

SPORT



Mash vents his fury

NAIMUL KARIM



You have seen him win matches with his swinging deliveries in the past; you have seen him upset the opposition by playing the role of a floater and scoring crucial runs at the end of an innings; you have also regularly seen him outwit the opponent with his tactical changes on the field; but to witness Mashrafe excel in all three departments at a time when his teammates were down and upset, now that's just a scene taken right out of a movie.

Following the win against England yesterday, Mashrafe admitted that his teammates were 'shocked' and 'upset' after they lost the first ODI and that he hoped to change that sentiment by logging the hosts out of trouble.

"The win was important because we were shocked about the way we lost the first ODI. We were down that day and we were even upset during the warm-up. But one moment changes the mindset and luckily that worked out."

"Before coming to bat I was thinking to myself that in the last three to four matches, I tried to spend some time at the wicket and it wasn't working. So I thought, I was just going to go and slog," smiled Mashrafe.

FIRST ODI LOSS WORSE THAN

WORLD T20 INDIA DEFEAT

Elaborating on the way the players felt after the first ODI, he said: "The senior players of the team, we hung out till 3:00 am in our rooms and we kept talking. We tried not to talk about the defeat but we ended up talking about it. We talked about the India game in the World T20 as well, where we had committed a similar mistake."

"I thought the way we had lost the first ODI against England gave a worse feeling in comparison because we had six wickets left and two set batsman," explained Mashrafe.

The hosts posted 238 for eight and the message in the dressing room was simple, they needed to pick up early wickets.

"I remember we had beaten England in England in a similar scenario before and we had gotten early wickets back then. That was the key for today as well. Because we got four early wickets, we had the advantage," said Mashrafe.

Mashrafe's role as a bowler seems to have changed a bit with the absence of Mustafizur Rahman. He tends to bowl longer spells with the new ball and looks to swing the ball more often rather than bowling slower ones and cutters.

It's something that Mashrafe intentionally does in order to fill the gaps of Mustafizur.

"Mustafizur always got wickets and so with him not there, I have to do it. It's challenging and not easy but at the moment it feels good because everything is working out."

"I think when your fitness level is good it becomes easier [to bowl seam up deliveries and look to swing the ball]," explained Mashrafe.

Yesterday's wicket produced more turn and was a bit slower and suited the hosts a lot more. However, Mashrafe claimed that this was not the wicket that the team had asked for.

"We wanted to play on a sporting wicket like in the first ODI. We lost the first game because of our own mistakes. The wicket today was different because it was under covers for two days because of the rain and that caused the wicket to be a bit slow. But as a team we prefer sporting wickets," said Mashrafe, adding that the hosts would now target their seventh consecutive series win in Chittagong.

After a soul-crushing defeat in the first ODI, the Bangladesh team had plenty of reasons to celebrate after they outplayed England in the second ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to level the series at one apiece.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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Mushy joins Club 4,000

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim may not be enjoying the best of times at the moment; he has not been hitting the ball too well and is still looking for a way to get back into form.

However, amidst the nervy patch, he has surpassed a landmark.

Following his knock at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday he became the third Bangladeshi to score 4000 runs in one-day internationals. Mushfiqur, who scored 21 runs off 23 balls yesterday, reached the landmark in his 150th innings when he scored 13.

The other two Bangladeshis to have scored more than 4000 runs are Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan.

BANGLADESH'S 4,000+ CLUB

Player	Inns	Runs	Average
Tamim Iqbal	157	4962	32.2
Shakib Al Hasan	154	4562	36.1



BD-ENG SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH		R/B	4s/6s		
Tamim c Moeen b Woakes	14/31	1/0			
Imrul c Willey b Woakes	11/18	2/0			
Sabbir b Ball	3/21	0/0			
Mahmudullah lbw b Rashid	75/88	6/0			
Mushfiqur c Moeen b Ball	21/23	3/0			
Shakib c Buttler b Stokes	3/14	0/0			
Mosaddek c Moeen b Rashid	29/49	4/0			
Nasir not out	27/27	2/0			
Mashrafe run out	44/29	2/3			
Shafiqul not out	0/1	0/0			
Extras: (lb-4, w-6, nb-1)	11				
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs)	238				
To bat: Taskin Ahmed					
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-26, 3-39, 4-89, 5-113, 6-161, 7-169, 8-238.					
England		R/B	4s/6s		
Roy lbw b Mashrafe	13/21	0/0			
Vince c Mosaddek b Mashrafe	5/10	1/0			
Duckett b Shakib	0/6	0/0			
Baird c Mushfiqur b Taskin	35/53	1/0			
Stokes b Mashrafe	0/5	0/0			
Buttler lbw b Taskin	57/57	7/0			
Moeen c Shakib b Nasir	4/10	0/0			
Woakes c Mushfiqur b Taskin	7/9	1/0			
Rashid not out	33/44	1/1			
Willey lbw b Mosaddek	9/31	1/0			
Ball c Nasir b Mashrafe	28/22	5/0			
Extras: (lb-7, w-6)	13				
Total: (All out in 44 overs)	204				
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-24, 4-26, 5-105, 6-120, 7-123, 8-132, 9-159, 10-204.					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Woakes	9	0	40	2	
Willey	8	1	36	0	
Rashid	10	0	53	2	
Ball	8	0	44	2	
Stokes	6	1	22	1	
Moeen	9	0	39	0	

