



Pacer Mustafizur Rahman (R) and off-spinner Mehedi Hasan bagged three wickets each in Australia's first innings as Bangladesh fought back on the third day of the second Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.



## Fizz's special wicket

SPORTS REPORTER



Birthday boy Mustafizur Rahman took the prized wicket of David Warner with a chest-high shortie and courtesy of a juggling catch at gully. That brought new life and energy in front of a Tigers' camp as they fought back on the third day of the second and final Test at Chittagong yesterday. Mathew Wade then missed a straight delivery to be trapped in front and became the Mustafizur's second victim of the day.

His success and Mehedi Hasan Miraz's three-wicket haul made sure that Australia could not bat the home side out of contention despite having a useful 72-run lead with one wicket in hand at stumps. Apart from the team's comeback the performance of Mustafizur, who was deprived of another wicket as Mehedi dropped a sitter at gully to give Maxwell a life, was certainly refreshing for the team management as everyone was searching for an answer about his efficacy.

The 22-year-old left-arm pacer generated good pace and bounce, bowled better lengths and there were some hints of reverse-swing. His well-directed bouncers, especially against Glenn Maxwell, were nice to watch. But Mustafizur, who became a male role model a year ago, confirmed that this was the result of his endeavour to find new tricks and he also disclosed that he had a special plan for Warner. "I dismissed him as per my plan and it's a special wicket in my career."

"I usually don't bowl bouncers. I have only played for two years so I am trying to land two bouncers in an over. I have trained for a little while so I haven't got the hang of it yet," informed the pacer during the post-day press briefing at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

"I have to find a new variation. I have the cutter but now I have to do something new," was the straightforward reply from the boy from Satkhera when asked about the fact that everyone studies him now. "I am bowling faster but I have to do something about the line and length."

Why was he so charged up yesterday?

"Mushfiqur bhai [captain Mushfiqur Rahim] and coach [Chandika Hathurusingha] had urged us to find wickets in the morning briefing. We just got two wickets out of 60 overs yesterday [Tuesday]. They asked me to give extra effort," was the simple explanation.

Mustafizur said that he has no expertise or experience on the pitch, only revealing that nothing is impossible for Bangladesh if they can play well and set a big target.

In the end it was a good birthday celebration for the Tigers. The 30-year-old, despite being an explosive cricketer, had to change the style of his batting to adapt to the situation and according to him it was his best hundred in terms of temperament.

He also had to put aside his ego as he has the ability to blast any bowler in the world; he played sensibly when it mattered most, especially having come on tour with a poor track record in the subcontinent.

However, it should also be mentioned that the defensive fielding set-up allowed Warner to take singles at will, a favour unlikely to be extended by the Australian captain when Bangladesh come out to bat. The situation and conditions will be even tougher than Warner faced.

From Tamim to Soumya Sarkar, Imrul Khan, Mustafizur Rahim, Shakib and Sabir Rahman all have to realise the fact that this pitch will definitely challenge the batsman. But then again Bangladesh have to pass the hurdle and look to change their poor second-innings record to overcome that.

It won't be an easy task but less mistakes and proper approach might help the Tigers to achieve their fourth series win, even if the Test ends in a draw.

### PERFORMER OF THE DAY

Mehedi Hasan



With a lot expected of Mehedi Hasan Miraz after his heroics against England less than a year ago, he finally came to the party in Chittagong with three crucial wickets. With Australia looking to drive home the advantage and the pitch not very responsive, Mehedi relied on his craftiness and accuracy to send back the dangerous Glenn Maxwell, who edged the off-spinner into his pads for a wicket.

With an overnight lead of 72, Warner seemed pretty comfortable with the situation the visitors in, but worried that the pitch may not deteriorate significantly.

"At the moment we've got a lead of 77 [72] I think it is, so we've got to try and capitalise on that tomorrow [Thursday] morning to push forward for maybe a hundred [run lead]."

"I wouldn't say the wicket is deteriorating, there's a little bit of rough out there created from the bowlers. The middle of the wicket is still nice and true. But as the spinners do, they'll work what they need to do and hit those rough areas. But it's up to the batters obviously to work out what they want to do, if you want to sweep, if you want to lunge forward and negate that, there's going to be plans both sides."

## ধূলো ময়লাব দ্বিতীয় পেষ!

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



PHOTO: BERGER

## Tough task for Tigers

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chittagong

Perhaps the biggest test of the two-Test series awaits Bangladesh on the fourth day of the second Test against Australia as the visitors are leading by 72 runs with a wicket in hand.

