



त्र यग्त्य ध्रम्य धूला-म्याला आय् न्य



Balls will misbehave more: Miraz

MAZHAR UDDIN



He might be portrayed as a funny character providing

batting tips to a senior batsman who is heading towards a double hundred or celebrate his captain's Test ton by accompanying him in a sajda, but young Mehedi Hasan Miraz certainly does not lose focus with his own job.

The 21-year-old has provided a few light moments already in the on home soil. Dhaka Test so far but he has also proved his efficacy with the bat, scoring his second Test fifty in the first innings and providing much needed support to Muhshfigur Rahim and showing the same resolve in the second innings by remaining unbeaten on 27 runs, and more importantly sticking it out with Mahmudullah Riyad.

He was also instrumental with his off-spin as he picked up three wickets in the first innings before giving the Tigers the much needed breakthrough in the dying hour yesterday by removing Zimbabwe skipper Hamilton Masakadza.

The all-rounder, who is slowly cementing his place as a key player for the Tigers in all forms of cricket, will be a key factor if the hosts have to win the game to avoid the humiliation of a series defeat against a lower ranked side Zimbabwe, on the other hand,

will have the uphill task of batting the entire day needing another 367 runs to win on a Mirpur track which is expected to offer sharp turn on the final day. Miraz has no illusions as to what needs to be done by the hosts.



Taijul Islam successfully appeals for an Ibw decision against Zimbabwe opener Brian Chari, which was the last wicket to fall yesterday, and the left-armer will be looking to cause more damage today. PHOTO: STAR

the bowlers have to work hard the fifth day. Today a few balls target will be to bowl stump to

and I hope all the bowlers will try misbehaved, but tomorrow it will "Our mentality has to be that their 100 per cent. Tomorrow is change and misbehave more. Our

stump, because that will create opportunities," the all-rounder told reporters during the post-day media briefing at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

According to Miraz, the plan for the third day was to post a target of after not enforcing follow-on so that the batsmen do not come : under pressure of chasing in the fourth innings.

"We had two days. They [Zimbabwe] were 200 [218 in fact] runs behind and we wanted them to bat : in the last innings because in Test cricket anything can happen. It well and given us a target of 100for wickets," he said.

Riyad finds his role

SAKEB SUBHAN



One run needed off the last ball and Mahmudullah Riyad laces it through cover for two to spark celebrations. Similar scenes of high-pressure runs being scored by the cool Mahmudullah Riyad are etched in

the Bangladeshi cricket lover's memory -- in the T20 Asia Cup match in 2016 against Pakistan, in the Champions Trophy match against New Zealand in the summer of 2017, the Nidahas Trophy penultimate-ball six against Sri Lanka in March this year. But yesterday the uniform was white and the one run

needed in the last ball before the tea break was not to win the match, but for Bangladesh's stand-in skipper to strike his first Test ton since scoring his maiden century against New Zealand in Hamilton in February 2010. But it is instructive that other than the uniform being

white and the ball being red, it was not much different from the colourful environment in which the elegant righthander has thrived. In limited-overs cricket, he excels in crises. It was certainly a crisis when Mahmudullah walked to the crease in the first hour of the morning with the score reading 25 for four. At the crease were a debutant in Mohammad Mithun and

a captain dealing with a form crisis -- Mahmudullah's highest score since the maiden ton was an unbeaten 83 against Sri Lanka earlier this year. If he had failed and Bangladesh somehow managed to lose the match and the series against Zimbabwe, it could well have triggered a professional crisis.

Mahmudullah's batting in the longest format -- especially in the three Tests since that 83 -- has suffered partly because of an inability to be decisive in his shot selection, and in part because of a high degree of vulnerability in the initial stages. Those demons surfaced early in his innings when there were some airy wafts outside the off stump and · occasional lack of feet movement. It did not help that he was batting in the morning against the new ball -- the toughest time of the day for someone who is yet to get his feet moving.

But there was something else that seemed to see him through. For a batsman who has become so good at one-day cricket a definitive target seemed to serve as the catalyst. Mehedi Hasan Miraz said after the end of the day's play that the team had decided upon setting Zimbabwe a target higher than 400 and give themselves at least four sessions to bowl them out. Soon Mahmudullah was moving his feet, stretching out to hit Donald Tiripano through the covers over 400 runs and remain safe : and, after lunch, batting more like he does in ODIs -- never irresponsibly, but decisively.