Nasir's happy homecoming

SPORTS REPORTER



As soon as Nasir Hossain bowled the last ball of his 10th over, his teammates from all over the field came to congratulate him. Shakib Al Hasan was the first one. He came in,

hugged him from behind, Soumya Sarkar ran in all the way from the deep and patted his head, while Mosaddek Hossain, the junior-most player of the team gave him a slight pat on the back.

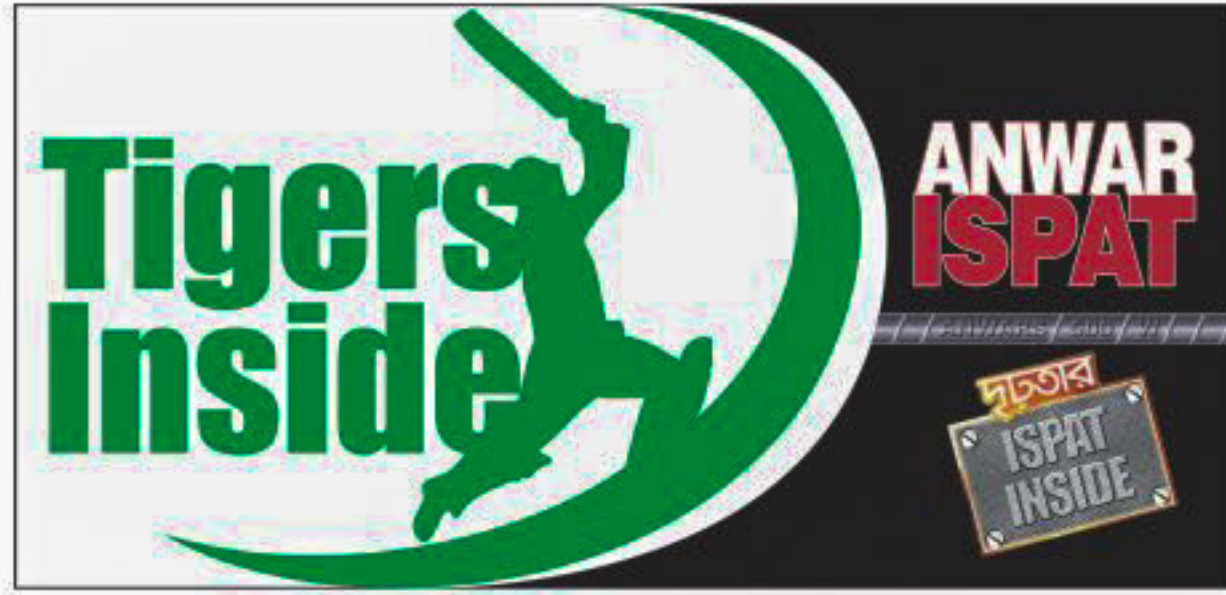
One could say that Nasir's teammates were congratulating him for his brilliant bowling figures: 1 for 29. After all, there were 33 dot balls and a wicket in those 10 overs. He had just conceded the one boundary.

"With regards to bowling he was outstanding -- 10 overs for 29, it's difficult to want anything more than this from a player," skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza said of the comeback man.

However, when you analyse Nasir's career and his performance in the last two years, you will get the feeling that those pats and hugs were not meant just for Nasir's performance in yesterday's game, it meant a lot more. It was more of a 'wel-

come back to the hood' kind of a celebration, for Nasir has not been the team management's first choice in the ODIs this year.

He has not been in the starting 11 despite having posted the best economy figures and the best bowling average among Bangladesh's spinners last year. He fared well with the bat as well, having recorded an average above 70 in the



recently concluded Dhaka Premier League, the country's premier 50-over competition.

After Mosharraf Hossain's disappointing performance, he was given another opportunity and he excelled both with the bat and the ball.

When Nasir arrived at the crease yesterday, Bangladesh were struggling at 165 for six and

there were just 10 more overs to go. An over later, Mosaddek Hossain departed and the hosts further plunged to 170 for seven by the 42nd over.

If Nasir was sweating a bit, he could not be blamed; he has gone through a lot in the last year, which saw him suddenly fall from being one of the favourites in the side to becoming a benchwarmer.

