

TEN 1 HD
Pakistan v West Indies
Third Test, Day 2
Live from 12:00pm

TEN 2
Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka

First Test, Day 3
Live from 2:00pm

SONY SIX
Primera Liga
Deportivo v Valencia
Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)

SONY ESPN
Serie A
Udinese v Torino
Live from 12:00am (Tuesday)

Cagliari v Palermo
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

The man with an eye for history

SAKEB SUBHAN

It is a measure of Shakib Al Hasan and the almost automatic expectation that he will perform that, amid the brilliance of Mehedi Hasan Miraz's 19 wickets and three five-fors, his 12 wickets have almost gone unnoticed. That is not quite accurate. Nine wickets may have gone unnoticed -- his five-wicket haul in Chittagong came on the day he played an outrageous shot to get out, overshadowing his bowling heroics that kept Bangladesh in the hunt.

But yesterday, after an overdue indifferent bowling performance in the first innings, he came roaring back. The evening session began with England 100 without loss in pursuit of 273. Ben Duckett's dismissal by Mehedi was not enough, as the firm duo of Alastair Cook and Joe Root were at the crease. Shakib dismissed Joe Root leg-before, but that was the calm before the storm.

With Mehedi accounting for the next four, at 161 for six there was still hope for England if they could just make it through to the close. In the three innings previously on this tour, England's last five wickets had averaged 36 per wicket, and a repeat would see them home.

But Shakib has a nose for the big moment. Name a landmark achievement for Bangladesh cricket since his debut, and you will find that Shakib had a big part in it -- his half-century in the 2007 World Cup win over India; his leadership during Bangladesh's Test and ODI series wins in West Indies in 2009; his man-of-the-series performance in the whitewash of New Zealand in 2010 and another man-of-the-series performance in Bangladesh's run to the finals of the Asia Cup in 2012.

So in the 42nd over, England were 161 for six with Ben Stokes and the capable Chris Woakes at the crease. The third ball had Stokes playing for the turn and being bowled by a straighter one. The next one turned viciously to catch Adil Rashid plumb in front. Shakib missed the hat-trick but had Zafar Ansari edging a flick to short leg fielder Mominul Haque who parried the fumble to Imrul Kayes beside him, and it was 161 for nine. One over and history was all but in the bag.

Shakib perhaps knew when he took Stokes's wicket that it was game, set and match. He signalled a salute to the dressing room, and that pose went viral across the Mirpur stands as each subsequent wicket was greeted with the gesture from the spectators. No one quite captures popular cricketing imagination like Bangladesh's best player, and no one quite knows just when to grab the spotlight like he does.



PARTY TIME: Led by skipper Musfiqur Rahim, Bangladesh players converge on collecting the stumps as souvenirs of a historic Test match victory against England at the fall of Steven Finn.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Biggest win for Bangladesh cricket

NAIMUL KARIM

School kids. They all celebrated like school kids. If they had bags on, those would have been thrown high in the air as well. As soon as the handshakes were done, Bangladesh's players erupted with a never-before-seen energy following a Test series.

The change in emotion -- from disciplined handshakes with the England players to childlike enthusiasm -- was a sight to behold. The Mirpur stadium might have had one-third of the spectators compared to a one-day game, but the intensity of the Bangladesh players' celebration -- who were dancing in circles and shouting their lungs out -- suggested that the win yesterday surpassed

any limited overs success.

Therefore it was not a surprise when skipper Musfiqur Rahim described yesterday's win as Bangladesh's biggest ever success at the post-match press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"We had earlier won against the West Indies and Zimbabwe, but to beat such a big team in a Test feels very satisfying. This is a big achievement for us in Test cricket."

"But I believe that we can further improve our record in the future and go for 2-0 series wins. Personally, judging by the way we came back and fought in this series, I think this is the biggest win in Bangladesh's cricket so far," said Mushfiqur.

At Tea, England were cruising at 100 for no loss, but they eventually lost their ten wickets for 64 runs. The sequence of events that took place in the last session of the day yesterday was something no one in the

stadium would have expected to see even in their dreams. Mushfiqur himself was surprised.

"We never believed that they would be all out after 100 for no loss. We knew that it would be difficult for new batsmen on this wicket. We had that belief and the bowlers also bowled really well."

"I think the bowling partnership was really important at that point in time and we did well. I think they also fell under pressure because of the wicket. And in the third innings on this wicket one odd ball could have made the difference," explained the skipper.

Bangladesh have been successful in ODIs in the past but have failed to replicate that success in Tests. Even in their best cricketing year in 2015, they struggled against Pakistan and India in the longer-format. That is the main reason why yesterday's win was celebrated with such vigour.

It almost felt as though a mental block had been lifted.

"We have been doing well in ODIs. And I personally believe that we are on the right track in Tests as well. We have the belief that we can beat any team at home in ODIs and are gradually gaining that belief in Test cricket is well. We believe that we can come back outstandingly from any disaster, just like in the ODIs," said Mushfiqur.

Run through Bangladesh's records in the recent past and you will find a number of drawn Tests. Many of those Tests were played on placid wickets which barely had anything in them for the bowlers.

The wickets in this series against England though were anything but placid and that, in a way, reflects the changed mentality of the cricketers.



Shakib Al Hasan spreads his arms in contentment after cutting short Joe Root's stay at the crease early in the third session on Day Three of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

A stormy Tea break

BISHWAJIT ROY

There were many twists and turns in the second Test at Mirpur as a great Test match requires and many segments in the two-match Test series that will create a whirlwind in discussions in the coming days. It was a series where popular phrases such as 'cricket is a funny game' and 'cricket is a game of uncertainty' were given new dimensions.

