



Bangladesh batsmen returning to the pavilion amid raucous celebrations from their New Zealand counterparts was a recurring sight throughout the first day of the first Test in Hamilton yesterday. Here, Mominul Haque makes the long walk back. PHOTO: AFP

'The most dominant ton by a Tiger in NZ'

MAZHAR UDDIN from Hamilton

There were only three Test hundreds scored by a Bangladeshi batsman in New Zealand until yesterday -- Shakib Al Hasan's imperious double hundred in 2017, Mushfiqur Rahim's 159 in the same innings and Mahmudullah Riyad's 115-run knock in Hamilton in 2010. Tamim Iqbal became the fourth yesterday at Seddon Park, hitting a run-a-ball century on the first day of the first Test against the Kiwis.

The left-hander, who continued to be in terrific touch during a 128-ball 126, was the only standout Bangladeshi batsman in the first innings after the Tigers were asked to bat. Despite Tamim's brilliant knock, the visitors were bowled out for 234.

The 29-year-old claimed the record for the fastest Test century by a Bangladeshi batsman away from home with a 94-ball century against England at Lord's in 2010. And yesterday, he equalled his own record for the second-fastest century by a Bangladeshi away from home with a 100-ball ton. Originally, he set that record against England in Manchester in 2010.

It was Tamim's ninth Test century, the most by a Bangladeshi, his first away from home after nine years and his fourth ton overseas.

Interestingly, former New Zealand all-rounder Chris Harris has witnessed all four centuries by Bangladesh's batsmen in his land from the commentary box, including yesterday's blistering knock which featured 21 fours and a six. And according to Harris, in terms of dominating the opposition, it was Tamim's knock which stood out.



CHRIS HARRIS

"It's always hard to go past two hundred but for me, this was possibly the most dominant because it was the first day of a Test match. When your side is put in to bat, generally the batsmen look to survive. But he came out and looked to dominate and scored a lot of boundaries. He actually put New Zealand under a lot of pressure. So I would have to say this one is the most dominant hundred by a Bangladeshi batsman in New Zealand," Harris told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, the 49-year-old who played 23 Tests and 250 ODIs was disappointed to see the way Tamim was dismissed, saying he thought the left-hander would strike a double ton.

"It was a fabulous inning but I was so disappointed with the way it came to an end. For me, it looked like he was going to score a double hundred but it came to an end when he played a shot which made it seem like he was little tired. I am sure Tamim will be disappointed by the way he got out, but he shouldn't be disappointed for too long as it was a brilliant knock."

Unlike teammates, terrific Tamim adapts

MAZHAR UDDIN from Hamilton

"Every individual should have plans. I think we gave away our wickets away just when we were batting well. We have known for a long time that Neil Wagner will do this [bowl short balls], but how you tackle it depends on the individual. Some want to pull the short ball -- I think ducking is a better option for me, so I kept on ducking," Tamim Iqbal, Bangladesh's standout batsman on the first day of the first Test against New Zealand, said after striking his ninth ton yesterday.

Despite Tamim's 128-ball 126, which included 21 fours and a six, Bangladesh were all out for just 234 even though at lunch the Tigers were on a strong 122 for two after being sent in to bat on a green Seddon Park pitch.

That Wagner picked four of his five wickets with short deliveries raised questions about the difference between Tamim's approach and his teammates' when facing the left-arm seamer?

It was the homework that Tamim did that set him apart. He took his guard outside leg stump, shuffled towards middle and off stump and cut down the angle that makes Wagner's lifters all the more effective.

For those who have followed Tamim's batting closely through his career, and as the left-hander himself admitted, he had never shuffled while facing a fast bowler. But he knew it was the only way to handle the hosts' short ball strategy and he made the adaptation brilliantly.

It was because of his shuffling that the dashing opener was able to get inside the line of and under the bouncers when going for the pull or even ducking. This adjustment helped him score at least 40 per cent of his runs, including the boundary off Wagner to reach his hundred yesterday.

