

# SPORT

## The cool of Sussex suits The Fizz Mariners apologise

STAR SPORT DESK

There's something about Mustafizur Rahman and his debut games. It's not as though he has not put up magical performances after his firsts, but he almost always manages to conjure up something special at the first time of asking.

From scalping the wicket of the ever dangerous Shahid Afridi in his first ever T20 to his five-wicket haul on ODI debut against India, from winning the Indian Premier League in his first go to taking three wickets in an over in his first Test, the accolades have been arriving non-stop.

The left-arter continued the trend when he finished with figures of four for 23 in his debut game for Sussex in the NatWest T20 Blast yesterday. It was a typical Mustafizur performance.

The batsmen either produced towering hits in the air courtesy of edges or failed to read his cutters and had their stumps rattled.

But what made the performance a lot more special was the fact that the left-arter had only reached the United Kingdom the day before. He barely had enough time to adjust to the conditions or even the weather.

That reflects the immense amount of confidence that the youngster has in his own abilities. It was a performance true to the statement that the left-arter most commonly uses during media interactions. "I don't really plan on anything. I will just bowl when the captain asks me to," is something that he says every time reporters ask him about his strategy.

While he forced Ravi Bopara to sky one in the air, he tricked James Foster -- who was looking to move away to the off side and sweep -- with a fuller delivery that splayed the stumps. Three balls later he produced a yorker to dismiss Callum Taylor and then got Ryan Ten Doeschate caught at short fine-leg in the last over.

Speaking to The Daily Star for a brief moment yesterday, Mustafizur indicated that he was enjoying the cooler weather in the UK and that that made things a lot easier for him.

His performance got his captain Luke Wright excited, so much so that he is already hoping Sussex can sign the left-arter up for the next season. He was delighted that Sussex stuck with the idea of bringing him over despite injury delays, and doubts over his willingness to play.

Speaking to wscountytimes.co.uk,



Don't get me wrong, I'd sign him for the next ten years in T20 if I could but we have to be realistic.

Luke Wright  
Sussex captain



On his NatWest T20 Blast debut, Mustafizur Rahman showed why Sussex lusted after his talents with a sublime performance, picking up four wickets for 23 runs.

Wright said: "We got criticised for hanging on but that's why we waited. He's a special talent and we have to enjoy him while we have him. He's an unbelievably skilful bowler. To have him bowling those death overs as well as he did, the day after he came in, and hardly being able to speak any English was superb."

"I'd sign him for the next ten years in T20 if I could but we have to be realistic. Bangladesh have got a seriously talented bowler who they are going to have to look after, and wrap in cotton wool. A lot of

franchises will throw a lot of money at him and that's a commodity we haven't got a lot of but if he's happy and loves it then it would be great to get him back," he added.

Sussex keeper Craig Cachopa got his first chance to keep to Mustafizur in this match, Wright commented: "Chops said afterwards that it looks like every ball is going to be a slower ball then it absolutely zips through. I'm just glad I don't have to face him to be honest. He can swing it both ways at pace and he's got a really good slower ball too."

SPORTS REPORTER



Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, defending champions of the Premier Division Hockey League, reiterated their apology to the Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday, for the 'unfortunate incidents' which occurred during their league match against Usha KC.

On July 1, a group of officials and supporters of the Mariners vandalised the VIP gallery of the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium following an argument between a former hockey player and a Mariners Club official, who had gone to the VIP gallery to protest the 'poor umpiring' to the BHF general secretary. After the incident, which kept the game halted for quite awhile, Mariners came from two goals down to beat Usha 3-2 and clinch their maiden league title.

"We felt embarrassed after the incident as the federation was not part of it and we have already replaced the things that were damaged from our fund. We are also not being able to heartily celebrate our success due to that incident. We again apologise to any federation official who might have gotten injured during the incident," said Mariner Youngs' vice president Alamgir Kabir at a press conference on the club's premises yesterday.

"A vested group is conspiring against us and trying to strip us off the league title as well as file a case against us. But we urge everyone to keep our hockey on the turf. We want to play; we want to stay on the field. We will be more cautious in the future so that such incidents do happen again," urged Kabir.

The premier league committee has already condemned the incident and have also referred it to the executive committee meeting which is supposed to discuss it further.

The club's general secretary Hasan Ullah Khan Rana, hockey committee chairman AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed, hockey team manager Nazrul Islam Mridha and club official Mizanur Rahman Dipu were, among others, present at the press conference.



