

SPORT



BANGLADESH'S BEST TEST MATCH FIGURES

- Mehedi 12 for 159 against England, Oct 2016
- Enamul 12 for 200 against Zimbabwe, Jan 2005
- Tajjul 11 for 170 against Zimbabwe, Nov 2018**
- Shakib 10 for 124 against Zimbabwe, Nov 2014
- Shakib 10 for 153 against Australia, Aug 2017



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Tajjul Islam (Left C) single-handedly brought the smiles back to the Tigers' faces as the left-arm spinner picked up his maiden 10-wicket haul to help the hosts regain some ground during the third day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday. The onus will now be on the batsmen (R) to capitalise on Tajjul's immense contribution going into the fourth day as Bangladesh require 295 with 10 wickets in hand.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'We're in a big hole'

MAZHAR UDDIN from Sylhet

Since being appointed as Bangladesh head coach back in June, Steve Rhodes went through arguably his toughest press conference after the third day's play at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday.

After the first-innings debacle that saw Bangladesh bundled out for just 143, which gave Zimbabwe a potentially match-winning lead of 139 runs, the dominant topic was the inability and lack of adaptability of the Bangladesh batsmen in Test cricket.

Rhodes admitted that the first-innings shambles had put the home side in a big hole, adding that the inability to come out of one-day mode had cost the team, which now has to chase 321 to win.

"I like my coaching. I back my own coaching. Things in cricket doesn't always go the way you want it to go. The players who got out are all good. We put ourselves in a big hole, and they know that. They don't need me to tell the whole world that. You guys ask the questions, and I have to answer. They were all very disappointed in the way they played.

"To be bowled out for 143 was very disappointing on a pretty flat wicket. I don't

I think the form of our Test team's batting is something we need to improve desperately. The two matches in West Indies were very difficult. But in this first innings, it is on our home wicket... it was disappointing. Normally we've done well on this sort of wicket.

"Both Australia [in 2017] and England [in 2018] struggled in difficult conditions here. We can't be too aggressive and nasty towards our batsmen. They are trying hard to do well. I believe they are good players. They need confidence. If you look at the way they played tonight, they showed a different sort of application. If we can carry it on tomorrow, we are in for a cracking game of cricket," he said.

Needing another 295 runs with all the wickets intact, Rhodes was cautious about saying that they are quietly confident of winning the Test match.

When asked why they picked three spinners and just one frontline pacer, the 54-year-old said: "We felt that the best chance was to go with the one pace bowler and three spinners. It wasn't a balanced side. It wasn't a balanced attack. You could argue it was a 50-50 call, but thankfully we have taken 20 wickets. The reason we are in a slight hole is because of our first-innings batting. We need to put it right."

always know the answers why. I think we tried hard to get over the white-ball game and get ourselves in a red-ball game. On the day it didn't go well. I think the dressing room is ready to try to put it right. Whether that happens or not, we don't know but they will certainly be trying," Rhodes told the reporters yesterday.

The signs are not promising. Bangladesh were unable to post 200 in their last seven Test innings and their highest successful Test chase was 215, which came against the West Indies back in 2009 in St Georges. The highest ever successful chase by any team in Bangladesh was in 2008 where New Zealand went past the target of 317 runs.

Bangladesh head coach Steve Rhodes

Zimbabwe eyeing rare win

SPORTS REPORTER



Among all the hand-wringing about Bangladesh's inept batting in the first innings, Zimbabwe -- who came into the match not having played a Test since December 2017 -- have quietly moved into a winning position.

Bangladesh ended the third day of the first Test in Sylhet needing a further 295 runs to achieve their highest successful chase of 321. Although they had all their wickets intact, Zimbabwe coach Lalchand Rajput thought that their first win since September 2013 -- against Pakistan -- was on the cards.

"It's always difficult to chase a total on the fourth day especially, and the last ball [a sharp turner from Sikandar Raza that rapped Bangladesh opener Liton Das's pad] was very encouraging," said Rajput during the post-day press conference. "So hopefully we try and bowl well tomorrow morning, and we've got to take the catches. As you know, catches win matches because there will be a lot of catches around the bat. So hopefully we have a good field-



LALCHAND RAJPUT

ing and bowling session tomorrow.

"We will have a combination of medium pace and spinners, but the bulk of the bowling will be done by the spinners, because we've seen that the wicket is helping the spinners," he added. "In the first innings, the seamers bowled really well, so we were hoping that we would get one or two wickets with the new ball. There will be more emphasis on the spinners and hopefully the spinners will oblige."

Zimbabwe last won a Test against Bangladesh in April 2013 and they have not won a Test in Bangladesh since November 2001, so it will be a historic event for the visitors, especially given all the turmoil in the cricketing setup back home. It is Rajput's first Test assignment, having been brought in this year after a Heath Streak-led staff was sacked following their failure to qualify for the 2019 World Cup.

"If you play more Tests, you come into these situations more often and you're mentally well prepared as well. We had a very good start in this Test match, still a couple of days to go. But I think they should play more and more Test matches, because Test matches show a lot of character and temperament, and are the real test of a cricketer."

Homes are not only made of walls
But a reflection of boundless dream

PERFORMER OF THE DAY

TERRIFIC TAJJUL
Bangladesh left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam captured 5 wickets for 62 runs to bundle Zimbabwe out for 181 runs in the second innings and lead the hosts' fightback in the first Test in Sylhet yesterday. Tajjul's terrific performance almost single-handedly kept the Tigers in the match. Tajjul also claimed 6 for 108 in the first innings to have match figures of 11 for 170 which now places him third in Bangladesh's best Test match bowling figures in history.

