

Star SPORT



Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and his Sri Lanka counterpart Rangana Herath share the glittering piece of silverware after Bangladesh's four-wicket victory in the second Test in Colombo yesterday ended the Test series in a 1-1 draw.

PHOTO: AFP

Ghosts of the past put to rest

BISHWAJIT ROY

"What's the news? Two gone! Oh no," a student in uniform exclaimed over phone and cursed out of frustration after learning that Bangladesh had lost two quick wickets in chase of a 191-run winning target. His expression relayed more pain than when he was riding on a bus along the bumpy Malibagh-Mouchak route.

By the afternoon the young man must be in a joyous mood similar to millions of cricket fans across the country -- who kept in touch with the match the whole time whether they were on the road, in offices or any other place -- following the Tigers' historic four-wicket victory at P Sara Oval.

Mushfiqur Rahim and Co. might have brought another moment for many to celebrate perhaps just like another victory, but there are others to whom this success means a lot more than just a win. For them, it seemed like the future generation had finally relieved their predecessors from a long-standing pain.

What was that pain? Ask former national captain turned selector Habibul Bashar and he will tell you

how ignominious the day in September 2001 was when two Sri Lankan batsmen -- Marvan Atapattu (201) and Mahela Jayawardene (150) -- retired after making big scores at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo.

"I also played the match where we scored the lowest Test total (62) at this very P Sara Oval in 2007, but today's success reminded me of the humiliation on that day when two Sri Lankan batsmen retired. It was really embarrassing for us because this type of thing happens in practice matches.

"Those were the days when we were only on the receiving end, so it's a special victory for those of us who have bitter memories against Sri Lanka as players and we must thank our successors who created the

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Congratulations
to the Bangladesh Tigers
on Winning their 100th Test Match

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MOMENTS

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo

THE GENIUS MISFIELD

Things were getting a little too close for comfort in the morning session. Nearly 50 minutes had passed and Sri Lanka's lead had grown to 190. Dimuth Karunaratne had hit a fifty and was likely thinking of a heist after he and Suranga Lakmal had survived a few mishits and a review during Mustafizur Rahman's first spell.

Off the fourth ball of the 113th over bowled by Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Karunaratne tucked a ball off his legs and Subhashis at short square leg misfielded the ball. Knowing that Subhashis was not the sharpest knife in Bangladesh's fielding drawer, Karunaratne set off for a run.

But Subhashis had it under control all along. He recovered quickly and fired in a throw at Miraz who, being Bangladesh's best fielder, beautifully gathered a half-volley and sent Karunaratne on his way.

MOSADDEK'S ATTEMPTED REVENGE

In Sri Lanka's second innings on Saturday, Mosaddek Hossain was the bowler at the wrong end of a gaffe by umpire Aleem Dar in the last ball of the day. Dar at first nodded his head when he saw Lakmal, off whose thigh pad a claimed bat-pad catch was taken at short leg, begin to walk off. But it was just the umpire's need to be right when proven wrong by a batsman's initiative. Lakmal stayed and Dar said no, and Bangladesh wasted a review.

Yesterday evening with 21 runs to win Mosaddek advanced down the track and hit one of the hardest shots of the match straight at Dar's head, only for Herath to get in the way and drop the catch. Intended or otherwise, after a match in which Bangladesh got the wrong end of the stick as far as decisions were concerned, it would have been a gruesome revenge.

AND HIS CLASSY CORRECTION

Having been dropped with 21 runs to clinch a historic win, in his debut match no less, Mosaddek was least bothered. The first one was a mistake, the second ball will set it straight. Immediately after being dropped by Herath, Mosaddek stepped out again and this time his target was over long off. The one-bounce four was the moment when the wind seemed to have gone out of Sri Lanka's sail.

THE PERFORMERS

While Bangladesh relied on team work to clinch a thrilling four-wicket victory in the second Test in Colombo, there were plenty of individual performances, from both sides, over the five days of this riveting contest. We relive the key performances, one picked for each day, through this collage of pictures.

DAY 1



Young off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz struck three times on the first morning to reduce Sri Lanka to 70 for four at lunch, handing Bangladesh back the initiative after they lost the toss.

DAY 2



Sri Lanka batsman Dinesh Chandimal steadied the rocking boat and notched his eighth ton on the following morning before eventually being dismissed for 138 as the hosts posted 338.

DAY 3



Bangladesh's reply was a strong one, a score of 467 punctuated by a crucial 116 from Shakib Al Hasan and a breathtaking 75 from debutante Mosaddek Hossain.

DAY 4



Sri Lanka made a brisk start and wiped off the deficit before lunch on the fourth day, but pacer Mustafizur Rahman brought Bangladesh back on top with three quick wickets.

DAY 5



In the end it was a collective performance in all three departments that propelled the Tigers to the historic victory, the first one against Sri Lanka, in their landmark 100th Test.

PHOTOS: AFP/BCB