Another example of Tamim's plan for dealing

with short deliveries, in his words, was: "In my case, I pulled Tim Southee with the wind and towards the smaller side. I knew that it was a better option from this end, rather than the far end. You have to mix and match, duck, take singles. It keeps your mind fresh. Look, the batsmen know their mistakes but we know we will come back strong."

From Mominul Haque, Mohammad Mithun, skipper Mahmudullah Riyad to Liton Das -- all were dismissed by Wagner's short deliveries because they just could not realise what Tamim had cottoned on to and acted accordingly.

Tamim was also cautious about his favoured cover drives. His teammates may also have noticed that he had always tried to play with the full face of the bat, rather than looking to hit with a full swing, which often forces the bat face to close.

The reason for playing with the full face of the bat was because of the double-paced nature of the pitch. Although there was not much swing and movement off the wicket, Tamim still ensured that he does not nick off while driving and the decisiveness and controlled flourishes outside off stump allowed him to play drives even off deliveries that were not there to hit.

An example was his cover drive off a Trent Boult delivery which was quite far from his body, but Tamim took a big stride forward and waited for the ball to meet the middle of the bat, maintaining solid balance, and forced the ball past the extra cover region in a flash.

The difference between Tamim and the approach of the other Bangladeshi batsmen was a lack of homework and adaptability on the parts of the latter.

It was disappointing from Bangladesh's point of view to throw away the momentum despite getting a brilliant start and if the Bangladeshi batsmen are not able to rectify their mistakes and take a leaf out of Tamim's book of adaptation, things may remain the same in their second innings as well.

You have to mix and match, duck, take singles. It keeps your mind fresh.

Only ourselves to blame: Tamim

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal said they have only themselves to blame after folding on 234 despite making an excellent start in the first Test against New Zealand in Hamilton. The left-hander, who got out for a 128-ball 126, saw his teammates giving their wickets away cheaply on a surface which looked greenish but offered little assistance to the bowlers. "They bowled well in patches, but if you look at our dismissals you will see we didn't get out to any brilliant deliveries. We got out more or less to their plan or maybe we played wrong shots," Tamim said.



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Reward for the hard work and game plan: Wagner

New Zealand pacer Neil Wagner said his five wickets were the just reward for the hard work he put in, especially bowling short deliveries and putting in a lot of effort into his overs, after getting Bangladesh bowled out cheaply on a decent wicket to bat on on the first day of the Hamilton Test. Wagner, known for giving it his all when playing for New Zealand, is regarded as one of the best exponents of short deliveries. Bangladesh came to know of his potency with the short stuff during their last tour to the country four years ago.

Throughout my career the bouncer has been a successful ploy for me



Overs: 16.2; Maiden: 4
Runs: 45; Wkts: 5



Runs: 126; Balls: 128
4s: 21; 6s: 1

BD-NZ SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First innings R/B 4s/6s				
Tamim c Williamson b				
Grandhomme	126/128	21/1		
Shadman b Boult	24/32	3/0		
Mominul c Watling				
b Wagner	12/46	0/1		
Mithun c Latham b Wagner	8/24	1/0		
Soumya c Watling b Southee	1/9	0/0		
Mahmudullah c Boult				
b Wagner	22/43	5/0		
Liton c Boult b Wagner	29/58	4/0		
Mehedi c Nicholls b Wagner	10/6	1/1		
Jayed c Watling b Southee	2/4	0/0		
Khaled b Southee	0/6	0/0		
Ebadat not out	0/0	0/0		
Extras:	0			
Total: (All out in 59.2 overs)	234			
Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-121, 3-147, 4-149, 5-180, 6-207, 7-217, 8-226, 9-234, 10-234.				
NEW ZEALAND: First innings R/B 4s/6s				
Latham not out	51/89	8/0		
b Wagner	35/79	4/1		
Extras:	0			
Total: (For no loss in 28 overs)	86			
Yet to bat: Williamson, Taylor, Nicholls, Watling, Grandhomme, Astle, Southee, Wagner, Boult.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jayed	8	1	15	0
Ebadat	8	3	26	0
Khaled	6	3	6	0
Soumya	1	0	8	0
Mehedi	5	0	31	0