Tigresses warm up well

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh women's cricket team tuned up well in the first official warm-up game against their Irish counterparts ahead of the ICC Women's World Twenty20, which will get underway from November 9 in Guyana. Salma Khatun's side registered a comfortable six-wicket victory over Ireland at the Providence Stadium in Guyana in a day-night match on Sunday.

They will face Pakistan at the same venue on November 6 (Bangladesh time: morning of November 7) in their second and final warm-up match before taking on hosts West Indies on November 9 (morning of November 10) in one of the opening matches of the 10-team tournament.

Back to the first game, Bangladesh restricted Ireland to 84 for seven and then achieved the target for the loss of four wickets and with 32 balls to spare.

Rumana Ahmed was the top bowler as she claimed three wickets for 10 runs in four overs, while Jahanara Alam took two for 11 from three overs.

Number seven batter Kim Garth scored the team-highest 35 off 38 balls.

In reply, Ayasha Rahman's 26-ball 25 and Fargana Hoque's unbeaten 22-ball 21 helped Bangladesh overtake the total comfortably. Sanjida Islam was the other notable scorer with an unbeaten 20 off 25 balls.

"The players have acclimatised to the conditions well as we came here early and had a seven-day camp in Grenada. It was especially important for the team to adjust with the timing. Everybody is enjoying themselves, although they have not been



RUMANA AHMED... 3 for 10

FIXTURES		
Date	Match	Venue
Nov 10	West Indies v Bangladesh	Providence
Nov 13	Bangladesh v England	Gros Islet
Nov 15	Bangladesh v Sri Lanka	Gros Islet
Nov 19	Bangladesh v South Africa	Gros Islet

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD									
ZIMBABWE: First innings					ZIMBABWE: Second innings				
H Masakadza lbw b Jayed	52/105	4/2			H Masakadza lbw b Mehedi	48/104	7/0		
Chari b Tajjul	13/31	2/0			Chari b Mehedi	4/33	0/0		
Taylor c N Hossain b Tajjul	6/15	0/0			Taylor c Imrul b Tajjul	24/25	4/0		
Williams c Mehedi					Williams b Tajjul	20/65	2/0		
b Mahmudullah	88/173	9/0			Moor c Liton b Tajjul	25/30	3/1		
Raza b N Islam	19/52	2/0			Moor c Liton b Tajjul	0/1	0/0		
Moor not out	63/192	6/0			Chakabva c Mahmudullah				
Chakabva c N Hossain b Tajjul	28/85	2/0			b N Islam	20/65	2/0		
Masakadza c Mushfiqur b Tajjul	4/28	0/0			W Masakadza lbw b Mehedi	17/60	1/0		
Mavuta lbw b N Islam	3/14	0/0			Mavuta c Ariful b N Islam	6/4	0/1		
Jarvis c Mehedi b Tajjul	4/9	0/0			Jarvis not out	1/3	0/0		
Chatara c Liton b Tajjul	0/1	0/0			Chatara lbw b Tajjul	8/4	2/0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-1)	2				Extras: (b-4, lb-4)	8			
Total: (All out in 117.3 overs)	282				Total: (All out in 65.4 overs)	181			
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-47, 3-85, 4-129, 5-201, 6-261, 7-268, 8-273, 9-282, 10-282.					Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-47, 3-101, 4-121, 5-121, 6-130, 7-165, 8-172, 9-173, 10-181.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jayed	21	3	68	1	Tajjul	28.4	8	62	5
Tajjul	39.3	7	108	6	N Islam	6	1	27	2
Ariful	4	1	7	0	Jayed	7	1	25	0
Mehedi	27	8	45	0	Mehedi	19	7	48	3
N Islam	23	6	49	2	Mahmudullah	4	1	7	0
Mahmudullah	3	0	3	1	Mominul	1	0	4	0
BANGLADESH: First innings	R/B	4s/6s							
Liton c Chakabva b Jarvis	9/25	1/0							
Imrul b Chatara	5/13	1/0							
Mominul c H Masakadza b Raza	11/38	1/0							
N Hossain c Chakabva b Chatara	5/5	1/0							
Mahmudullah b Chatara	0/2	0/0							
Mushfiqur c Chakabva b Jarvis	31/54	5/0							
Ariful not out	41/96	3/0							
Mehedi c & b Williams	21/33	3/0							
Tajjul Islam c Chakabva b Raza	8/24	0/0							
N Islam c Chari b Raza	4/15	1/0							
Jayed run out	0/1	0/0							
Extras: (b-7, lb-1)	8								
Total: (All out in 51 overs)	143								
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-14, 3-19, 4-19, 5-49, 6-78, 7-108, 8-131, 9-143, 10-143.									
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jarvis	11	2	28	2	Jarvis	5	2	11	0
					Chatara	5	1	15	0
					Raza	0.1	0	0	0

MOMENTS



As Bangladesh cricket grows so does its complications, in what seems to be a new trend a second pitch invader in the space of three days made his way to Mushfiqur Rahim (C) for an embrace during Bangladesh's first Test against Zimbabwe at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. Security will surely try to be on their toes from now.

PHOTO: STAR

going out much as they have been sharing their views about how to improve their performance," Nazmul Abedin Fahim, the women's cricket wing development manager, informed The Daily Star over phone.

"There were three practice matches against a local under-17 boys' team during the camp and we won the first game, lost the second one and the third was abandoned due to rain. I think our batting has improved," he added.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group A along with West Indies, England, South Africa and Sri Lanka while Group B comprises Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and Ireland.