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SPORTS

With Bangladesh reeling on 32 for three in their second innings yesterday, a cool head was needed from Shakib Al Hasan (R). Instead, the captain went for a slog off the second ball he faced and was caught as the West Indies regained the initiative on the second day of the first Test. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Will be hard to chase over 200'

SPORTS REPORTER *from Chattogram*

After at one stage being 88 for five in response to Bangladesh's first-innings 324, if West Indies end up winning the first Test in Chattogram, Shimron Hetmyer's 47-ball 63 in a 92-run sixth-wicket partnership with Shane Dowrich will likely be remembered as the turning point.

Having watched the top four batsmen depart to a mixture of uncertain defence and bad shot selection against Bangladesh's army of spinners, the talented Hetmyer seemed to have decided that judicious attack was the best form of defence.

Hetmyer shovelled away two sixes -- over midwicket and square leg in his 18th and 19th deliveries -- in the 35th over from Taijul Islam.

The 21-year-old brought up his fifty off just 43 balls in the 44th over, and immediately hit Shakib Al Hasan for a four and a six -- the latter an awe-inspiring straight pull that sailed comfortably over the ropes.

After his dismissal, Dowrich carried on the fight and remained unbeaten on a relatively more sedate 63, helping to limit Bangladesh's lead to 78.

"I think we complement each other. Obviously he [Hetmyer] is a very aggressive player; I just told him to be selective and play his shots and that allowed me to just rotate the strike. Once I got in it was easier for me to score," Dowrich said after the day's play.

With five quick Bangladesh wickets in the evening session, West Indies were truly back in the game as the hosts are now effectively 133 for five.

"Bangladesh already have a lead and that is always a challenge. But I think if we go hard in the morning, get those wickets as early as possible and bat well in the second innings, we could also come out winning.

However, despite his resilient performance, Dowrich remained cautious of the dangers of the Chattogram wicket.

"On this pitch it is hard to say," Dowrich said when asked what they would consider a chaseable total. "I'd say anything under 200 is possible. Anything over 200 might be difficult."

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MOMENTS

Fizz sets the tone

Coming in at number 11 after Nayeem Hasan was caught at slip off Jomel Warrican, Mustafizur Rahman was adjudged leg-before off his very first ball. Even Taijul Islam, the non-striker 11 runs away from a maiden Test half-century, was trudging back as Mustafizur, not wanting to let the remaining review go to waste, signalled for a review. By the time the third umpire was going through his checks, half the West Indies team had already crossed the ropes, but had to trudge back as replays showed the ball had struck him outside the line by the smallest of margins. Happily for the West Indies, the delay was a short one as Mustafizur was trapped in front two balls later, and this time the review could not save him.

But he had set the tone for the day. In all there were a total of 11 decisions reviewed by both teams. Bangladesh reviewed four decisions, two of which were upheld; West Indies challenged 7, had two upheld, four struck down and the other went with the umpire's call.

One that slipped through the cracks

In the last ball of the fourth over of West Indies' first innings, Mehedi Hasan Miraz beat left-hander Kieran Powell's bat and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim failed to collect the ball cleanly. All pretty normal, except replays showed that there was a feather edge Off Powell's bat and Mushfiqur had in fact dropped a catch. The keeper would probably want that to go unnoticed as that would bring his tally of misses to an eyebrow-raising three.

Shakib returns in style

Throughout the preceding series against Zimbabwe, Bangladesh had really missed their captain Shakib Al Hasan who sat out the series with a finger injury. It was still touch and go whether he would make the first Test against West Indies, but there was nothing tentative about his impact when he bowled his first ball in the 12th over. West Indies number three Shai Hope danced down the track -- only he knows why -- and played all around a vicious turner that pitched outside leg and crashed into the stumps. Three wickets away from becoming the first Bangladesh bowler to take 200 wickets, he then had Roston Chase dropped by Mushfiqur in the fourth ball of the same over. He didn't have to wait for wicket number 198, however, as he got his opposite number Kraigg Brathwaite caught at slip off the last ball.

On a day that witnessed 17 wickets fall in Chattogram, there was also the repeating sight of reviews being taken. Here, Mahmudullah Riyad signals for one of the 11 reviews taken during the second day. PHOTO: STAR

AN ORIGINAL

Nayeem extracted help from the wicket and that is why he was successful... He is not a typical Bangladeshi off-spinner because, firstly, he has the height and he can turn the ball to a great extent. He also has the ability to bowl with over-spin. I believe that and the bounce he gets will also help him get some advantage abroad.

VETERAN LOCAL COACH
MOHAMMAD SALAHUDDIN

NO-NERVES NAYEEM

Bangladesh off-spinner Nayeem Hasan, aged 17 years and 356 days, became the youngest bowler in Test cricket to take five wickets on debut during the first Test against the West Indies yesterday.

