



'Could have done more'

SPORTS REPORTER

It could have been the perfect end to a swash-buckling knock had Mominul Haque reached his maiden double hundred but Thursday morning did not bring good news for the little man or the home fans as Sri Lanka's veteran left-arm spinner Rangana Herath struck early on the second morning in Chittagong yesterday.

Even though he had scored just one run on the day, when the left-hander attended the press conference after the day's play it did not seem odd because he was the most acclaimed player for his mammoth 176 that laid the foundation for Bangladesh's innings.

He might not have been as smart as he was on the opening day in his batting as he employed hard wrists to clip a fuller one on the pads and chipped the ball in the air in the third over of the day, but the courteous Mominul was smart in his words during the press conference. He talked about the consequences of his dismissal, his unfamiliar celebration after the hundred, changes in his technique and the scenario of the match after Sri Lanka made a strong reply to the home side's 513 in the first innings.

Mominul expressed satisfaction over what he achieved, but also blamed his dismissal to deprive his side an opportunity to cross 600-plus runs.

"I am quite happy with what I have done but I think I should have contributed a bit more for the team. It would be wrong to say I am not satisfied with the effort. But I should probably have played a bit longer, perhaps another session because ultimately I am playing for my team.

"I think my dismissal caused the problem. When you are 170-odd not out, everyone would expect you to bat a couple of sessions more. If I batted longer, we would have been 600-plus," said Mominul.

Mominul was also not ready to blame his luck for his dismissal as the chipped ball lodged in the hands of short leg after initially hitting him on the shoulder. "I wouldn't call it bad luck. This can happen. Maybe I was a bit casual."

While many sought to link his uncharacteristic celebration upon reaching his hundred on the first day with his



Bangladesh fielders anxiously wait for the outcome of a leg-before review against Kusal Mendis off the bowling of Tajjul Islam on the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The Tigers took three reviews in the space of seven overs but none were successful and two were wasted. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Instead of the double-century he was eyeing after resuming on 175, Mominul Haque could only add one before being dismissed on the second morning of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

bitter relationship with former Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha, the player himself provided a different take. "There was no specific reason; it is not what you were assuming. It was my own challenge. I haven't scored a hundred for a long time, so I was happy to reach the milestone," he explained, adding that his main concern was how to convert the 60s, 70s or 80s into hundreds.

He also said that he only worked on the mental side rather than anything technical and had a simple answer to criticism from certain quarters that he cannot play pace or off-spin: "It is God's grace."

Mominul also provided encouraging news for the home fans as he said that there will be more turn tomorrow [Friday]. The last hour had a bit more turn. The lead is important and if we can bowl in the right spots than three-four early wickets are possible," he hoped.

Tigers let it slip

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chittagong

After dominating with a brilliant batting display on the first day of the first Test Bangladesh went on to lose the momentum and made a few errors that eventually cost them the ascendancy by the end of the second day. Sri Lanka capitalised on the opportunities provided by the home side as Dhananjaya de Silva struck his third Test hundred and Kusal Mendis was also nearing his century to stage a strong reply.

MOMINUL'S MISSED OPPORTUNITY

All eyes were on overnight batsman Mominul Haque who, batting on 175, was approaching his maiden double hundred when Bangladesh resumed the day on 374 for four. However, the left-hander disappointed after adding only one run before he misjudged the flight of left-arm spinner Rangana Herath and went for the flick a bit early. He was caught sharply by the short-leg fielder after it hit his shoulder. Mominul would be disappointed

on missing out on a double hundred after having approached his innings till that point with great composure. Since his departure the home side lost the way and, apart from Mahmudullah's responsible unbeaten knock of 83, the Bangladesh batting collapsed in no time and were eventually bundled out midway through the second session.

THE DROPPED CATCHES

The pitch at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium has not offered as much for the spinners as anticipated but the Bangladeshi fielders were also unable to grab the opportunities when it mattered. Bangladesh are yet to have a specialist slip fielder, which proved costly yet again. Kusal Mendis survived two chances, both in the slip cordon. First it was Mehedi Hasan Miraz who was unable to hold on when the right-hander, on four, edged to second slip off Mustafizur Rahman in the fifth over and Mehedi went for the catch with one hand but was unable to hold on to the ball. Imrul Kayes was the other culprit who once again displayed a lack of awareness of the basic rules of slip fielding and was late to

react to a straightforward edge off the bowling of Mehedi in the 31st over, with Mendis on 57. The two dropped catches proved costly as Mendis was still at the crease on 83 runs and heading towards his hundred.

BOWLING INDISCIPLINE AND CAPTAINCY BY ROTE

While the pitch offered hardly any assistance to the spinners the Bangladesh bowlers did themselves no favours by being wayward in their lines and lengths, which allowed the batsmen to score freely. Spinners Sunzamul Islam and Mehedi Hasan Miraz remained inconsistent. Debutant left-arm spinner Sunzamul bowled a lot of short-pitched and loose deliveries to release whatever pressure the Tigers managed to exert on the two Lankan batsman and allowed them to settle easily. Mehedi also went for 45 off his eight overs and the off-spinner was unable to string together dot balls, which has been a big concern of late. There was also some captaincy by rote from new skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who took Mehedi off immediately after he took the only wicket to fall in the third

over and introduced left-arm spinners from both ends, presumably keeping the right-handed batsmen in mind but the ploy did not work.

