

SPORT



Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim cuts a pensive figure as the hosts find themselves looking down the barrel at the end of the second day of the second Test against Australia at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.



Australia turn the heat around

SPORTS REPORTER

At the end of the second Test, in all respects except one Australia looked nothing like the unfamiliar visitors to Bangladesh that they actually are. The only foreign condition that dogged them yesterday was the heat and humidity – batsman Pete Handscomb had to have ice packs brought out to the middle as play was briefly stopped in the last session to bring the dazed Handscomb's temperature down.

The heat may not have been mastered yet, but David Warner and Handscomb did display the well-documented Aussie toughness to take the team through to the close with the score on a formidable 225 for two, 80 beyond Bangladesh's first-innings 305.

"Really gutsy. Obviously it was very hot out there, we saw that yesterday. You have to work very hard for your runs, so

to get through and the way they played was excellent," said a satisfied Australian coach Darren Lehmann. "They are in the ice bath now, I'll leave it to the medical team to get them right for tomorrow. Very special day and hopefully tomorrow [Wednesday] they can kick on."

"Especially in the last two weeks, I would think more so than anything else," he said when asked about Warner finally cracking the code to batting in the subcontinent. "The way he has adapted and actually gone and batted in a different way in the last couple of innings has been spectacular for David. He only hit like four boundaries today, which is unusual for him. Obviously, they spread the field quite a lot so it's hard to hit boundaries."

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spin as the game goes on. We played well, tomorrow's another day.

He reserved special praise for David Warner, whose 88 not out and the partnerships he built with Steve Smith and Handscomb formed the backbone of Australia's sturdy position.

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Time to stop waiting for the pitch

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chittagong



Peter Handscomb felt the heat and was down on the ground suffering from dehydration with six overs remaining in the day, but stood firm again after a short

water break to end the day's play as the Aussies completed their dominance on the second day.

That was the only incident from the visitors which might indicate they are away from home but apart from that it seemed like Australia adapted better to the pitch and conditions than the home side.

It was highly anticipated after the first Test in Mirpur that the pitch at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong will once again help the spinners, but that has not been the case on the first two days.

However, despite there not being much purchase for the spinners Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon adapted quickly to the pitch's demands. The 29-year-old did not wait for the pitch to change its nature but decided to bowl on the stumps with more pace behind the ball in order to skid it on to the Bangladesh batsmen with greater effect.

The top four of the Tigers' batsmen fell to the trap in pretty similar fashion, unable to play the line of the delivery as they waited for the turn, a big change for the side who utilised the Mirpur pitch in the first Test quite confidently.

Lyon ended up picking seven wickets. His third five-wicket haul in as many matches and second on tour will surely serve as a lesson to the Bangladesh spinners – when there is not much to get from the pitch, look for other options.

Perhaps Bangladesh were hoping things

would change on the second day when they came out to bowl with a plan to hit the rough areas of the pitch from the Ispahani end. The plan failed and even off-spinner Meheedi Hasan Miraz's plan to attack Aussie skipper Steve Smith from around the wicket backfired with Smith managing to score frequently through the fine leg region.

Meheedi bowled 20 overs, while left-arm spinners Shakib and Tajul Islam bowled 15 overs each and the latter did manage to threaten the batsmen on a few occasions.

Still, there were no signs of shifting the plan to create some chances by bowling within the stumps and forcing the Australian batsmen to make mistakes.

There were hardly any close-in fielders, even in the final 10 overs of the day with the Australians exhausted from the heat. Four fielders patrolling the boundary was surely not what the visitors would have expected despite the fact that there were two set batsman in the form of David Warner and Handscomb at the crease.

Additionally, there did not seem to be much of an attacking mindset even after the two wickets that did fall, allowing the visiting side to take charge.

It was indeed a tough day at the office for the home side and for the first time this series their body language, instead of the pitch, deteriorated. There is much that captain Mushfiqur Rahim and coach Chandika Hasarasingha have to think about.

But with three more days in the Test match and an overnight lead of 80 runs, there is still time for Bangladesh to limit the lead that Australia look almost certain to accumulate today if the hosts can discover a way to make the pitch work for them instead of waiting for it to do all the work.



The scorching heat and sapping humidity in Chittagong hardly made the work for Australia any easier, but they battled it manfully to take a stranglehold of the second Test by the end of the second day's play yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PERFORMER OF THE DAY

David Warner

The century in the first Test in Mirpur was a sign of the dangerous David Warner's finding his feet in subcontinent conditions. And having done that, he has kept on running, 88 not out at the end of the second day, his innings was a study in concentration as he abandoned his aggressive style and hit just four boundaries in his 170-ball stay. Like in Mirpur, Warner's batting was characterised by his decisiveness as he neutralised all that the Bangladesh bowlers could throw at him. Unlike Mirpur, this pitch is much easier for batting, so Warner will be looking to truly fill his boots today as Australia look to exact revenge for the defeat in the first Test.



'100-150 runs short'

SPORTS REPORTER



Home fans demoralised following Australia's dominant showing on the second day of the second Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong can take heart from the words of all-rounder Nasir Hossain.

"We are still 80 runs ahead. Cricket is such a game that you cannot say anything for sure. We are a little on the back foot but in cricket the whole scenario can change within an hour or an hour and a half," said the optimistic Nasir while speaking at the post-day press conference yesterday.

