



The tri-series has so far been a Shakib-Tamim show. The two champion left-handers put on 106 runs for the second wicket in yet another impressive Bangladesh victory over Zimbabwe at Mirpur yesterday.

'Shakib was just as deserving'

Mazhar Uddin



It will be difficult to count the games where Tamim Iqbal scored runs but eventually missed out on the player-of-the-match award as his friend Shakib Al Hasan snatched it from him with an all-round performance.

It was yet another tight contest between the two friends yesterday, as Shakib picked up three wickets for just 34 runs from his nine overs to bundle out Zimbabwe for 125 in defence of a modest 216 for nine, during which the all-rounder also scored a fifty.

Tamim, on the other hand, once again displayed his batting pedigree on a pitch that was tough to bat on before eventually being dismissed for the match top score of 76 runs off 105 balls. Along with Shakib, he also added 106 runs for the second wicket.

But after Shakib received consecutive player-of-the-match awards in the first two games, when Tamim had also scored fifties, the opener finally received the award on the third occasion and it brought a smile to his face.

When asked how it feels to finally have his contribution to a win officially recognised, Tamim replied: "I told you in the last press conference that I believe in rewards, not awards. Still, today was also neck-and-neck; Shakib was also there -- he scored an important fifty and took two early wickets, so if it went to him I would

not have minded. I thought he was equally deserving."

The left-hander said that stepping out to hit a spinner when the team had lost Shakib, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad was the wrong choice of shot, and added that if he had stayed for another five to six overs Bangladesh may have scored around 230-240 runs and he could have also registered his 10th century.

He blamed himself for the collapse but praised the effort of the tail-enders for the contribution with the bat in the latter stage of the innings.

"I have to give credit to the team management again because in the last month and a half the amount of batting time the lower-order batsmen were given... only those who saw it closely would know. They batted a lot [in practice] and today nine, 10 and 11 scored 50 runs [46]. So that made the difference in today's game," he said.

But there was disappointment over the performances of numbers six and seven batsmen Sabbir Rahman and Nasir Hossain, who were unable to utilise the opportunity presented by the early dismissals of the seniors.

"Every player waits for opportunities like this. Today was an opportunity. Sabbir was unlucky, it was a brilliant catch. I didn't see anything wrong in his shots as well. Maybe Nasir will be disappointed not to score today because there was perfect opportunity for him to get some runs and get his confidence high," said Tamim.

শুলো ময়লাব দ্বি প্রেস!

PHOTO: STAR



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Tamim scales twin peaks

SPORTS REPORTER



It was a day where Tamim Iqbal added a couple of feathers to his cap as the dashing left-hander became the first Bangladesh batsman to reach 6,000 ODI runs by scoring his third consecutive fifty in the ongoing tri-series against Zimbabwe yesterday.

Coming into the game, the 28-year-old required 66 runs to complete thefeat and in the process of reaching the milestone broke yet another record -- scoring the most number of runs at a single venue.

Tamim, just 42 shy of surpassing the

previous record held by Sri Lankan legend Sanath Jayasuriya on 2514 runs at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, tapped Sikandar Raza towards long-on in the fourth ball of the 24th over to reach the landmark. Then the left-hander, who probably had the 6k mark in mind ahead of the game, carefully tucked leg-spinner Graeme Cremer towards long-on off the first ball of the 35th over to complete that feat as well.

Tamim scored the first 3,000 runs in 102 innings and, through his outstanding performances in recent years, took just 73 more to strike the remainder.

"Obviously it feels good. I knew before the match how much I needed to score to get the two records. It is

fulfilling to know that you have scored the most in a particular ground or getting to 6,000. I said in the last press conference that I will celebrate this achievement. I think you need to celebrate every achievement. It is most special to be the top scorer at one venue, and that it is a Bangladeshi at the top makes it more special to me," Tamim told reporters after the game yesterday.

However, the southpaw once again missed out on the opportunity to register his 10th ODI century as he was eventually dismissed on 76 runs off 105 balls, featuring six fours, when he was stumped by Cremer while giving the charge on a track that proved difficult to bat on.

Tamim, just 42 shy of surpassing the

TOP FIVE BANGLADESHI RUN-GETTERS IN ODIs

NAME	MATCH	INNINGS	RUNS	HS	AVE	100s	50s
Tamim Iqbal	177	175	6010	154	35.35	9	41
Shakib Al Hasan	183	173	5235	134*	35.13	7	37
Mushfiqur Rahim	182	168	4670	117	33.12	5	28
Mohammad Ashraful	175	168	3468	109	22.37	3	20
Mahmudullah	151	131	3244	128*	33.79	3	17

MOST RUNS AT A SINGLE VENUE

NAME	VENUE	MATCH	INNINGS	RUNS	HS	AVE	100s	50s
Tamim Iqbal	SBNCS	74	73	2549	132	35.90	5	16
Sanath Jayasuriya	Premadasa	71	70	2514	130	38.67	4	19
Inzamamul Haq	Sharjah	59	59	2464	137*	50.28	4	17
Shakib Al Hasan	SBNCS	76	73	2369	106	39.48	2	20
Saeed Anwar	Sharjah	51	51	2179	131	45.39	7	11



Tamim Iqbal finally wins the two-way player-of-the-match battle against Shakib Al Hasan.

