same goes for Shakib Al Hasan. He had snuffed an opportunity to scalp his career's first ever five-wicket haul in ODIs last night and he went for it. He finished with 5 for 47.

It didn't matter that both these players had overcome various barriers against much tougher opponents in the past, what mattered to them was the match in hand and what they could conjure from it.

Having been set a target of 274, the visi-

tors, despite a decent opening stand of 40 collapsed after the 10-over mark. Shakib began the destruction by removing both Chibabha and Craig Ervine by the 14th over. Runs dried up since then from which point the visitors never recovered.

Shakib returned again to remove the dangerous Sean Williams and the tail.

Nasir Hossain provided the finishing and the visitors were bundled out for just 128.

Playing their first ODI after a gap of three months, Bangladesh's top order earlier looked a bit rusty after being put into bat.

And by the 28th over the hosts seemed to be in a bit of a pickle at 123 for 4. However, where the other batsmen failed, Mushfiqur prospered. A sense of relaxation seemed to spread through the dressing room as Mushfiqur gently stitched his innings, akin to the sensation they probably felt till the Pakistan series this year.

Despite being troubled early by leg-spinner Graeme Cremer, who squared Mushfiqur up a few times, the Tigers' number one batsman held on.

He reached his half-century in the 26th over and eventually got to his hundred off 104 balls in the 46th. Sabbir Rahman also hit his highest ODI score, 57 and helped stitch a 119-run stand for the fifth wicket with Mushfiqur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Shakib Al Hasan's (R) bat did not talk in Mirpur, but the premier Bangladesh all-rounder had one long pending wish granted -- a maiden five-for -- in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe yesterday.

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BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

Bangladesh	R/B	4/6
Tamim c Jongwe b Raza	40/68	3/2
Liton c Cremer b Panyangara	0/6	0/0
Mahmudullah b Panyangara	9/20	1/0
Mushfiqur run out (Cremer)	107/109	9/1
Shakib st Muzarabani b Raza	16/21	2/0
Sabbir run out (Cremer)	57/58	4/2
Nasir c Chibhabha b Muzarabani	0/3	0/0
Mashrafe c Jongwe b Muzarabani	14/8	1/1
Sunny run out (Williams/Waller)	15/8	3/0
Al-Amin not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (lb-2, w-12, nb-1)	15	
Total: (For 50 wickets in 50 overs)	273	
Did not bat: Mustafizur Rahman		
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-30, 3-100, 4-123, 5-242, 6-243, 7-243, 8-264, 9-273		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	10	0	38	1
Jongwe	8	1	45	1
Muzarabani	10	0	64	2
Cremer	10	0	45	0
Williams	5	0	32	0
Raza	7	0	47	2

ZIMBABWE	R/B	4/6
Chibhabha c Liton b Shakib	9/23	1/0
Jongwe c Mushfiqur b Al-Amin	39/51	4/1
Ervine c Nasir b Shakib	2/13	0/0
Williams b Shakib	8/13	1/0
Chigumbura lbw b Nasir	41/51	0/2
Raza c Mushfiqur b Mashrafe	3/25	0/0
Waller c Nasir b Mashrafe	1/10	0/0
Cremer lbw b Shakib	15/21	2/0
Panyangara b Shakib	5/9	1/0
Muzarabani not out	0/1	0/0
Mutumbami absent hurt
Extras: (lb-1, w-4)
Total: (All out in 36.1 overs)	128	
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-48, 3-54, 4-65, 5-79, 6-83, 7-120, 8-128, 9-128		

BOWLING	O	M	R	W
Mustafizur	6	0	27	0
Sunny	7	2	19	0
Shakib	10	0	47	5
Al-Amin	5	0	15	1
Mashrafe	6	0	13	2
Nasir	2.1	0	6	1

Result: Bangladesh won by 145 runs
Player-of-the-match: Mushfiqur Rahim
Toss: Zimbabwe, who chose to field
Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Sharfuddoula (Bangladesh)

'We gave Shakib our wickets'

SPORTS REPORTER



The post-match press conferences elicited contrasting sentiments from the captains in Mirpur yesterday. Going by the one-sided result in the first ODI, that wasn't a surprise.

While Zimbabwe captain Elton Chigumbura criticised his players, Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza praised his troops for a near-perfect performance.

"Shakib got five wickets. The way we played him [when] the ball wasn't turning or threatening, it was a bit loose. And if I am being critical towards our batters, I would say we gave him wickets," said Chigumbura.