Both England captain Alastair Cook (L) and batsman Joe Root made centuries on the first day of the second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford yesterday. However, while Cook departed for 105, Root stood firm for over six hours and ended the day unbeaten on 141.

PHOTO: REUTERS

### Fernando in SL squad

AGENCIES, Colombo

Teenage fast bowler Asitha Fernando has been included in the Sri Lanka squad for the Test series with Australia.

The 18-year-old has been brought in to the squad from Sri Lanka A tour of England along with fellow seamer Vishwa Fernando and left-arm spinner Lakshan Sandakan.

All of that trio are uncapped, as is batsman Roshen Silva, who has earned a place in the squad following recent strong form with Sri Lanka A.

Roshen scored a century against Durham last month and posted a half-century versus Pakistan A this month.

All-rounder Dhananjaya de Silva -- who has one ODI cap and two Twenty20 appearances to his name -- will be looking to make his Test bow in the series.

Milinda Siriwardana is left out despite scoring two half-centuries and taking 11 wickets in his first five Tests. There is also no place for Lahiru Thirimanne.

The experience in the fast-bowling attack comes from Nuwan Pradeep and Suranga Lakmal, with Dhammika Prasad and Dushmantha Chameera injured and Shaminda Eranga suspended.

## Root unyielding

AFP, Manchester



Joe Root's unbeaten 141 was the centrepiece of England's commanding 314 for four on the first day of the second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford on Friday.

England captain Alastair Cook, who won the toss on a good pitch and in sunny conditions ideal for batting, made 105 and shared a second-wicket stand of 185 with Root.

Having twice got himself out during England's 75-run defeat by Pakistan in the first of a four-Test series at Lord's last week, a determined Root did not give a chance in just over six hours at the crease on Friday.

Pakistan's left-arm pace trio of Mohammad Amir, Rahat Ali and Wahab Riaz became increasingly threatening as the skies clouded over late on.

Amir took two for 63 and Rahat two for 69, with both men bowling 20 overs.

But star leg-spinner Yasir Shah, who took a man-of-the-match winning 10 wickets at Lord's, returned figures of none for 111 in 31 overs.

"It was a good day," Cook told Sky Sports. "For Joe also to get a big hundred is vitally important. It was a belting first-day wicket, but there's signs it might wear and tear so we've got to make the most of batting first."

Root added: "Today we played a lot straighter. There was some frustration from before of not going on for a big score. It was nice to do so today." Amir had opener Alex Hales dropped in the gully

on six by Asad Shafiq.

But three balls later, having repeatedly moved the ball away from Hales, Amir skilfully swung the ball back into the right-handed opener and knocked over his middle and off stumps.

England were now 25 for one after seven overs.

Cook cashed in on a rare Shah short ball with a pull to the mid-wicket rope.

Root, in the manner of Yorkshire and England great Geoffrey Boycott, forced both Riaz and Amir through cover-point off the back foot for fours.

At lunch, England were 95 for one with Cook 40 not out and Root 41 not out.

Root just beat Cook to the fifty milestone, getting there in 86 balls to the captain's 90.

Cook reached the landmark in style with a straight-driven four -- a clear sign he is in top form -- off Shah.

A similar stroke saw him into the 90s and raised the 150 stand.

Cook's two to mid-wicket off Amir saw him to a hundred in 157 balls including 14 fours and the normally restrained Essex batsman celebrated his century with several fist pumps.

Cook's 29th Test century meant he extended his own England record and drew level with Australia great Don Bradman's tally.

Bradman, however, played just 52 Tests while this was Cook's 131st match in the format.

More significantly, this was Cook's first century in 20 Test innings.

### SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First Innings				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cook b Amir	20	4	63	2
Hales b Amir	10	0	0	0
Root not out	141	0	0	0
Vincent c Sarfraz b Rahat	18	0	0	0
Ballance b Rahat	23	0	0	0
Woakes not out	2	0	0	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-5, nb-7)	15	0	0	0
Total: (For 4 wks in 89 overs)	314	0	0	0
To bat: Bairstow, Stokes, Ali, Broad, Anderson.				
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-210, 3-238, 4-311.				

## Kohli puts India in charge

AFP, Antigua



Ravichandran Ashwin made the West Indies pay dearly for an early reprieve in completing a third Test hundred as India continued to pile on the runs in reaching 512 for six in their first innings at tea on the second day of the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Friday.

Dropped on 43 by new wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich off fast bowler Shannon Gabriel in the morning session, Ashwin played the supporting role to his captain, Virat Kohli in a 168-run fifth-wicket stand that drained the enthusiasm from the home side before lunch.

