



Bangladesh batsman Mominul Haque may have endured a lean patch as of late but he got back among the runs on the first day of the second Test against Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The left-hander rescued the Tigers from a precarious position with his seventh Test century, featuring a grand total of 19 boundaries.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



PERFORMER OF THE DAY

Mushfiqur: the warrior monk

Normally when choosing the picture of a centurion, images of the batsman raising his bat to acknowledge the applause or of an attractive shot with eyes on the dispatched ball (see left) make it to the top of the pile. However, nothing sums up the mastery Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim displayed yesterday more than a picture of him leaving the ball, eyes closed in monk-like determination and contemplation of the task at hand.

And it was a difficult task as he came in to bat with Bangladesh on 26 for three during a torrid morning session which saw Zimbabwe pacers Kyle Jarvis, Tendai Chatara and Donald Tiripano making the ball



talk. He let the ball talk and responded with silence, knowing perhaps that it was all up to him -- the best batsman in the side -- to buck Bangladesh's disturbing trend of not once crossing 200 in their last eight Test innings. The batsman who can terrorise bowlers in the death overs in limited-overs matches scored just 16 runs from his first 55 deliveries before hitting - a square drive off Sikandar Raza.

His unbeaten 231-ball 111 contained eight more boundaries, which he will be looking to add to on today's second day. While Mominul Haque, his partner in a 266-run fourth-wicket stand, had to count on two Zimbabwean fielding lapses to continue batting, Mushfiqur's sixth Test ton was flawless and not even shaky despite the probing line employed by the pacers. After the tea break, Zimbabwe bowled nine excellent overs and gave away just 13 runs, but not once did Mushfiqur seem under pressure as he trusted his rock-solid technique to guide him through the tough period.

He rewarded himself soon enough, nudging his 187th delivery for the all-important single, and let out a roar that he was equal parts warrior and monk.

'Learned a lot from this ton'

MAZHAR UDDIN



After striking four Test tons in his first 22 innings, Mominul Haque had to wait 23 innings to register his fifth Test hundred and he quickly notched a sixth as he smashed twin tons in the first Test against Sri Lanka in Chattogram earlier this year.

Although just eight innings elapsed before he brought up his seventh against Zimbabwe yesterday, his brilliant 161 off 247 balls would perhaps have engendered the biggest sigh of relief as it came on the back of a troubling lean patch.

His strike rate may suggest that it was a dominant effort but he survived a difficult start and, as he said later, he had to learn and adapt along the way.

"I have learned a lot from this century and it is one of the most interesting hundreds among all as I had to work really hard on my innings. It was the toughest of all my hundreds," Mominul told

reporters during the post-day press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

There have been three specific ways that Mominul has gotten out in recent times -- his tendency to push away from his body with an angled bat has resulted in edges to the cordon or inside edges onto the stumps; he has been closing the face of the bat early, which has caused problems for the left-hander.

Even after the innings that saved Bangladesh from 26 for three, questions were raised about his technique, but Mominul countered that he did not want to make things complicated and just focus on the mental aspect.

"I try not to make things complicated as cricket is such a game where things gets tougher if you make it more complicated. I only tried to watch the ball and play, nothing else. On such a platform

I have learned a lot from this century and it is one of my most interesting hundreds as I had to work really hard on my innings. It was the toughest of all my hundreds.

BANGLADESH BATSMAN
MOMINUL HAQUE

you have to be mentally strong as you will hear a lot of negative things if you don't do well," Mominul said.

When Mominul walked into the ground after Bangladesh lost an early wicket yet again, all eyes were on the left-hander to see how he started the innings. One of the recent failings of the Bangladesh Test specialist has been going for too many shots early on.

One could easily imagine that a few butterflies fluttered in his stomach when, facing his first ball, he was beaten by a Kyle Jarvis

delivery outside off stump as the diminutive batsman pushed away from his body.

That tendency to play away from his body almost cost him early in the innings when, on nine, he went for a slash off Tendai Chatara and Brian Chari dropped a tough chance at point. A picture perfect cover drive off Chatara in the 21st over suggested that he had started to rediscover some of the old touch, but he was again dropped by the keeper on 25 off Sikandar Raza.

The 27-year-old reached his fifty with a cut off Sean Williams off his 92nd and did not even celebrate. The left-hander also gave credit to the experience of Mushfiqur Rahim who provided the much needed assurance from the other end in a 266-run fourth-wicket stand.

"Mushfiqur bhai has helped me a lot and guided me very well. Today [Sunday] I realised why he is one of the top five cricketers in the country. It really touched me and some of his advice has helped

my batting," he said.

All of a sudden, Mominul's shaky feet movement against the spinners vanished and he leaned forward for his drives or defences and made sure he rolled his wrist over the ball when nudging singles rather than pushing in front of his body.

It took just 58 more deliveries to bring up his next fifty as Mominul registered his third hundred of the year with a flick off a Raza full toss. A jubilant Mominul first ran towards the dressing room with a pumped-up expression, showing how important the hundred was, before giving an overjoyed Mushfiqur a tight hug.

Mominul went on to reach his 150 off 239 balls. His flawed yet valuable innings eventually came to an end with an uppish drive off Chatara that was caught at point in the last hour. He walked off disappointed, but also richer for the knowledge he rediscovered about toughing it out to play big innings.

