

SPORT



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After having led the team out for a record-equalling 69th time, Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was left to ultimately console his troops, including Shakib Al Hasan (L) who failed to match his batting heroics with a wicketless, if extremely economical, outing. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Sad end to Big Five's special day

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh cricket's Big Five -- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad -- marked their 100th international match together in the second ODI against West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. However, the special occasion ended on a disappointing note.

As has happened before, apart from the Fantastic Five none of the others were able to step up and shoulder their burden as Bangladesh eventually succumbed to a four-wicket defeat.

Ever since Mahmudullah's debut in July 2007, the quintet have played together across 70 ODIs, including yesterday's match, 29 T20Is and a solitary Test.

The second ODI against West Indies was no exception as three of the quintet -- Tamim, Shakib and Mushfiqur -- struck their 43rd, 40th and 32nd fifties respectively while Mahmudullah also contributed with the bat as Bangladesh posted 255 for seven.

After being sent in to bat, Bangladesh opener Liton Das suffered a blow on his toe off a Kemar Roach yorker and was subsequently stretched off the field while while Imrul Kayes departed for a duck.

Tamim and Mushfiqur then steadied the ship, adding 111 runs for the second wicket. Tamim, who scored only 12 runs in the first ODI after returning from injury, looked compact as the left-hander struck a six over long-on off a free-hit from Keemo Paul, which was followed by a straight boundary.

At the other end, Mushfiqur also picked up from where he had left off in the previous game, smashing consecutive fours with his favourite sweep shot against off-

spinner Roston Chase.

However, just when it looked as if the pair were set for a big partnership, Tamim was caught at deep square-leg off leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo after reaching his fifty while Mushfiqur soon followed as he edged Oshane Thomas away from his body on 62.

It was then Shakib and Mahmudullah who got to work in the middle overs, adding a 61-run fourth wicket stand before the latter departed for 30 to become West Indies skipper Rovman Powell's only victim.

Shakib, however, went on as the left-hander was lucky when he was caught at mid-wicket off a no ball from Thomas. The champion cricketer utilised the free-hit with a six over mid-wicket to reach his fifty off 54 balls.

The left-hander was eventually dismissed courtesy of a brilliant slower delivery from Roach after scoring 65 off 62 balls, featuring six fours and a six, as the hosts were unable to launch in the final stages of the innings.

West Indies replied well, riding on a brilliant century from opener Shai Hope, who remained unbeaten on 146 to guide his side over the winning line.

Mashrafe, after a brilliant first game, remained average with the ball and picked up only the wicket of Powell while conceding 51 runs from his 10 overs.

Shakib, despite not picking up a wicket, bowled brilliantly to give away just 28 runs from his 10 overs to keep Bangladesh in the game. After disappointing performances with the bat from the others, it was up to the likes of Rubel Hossain and Mustafizur Rahman but they were unable to restrict the visitors and make the occasion a memorable one for the Big Five.



Three of Bangladesh's Big Five scored half-centuries on their 100th appearance together and two of them, Tamim Iqbal (R) and Mushfiqur Rahim, stitched together a 111-run partnership for the third wicket to lay a formidable platform. PHOTO: STAR

'Should have had 15-20 runs more'

SPORTS REPORTER

A lack of firepower in the latter stages of Bangladesh's innings coupled with dropped catches in crucial situations and a magnificent unbeaten century from Shai Hope snatched a four-wicket win for the West Indies in the second ODI in Mirpur yesterday, levelling the three-match series 1-1.

Despite fifties from three of Bangladesh's Big Five -- Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan -- the home side were unable to cash in on their opportunities, adding just 26 runs over the final five overs to post a modest total of 255 for seven.

According to Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, the Tigers were 15-20 runs short with the bat. He also pointed to dropped catches as another reason behind yesterday's loss.

"I think we should have scored 15-20 runs more with the bat, especially when Tamim and Shakib were batting it looked we would be able to score around 300 runs. And when Mahmudullah and Shakib were at the crease it was around 41st

It must be above the other two [centuries], because we tied the last two games. I am just pleased to get over the line. It is great to score a hundred but there's more joy if you can get over the line as a team.

SHAI HOPE
WEST INDIES BATSMAN

over and if they were able to bat another 5-6 overs we could have posted around 280 which would have been better," Mashrafe said at the post-match press briefing.

"The two dropped catches of Keemo Paul were crucial. If he was dismissed it would have been tough for Kemar Roach to rotate the strike with Hope."

Despite all the mistakes, Bangladesh did manage to take the game down to the wire with the

visitors at one stage requiring 32 runs from the last three overs. However, Rubel Hossain conceded ten and Mustafizur Rahman, despite giving away just three runs from his previous over, went for sixteen in the 49th, which changed the course of the game.

"I think after conceding the six, Rubel managed to come back well and created two chances. It was a win-win situation and if the catch was taken it could have changed the momentum for the bowler. Mustafizur also bowled well but it can happen as there was a set batsman at the crease and everything went in their favour," he said.

There were talks about whether it was Mashrafe's last international game in Mirpur as the 35-year-old has already hinted that he would call it off after the World Cup in England next year. Mashrafe however gave his supporters some sort of hope by saying it may or may not have been his last game in Mirpur.

On the other hand, after his first two hundreds ended up in ties for the West Indies, Hope this time ensured his third century would be for a winning cause, remaining unbeaten on 146 off 144 balls and guiding his side over the line.