However Kohli's dismissal off the second ball of the afternoon session, bowled by Gabriel for 200, his first double-century in Test cricket, put the focus squarely on the all-rounder.

He made the most of the promotion to number six in the batting order for the first time in his Test career, reaching three figures just before the interval with a boundary off tiring leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo.

Going into the final session of the day in partnership with fellow spinner Amit Mishra (23 not out), Ashwin's innings of almost six hours at the crease had included 12 fours off

244 deliveries. All three of his Test hundreds have come against the West Indies.

Following the loss of Kohli, wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha contributed 40 to a 71-run stand for the sixth wicket before he became Dowrich's first wicketkeeping victim in Test cricket, being stumped off the bowling of part-time off-spinner Kraigg Brathwaite.

Yet that success was of little consolation to Dowrich and his teammates after the earlier error which allowed the overnight fifth-wicket stand between Kohli and Ashwin to prosper through the first two hours of the day's play when 102 runs were added.

With the notable exception of Gabriel, all the West Indies bowlers were made to look pedestrian especially by the excellence of Kohli's batting on a pitch that has almost nothing by way of encouragement in pace and bounce.

His almost complete dominance of the bowlers extended through the morning as he continued to march his side forward at the expense of flagging opponents.

By the time he had fallen to Gabriel immediately upon the resumption in the afternoon, his six hours at the crease had occupied 283 deliveries, striking 24 boundaries.

Apart from the personal milestone, Kohli is the first Indian captain to score a Test double-century away from home.

### SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First Innings				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vijay c Brathwaite b Gabriel	7	0	0	0
Dhawan lbw b Bishoo	84	0	0	0
Pujara c Brathwaite b Bishoo	16	0	0	0
Kohli b Gabriel	200	0	0	0
Rahane c Bravo b Bishoo	22	0	0	0
Ashwin not out	106	0	0	0
Saha st Dowrich b Brathwaite	40	0	0	0
Mishra not out	23	0	0	0
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, nb-6)	14	0	0	0
Total: (For 6 wks in 154 overs)	512	0	0	0
To bat: I. Sharma, M. Shami, U. Yadav				
Fall of wicket: 1-14, 2-74, 3-179, 4-236, 5-404, 6-475.				

### Sammy wins it on his turf

ANI, Beausejour

On the night that the Beausejour Stadium was renamed in honour of Darren Sammy, the St. Lucia Zouks captain celebrated with a match winning half-century against the St Kitts & Nevis Patriots in the Caribbean Premier League. Sammy recorded his highest CPL score as the Zouks secured a victory that keeps them in the tournament.

The Zouks, who were batting first, found themselves in serious trouble with the departure of Michael Hussey, struggling at 83 for 4 before man of the moment Sammy arrived at the crease in a ground that was now named after him.

Thankfully for Sammy and the local crowd, he came off brilliantly to take his team to a competitive total. He blasted 59 runs from 35 balls, plundering two sixes and five fours, as the Zouks reached 174-9 in their 20 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF  
ST. LUCIA: 174 for 9 (Hussey 26, Sammy 59; Joseph 4-41)  
ST KITTS AND NEVIS: 139 for 9 (Smuts 30, du Plessis 48; Sammy 1-26, Johnson 3-37, Taylor 2-19)



Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli turned his century into a sublime double-ton as India piled on the runs against the West Indies on the second day of the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua yesterday.

PHOTO: AP

## 'Captain's backing inspires me'

PTI, Antigua



Shikhar Dhawan has always had the uncanny knack of producing goods when the chips are down which he attributes to his "big heart" and the "backing" he has got from skipper Virat Kohli and coach Anil Kumble.

Dhawan scored 84 and is feeling less pressure after there were unconfirmed reports that KL Rahul, with back-to-back half-centuries in practice games will replace him.

"I feel it is important for any player if the captain and the coach are backing you and it

gives a lot of confidence.

"That's what matters and you also need to have self-belief that you can do that and it is a mixture of everything," Dhawan said.

"Opening is the toughest job and you need a big heart for it, when facing the new ball on a new [fresh] wicket. Bowlers should bowl with energy and your technique should also be good because you have to leave a lot of balls and you need patience as well," said Dhawan.

"The middle order needs it too but a new ball has its own challenge. Vijay got a good ball and it was a very quick ball. I was luckier in that sense as Gabriel was bowling really well," he added.