



PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**



MAZHAR UDDIN *from Chittagong*

Mominul's innings yesterday was not just about proving a point or releasing pent-up frustration; it was also about the mental strength he showed in maintaining the same mentality from the time he walked out to bat till the moment he walked back, unbeaten on a 203-ball 175 with the help of 17 fours and a six.

The pocket dynamite started to get into the groove as the day progressed and started to dominate the

Mominul started to pace his innings with more aggression as he reached his fifty and when he entered the 90s, it seemed that a fire

It is an innings from which, like Tamim, the rest of the dressing room will do well to take a cue.

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SAKEB SUBHAN



BANGLADESH: First innings				
	R	B	4s	6s
Tamim b Perera	52	53	6	1
Imrul lbw b Sandakan	40	75	4	0
Mominul not out	175	203	16	1
Mushfiq c Dickwell b Lakmal	92	192	10	0
Liton b Lakmal	0	1	0	0
Mahmudullah not out	9	20	2	0
Extras: (nb-4, w-2)	6			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 90 overs)	374			
To bat: Mosaddek, Mehedi, Tajjul, Sunzamul, Mustafizur.				
Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-120, 3-356, 4-356.				
Bowler				
	R	B	4s	W
Lakmal	17	3	43	2
Kumara	12	1	64	0
Perera	24	4	98	1
Herath	20	1	100	0
Sandakan	13	1	58	1
De Silva	4	0	11	0

SRI LANKA: Karunaratne, Dhananjaya, Mendis, Chandimal, Dickwella Roshen Perera Herath Lakmal Sandakan Kumara

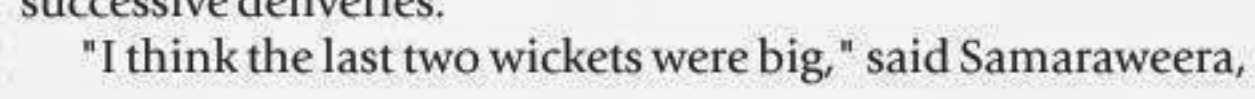


In those defeats, particularly in the final when they collapsed in a heap in chase of a moderate 222 when experienced campaigners like Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim were out playing unnecessary shots, Bangladesh had moved away from their smart-cricket mantra and seemed intent on twisting the knife into the wound when a clean

The following four days will not just be a test of how the home side fare without the talismanic Shakib Al Hasan, whose injury in the tri-series final handed Sri Lanka even more momentum than they had mustered by winning the tournament, but it will also test if they learned their lessons from the tri-series debacle.

Unlike in the ODIs where Bangladesh were the higher-ranked team, Sri Lanka are the better side in the Tests, which means Bangladesh have to be on guard even more and, having laid the foundation, continue playing the opposition and not their coach.

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"I feel till dey three this is a good pitch. It will turn but slowly from then on," said Samaraweera before heaping praise on Bangladesh number three Mominul Haque, who was unbeaten on 175 at stumps. "Mini [Mominul] batted really well. He used his feet and the crease very well. We should have bowled better than that. It [374] is 40 runs too many for our part."