

SPORT

Tigers let middle overs slip

SAKIB SUBHAN from Dambulla



Maintaining the level that they hit while bowling in the first ODI on Saturday was always going to be a tough ask, but yesterday in the second ODI the surprising thing was that Bangladesh's plans as well as execution were wide of the mark as Sri Lanka ran up a total of 311 all out.

The Tigers did pull things back quite effectively in the end, allowing Sri Lanka just 76 runs in the last 10 overs and taking six wickets, including a hattrick from Taskin Ahmed in the last three balls of the innings, but the main damage was done in the middle overs between the first drinks break till the dismissal of centurion Kusal Mendis by Taskin in the 38th over.

The pitch at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium was a flat one, but Bangladesh's tactics played into the hands of Sri Lanka's second and third-wicket pairs after the home side won the toss and did not repeat the mistake of choosing to field in the

Hasan, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Mosaddek Hossain -- had little choice but to bowl on a middle and leg-stump line and with the pitch offering neither turn nor dual pace, it became all too easy for two subcontinent batsmen to help the incoming deliveries into the gaps.

With three fielders on the boundary on the leg side -- at various times switching between deep midwicket, deep fine leg, long on and square leg -- there was only one man stationed inside the circle on the leg side, which meant that when they were not hitting boundaries, it became all too easy and risk-free for Sri Lanka to put their foot on the accelerator.

Even when Bangladesh's spinners pitched it a little outside off stump, the Sri Lankan batsmen -- knowing from the field set that the line would not be too far outside off -- during the middle overs stepped across the stumps and hit to leg. After Tharanga's freak run-out off a no-ball in the 25th over ended an 11-run stand with Mendis, the latter's ensuing partnership with Dinesh Chandimal that realised 83 runs in just 12.1 overs benefitted even more from this tactic.

While Chandimal worked the ball away for singles, Mendis hit seven boundaries and a six during the partnership as he raced to his maiden hundred. Six of those boundaries -- sweeps, sashays down the wicket to hit through and over the infield -- were on the leg side. In his innings of 102 off 107 balls Mendis hit just two of his nine boundaries on the off side.

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afternoon heat. Considering the conditions, Bangladesh had not done terribly when drinks were taken after 16 overs with the score on 85. After the break however, with spin often being bowled from both ends, four of the three fielders allowed outside the 30-yard ring were stationed on the leg side.

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Sri Lanka skipper Upul Tharanga (R) and one-down Kusal Mendis run between the wickets during the second ODI against Bangladesh in Dambulla yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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MOMENTS

Taskin fifth Bangladeshi to take an ODI hattrick

SPORTS REPORTER



Taskin Ahmed yesterday became the fifth Bangladeshi player, after Shahadat Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Rubel Hossain and Taijul Islam to pick up a hattrick in ODI cricket, doing so in the second ODI against Sri Lanka at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium.

The right-arm fast bowler achieved the feat when he dismissed Asela Gunaratne, the right-hander who was caught at mid-off off Taskin's third ball before Suranga Lakmal was caught at mid-wicket and Nuwan Pradeep, the number eleven batsman, was clean bowled by an off-stump yorker in the

final over of the Sri Lanka innings.

Taskin bowled with heart and ended with figures of four for 47 in 8.5 overs.

Sri Lanka could not keep up the pace with their good start as they lost five wickets in the last five overs of the match. Mushfiqur

the time he had started running back, Mushfiqur's throw had already connected with the stumps.

The skipper affected another run out after Dilruwan Perera was beaten comprehensively by Mustafizur Rahman's second ball of the 48th over. Similar to

the run out before, Perera had set off, but he did not even bother to make his way back as Mushfiqur collected the ball and completed an inch-perfect throw, before Taskin wrapped up the hosts' innings in fine fashion.

HATTRICKS FOR BANGLADESH IN ODIs

PLAYER	AGAINST	VICTIMS	VENUE	DATE
Shahadat Hossain	Zimbabwe	Tafadzwa Mufambisi, Elton Chigumbura, Tawanda Mupariwa	Harare	02/08/2006
Abdur Razzak	Zimbabwe	Prosper Utseya, Ray Price, Christopher Mpofu	Mirpur	03/12/2010
Rubel Hossain	New Zealand	Corey Anderson, Brendon McCullum, Jimmy Neesham	Mirpur	29/10/2013
Taijul Islam	Zimbabwe	Tinashe Panyangara, John Nyumbu, Tendai Chatara	Mirpur	01/12/2014

