

Tamim Iqbal (L) and Shakib Al Hasan provided the consolidation and then the kick in the middle part of the innings with a 144-run fourth-wicket stand to help Bangladesh set a massive total of 324 against Sri Lanka in the first ODI at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium yesterday. While Shakib got out for a fluent 72, Tamim made sure he reached three figures before eventually falling for 127.





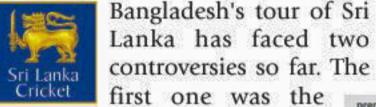
धूला सरालार फिन (स्वार्



I recalled Mehedi: Hassan

SPORTS REPORTER from Dambulla





Lanka has faced two controversies so far. The first one was the axing of senior

batsman Mahmudullah Riyad from the Test squad for the historic 100th Test in Colombo. The second and less controversial episode was the calling up of the thenuncapped Mehedi Hasan Miraz for the ODI squad after the off-spinner had already travelled back to Bangladesh after the Tests to play in the Emerging Nations Cup.

On both occasions, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan had said that the changes were his decision. On March 15, the

first day of the Colombo Test, Hassan said it was his decision to drop Mahmudullah. And after two days of speculation about why Miraz was hurriedly sent back to Sri Lanka at the eleventh the Tests and this is a very important series for us.



hour, during the innings break of the first ODI yesterday, Hassan said: "I called up [chief selector Minhazul Abedin] Nannu to send over Miraz. I found out he is in Khulna, and told him that he must get back to Sri Lanka.

"Basically we wanted to keep him as an option because they have a number of quality lefthanded batsmen. Miraz has been bowling well in .

But when I sat with the team this morning, it: still wasn't decided if Miraz or Sanjamul : I was struggling," Tamim said after the [Islam] would be playing in the first ODI. It -

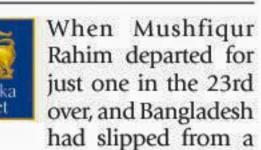
was finalised after they came to the ground." for Australia's planned tour of Bangladesh in : Mashrafe bhai coming outside [the dressing August this year.

some time now, but nothing specific has been; allowed the effervescent Sabbir Rahman to finalised yet," said Hassan. "There is an Eid break · take charge of their partnership. The 90-run in the middle [first week of September]; they don't : second-wicket stand had 12 boundaries, and want to sit for five days. They feel it is impossible. : Sabbir hit 10 of them while scoring 54. Tamim, We said that we will start the match on the 4th, · meanwhile, scored 28 runs off 45 balls. hoping that the Eid is held on the 1st or 3rd."

Tamim picks his moment

SAKEB SUBHAN from Dambulla





promising 119 for one to 120 for three, it seemed that the recent trend of surrendering strong positions in away ODIs was set to continue. Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza had talked about it the day before the first ODI against Sri Lanka, saying that although Bangladesh had improved in ODIs their most recent matches in New Zealand showed a worrying trend of wasting opportunities.

Sri Lanka seemed to realise that too. Although Tamim Iqbal had hit a glided boundary off chinaman bowler Lakshan Sandakan in the second ball of the 25th over,

Sri Lanka kept their tight field and Tamim, on 49, played out four dot balls, three of which he tried in vain to work away for a single and the fourth which he defended, as if to say to the bowler: "I am giving you this over, but I am not going

While those may be words put into his mouth, the actions spoke louder.

· His eighth ODI century yesterday was probably his most accomplished innings, and certainly his best-paced. If Tamim's role · is being the batsman who the others bat around, this innings can be held up as the operational manual for that function. "When I was batting in the 40s, I thought

match when asked about that period. "But if · I had gotten out then, we wouldn't have put Hassan also talked about the scheduling: up such a big score. You must have seen · room and telling me to play long." "They have wanted a time slot from us for : After Soumya Sarkar's dismissal, Tamim

. But being the anchor also means control-

ling the game, giving the innings the direction that is desired. In this too, Tamim brought his experience and game reading skills into play by choosing exactly the right moments to open the release valve.

Danushka Gunathilaka, a part-timer, had bowled two overs for eight runs as Bangladesh reached 154 after 30 overs. Sri Lanka skipper Upul Tharanga's gamble to continue with Gunathilaka backfired. Tamim had judged him to be a non-threat and unleashed three inside-out cover drives for four.