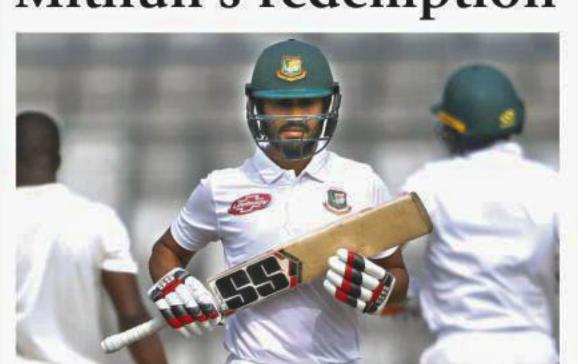
In 2014, Mahmudullah was a promising one-day batsman but -- floating around in the order -- not yet the finished article. Then Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha gave him the definitive role of batting at number three in the World Cup and he flowered. His role later changed into that of a finisher, but it remained definitive. In Test cricket too it was the same -- batting lower down the order in a volatile batting lineup, he often gave the could have been that they batted: impression of not knowing how to go about scoring runs. There is a space in a good Test team for someone who can

150 runs. Why should we take that · move the game forward and take control like Mahmudullah risk? I wanted them to bat on a . did yesterday. The best thing for Bangladesh ahead of a deteriorated wicket where there; more challenging assignment against West Indies is if will be more turn and more chance · Mahmudullah, with the monkey now off his back, has indeed found his method and his role.

PERFORMER OF THE DAY



Mithun's redemption



Test cricket is a hard game, but one of its kinder aspects is that it gives players two chances to make their mark. For debutant Mohammad Mithun that second chance in Bangladesh's second innings was desperately needed. He played an ill-advised, illtimed ODI-style glide off his fourth ball in the first innings to be caught at slip for a duck. His dismissal was part of a collapse that saw Bangladesh cut down to 26 for three.

In the second innings, four top-order Bangladesh batsmen were dispatched with just 26 runs on the board yesterday, but this time Mithun was not one of them. Not only did he need to add some value to his name, Bangladesh needed him to score so that they can beat Zimbabwe and level a series they should have won.

Mithun did it for self and team, showing the form he had recently showed in ODIs without resorting to slip catching practice. He hit 67 off 110 balls with four boundaries and a six, adding 118 runs for the fifth wicket with Mahmudullah Riyad to help shut Zimbabwe out of the game and set up a potential win.

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD BANGLADESH: First innings 522-7 decl ZIMBABWE: First innings 304 (Taylor 110,

BANGLADESH	:Second	innings		
Liton b Jarvis			6/14	0/0
Imrul c Mavuta			3/12	0/0
Mominul c Chakabva b Tiripano 1/5			0/0	
Mithun c Chaka			/110	4/1
Mushfiqur c Mavuta b Tiripano 7/19			1/0	
Mahmudullah not out		101	/122	- Ubrillia
Ariful b Williams		2	5/8	0/0
Mehedi not out		27/34		2/0
Extras: (b-5, lb			7	
Total: (For 6 wk		770		
Did not bat: Tai				
Fall of wickets:	1-9, 2-10	, 3-10, 4	-25,5-	143,6
151.		722		100
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Jarvis	11	2	27	2
Tiripano	11	1	31	2
Williams	16	2	69	0.00
Raza	7	0	39	- 3
Mavuta	9	. 0	52	
ZIMBABWE: S			UV D-1570 U.CO.	4s/6s
Masakadza c Mominul b Mehedi 25/68			1/0	
Chari Ibw b Taij		3	43/82	3/1
Taylor not out Williams not out			4/21	0/0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1)			2/9	0/0
Total: (For 2 wkts in 30 overs) 76				
Yet to bat: Ra			2307 UN	anut-
Tiripano, Jarvis			uva, IV	avuta
Fall of wickets:				
Bowler	0	о. м	R	W
Mustafizur	3	m 1	2	(
Taijul	13		34	1
Khaled	4	2	15	Ó
Mehedi	7	2	16	
Ariful	3	-	7	1

Lung problem forces Hastings to retire

REUTERS, Melbourne

Former Australia all-rounder John Hastings has retired from all cricket, citing the risks posed by a bleeding lung condition that has confounded doctors.