However, many will be more curious to know about what actually happened at the Tea break in the Bangladesh dressing room as the hosts demolished their opponents -- who went into the break at 100 for no loss in chase of 273 -- after coming back onto the field. And it seemed from that pointon vice-captain Tamim Iqbal and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan seemed to be control the match.

After the match, which the Tigers won by 108 runs inside three days, it was no secret that it was Tigers' head coach Chandika Hathurusingha who went all guns blazing and lit a fire under his charges

to bounce back in the match.

"There were a few ups and downs and it was hard to know which team would win. The coach was a bit fired up at Tea as we didn't bowl too well," captain Musfiqur Rahim revealed "Then we tried to bowl in good areas and did well. The bowlers did a great job."

When Hathurusingha's attention was drawn to the issue, the Sri Lankan smiled and responded diplomatically.

"I have to use words carefully because I wasn't happy. We didn't do what we planned. So I had to talk to them in the Tea break. I cannot tell you [what I said to my charges during the break]. I just reminded them what we were supposed to do. Some big players have to step up. It is good that they got the message. I cannot judge whether they were fired up, but that's what they are supposed to do," explained Hathurusingha.

The Bangladesh coach insisted that he was sure the match would finish inside three days.

"I said: either way, this match will only be

three days. I am always optimistic [of winning the series]. If we had more match experience, we would have won 2-0. It is easy to say that afterwards. We didn't know how to overcome certain situations but we are more confident when we get into these kind of situations," he continued, also thanking the security agencies and the England cricket team for such a fascinating series.

The Lankan also showered praise on his bowlers.

"I am happy with Taijul [Islam] as well. He bowled very tightly in both innings. The bowling department took help from the pitch but they bowled in good areas. We probably out-bowled England, which is a pleasing thing."

When inquired about his batsmen's hastiness in the morning, he said: "It wasn't a blanket plan. We had plans for each player. We didn't expect some of them to bat the way they did. We wanted to score because it is only a matter of time if you are looking to survive on this kind of wicket. We want to back our skills."



Chandika Hathurusingha

RAHIMAFROOZ

Castrol Activ
WITH
ACTIBOND MOLECULES
For continuous
Protection of Engine

IT'S MORE THAN JUST OIL. IT'S LIQUID ENGINEERING.

Castrol

PERFORMER OF THE SERIES

MEHEDI HASAN

A 19-wicket haul in a two-match test series is any bowler's dream. And if the dream is realised by a 19-year-old debutant, thrown into the mix for his first taste of international cricket, it is an epic achievement. So a man-of-the-series award is no more than what Mehedi Hasan Miraz has deserved. His achievement -- taking most number of wickets in a two-match Test match series by a Bangladeshi -- was not unexpected either. An accomplished all-rounder and captain at age-level cricket, Miraz had shown his worth when he guided Bangladesh to a third-place finish in the ICC Under-19 World Cup at the beginning of this year, himself scoring 242 runs in six innings and picking up 12 wickets. And now with his first chance among the big boys, Miraz showed full repertoire of his off-spin skills, stifling the English batsmen with immaculate line and length, together with the turn. The all-rounder might have missed out with the willow, but it is just a matter of time before he shines in that department too.

'Nobody thought of personal records'

SPORTS REPORTER

The phrase 'it was a team effort' is often used by captains to describe wins these days. In fact, one could term it a cliché in today's cricketing world.

Mushfiqur Rahim, following yesterday's win against England, used the same phrase. Those who observed the entire two-match Test series though would tell you that Mushfiqur most definitely meant what he said.

And it was not just Mushfiqur, ask any member of yesterday's victorious playing eleven and they will tell you the same thing. There might have been brilliant individual performances throughout the Test, but at the end of the day, the hosts managed to accomplish the 'special' win because of the contribution and the sacrifices of the entire team.

Tamim Iqbal, who scored a century in the first Test, rated yesterday's win as something that was much more important than his personal record.

"This was the biggest win in the history of our game. No matter how much you score as an individual, if you don't win, then it doesn't matter. Because we crossed the line yesterday, everyone will remember this win. We don't care about individual records anymore," Tamim told The Daily Star yesterday.

"After losing the ODI series, we took a very positive decision. We decided to play on turning tracks like these. As a batsman, I would never want to play on this wicket. But this is what we all decided on together."

"We went to Chittagong and almost succeeded. After losing that game we realised that had we given five to ten percent more effort, we could have won the game. And that's why we were more confident in Dhaka. We knew that if we didn't make mistakes, we would be able to beat one of the best Test teams in the world," he added.

The left-hander though was not ready to go overboard.

This was just one victory and he believes that Bangladesh still have a long way to go.

"We have beaten a big team but that doesn't mean that we have become a very good team. Only after we beat a number of good teams consistently can we start saying that we are a very good one-day team."

"We still have a lot to learn in this format and we have to play cricket like this for long periods of time. Regardless, we will celebrate this win well," he said.

Mominul Haque, who has a batting average above 50 and has plenty of good memories in Test cricket already,

echoed Tamim's sentiments.

"I have scored hundreds in Tests before and although I just scored a half-century in this Test, I can tell you that this victory is very special. It's something that I really cannot describe in words. They are a top-ranked side and I am glad I managed to contribute in this win," said Mominul.

Likewise, Taijul Islam too had special words for his team. "It didn't matter who got the wicket and didn't. The fact that we won here was a big deal in itself. We celebrated all of them equally. There was no room for personal records here," said Taijul.



All CLAWS AND FANGS: If there were 11 Tigers on the field, there were many more in the galleries and all through the country.

PHOTO: STAR