It will be a test of temperament, nerves and mindset of the Bangladesh players in the second innings, a stage that the Tigers have always been below par.

In the third innings of a Test Bangladesh have a poor track record with the bat – they have been bundled out below-par on four occasions in 101 Test before this. They have been below 200 on 27 occasions, while having a completed innings of 200-plus 23 times. They have won on three of the 10 occasions – against West Indies in 2009, England at Dhaka last year and in the first Test of the current series, when they scored 221 in the third innings of the match.

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The highest third innings total for Bangladesh

was against Pakistan in Khulna two years ago when they posted 555 for six courtesy of a record partnership between Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Khan with Tamim striking his maiden double-ton, while Imrul scored 150.

The reason behind digging into Bangladesh's second-innings history is because they have a daunting task ahead against the Aussies on a pitch that has started to produce huge turn and with the pressure of saving the Test match as well.

In the ongoing two-match Test series none of the Bangladesh batsmen were able to score a century, although Shakib Al Hasan scored 84 in the first innings at Mirpur and Tamim hit two sevens in the same Test.

The Bangladesh batsmen may look to the way David Warner adapted to the conditions in taking cues on how to play on this pitch. Warner's second successive century was in high contrast to his first a week ago in Mirpur as he was uncharacteristically sedate in compiling a 235-ball 123 over the second and third days in Chittagong.

The dashing left hander took 15 deliveries on 99 before reaching his 20th Test hundred, which was also his slowest century, coming off 209 balls.

The 30-year-old, despite being an explosive cricketer, had to change the style of his batting to adapt to the situation and according to him it was his best hundred in terms of temperament.

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However, it should also be mentioned that the defensive fielding set-up allowed Warner to take singles at will, a favour unlikely to be extended by the Australian captain when Bangladesh come out to bat. The situation and conditions will be even tougher than Warner faced.

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It won't be an easy task but less mistakes and proper approach might help the Tigers to achieve their fourth series win, even if the Test ends in a draw.

## HP squad in England

SPORTS REPORTER

The BCB High Performance team will play their first one-day match against Nottinghamshire CCC 2nd XI/Academy at the Lady Bay Cricket Ground in West Bridgford today.

The High Performance team, led by Nazmul Hasan, reached England yesterday to play eight 50-over matches.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) picked 16 players for the tour: Nazmul Hasan (Captain), Zahir Hasan, Mosaddek Hossain, Shadman Islam, Tamir Hayer, Ifran Sukkar, Yasir Ali, Mohammad Saifuddin, Al-Amin, Mahadi Hasan, Jubair Hossain, Abu Hider, Ebodat Hossain, Imran Ali, Khalid Hossain and Shuvashis Roy – for the tour but Mosaddek could not accompany the team as he was yet to fully recover from his eye infection.

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"Can they carry it on though? That's the question," Small told Reuters.

England pacer James Anderson was expected to bag his 500th Test wicket but wicketless in the second innings to remain three short of becoming the sixth bowler to reach that mark.

The 35-year-old, speaking before his 129 Test for England, said his priority was for England to win the game.

"I am a big believer in fate so if it's meant to be this week then it will happen," Anderson said. "As long as we get the win I'm not too fussed."

Roland-Jones is the only change to the side that suffered a surprise five-wicket defeat by the West Indies in the second Test.



PHOTO: STAR

Nasir Hossain (R) might not have had a telling impact with his performances in the ongoing Test series yet, but he has surely perfected the art when it comes to mimicking match officials.

## WI eye series win

Third Test against England starts today

REUTERS, London

Against all the odds, West Indies will arrive at Lord's on Thursday with their eyes on a first Test series victory in England since 1988 after a remarkable turnaround in fortunes.

Beaten out of sight in the first day-night Test in England at Edgbaston, where they lost 19 wickets on the third and last day, the visitors rebounded in thrilling fashion at Headingley.

Eyes will now be on Jason Holder's young team, and double centurion Shai Hope in particular, to see if they can build on that triumph, which took even seasoned pundits by surprise.

Former England paceman Gladstone Small, who was born in Barbados, said the result at Headingley would have given West Indies "inner belief".

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Toby recalled

AP, London

England have recalled Toby Roland-Jones for the series-deciding third Test against the West Indies at the Middlesex paceman's Lord's home ground, skipper Joe Root said Wednesday.

Roland-Jones is the only change to the side that suffered a surprise five-wicket defeat by the West Indies in the second Test.

## 'Fields made me feel set'

SPORTS REPORTER



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