He overtook Pat Cummins's record. The Australia pacer had achieved the feat aged 18 years and 193 days.

He also beat the record held by Enamul Haque Jr, who had bagged five against Zimabwe in 2005 at the age of 18 years and 32 days to become the youngest Bangladeshi to notch a five-wicket haul.

Hasan is now the third-youngest bowler to take a five-wicket haul in a Test match and the eighth Bangladeshi to get five wickets on debut.

SAKEB SUBHAN *from Chattogram*

On Tuesday, bowling to Shakib Al Hasan at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium nets during Bangladesh's optional training session, Nayeem Hasan gave ample evidence of why he should be picked for the first Test against West Indies. Most of his deliveries were on a difficult length, leaving the batsman in two minds between playing forward and back. One of the deliveries was the perfect off-spinner's ball to a left-hander and would have hit the top of the off stump if it had not taken the edge of Shakib's bat and cannoned into the back of the net.

Four days later, after coming into the attack as the fourth specialist spinner in the 26th over of West Indies' first innings, Nayeem the understudy trumped his seniors in Shakib, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam and became the youngest bowler to take five wickets on debut in Test cricket's 141-year history.

"He extracted help from the wicket and that is why he was successful," said respected coach Mohammad Salahuddin, his mentor at Dhaka Premier League club Gazi Group Cricketers. "On this wicket if someone hits the seam, it makes it difficult for the batsmen and he just tried to do that without complicating his bowling.

"He is not a typical Bangladeshi off-spinner because, firstly, he has the height and he can turn the ball to a great extent. He also has the ability to bowl with over-spin. I believe that and the bounce he gets will also help him get some advantage abroad."

Allied to these natural blessings was the clarity of thought that only a young mind with confidence in his abilities can possess. In a limited-overs dominated culture, it would have been very easy -- especially as he stands six feet above ground -- to bowl down and flat, but yesterday he was repeatedly giving the ball air and did not try to do too much more than land it on a consistent, probing line and length. Such a modus operandi has taken him to the top of the wicket charts in the recently concluded National Cricket League.

The exuberance of youth was evident in his bowling yesterday, especially when he picked up his fifth wicket with an off-break bowler's dream -- landing a foot outside off stump, inviting tailender Jomel Warrican's drive and snaking through bat and pad to hit the top of middle, which he identified as his best delivery after the day's play. Added to the exuberance, however, was the steel he showed with the bat the previous day, getting behind the thunderbolts of Shannon Gabriel and not being cowed even after wearing a few on his slender frame.

Both those qualities were on display when asked about the state of the match with Bangladesh effectively 132 for five in the second innings.

"We are not yet all out. If we play well we can take a lead even of 300-350; then again we could be out for fewer than that. If we bowl in the right areas, even a chase of 150 will be difficult for them."

Fans of Bangladesh cricket will hope that Nayeem infects the team with his clear-minded positivity on what will possibly be a pivotal third day. Even if not, they can relish the prospect of having a cricketer with rare talent to nurture for the future.

Sylhet braces for intriguing final day

SPORTS REPORTER

The fourth and final day is expected to provide a cracker of a finish to the first round of the Bangladesh Cricket League with South Zone needing 228 runs with eight wickets in hand against Central Zone at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium today.

23-year-old off-spinner Mehedi Hasan bagged his maiden five wicket haul for South yesterday as he trapped Central's final wicket of Robiul Haque leg-before after the batsman scored 37 off 87 balls. Robiul added 79 runs for the last wicket with Shahidul Islam, who remained unbeaten on 41 to help post a challenging target of 266 runs.

In their reply, South were also in a spot of bother after left-arm seamer Abu Hider removed Anamul Haque (5) and Fazle Mahmud (11) cheaply. Experienced campaigners Shahriar Nafees (11 not out) and Tushar Imran (10 not out) will resume the final day on 38 for 2.

Central, led by Liton Das, started the third day positively, adding fifty runs for the opening stand before pacer Rubel Hossain dismissed Saif Hassan after scoring eight off 43 deliveries.

Liton remained aggressive as he reached his fifty but Mehedi then took charge with the ball. After that, Central kept losing wickets in clusters.

Najmul Hossain Shanto was the first of Mehedi's five victims, trapped leg-before. Mehedi went on to dismiss Liton on 84 runs off 95 balls, featuring twelve fours, as Central went from 125 for 2 to reeling on on 185 for 9.

Veteran left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak and pacer Shafiul Islam took two wickets each for South.

At the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, the match between East Zone and North Zone seems to be heading for a draw.

East, struggling on 125 for 4 as they resumed, ended the third day on 380 for 7 riding on fifties from Yasir Ali, Saifuddin and skipper Farhad Reza.

Yasir fell just six runs short of his hundred with 94 off 129 balls laced with 13 fours and a six. Yasir added 113 runs for the sixth wicket alongside Saifuddin, who scored 64 runs off 103 balls, including eight fours and two sixes.