WASTED REVIEWS

The Bangladesh fielders and captain Mahmudullah were not too smart when it came to taking reviews. Tajjul was over-excited in the last hour of the day and it was during his bowling that the home side went on to lose both reviews. The first one was in the 36th over when he advocated for a leg-before review against Kusal Mendis off a ball that pitched marginally on leg stump and turned away sharply, and the replays showed that it would have missed the stumps. The other one was in the 42nd over for a caught-behind review against the same batsman which the umpire denied and the review revealed that there was no sign of a deflection. There was another optimistic appeal in between, when in the 40th over Mendis came down the track to Tajjul, and the not out decision remained because the replays showed that he was more than three metres down the track.

BD-SL SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First innings		R	B	As	6s
(overnight 374 for 4)					
Tamim b Perera		52	53	6	1
Imrul lbw b Sandakan		40	75	4	0
Mominul c Mendis b Herath		176	214	16	1
Mushfiq c Dickwella b Lakmal		92	192	10	0
Liton b Lakmal		0	1	0	0
Mahmudullah not out		83	134	7	2
Mosaddek c Sandakan b Herath		8	15	1	0
Mehedi run out		20	19	1	1
Sunzamul st Dickwella b Sandakan		24	56	1	0
Tajjul b Herath		1	3	0	0
Mustafizur c Dickwella b Lakmal		8	21	0	1
Extras: (nb-4, w-5)		9			
Total: (All out in 129.5 overs)		513			
Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-120, 3-356, 4-356, 5-376, 6-390, 7-417, 8-475, 9-478, 10-513.					
Bowler					
Lakmal		23.5	4	68	3
Kumara		15	1	79	0
Perera		27	4	112	1
Herath		37	2	150	2
Sandakan		22	1	92	3
Dhananjaya		5	0	12	0
SRI LANKA: First innings		R	B	As	6s
Karunaratne c Imrul b Mehedi		0	9	0	0
Mendis not out		83	152	6	1
Dhananjaya not out		104	127	15	0
Extras:		18			
Total: (For 1 wkt in 48 overs)		187			
To bat: Chandimal, Dickwella, Roshen, Perera, Herath, Lakmal, Sandakan, Kumara.					
Fall of wickets: 1-0.					
Bowler					
Mustafizur		7	1	31	0
Sunzamul		15	1	52	0
Mehedi		8	0	45	1
Tajjul		17	3	56	0
Mosaddek		1	0	3	0

ICC U-19 WORLD CUP Pakistan finish third

PTI, Queenstown

Two-time champions Pakistan claimed third position at the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 after their third-fourth position play-off match against Afghanistan was washed-out on Thursday without a ball being bowled.

Afghanistan and Pakistan were in Group D and though Afghanistan defeated Pakistan in their opener, Pakistan topped the group after Afghanistan suffered a surprise defeat against Ireland in their last group match.

While this is Afghanistan's best finish in an ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup after they claimed 16th, 10th, seventh and ninth positions in the 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 events, respectively, this is the third time Pakistan have finished third after 2000 and 2010.

Pakistan's worst performance in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup was in 2012 when they finished eighth.

Kohli trumps Du Plessis

AFP, Durban



Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane shared a 189-run third wicket partnership and took India to a comfortable six-wicket win in the first one-day international against South Africa at Kingsmead yesterday.

Kohli made 112 -- extending his record of centuries in one-day run chases to 20 -- and Rahane scored 79 as India reached the winning target of 270 with 27 balls to spare.

India ended a sequence of 17 successive home wins by South Africa and comprehensively outplayed the team that went into the match as the top-ranked one-day international team.

Second-ranked India controlled most of the match despite a century by South Africa captain Faf du Plessis.

India's decision to pick two wrist spinners paid off as Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav shared five wickets and were mainly responsible for restricting South Africa to 269 for eight. Kohli made his runs off 119 balls with ten fours, while Rahane struck five fours and two sixes in an 86-ball innings.

Du Plessis made 120 off 112 balls but it was only late in the innings that South Africa were able to lift their scoring rate on a slow pitch after slumping to 134 for five in 27.5 overs.