PHOTO: STAR

MOMENTS

Spinner Waller's bouncer to Mushfiqur

The pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur remained a mystery during Bangladesh's innings against Zimbabwe yesterday. There was awkward bounce every now and then and at times the ball kept low, which surprised the Tigers batsman. After striking a slog sweep for six off off-spinner Malcolm Waller in the first ball of the 31st over, Mushfiqur Rahim was surprised when he received almost a bouncer in the next ball. It was a good-length delivery from Waller on middle stump that reared sharply off the surface. The slightly built Mushfiqur was not prepared for it and tried to avoid the ball, which eventually struck his shoulder. It was quite a sight to see a spinner bowl a bouncer.

Ervine's stunning catch to dismiss Sabbir

Craig Ervine displayed stunning athleticism and hand-eye coordination to dismiss Sabbir Rahman on just six runs yesterday. Bangladesh were struggling on 167 for five when Sabbir played a well-timed pull shot off pacer Kyle Jarvis in the third ball of the 40th over. Ervine at short mid-wicket jumped dove to his left as the ball was dipping, and the 32-year-old reacted quickly to put his left hand underneath the ball inches above the ground and it stuck to his hand. Ervine was well aware of the danger of the ball popping out once his hand hit the ground, so he made sure to land softly and keep his elbow firm to complete an outstanding catch.

Rubel's straight six and the photo finish

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Rubel's straight six and the photo finish

Ahead of the tri-series, Bangladesh technical director Khaled Mahmud worked with bowlers on their batting and it has paid dividends to some extent. Mahmud would have been delighted to



witness the straight six from number 10 batsman Rubel Hossain in the second ball of the 50th over off pacer Kyle Jarvis. Rubel got his front foot out of the way and timed it to perfection to smash a flat six over. He enjoyed the shot so much that he held his position for a few seconds to give the photographs enough time to capture the magic.

Player-of-the-match Tamim Iqbal later said that the team loved that moment. "I liked his follow-through better than the six. I don't know how long this joke will run [inside the dressing room]."

Mire's long wait for the ball

It was a tough ask for batsmen to adjust to the pace and bounce of the pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The dismissal of Zimbabwe opener Solomon Mire off the bowling of Shakib Al Hasan in the fifth ball of the seventh over was an example of the slowness of the pitch.

Shakib erred in bowling it short, but had deliberately taken the pace off the ball and the right-handed Mire waited for ages, but still went for the shot too early as it kept low and eluded the swishing blade to eventually hit timber. Shakib's reaction after the dismissal suggests that even he was surprised with the nature of the pitch.

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH	R	B	4s	6s
Tamim Iqbal vs Cremer	76	105	6	0
Anamul Iqbal vs Jarvis	1	7	0	0
Shakib Al Hasan vs Raza	51	80	6	0
Mushfiqur vs Muzarabani	18	25	0	1
Shakib Al Hasan vs Cremer	2	7	0	0
Sabbir vs Ervine vs Jarvis	6	11	0	0
Nasir vs Taylor vs Raza	2	8	0	0
Mashrafe vs Taylor vs Cremer	0	8	0	0
Sunzamul vs Muzarabani	19	24	3	0
Mustafizur not out	18	22	2	0
Rubel not out	8	4	0	1
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-12)	15			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 216				
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-112, 3-147, 4-156, 5-163, 6-167, 7-168, 8-170, 9-196.				
BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Jarvis	9	0	42	3
Chataara	7	0	33	1
Muzarabani	7	0	36	0
Raza	10	1	39	1
Cremer	10	0	32	4
Waller	7	0	32	0
	R	B	4s	6s
Masakadza vs Sabbir	5	15	0	0
Mire vs Shabir	7	22	3	0
Ervine vs Sabbir vs Muzarabani	11	15	2	0
Taylor vs Shabir	0	1	0	0
Raza vs Mustafizur	39	59	4	1
Moor vs Sunzamul	14	42	1	0
Waller vs Sunzamul	0	1	0	0
Cremer vs Rubel	23	31	3	0
Jarvis vs Mahmudullah	10	19	1	0
Mustafizur	8	13	2	0
Chataara vs Sabbir vs Shabir	0	1	0	0
Muzarabani not out	0	1	0	0
Extras: (w-8)	8			
Total: (All out in 36.3 overs) 125				
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-20, 3-20, 4-34, 5-68, 6-68, 7-95, 8-107, 9-118, 10-125.				
BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Shakib	9	2	34	3
Mashrafe	6	0	29	2
Imrul	10	0	28	2
Mustafizur	6.3	3	16	2
Rubel	5	1	18	1
Result: Bangladesh won by 91 runs.				
Player-of-the-match: Tamim Iqbal.				

Divine intervention in Australia miracle

AGENCIES, Wellington

Leg-spinner Lloyd Pope took the best figures ever in an Under-19 World Cup as Australia pulled off a stunning victory in their quarterfinal against England in Queenstown yesterday. Pope finished with 8-35 from 9.4 overs to help bowl England out for just 96 as the Aussies successfully defended a total of 127 to advance to the semifinals.

England seemed to be cruising at 0-47 in their chase before Pope struck, the red-haired leggie taking 3-2 in the space of 10 balls to give the Aussies