Skipper Farhad remained unbeaten on 55 while Enamul Haque was not out on 25 as the pair added an unbeaten 63-run stand for the eighth wicket.

Pacer Ebadat Hossain picked up three while left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam took two wickets for North.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CENTRAL ZONE V SOUTH ZONE

CENTRAL ZONE: 282 all out in 74.5 overs and 264 all-out in 76.4 overs (Liton 84, Shahidul 41 not out, Shuvagata 36; Mehedi 5-72, Shafiul 2-61, Razzak 2-63)

SOUTH ZONE: 281 all out in 87.1 overs and 38 for two in 9 overs (Nafees 11 not out, Tushar 10 not out, Fazle 11;Abu Hider 2-17)

NORTH ZONE V EAST ZONE

NORTH ZONE: 445 all out in 112.1 overs (Mizanur 92, Naeem 137, Jahurul 104, Ziaur 29; Jayed 2-81, Mahmud 4-84, Enamul 3-122)

EAST ZONE: 380 for seven in 106.3 overs (Yasir 94, Saifuddin 64, Reza 55 not out; Ebadat 3-76, Sunzamul 2-78)

MEHEDI HASAN... 5 for 72

Gabriel suspended for Dhaka Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Shannon Gabriel has been suspended for the second Test in Mirpur from November 30 due to displaying unsportsmanlike behaviour towards Imrul Kayes during Bangladesh's first innings of the first Test, the ICC said yesterday.

The incident that landed Gabriel in trouble happened in the eighth over of the Test when he made inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with the Imrul, an occurrence deemed 'avoidable' by the on-field umpires.

Gabriel already had three demerit points before and with the addition of these two demerit points, he has reached the threshold of four, which have now been converted into two suspension points, meaning a suspension for one Test or two ODIs or T20s.

BD-WI SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First innings	R/B	4s/6s
Imrul c Ambris b Warrican	44/87	5/0
Soumya c †Dowrich b Roach	0/2	0/0
Mominul c †Dowrich b Gabriel	120/167	10/1
Mithun c †Dowrich b Bishoo	20/50	2/0
Shakib b Gabriel	34/68	2/0
Mushfiqur lbw b Gabriel	4/3	1/0
Mahmudullah b Gabriel	3/7	0/0
Mehedi b Warrican	22/31	3/0
Nayeem c Hope b Warrican	26/74	2/0
Taijul not out	39/68	4/1
Mustafizur lbw b Warrican	0/3	0/0
Extras: (b-3, lb-5, nb-4)	12	
Total: (All out in 92.4 overs)	324	

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-105, 3-153, 4-222, 5-226, 6-230, 7-235, 8-259, 9-324, 10-324.

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Roach	17	2	63	1
Gabriel	20	3	70	4
Chase	11	0	42	0
Warrican	21.4	6	62	4
Bishoo	15	0	60	1
Brathwaite	8	1	19	0

WEST INDIES: First innings	R/B	4s/6s
Brathwaite c Sarkar b Shakib	13/47	2/0
Powell lbw b Taijul	14/20	2/0
Hope b Shakib	1/4	5/0
Ambris lbw b Nayeem	19/69	0/0
Chase c Imrul b Nayeem	31/43	4/0
Hetmyer c †Mushfiqur b Mehedi	63/47	5/4
Dowrich not out	63/101	2/3
Bishoo lbw b Nayeem	7/15	0/0
Roach lbw b Nayeem	2/3	0/0
Warrican b Nayeem	12/26	0/0
Gabriel c Mahmudullah b Shakib	6/11	0/1
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, nb-2, pen-5)	15	
Total: (All out in 64 Overs)	246	

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-30, 3-31, 4-77, 5-88, 6-180, 7-199, 8-205, 9-225, 10-246.

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Mustafizur	2	1	4	0
Mehedi	15	0	67	1
Taijul	20	3	51	1
Shakib	11	1	43	3
Nayeem	14	2	61	5
Mahmudullah	2	0	7	0

BANGLADESH: 2nd Innings	R/B	4s/6s
Imrul b Warrican	2/5	0/0
Soumya c Brathwaite b Chase	11/10	2/0
Mominul lbw b Chase	12/11	2/0
Mithun b Bishoo	17/35	1/0
Shakib c Gabriel b Warrican	1/2	0/0
Mushfiqur not out	11/30	0/0
Mehedi not out	0/9	0/0
Extras: (lb-1)	1	
Total: (For five wickets in 17 overs)	55	

Yet to bat: Mahmudullah, Nayeem, Taijul, Mustafizur.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-13, 3-32, 4-35, 5-53

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Roach	1	0	11	0
Warrican	8	0	22	2
Chase	5	1	16	2
Bishoo	3	0	5	1