Australia finished the day on top with 225 for two and many had questions about the intent and plans of the Tigers, but Nasir praised the bowlers' effort and rued the batting effort.

"You see, Warner (David) hardly batted as slowly as he did today. That indicated that our bowlers did well. It's just that they did not get the wickets. The scenario can change at any time. The match will go to the fifth day, so we are not thinking about the result; we are thinking about what we have at this moment," he said.

"Bowlers got help from the Mirpur wicket but here our bowlers are not getting the bounce. On the other hand, the ball was not turning after pitching on a stump-to-stump line," he added.

"It is my personal opinion that if you consider the wicket, we were 100 to 150 runs short in our first innings too. We should have scored at least 400 to 450 runs on such a good wicket," he opined.

When asked whether their approach was negative, Nasir said: "We were defensive as well as attacking. If you see Shakib [Al Hasan] pitched the ball on the sixth to seventh stumps against Warner as it was difficult for Warner who hardly plays the sweep shot. If you talk about fielding, yes there were more fielders on the boundary as both batsmen were set."

"Warner and Smith always try to score runs and that's why we tried to block them. We were looking for their mistakes," he added. He also said that the day could have been much better for them if they could hold onto the catch off Warner dropped by Mominul Haque at short leg, or complete the stumping, also off Warner, late in the day.

"The day could have been different if we capitalised on those two chances. But the catch was fifty-fifty and it's tough to take this kind of catch. On the other hand, the stumping was difficult as the ball kept low," he said.

BD-AUS SCOREBOARD

| Bangladesh: First-innings | | | | R/B 4w/6s | | | |
|---|--|--------|-----|-----------|--|--|--|
| (Overnight 253 for 6) | | | | | | | |
| Tamim Daru | Lyon | 9/34 | 0/0 | | | | |
| Scorpius | David Warner | 3/81 | 2/1 | | | | |
| Imrul | David Warner | 4/71 | 0/0 | | | | |
| Mominul | David Warner | 3/67 | 2/0 | | | | |
| Shakib | David Warner | 2/62 | 3/0 | | | | |
| Masroor | David Warner | 6/67 | 5/0 | | | | |
| Sabbir | David Warner | 6/6/13 | 6/1 | | | | |
| Nasir | David Warner | 4/57 | 5/0 | | | | |
| Mehedi | David Warner | 1/16 | 0/0 | | | | |
| Tajul | Smith/Lyon | 9/12 | 0/1 | | | | |
| Hasan | | 0/2 | 0/0 | | | | |
| Extras | (D-B-4-8-2) | 30 | | | | | |
| Total | (All wickets: 1-13, 2-21, 3-70, 4-85, 5-117, 6-222, 7-265, 8-291, 9-296, 10-305) | | | | | | |
| Australia: First-innings | | | | | | | |
| Bowling | O | M | R | W | | | |
| Commins | 22 | 5 | 46 | 0 | | | |
| Lyon | 36.2 | 7 | 94 | 7 | | | |
| O'Keefe | 23 | 0 | 79 | 0 | | | |
| Agar | 23 | 9 | 52 | 2 | | | |
| Maxwell | 4 | 0 | 13 | 0 | | | |
| Cartwright | 5 | 1 | 16 | 0 | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-21, 3-70, 4-85, 5-117, 6-222, 7-265, 8-291, 9-296, 10-305. | | | | | | | |
| Bowling | O | M | R | W | | | |
| Mehedi | 20 | 2 | 53 | 0 | | | |
| Mominul | 10 | 0 | 45 | 1 | | | |
| Shakib | 15 | 0 | 52 | 0 | | | |
| Tajul | 15 | 1 | 50 | 1 | | | |
| Nasir | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | | | |
| Mominul | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| Sabbir | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | | | |

Security beefed up

Three-member committee formed after stone hits Australia bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong



Authorities beefed up security around the Australian cricket team in Chittagong yesterday after a window of

the bus carrying the team was hit by a 'small stone' believed to have been thrown by street children.

The incident took place at Baro Quarter area in Double Mooring on Monday night as the team was returning to the hotel after the first day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Australia, said police officials. No injuries were reported in this connection.

Soon after the incident police started to investigate while a three-member committee, headed by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) (West), was formed. Salah Mohammed Tanvir, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Crime and Operation) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star.

"We suspected that the stone might have been thrown by any street children. We have launched an investigation after the incident," said Tanvir adding that the probe committee was asked to submit their findings by two or three days while security has been tightened for the cricket team's travels.

He however said the stone might also have shot up from under the wheels of any of the other vehicles which were escorting the players.

The incident has been carried widely by international media, especially the Australian media which also detailed the measure of security put in place for this Test series.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) released a statement in this regard yesterday. "The BCB has taken this matter with utmost seriousness and a high-power committee has been formed by the concerned security agencies to investigate and find out the facts," it said.

The Board has been in constant communication with the Australian Cricket Team management. As added assurance, security measures have been enhanced on the travelling route of the teams. The Australia Cricket Team has expressed its satisfaction and comfort with the security operation in place and has appreciated the response from the BCB and the local authorities following Monday's incident," the statement added.

The Australian cricket team was originally scheduled to tour Bangladesh in 2015, but postponed the tour over security concerns before being convinced about safety following England's Bangladesh tour last year.