Dramatic win for Doleshwar

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club was the last team to make it to the semifinal of the maiden Dhaka Premier League (DPL) T20, and they did it in dramatic fashion by defeating Gazi Group by three wickets and 12 balls to spare courtesy of Forhad Reza's heroics at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Gazi could have afforded a defeat in the game and still made it to the semifinal as long as the margin would not hamper their net run rate too much. However, Doleshwar's Forhad put in an all-round performance -- returning economical figures of two wickets for 18 runs before a cameo of 36 runs off 15 balls -- to help his side defy all odds and ensure not only a win but also a better net run-rate than their opposition to see them through to the knockout stages.



Prime Doleshwar all-rounder Forhad Reza struck 36 runs off 15 balls to help the side secure a three-wicket win over Gazi Group in a DPL T20 encounter in Mirpur yesterday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Gazi Group: 145 for 6 in 20 overs (Mahedi 39, Shamsur 36, Tareq 26; Forhad 2-18, Sunny 2-37)
Prime Doleshwar: 146 for 7 in 18 overs (Farhad 32, Forhad 36, Shykat 28 not out; Raihanuddin 2-15, Hider 2-30)
Result: Prime Doleshwar won by 3 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Forhad Reza.

After electing to bat, Doleshwar opener Mahedi Hasan provided a flying start with a 24-ball 39 before being dismissed by Mohammad Arafat. Skipper Shamsur Rahman and Touhid Tareq added 36 and 26 runs respectively in the middle to help their side post 145 for six.

In the chase, the equation stood such that if Doleshwar were to qualify, they would have to chase down the target with at least 11 balls in hand to achieve a higher net run-rate than their opponents.

Doleshwar started off rather shakily as they lost opener Arafat in the very first over of the game. And despite Farhad Hossain's 32 runs off 25 balls at the top, there were no other notable contributions in the middle as Doleshwar were struggling on 73 for five. It was then the Forhad show as he built a 51-run sixth-wicket partnership with Shykat Ali before being dismissed with the end in sight. Shykat remained unbeaten on 28 and helped his side over the winning line with 12 balls to spare -- just a ball in hand more than required.

Never seen anyone hit sixes as easily as Gayle: Buttler

Universe Boss reaches 10,000 milestone

ICC



England wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler said that their highly competitive series against West Indies was the ideal preparation as the world's No.1-ranked one-day international team aims to lift the ICC World Cup trophy for the first time at home.

Buttler launched a phenomenal assault on the home team in the fourth ODI in Grenada on Wednesday, biffing 13 fours and 12 sixes in a 77-ball 150.

It powered England to 418/6, but they were made to sweat for the win, after Chris Gayle matched Buttler stroke for stroke during his 162 off 97 balls.

"It was hectic," Buttler told Sky Sports. "I'm trying to catch my breath. It was an unbelievable game of cricket. I think as a side, being put under a huge amount of pressure in a game like that, we showed a huge amount of character to come through it."

"It's a great dress rehearsal, with lots of pressure. But it just goes to show, no matter who's favourite, on any given day there will be unbelievable games of cricket, and if Chris Gayle is in the opposition, you can lose those games. I've probably never seen anyone hit sixes as easy as he can. He's a

legend of the game." **GAYLE RECONSIDERING RETIREMENT**
Chris Gayle's golden run since making his comeback to the West Indies one-day side now has him reconsidering his decision to retire from the sport after the ICC World Cup 2019. In four matches since he came back, Gayle has 347 runs at a strike-rate of 120.06.

England win record-smashing ODI despite Gayle fireworks



He breached personal landmarks, becoming the second man to smash 300 sixes in an ODI career, after Pakistan's Shahid Afridi, and the second West Indian to 10,000 career runs, after former captain Brian Lara.

"I've been playing a lot of T20 cricket, so it's always going to be a difficult coming back into 50 over cricket. But eventually the body gets accustomed to the 50-over format," he said.