Luckily for him, captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza at the other end was on a different level altogether. He was hammering his way through the English attack.

Inspired by his captain, Nasir himself joined the action and scored a useful 27 off 27. That may not have been the highlight in the face of Mashrafe's knock, but it was his stability that helped Bangladesh post their highest score in the last 10 overs this year: 75. Initially, he was content to take the singles and give Mashrafe the strike and then towards the end he started chopping and cutting the ball, something that he loves to do, with ease.

"He has done well; at that time he batted till the end. That is something we always want and he has done that," Mashrafe said of his batting.

When you have an all-rounder of Nasir's calibre, it is difficult to understand why the management would exclude him. To use the skipper's own words, 'it's difficult to want anything more from a player'.

'We were tentative'

SPORTS REPORTER



Following yesterday's defeat in Mirpur England skipper Jos Buttler said that he was disappointed with the way his batsmen approached the game.

The visitors had lost early wickets and had found themselves in a precarious 26 for four. That is when Buttler arrived and tried to play aggressive strokes and build a partnership. He was the lone success story in England's top order, hitting a run-a-ball 57 with the help of seven boundaries.

The stand-in captain expected his top order to play with a similarly aggressive mindset.

"I thought it was a good wicket. The only thing that disappointed me was that we were a little bit tentative. We maybe could

have gone out there and stamped our authority on the run chase. I would rather be 60 for three after 10 then try to sort of work our way there," said Buttler at the post-match press conference in Mirpur.

"I thought our first 50 overs were fantastic. We bowled brilliantly up front and we got wickets and put Bangladesh under pressure. We could have bowled them out for 190 to 200, but [Mashrafe Bin] Mortaza played some good shots and got it away from us a little bit. I still thought 240 was well within reach," he added.

He also indicated that Mashrafe proved to be the difference between the two sides.

"He [Mashrafe] had a really good game. He chanced his arms a little bit and was aggressive and got them up to a score maybe 20 more than what they could have gotten. He bowled well as well," said Buttler, adding that his players would remain unshaken from the defeat.



After taking the decisive wicket of Jos Buttler, the Bangladesh players celebrated fervently. The England captain took exception, and the incident added an unsavoury aspect to an otherwise highly entertaining cricket match.

PHOTO: STAR

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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA
Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza willed his side to a win yesterday. Coming in to bat with the Tigers at 169 for seven with just over eight overs left, Mashrafe blitzed England, making a 29-ball 44 featuring two fours and three sixes. He was not quite done yet as he would come back with a vengeance and get rid of openers Jason Roy and James Vince with the ball and dismissing Ben Stokes for a duck, before capping off a four-for by dismissing Jake Ball.

Blind passion given sight

AFP, Dhaka

Blind from infancy, 19-year-old Bangladeshi cricket fan Samiul Islam finally had the opportunity to see his favourite team in action on Sunday after his eyesight was restored following an operation funded by a reality TV show.

Hailing from a poor labourer's family in northern Sherpur district, Samiul was brought to Mirpur stadium in the capital to fulfil his dream of watching the Tigers play in the second ODI against England yesterday after his eyesight was successfully restored.

A reality show named Shwapno Dekhe Chokh (Eyes see the dream) funded Samiul's treatment in cooperation with international charity Sight Savers.

"I used to listen to commentary on the radio and TV. Whenever there was a big match I would go before the TV set. I could not see the game, but for sure, I could hear the commentary and feel the thrill," Islam told AFP during the match yesterday.

When asked by the donors what he wished to see first after his operation, Islam said he would love to watch a Bangladesh match live. "Today my dream came true."

Mashrafe, Sabbir get demerit points

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and top order batsman Sabbir Rahman have received one demerit point each from the International Cricket Council (ICC) following yesterday's match against England at Mirpur as a disciplinary measure, according to a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) source.

The incident took place in the 28th over after Bangladesh reviewed a leg-before decision against Buttler. When the decision went in favour of Bangladesh, they were seen celebrating quite ecstatically. Buttler did not seem happy and reacted.

According to the ICC's code of conduct, if a player receives four or more demerit points within a 24-month period, his demerit points will be converted into two suspension points, which will equate to a

ban from his next match or matches. Two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test or two ODIs or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player.

When asked about the matter Buttler said that he was not happy with the way Bangladesh celebrated.

"Maybe just the way they celebrated by running towards me and giving me a bit of a send-off. Emotions were running high and they were obviously delighted to get the wicket. I should have just walked off."

When asked if the hosts had crossed a line, he said: "Potentially. I am sure you guys can judge that for me."

Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe, however, played down the matter. "Firstly I don't know what happened with Buttler. I don't know who spoke against him. Actually when we took the review, we were fully focused on the decision and after he got out, I got excited. Many things happen in the heat of the moment and I guess players should control that."