Proteas clinch ODI series

AFP, Hobart

David Miller and Faf du Plessis plundered big-hitting centuries in a batting master-class as South Africa beat Australia by 40 runs to win their one-day series and inflict another defeat on Justin Langer's misfiring side.

The pair shared in a 252-run stand to power the Proteas to 320 for 5 in the third and final match in Hobart on Sunday -- a record fourth wicket partnership by South Africa against the hosts in Australia.

They came together at 55 for 3 in the 16th over with Miller swatting 139 for his fifth limited-overs century and skipper du Plessis smashing 125 -- his 10th one-day ton.

A composed Shaun Marsh cracked a fighting 106 in the run chase, ably supported by Marcus Stoinis (63) and Alex Carey (42) -- an improvement on recent batting displays but still not good enough.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA: 320 for 5 in 50 overs (Du Plessis 125, Miller 139; Starc 2-57, Stoinis 2-70)
AUSTRALIA: 280 for 9 in 50 overs (Marsh 106, Stoinis 63; Steyn 3-45, Rabada 3-40)
Result: South Africa won by 40 runs and clinch series 2-1.
Player-of-the-match: David Miller.

Colindres treble powers Kings into semis

SPORTS REPORTER



World Cupper Daniel Colindres was on fire again as his treble powered Bashundhara Kings into the semifinals of the Walton Federation Cup with an imposing 5-1 win over Team BJMC in the last quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Colindres failed to replicate his opening match's magnificent performance against Mohammedan SC in the following matches as the newcomers were held to successive draws by Sheikh Jamal DC and newcomers NoFel SC in the group stages. But the 33-year-old marksman showed his scoring skill once again yesterday while left-winger Mohammad Ibrahim drew attention with perfect crosses

which set up three separate players for getting on the scoresheet. Colindres was named the player-of-the-match but the 33-year-old was not willing to talk to media after a last-minute scuffle with BJMC defender Mohammad Al Amin. However, the Costa Rican told one of his teammates on way to the dressing room "I'm hungry," apparently indicating his hunger for more goals.

"There are a lot of good players in

our side but I can't hide the fact that Colindres today played superbly. He is a very important player for us, especially in the first half when he scored three goals. But I would sincerely want to highlight one player who played in the left flank and he [Mohammad Ibrahim] is played at a similar level to Colindres's in today's match," said Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon, who brought some changes in the squad.

"Three stoppers were solid as they spoiled the counter-attacks well and were good in shape compared to the group-stage matches. We expect to carry this final-stage sprint into the next matches as we had ups and downs in the group stages," said the Spaniard, whose side will take on Sheikh Russel KC on Nov 20, one day after holders



Daniel Colindres scored a first-half hattrick as Bashundhara Kings trounced Team BJMC 5-1 at the BNS yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Abahani take on Sheikh Jamal DC in the first semifinal.

Bashundhara Kings did not give any space to Team BJMC, who missed the services of Uzbek striker Otabek, the scorer of the tournament's first hattrick against Brothers Union which had powered BJMC into the quarterfinals.

Colindres opened the scoring by firing home a cross from Ibrahim in the second minute before scoring two more goals in the ninth and 15th minutes.

After resumption, substitutes Towhidul Alam Subuz and Matin Mia added two more goals in the 70th and 79th minutes after availing the crosses from Ibrahim. Three minutes from time, Nigerian Samson Iliasu scored a consolation goal from the spot for Team BJMC.

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First innings				
	R/B	4s/6s		
Liton c Mavuta b Jarvis	9/35	0/0		
Imrul c Chakabva b Jarvis	0/16	0/0		
Mominul c Chari b Chatara	161/247	19/0		
Mithun c Taylor b Tiripano	0/4	0/0		
Mushfiqur not out	111/231	9/0		
Tajjul c Chakabva b Jarvis	4/10	0/0		
Mahmudullah not out	0/0	0/0		
Extras: (b-9, lb-5, nb-3, w-1)	18			
Total: (For 5 wickets in 90 overs)	303			
Yet to bat: Ariful, Mehedi, Mustafizur, Khaled.				
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-16, 3-26, 4-292, 5-299.				
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Jarvis	19	5	48	3
Chatara	18	10	28	1
Tiripano	15	3	33	1
Raza	12	1	63	0
Williams	8	0	31	0
Mavuta	16	0	79	0
H Masakadza	2	0	7	0
ZIMBABWE: Hamilton Masakadza (capt), Brian Chari, Brendan Taylor, Sean Williams, Sikandar Raza, Peter Moor, Regis Chakabva, Brandon Mavuta, Donald Tiripano, Kyle Jarvis, Tendai Chatara.				

Chandimal out of second Test

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's skipper Dinesh Chandimal will miss the second Test against England after injuring himself in the opening match of the series, the cricket board said Sunday.

It is also doubtful he will return for the third and final Test after being ruled out by doctors for two weeks, Sri Lanka Cricket said.

Suranga Lakmal will lead Sri Lanka while Charith Asalanka will be inducted into the team as a replacement.

The second Test against England begins Wednesday at Pallekele.