The 33-year-old, whose final international was a one-day match against New Zealand in 2017, stopped playing last month and revealed that he was coughing up blood when bowling in domestic cricket.

'Just a question of three sessions'

SPORTS REPORTER



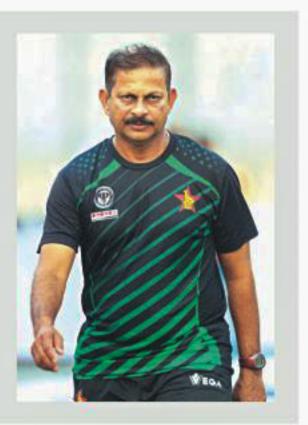
The 151-run win in Sylhet was Zimbabwe's first Test win after five years and also their first overseas win in 17 years, which also happened to come against Bangladesh. Despite the moun-

tainous challenge of surviving the fifth and final day of the second and series-deciding Test, there is enough motivation for the tourists as a draw will net them their third ever series win away from home.

With a huge target of 443 runs set by Bangladesh, Zimbabwe started well but two late wickets saw them end the day on 76 for two. It will be a massive challenge for the

Cricket is a game of uncertainties. You never know what will happen. It just takes one or two big partnerships. So if you can bat one session, then slowly we can [do it]. We'll be positive, and hopefully we can save the Test match.

> ZIMBABWE COACH **LALCHAND RAJPUT**



Zimbabwean batters to bat the entire three sessions against a confident Bangladesh spin attack led by Taijul Islam and Mehedi Hasan Miraz at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Zimbabwe coach Lalchand Rajput however seemed optimistic and was expecting a tough display of character from his batsmen to save the game, which would be a huge boost for Zimbabwe Cricket.

"Cricket is a game of uncertainties. You never know what will happen. It just takes one or two big partnerships," he told reporters after the day's play.

"If you look at the earlier games like Pakistan-Australia [in the UAE last month], they [Australia] really saved a Test match. [Usman] Khawaja batted the whole day. So we hope somebody stands up and bats a session, because it's just a question of three sessions. So if you can bat one session, then slowly we can [do it]. We'll be positive, and hopefully we can save the Test match."

MOMENTS



THE DOUBLE SAJDA

After the second day, double-centurion Mushfigur Rahim had laughed when he said that it was a funny experience to bat with Mehedi Hasan Miraz."It felt like he was batting on 200 and I was the one on 30,"

Mushfiqur had joked. On yesterday's fourth day, Mehedi was at the role reversal game again. Mahmudullah Riyad was obviously delighted to have reached his second Test century and first after nearly nine years, but it seemed -- from the way he sprinted the length of the pitch and then some to embrace his skipper -- that the achievement was Mehedi's. When Mahmudullah performed the sajda to offer his gratitude, Mehedi waited a moment and then joined him. It was possibly the first occasion of a double sajdah to celebrate a single century.

"Our batsmen have not been able to score for quite a long time. We had a lot of gains in that regard in this match -- because of that joy I performed the sajda; I could not contain my feelings."

LUCK IS NOT A LADY TO KHALED

Unlucky debutant Khaled Ahmed, however, is probably wishing that Mehedi's fellow feeling extended to taking catches for teammates instead of joining in on celebrations. In a luckless debut so far the fast bowler has bowled well in the first innings but had two chances dropped off his bowling.

Still awaiting his maiden Test wicket when he came on to bowl in Zimbabwe's second innings, he surprised Masakadza with bounce in his second over and the right-hander hung his bat out and edged to second slip. Mehedi, going at the catch one-handed

when he could have gone with two, dropped it.

Khaled, perhaps certain that life surely could not be so cruel, started celebrating before he saw the ball lying on the ground. He stood with hands on knees for 10 seconds, internalising all his frustration because being the most junior member in the side, he knew he could not tell Mehedi off.