Du Plessis reached his ninth one-day international century off 101 balls with 11 fours and added two sixes before being caught at long-off in the last over after a 112-ball

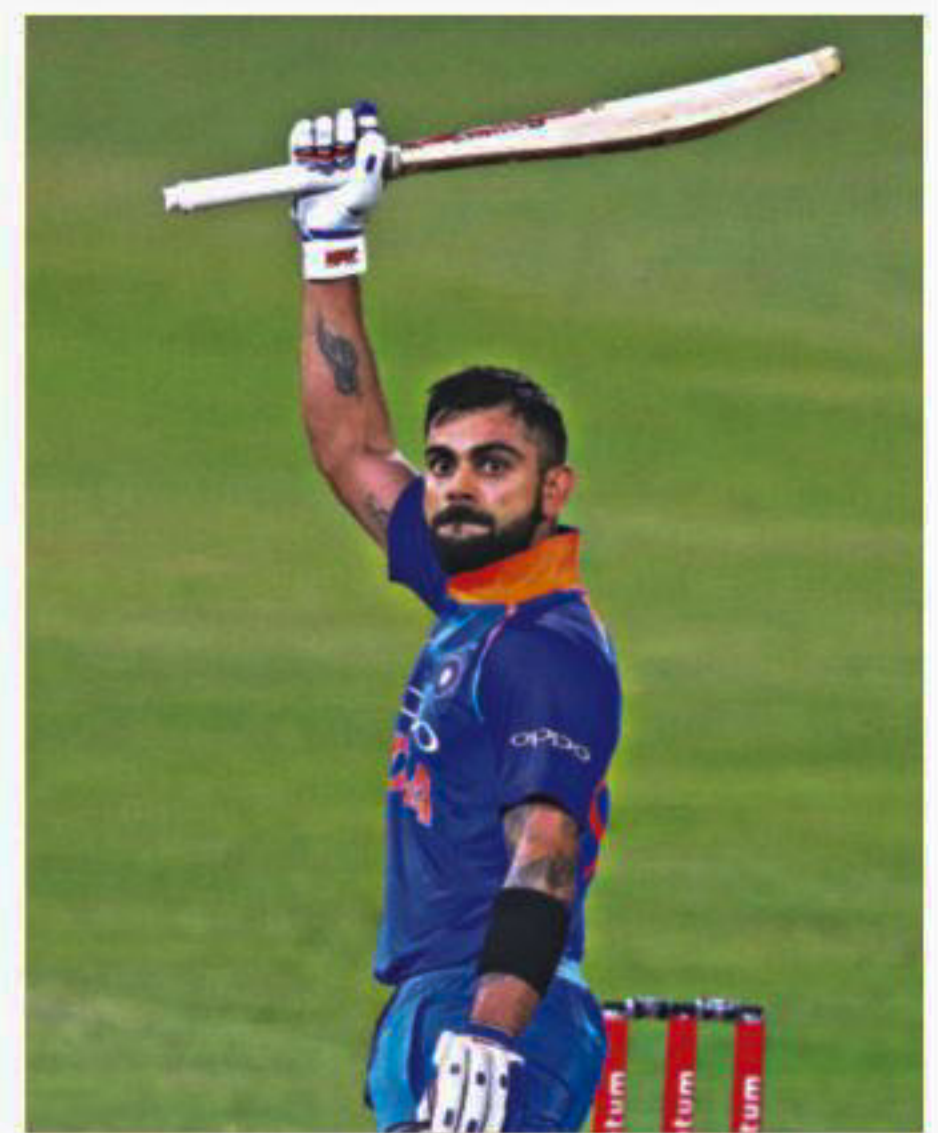
SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 269 for 8 in 50 overs (De Kock 34, Du Plessis 120, Morris 37, Phehlukwayo 27 not out; Chahal 2-45, Yadav 3-34)

INDIA: 270 for 4 in 45.3 overs (Kohli 112, Rahane 79, Dhawan 35; Phehlukwayo 2-42)

Result: India won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli



India captain Virat Kohli hit a sublime 119-ball 112 to power his side to victory in their first ODI against South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

'It's an even contest now'

SPORTS REPORTER



There is a reason why Rangana Herath is known as the 'wily old fox' in the Sri Lanka dressing room, and it is not just about being a 39-year-old cricketer.

On the first day on Wednesday, the left-arm spinner was taken to the cleaners by Mominul Haque and Mushfiqur Rahim to the tune of 100 runs in 20 wicketless overs, but yesterday he used whatever assistance the second-day pitch had to offer and extracted three wickets, including the early one of Mominul, for the addition of 50 runs in 17 overs.

His three wickets helped limit Bangladesh to 513 all out from an overnight score of 374 for four, and he thought that Sri Lanka's response with Dhananjaya de Silva hitting a century and constructing an unbeaten 187-run second-wicket stand with Kusal Mendis put both teams on an even keel at the end of the second day.

"It looks like an even contest now," he said after Sri Lanka ended the day on 187 for one, with opener Dimuth Karunaratne the only wicket to fall before his team could get off the mark.

The pitch at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium has been a source



Sri Lanka left-arm spinner Rangana Herath unsuccessfully attempts to run out stand-in Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah Riyad yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

of speculation as unlike the last two matches here -- the Test against Australia in 2017 and against England the year before -- the pitch has offered scant assistance to the slower bowlers.

"I still see it as a batsman-friendly wicket. They made 500-plus and we are 180 [187] for one," Herath said. "We

first need to score the 300 runs we are behind. Then after that, we can see what kind of surface it becomes. From there we can decide which direction we can go.

"There's something for the spinners from the third day onwards. I could see some turn even after tea today."