"He is an experienced guy so he used the wicket well. I am sure our boys can play better than they played today [Saturday]."

"We didn't execute well and the way we batted [it seemed like] we didn't try to build an innings. Some of us tried to force the issue. I think that's what made it worse," he added.

Mashrafe on the other hand said that he was always confident that his side would be able to bounce back after the defeat in the practice match.

"While I was concerned after the practice match, I always knew that we had a much better bowling line-up here and that it would be different ball-game. I never aimed for a one-sided win. I just wanted to win the first match," said Mashrafe.

The skipper, who recently recovered from dengue, still isn't a hundred per cent fit. When asked about how he felt while playing yesterday's match, he said, "The dizziness and weakness is still there. After four overs I got a wicket and that's when I thought, 'oh no, I have to bowl one more'. So those were the kinds of thoughts going through my head. I was trying to push myself to bowl five or six overs," said Mashrafe.

Mashrafe reached 200 wickets for Bangladesh yesterday and shared a light-hearted statement that basically summed up how his career has unfolded.

"Everyone knows I have had many injuries. Even before the series against India I had an accident. I enjoy these things more than I enjoy being normal. I can't play if nothing bad happens to me," he joked.

Booters reach Dushanbe

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team reached Tajikistan capital Dushanbe in the early hours of Saturday ahead of their World Cup qualifier against the hosts on November 12.

The booters reached the Central Asian nation after an 18-hour long journey, and hence kept their activities for the day confined to only a gym and swimming session at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where the team is staying, according to message from the Bangladesh Football Federation.

The team is scheduled to hold its first practice session this morning at an astro turf near the hotel. The Bangladesh team, which is languishing at the bottom of their group with a single point from five matches, will have to brave the challenge of the hosts as well as the cold weather, as temperature dips below 10 degrees centigrade in the evening.

Bangladesh, under former coach Lodewijk de Kruif, had held the Tajiks to a 1-1 draw in the home fixture in June. New coach Fabio Lopez will also be looking to at least salvage a point when the two sides meet again on Thursday.

Stalwarts step up

BISHWAJIT ROY



Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza felt two of his most experienced campaigners performed when they needed to. The ever-reliable Mushfiqur Rahim and ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan stepped up at the right time to guide the hosts to a 145-run win over Zimbabwe in the first ODI of the three-match series in Mirpur yesterday.

Shakib had made headlines on numerous occasions for his exploits with the bat and ball, yet one of his desires had remained unfulfilled, until last night. The left-arm spinner picked up his maiden five-for in 157th attempt as the visitors folded for 128 in chase of 274.

Mashrafe, during the post-match press briefing, described what a five-for means for a bowler. "For Shakib, a five- or six-wicket haul doesn't matter because he has always delivered his best. Yet, it's a relief for him, since he got it for the first time. I can feel it because I haven't got one in Test cricket. So that's good for him."

It was indeed a special moment for Shakib, who celebrated each dismissal with great zest. However, in regards to the context of the match, Mushfiqur's hundred was what had propelled the Tigers to a position of strength. The wicket-keeper batsman scored 107 off 109 deliveries on a wicket which was on the slower side, and yet kept the scoreboard ticking right from the first delivery.

The right-hander has had a brilliant run in 2015 even though he failed to make the most of his starts in the previous two series. Like Shakib's maiden five-for, the fourth ODI hundred came as a relief for Mushfiqur, who

felt the good outing in the practice match gave him confidence.

"I wanted to play the practice match because I couldn't score runs in the national league and I needed match practice. So I had requested the coach. After scoring runs in the practice match, I got confident. I realised that I just needed to spend some time in the middle. Today [Saturday] I felt good early on and I realised that I could play well," said the man-of-the-match award winner.

Mushfiqur scored his first century in ODIs in 2011 against the same opposition in Harare, but he was more satisfied with yesterday's ton as it helped his side win the match, unlike on the former occasion. "I felt bad at that time [2011] because it's disappointing to lose as a team even if you get the man-of-the-match award. But I am happy that I played well and the team won this time," said Mushfiqur.

"I couldn't play as per my expectation in the last two series but I still tried to contribute. And today's 100 felt good. I won't say relief, but at this point of time I am on another level of confidence. Overall, I thank God for giving me a chance to grab this opportunity," added the batsman.

Mushfiqur also thanked Sabbir Rahman for 'making things easier for him'. "Sabbir's innings was really crucial because it's not easy to score runs on this wicket. The way he came and scored runs took away the pressure from me."