MOMENTS



Thomas fells Liton

West Indies fast bowler Oshane Thomas caused some problems for Bangladesh with his pace -- consistently above the 140 kmph mark -- in the first ODI. Bangladesh's aggressive opener Liton Das was however not willing to let Thomas dictate terms and hit him for a not-too-convincing boundary in the first ball of the second over, which was a free hit following Thomas's no-ball to start his spell. But Thomas showed that when you have raw pace, you may not always need to take wickets to get the best of a batsman. In the third ball of the over he fired in a yorker at leg stump and it hit Liton just below the ankle -- a part not protected by the pad. Liton went through for a single but was on the floor soon after completing the leg bye. He had to be taken for a scan and luckily no bone was broken or ligament torn. He came on at the fall of the sixth wicket, that of Soumya Sarkar, and could add just three more runs before being caught for eight.

No-ball blues

In the first match Liton was caught off Kemar Roach on five, but the dismissal was disallowed as Roach had overstepped, and Liton added 36 more runs to the total. Yesterday, Shakib Al Hasan was on 46 and Bangladesh on 217 for five in the 45th over. Every run mattered at that point and it was important that West Indies take every chance that came their way, which is what the man at midwicket did when the left-hander miscued a pull off Thomas. But umpire Masudur Rahman's dreaded arm was raised parallel to the ground to signal yet another no-ball, and Shakib batted on. To rub salt on the raw wound, Shakib hit the free hit for a six and followed it up with another four. This particular error cost West Indies 19 crucial runs.

BCB to decide upon Smith's participation

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) has been opposed by the other franchises.

The objection from the franchises was based on the BPL's by-laws, which state that a replacement can only be taken from the players' draft list.

The Smith issue was the major point of contention in the meeting between the BPL governing council and representatives of the franchises that took place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"The technical committee meeting was held due to the unusual situation. We thought a world-class player like Smith would add spark to the tournament," Jalal Yunus, chairman of the BPL technical committee told The Daily Star yesterday. "The BPL's image would also be enhanced in the international arena. But representatives of the seven franchises sat for a meeting after opposition was voiced regarding his [Smith's] inclusion. After the opposition was raised, the situation has become complicated. According to the by-laws, a franchise can only pick a player from the players'

draft.

"However, the technical committee provided the franchises the opportunity of further additions of players outside the draft. But since most of the franchises did not agree to this, the issue was forwarded to the board. Now the board will have the final say on the Smith issue."

Comilla Victorians authorities had earlier informed that the franchise signed a contract with Smith in November for the sixth edition of the BPL. The Australian cricketer, currently serving a year-long ban for his role in the ball-tampering scandal in a Test between Australia and South Africa last March, was expected to join Comilla from the fifth game of the tournament.

Rangpur Riders issued a written objection to the decision to include Smith, following which the BPL GC took a step back from the decision.

If he does play, the BPL will be Smith's fourth commitment in a T20 league following his ban. The Australian cricketer has played in Canada's Global T20 and Caribbean Premier League and has landed a deal with the Pakistan Super League T20.

Another Australian cricketer also serving a one-year ban for the same reason, David Warner was previously roped in by Sylhet Sixers for the sixth edition. The ban of the two cricketers from international matches will end on March 29, 2019.



BD-WI SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH	R/B	4s/6s
Tamim c Roach b Bishoo	50/63	4/1
Liton c Hetmyer b Paul	8/14	1/0
Imrul c Hope b Thomas	0/6	0/0
Mushfiqur c Hope b Thomas	62/80	5/0
Shakib b Roach	65/62	6/1
Mahmudullah c Hetmyer		
b Powell	30/51	3/0
Soumya c Bishoo b Thomas	6/8	0/0
Mashrafe not out	6/11	0/0
Mehedi not out	10/10	1/0
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, nb-5, w-9)	18	
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 255		

Did not bat: Mustafizur, Rubel.
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-125, 3-132, 4-193, 5-208, 6-234, 7-239.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	10	0	39	1
Thomas	10	0	54	3
Chase	3	0	22	0
Paul	10	0	68	1
Bishoo	10	1	27	1
Powell	7	0	41	1

WEST INDIES	R/B	4s/6s
Hemraj lbw b Mehedi	3/6	0/0
Hope not out	146/144	12/3
Bravo b Rubel	27/43	1/1
Samuels c Mushfiqur		
b Mustafizur	26/45	2/1
Hetmyer sub (Nazmul)		
b Rubel	14/10	0/1
Powell c Soumya b Mashrafe	1/2	0/0
Chase c Tamim b Mustafizur	9/18	0/0
Paul not out	18/31	0/0
Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-6)	12	
Total: (For 6 wickets in 49.4 overs) 256		

Did not bat: Roach, Bishoo, Thomas.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-70, 3-132, 4-155, 5-157, 6-185.
Bowler O M R W
Shakib 10 0 28 0
Mehedi 9 0 39 1
Mustafizur 10 1 63 2
Mashrafe 10 1 52 1
Mahmudullah 1.4 0 12 0
Rubel 9 0 57 2
Result: West Indies won by 4 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Shai Hope.

PERFORMER OF THE DAY

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Amazing Hope

West Indies opener Shai Hope carried his bat through the innings, scoring a career-best 146, to lead his team to a four-wicket victory against Bangladesh in the second ODI in Mirpur yesterday. Hope blasted 12 boundaries and 3 sixes during his amazing 144-ball stay at the crease to complete his third ODI hundred and level the three-match series at 1-1. Even though wickets fell at regular intervals, Hope managed to keep his cool and shared a match-winning 71-run seventh wicket partnership with Keemo Paul (18 not out) to seal the win with only 2 balls to spare.