Having corrected course, Tamim went on picking the singles. He must have been aware of Bangladesh's history of wasting strong positions and so delayed the charge until after he reached his century and Bangladesh had reached a position -- 229 for three after 42 overs -- from which even a



collapse would leave them with a fighting score. He hit three boundaries and a six in his last 15 balls before holing out to long on in the 48th over of the innings.

It may not have been his fastest innings or contained the flurry of strokeplay he has come to be known for, but it was the innings that Bangladesh needed. It was also an innings made possible by Bangladesh's burgeoning quality, seen mainly in Sabbir's emergence and Shakib's continued brilliance.

"Shakib played a superb innings; if he got one or two more overs, he would have got a hundred too," Tamim said about his partner.

But it was Tamim's day because he picked his moments to attack and defend. From a wider viewpoint, this being the first ODI of a series after a raft of missed ODIs in New Zealand, he picked the perfect moment to play a tide-turning innings.

SINGERLEDIVS

More than a TV



PERFORMER OF THE DAY

TAMIM IQBAL



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal picked up, in the first ODI in Dambulla yesterday, from where he left off in the second Test in Colombo last week. A match-winning 82 in the second innings following a few decent knocks had paved the way for Bangladesh's Test victory

in Colombo. Yesterday it was his patient 127 which laid the platform for Bangladesh's massive score of 324. It wasn't the aggressive Tamim of old, rather a very matured and calculated left-hander that made things much easier for the rest of the batting line-up. The Chittagonian hit 15 fours and a six in his 142-ball vigil, and even though at times he looked like slowing down, he soon shifted gears and upped the ante so as not to let the opposition bowlers get on top.

10k for Tamim

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi to reach the 10,000-run landmark during the : supporting each other will take us a course of his brilliant 127-run knock in the first ODI against : long way." Sri Lanka at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium · yesterday.

reached the landmark off the third ball that he faced. After : working their way into good defending for two balls, Tamim pushed Suranga Lakmal for · positions in away matches. "In the two and reached the landmark.

The Chittagonian also struck 15 fours and a six on his way : good cricket but it didn't show in to his eighth ODI century and shared two valuable partner- the results. But it is more pleasing ships. He first put on 90 runs with Sabbir Rahman, before · to win more matches. Our progress sharing a 144-run partnership -- Bangladesh's highest against : is shown in the small things that we Sri Lanka -- with Shakib Al Hasan as Bangladesh reached their : are doing properly," Tamim highest total in Sri

Lanka. The left-handed opener is the leading run-getter for Bangladesh in all three formats of the game.

TAMIM'S 10,000

FORMAT	MAT	RUNS	HS	AVE	100	50	
Test	49	3677	206	39.53	8	22	ŀ
ODI	163	5247	154	33.00	8	34	
T20I	55	1202	103*	24.04	1	4	

'New attitude will take us a long way'

SPORTS REPORTER from Dambulla





seems from yesterday's performance in the first ODI against Sri Lanka that

the wresting of destiny that Bangladesh's players showed in their history-making win in last week's Test in Colombo has continued into the ODI format as well. Opener Tamim Iqbal, player of the match in both wins, said after his press conference yesterday following Bangladesh's 90-run win just as they had done before the Test match, the players of the team had a closed-door meeting yesterday morning as well. It so happened that for a second international match in a row, Bangladesh put in a clinical team performance to go 1-0 up in the three-ODI series.

"We did outstandingly today in the field," Tamim said at the postmatch press conference. His 142ball 127 had set up the match, but it was Bangladesh's aggression on the field and their refusal to let up standards, even when the match was all but in the bag, that sealed it. : "Mashrafe [Bin Mortaza] bhai's fielding effort was fantastic. We probably won't win games all the time but this attitude will make things easier. This new attitude of Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal became the first being involved in everything and

This win was all the more impor-· tant because it arrested a trend of The left-hander started the match on 9,999 runs and : surrendering the advantage after · last few matches, we have played opined.