BD-SL SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA R/B 4s/6s

Gunathilaka c Mashfiqur	9/11	1/0
Tharanga run out (Mahmudullah)	65/76	9/0
Mendis & b Taskin	102/107	9/1
Chandimal lbw	24/30	1/0
b Mustafizur	39/28	4/1
Siriwardana b Mehedi	30/30	3/0
Perera run out (Mushfiqur)	9/6	1/0
Perera run out (Mushfiqur)	9/8	1/0
Kulasekara not out	2/2	0/0
Lakmal c Mustafizur	0/1	0/0
b Taskin	0/1	0/0
Pradeep b Taskin	0/1	0/0
Extras: (b-4, lb-10, w-7, nb-1)22		
Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 311		

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-129, 3-212, 4-216, 5-271, 6-280, 7-300, 8-311, 9-311, 10-311.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	10	1	55	1
Mehedi	10	0	50	1
Mustafizur	8	0	60	1
Taskin	8.5	0	47	4
Shakib	10	0	59	0
Mosaddek	3	0	26	0

BANGLADESH	Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Sabir Rahim, Mashfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Mosaddek Hossain, Mahmudullah, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman.

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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

KUSAL MENDIS



Kusal Mendis is not the most attractive batsman in world cricket; neither is he the most aggressive one. But he is a gritty customer, and given any reprieve he could be a punishing one. The 22 year-old right-hander was let off very early in the first Test against Bangladesh in Colombo, and he went on to score a match-winning knock of 194. Although yesterday in the second ODI in Dambulla, the one-down batsman didn't get any life, he grafted out his initial struggle to punish the visitors with a century. Coming on to bat in the third over, the batsman took a while to get going, but once he did get going, he started playing his shots all around the ground. He eventually got out for 102 off 197 deliveries, giving the hosts a solid platform for their 311-run total.



Nasir Hossain's century propelled Bangladesh to an 83-run victory against Nepal in their Max Emerging Teams Asia Cup match in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Nasir century leads hosts to semifinal

SPORTS REPORTER



but Nepal bowled in the right areas," said Nasir.

"We have been playing this tournament with a plan and that's why our next target is to beat Pakistan, who are a very strong side," he added.

Pakistan also confirmed a semifinal spot from Group B after a thumping 248-run win against Hong Kong yesterday, courtesy of centuries from Imam-ul-Haq (120) and Imran Butt (108), and a seven-wicket haul by Usama Mir.

Bangladesh and Pakistan will face-off in the last group match at the same venue tomorrow.

Back to the Bangladesh match, the hosts lost Azmir Ahmed, Saif Hasan and Mohammad Mithun with the score on 15, before the departure of Nazmul Hasan saw the hosts tottering at 33 for four.

However, Mominul and Nasir batted sensibly before Sandeep Lamichhane got rid of the former, who scored 61 off 78 balls and smashed seven fours.

Then a 76-run ninth-wicket stand between Nasir and Abul Hasan (29) ensured that the hosts put a challenging total up on the board.

After the exchange, Nepal also made a disastrous start as they lost three wickets for 16, but Dilip Nath and Dipendra Singh Airee brought their team in contention by adding 98 runs for the fourth wicket.

Rahatul Ferdous and Mohammad Saifuddin then took the charge and wrapped up Nepal's innings for 174 to ensure the 83-run victory which saw the hosts qualify for the semifinal from Group B.

Nasir is looking to get his place in the national side back and his unbeaten 109 off 115 balls, which contained 12 fours and two sixes, will definitely serve his purpose.

"When we lost early wickets, Mominul and I planned not to force runs. Instead we played at ease to repair the damage. I enjoyed my batting when my team were in trouble and am happy that I could contribute. There was nothing wrong with the pitch

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 257-9 in 50 overs (Nasir 109 not out, Mominul 61, Hasan 29; Karn 3-46, Lamichhane 2-41)

NEPAL: 174 all out in 42.3 overs (Airee 56, Dilip 41, Bhandari 33; Javed 4-45, Saif 3-22, Hasan 2-40)

Result: Bangladesh won by 83 runs.

MALAYSIA: 163-9 in 50 overs (Aziz 53, Ahd 25, Fikri 20; Gani 3-27, Nagarkoti 2-14, Chahar 2-37)

INDIA: 167-3 in 30.1 overs (Gill 51 not out, Eswaran 42, Shaw 34; Rahim 2-42)

Result: India won by seven wickets.

PAKISTAN: 327-4 in 50 overs (Imam 120, Butt 108, Azam 44; Nawaz 2-68)

HONG KONG: 79 all out in 31.2 overs (Rath 27, Hayat 17, Mauleen 15; Mir 7/14)

Result: Pakistan won by 248 runs.

SRI LANKA: 320-6 in 50 overs (Asalanka 105, Perera 84, Jayasuriya 42; Naveen 2-66, Rahmani 2-70)

AFGHANISTAN: 285 all out in 47.1 overs (Najib 87, Kamal 53, Janat 53; Aposnu 3-40, Fernando 2-52, Karunaratne 2-65)