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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

MUSHFIQUR RAHIM



Since injuring his ring-finger during the first Test in the Pakistan series earlier this year, Mushfiqur Rahim had been a bit out of sorts, and he failed to perform up to his usual standards in the following series against India and South Africa.

However, the wicket-keeper batsman turned things around yesterday with a 109-ball 107, his fourth century in ODIs. Mushfiqur came at the crease when the hosts were two down for 30. The veteran batsman steadied the innings while keeping the scoreboard ticking on a pitch which was on the slower side and keeping a wee bit low. Before being dismissed in the 48th over, Mushfiqur made sure the hosts got a big enough total to defend.

INT'L JUNIOR TENNIS Sunish, Demi take singles titles

SPORTS REPORTER

India's Dhruv Sunish and Netherland's Tran Demi won the singles titles of the Walton 29th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Tournament, which concluded at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna yesterday.

Sunish beat Syria's Naow Hazem in straight sets (7-6, 6-1) in the boys' singles final while Demi won against her compatriot Tran Lian in three sets (3-6, 6-3, 6-2) in the girls' singles final.

India's Sunish and Parikshit Soman pair won the boys' doubles final beating compatriot Vikrant Dahiya and Sanil Jagtiani pair (7-6, 6-4).

The girls' doubles title went to Chinese Taipei's Hsiao Yun and Chang Lee pair, who beat the Indo-Sri Lankan pair of Adithiya Karunaratne and Rajan Rashmika (6-4, 7-5).

South Africa spun out

AFP, Mohali



India's spinners tied South Africa's batsmen in knots to give the hosts a 108-run victory in the bowler-dominated first Test in Mohali on Saturday.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja grabbed five wickets and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin took three as the Proteas, set a victory target of 218, were shot out for 109 after tea on the third day.

Both bowlers finished with eight wickets in the low-scoring match played on a dusty, dry pitch at the I S Bindra stadium, with the Indian spinners claiming 19 of the 20 South African scalps.

The Proteas were reduced to 60-6 before Stiaan van Zyl, who top-scored with 36, and Simon Harmer got together to put on 42 for the seventh wicket.

Seven batsmen failed to reach double figures, leaving the top-ranked South Africans with a lot to ponder ahead of the second Test which starts in Bangalore on November 14.

Virat Kohli said he was delighted to win his first Test on home soil as captain.

"This was a special occasion for me," said Kohli, who turned 27 on the first day of the match.

"Ours is a young team and we are trying to build a strong team together. A lot of credit to the boys for bouncing back after the loss in the limited-overs series."

Kohli said it was wrong to criticise the pitch which produced a three-day Test.

"I don't think there were any demons in the wicket," he said. "The ball did not turn square at any stage. Batsmen had to apply themselves since it was a bowler's game."

South African skipper Hashim Amla refused to blame the defeat on the pitch.

"200 was a chaseable total, although probably 150 would have been more realistic and a challenge on a deteriorating wicket," he said.

"To get India out for 200 was an excellent effort from our bowlers and we kept

ourselves in the game till the last session. But credit to India for bowling us out."

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 201 all out

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 184 all out

INDIA: Second innings 200 in 75.3 overs (M. Vijay 47, Pujara 77, Kohli 29; Harmer 4-61, Tahir 4-48)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 109 all out in 39.5 overs (Elgar 16, de Villiers 16, van Zyl 36; Ashwin 3-39, Jadeja 5-21)

Result: India won by 108 runs and lead the four-Test series 1-0.

Player-of-the-match: Ravindra Jadeja



India bowler Ravindra Jadeja took a five-for in the second innings of the first Test against South Africa to lift his side to a win on Day 3.

SL pocket series 3-0

AFP, Pallekele

An unbeaten century by Marlon Samuels went in vain as Sri Lanka defeated the West Indies by 19 runs on Saturday to sweep the three-match one-day international series 3-0.

Set a revised Duckworth-Lewis target of 190 off 36 overs after a rain interruption, the hosts were 180-5 from 32.3 overs when it started drizzling again and umpires decided to call off play with three overs remaining.

The in-form Kusal Perera gave the hosts a flying start, hitting a quickfire 50 off 47 balls before useful knocks by the middle order batsmen ensured a comfortable victory in the end.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 206-9 in 36 overs (Samuels 110 not out, Holder 19; Malinga 2-43, Lakmal 2-40, Chameera 2-39, Mendis 2-51)

SRI LANKA: 180-5 in 32.3 overs (Perera 50, Mathews 27 not out; Holder 2-44) Result: Sri Lanka won by 19 runs under D/L method