And those small things were evident throughout the match. From Tamim himself resetting his innings after the twin dismissals of Sabbir Rahman and Mushfigur Rahim, the likes of Shuvagata Hom, substituting in the field for Tamim

Iqbal, taking two crucial catches, a lot of risks but we still scored and we have to work harder in the weaker fielders, affecting a direct-hit run-out when the ninth-wicket partnership was growing to be a headache, Bangladesh were a welloiled unit greater than the sum of its parts.

But it all comes back to Tamim and the 144-run partnership he had with Shakib that took Bangladesh from 120 for three in the 23rd over to 264 for four in the 46th.

"I am happy that I got my first 100-run stand with Shakib in this game, because the partnership was the key to the match. We didn't take

Mehedi Hasan Miraz performing runs," Tamim said of the partnerlike a pro on debut to even ship. "They were bowling well Mustafizur Rahman, one of the during a period, and we rotated the strike and looked for the odd boundary. We planned our innings very well. Getting the hundred, and winning the game is the best feeling you can ever get."

> In the course of his innings, Tamim also became the first Bangladeshi to accumulate 10,000 international runs. But it was the team and the immediate future he was focused on. "Winning the series is very important. We are in a position to win the series. It will be a huge achievement to beat Sri Lanka in their backyard. It won't be easy,

next match."

There was also a special moment for Tamim just after he had spoken at the prize-giving ceremony. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan came to him with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the phone.

"The Prime Minister had called, we were talking to her. After the Test win, I couldn't talk to her; she spoke to Shakib and Mushfigur, After we won today, she called the board president. Many of us got to speak to her. She congratulated all of us; it is a great feeling when the country's Prime Minister wishes you well."



Mehedi Hasan (2nd from L) can't stop impressing all and sundry. Here the young Bangladesh off-spinner celebrates the wicket of Sri Lankan Kusal Mendis in what was his one-day debut at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

BD-SL SCOREBOARD

BANGLADES		R/B	4/6	
Tamim c Guna	athilaka			
b Kumara	1	27/142	15/1	
Soumya c Cha	andimal			
b Lakmal			10/13	2/0
Sabbir cThara	anga			
b Gunaratne	54/56	10/0		
Mushfiqur c 8	1/2	0/0		
Shakib c Sand	akan b L	akmal	72/71	4/1
Mosaddek no	tout		24/9	3/1
Mahmudulla	t	13/7	0/1	
Extras:(lb-10	, w-13)		23	
Total: (For 5 w	ickets in:	50 over	s)324	
Did not bat:	Mehedi	i, Mash	nrafe , T	askin,
Mustafizur.				
Fall of wicket	s: 1-29,	2-119,	3-120,4	1-264,
5-289.				
BOWLER	0	M	R	W
Lakmal	8	0	45	2
Kumara	8	0	74	1
Dorora	0	0	63	0

Gunathilaka **SRI LANKA** R/B 4/6 Gunathilaka Ibw b Mashrafe 0/3 0/0 Tharanga c Mashrafe b Taskin 19/29 3/0 Mendis csub (Hom) b Mehedi 4/17 0/0 Chandimal c Soumya b Mehedi 59/70 6/0 Gunaratne c Mosaddek 24/40 2/0 b Shakib Siriwardana csub (Hom) 22/25 1/1 b Mustafizur Pathirana c Mahmudullah b Mashrafe 31/32 3/0

Perera c Mahmudullah b Mustafizur 55/35 4/2 Lakmal c Sabbir b Mustafizur 8/9 1/0 Sandakan run out (Mustafizur) 3/7 0/0 Kumara not out 0/4 0/0 Extras: (lb-5, w-4) Total: (All out in 45.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-15, 3-31, 4-87, 5-121,6-153,7-171,8-208,9-232,10-234.

Mustafizur Mosaddek 21 Result: Bangladesh won by 90 runs and lead the 3-match series 1-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka, who chose to field Player-of-the-match: Tamim Iqbal. Umpires: MA Gough (England) and REJ Martinesz

TV umpire: SRavi (India) Match referee:- AJ Pycroft (Zimbabwe) Reserve umpire: RRWimalasiri

PHOTO:

AFP