



It was a day to forget for Bangladesh on the opening day of their Indore Test against India yesterday. Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque (L) could add only 37 runs before falling prey to a Ravichandran Ashwin delivery while Mahmudullah Riyad (R) succumbed to the same bowler having scored just 10. However, as evinced by his wild celebration with India captain Virat Kohli, it was Mohammed Shami (C) who proved to be the biggest thorn in the Tigers' side, scalping three wickets for just 27 runs.

PHOTO: BCB/AFP

'Pressure also from journos'

SPORTS REPORTER from Indore

Bangladesh Test skipper Mominul Haque is currently feeling the pressure from all sides. On his first assignment as captain, the only thing that could have provided respite was a good first day in the first Test, however, the Tigers' batsmen's vulnerability against the rampaging fast bowling attack of India unsettled the tongue-tied cricketer.

"The wicket was not unplayable; no way was it



An exhibition of pace bowling

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Indore

A cool breeze blowing across the ground in the morning comforted the players in otherwise hot and sunny conditions as Bangladesh elected to bat in the first Test against India at the Holkar Stadium in Indore yesterday. There was however no respite from the heat generated by a rampant Indian pace trio for the Bangladesh batsmen.

First up it was Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav who breathed fire on a lively pitch and young opener Shadman Islam and his experienced partner Imrul Kayes were up against it from the start. The seamers consistently hit the right areas and got it to swing late and there was excellent carry. It took 20 deliveries to get a run on the board, and they could get bat on ball on just four of the previous 19, with one of those being an edge off Shadman's bat that dropped short of gully. Those watching at the ground witnessed the excitement induced by the pace bowling. Enthralling to watch, the oohs and aahs kept the stadium alive as several whizzed past the bat.

The nippy Yadav squared Kayes up and the left-hander's technique seemed scrambled, his head not in line with the ball as he hung his bat at a delivery that caught him high on the bat for an easy catch. If this was the story of the Indian pacers, it

was also the story of a batting debacle due to a lack of application on a pitch tailor-made for Test cricket.

India has long been known as a spinners' paradise but the wicket here appeared to be one from Australia's Gabba or MCG. When the batsman slashed hard, it would usually go over the slip cordon and to the boundary. The pace, the movement of the ball, all signaling how far India have come.

Shadman chased an Ishant delivery without any feet movement and was caught behind the wicket. Captain Mominul Haque applied himself well and left the deliveries well after coming in at number three. He was joined by Mohammad Mithun, who was struggling to move his feet. Mohammad Shami was introduced in the 11th over and he immediately troubled Mithun. The right-hander survived a review due to umpire's call, unable to counter Shami's inswinger with conviction before another late inswinger saw Shami get his man.

The flurry of dropped catches began from there and contributed to Bangladesh's innings. Both mainstays Mominul and Musfiqur Rahim were dropped with their individual score on three. Ajinkya Rahane dropped two -- Musfiqur, Mominul and Mahmudullah Riyad -- at slip while skipper Virat Kohli dropped Mushy early, also at slip.

Mominul began to apply himself, using soft

77 OF 150 RUNS GIFTED

SPORTS REPORTER

On the contrary to India's reputation of being the toughest place on earth for a tour in modern cricket, it was the hosts who were uncharacteristically generous in offering Bangladesh batsmen repeat opportunities to stay on the wicket.

Bangladesh's top scorer, Musfiqur Rahim, was dropped thrice while the second highest scorer, Mominul Haque, and Mahmudullah Riyad were dropped once each.

Ajinkya Rahane was the most generous, however, it was Ravichandran Ashwin who bore the brunt of their mistakes as the off-spinner had Mominul dropped on three, Musfiqur on 14 and Mahmudullah on seven, all by Rahane at slip.

Before that, India skipper Virat Kohli dropped Musfiqur Rahim on three off a Umesh Yadav delivery. Near the end of the Bangladesh innings, keeper Wriddhiman Saha dropped a difficult chance, with Musfiqur on 34, off the bowling of, you guessed it, Ashwin.

With Mominul scoring 37, Musfiqur 43 and Mahmudullah 10, the Indians had gifted Bangladesh 77 runs. But the Tigers are generous themselves and did not cash in on their hosts' kindness.

In an effort to pay back the hosts, Bangladesh were all out for 150 with Imrul Kayes dropping Mayank Agarwal off a Abu Jayed delivery on 32. With Agarwal unbeaten, it has cost Bangladesh just five so far but will there be more to follow?

hands to guide the ball through point and the gap between slips and gully to bring welcome boundaries. Musfiqur got going after a scrappy start and the duo started in a 68-run partnership after lunch to fish them out of dire trouble. Then Mominul, who had played well for his 37, failed to read Ashwin's slider and left the delivery only to see his off stump disturbed. The Tigers' downward spiral then resumed.

Mahmudullah took the extremely poor decision of stepping across his off stump, giving Ashwin full view of all three stumps, and missing an airy sweep to a regular delivery to be bowled.

Ishant and Shami were both getting late swing and the latter, coming from wide of the crease, shaped one in that broke through Musfiqur's defence and castled him. Musfiqur was outfoxed by Shami's inswinger and by the time he decided to play at the ball, it was too late. Mehedi Hasan Miraz followed him back to the pavilion next ball, before tea was called with Shami on a hat-trick. Ishant, not to be left behind, got the edge of Liton Das's bat first up after the break. Bangladesh had lost three in three deliveries. Shami missed his hat-trick but cleaned up the tail, rattling Ebadot Hossain's stumps after Taijul Islam had run himself out.

After the Indian pace show, it seemed that other than technical errors with the bat, the Tigers had also erred in picking just two pacers.

unplayable. What I think is that they are the world number one bowling side, so when we play against them we have to be strong enough," said Mominul.

Mominul went on to say that he perhaps needs to become strong enough to mitigate the fear-factor presented by journalists.

"You might find what I say funny but to be honest when we start a series, even the one played against Afghanistan, you guys play a big role. It might come back to bite me but don't take this the wrong way. When we play against Afghanistan, you ask questions such as 'Rashid Khan is there and what not' but even if we are not thinking in that line, it will take space in your head. The thing is that people's minds work in a way that if you instigate something, it starts to eat away. In this regard I will have to be stronger."

OUTDOOR DUKAN IN INDORE

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Indore

Chappan Dukan

During the evenings in Indore, you better have an empty stomach. With a myriad of food outlets strewn across the city, sustenance is never a concern. However, even amongst this plethora of options to choose from, one place in particular called 'Chappan Dukan' stands head and shoulders above the rest.

It was not just the food but also the atmosphere which caught the attention of the visiting journalists, who travelled to Indore to cover the first Test between Bangladesh and India which began yesterday.

Chappan dukan, which translates to 56 shops, is an assortment of said number of outlets that run along both sides of 'Chappan Gali'. People flock to the locality in numbers during the evening to partake in the variety of delicacies to choose from with their friends and family. The whole area seemed to reverberate with an energy



that one does not normally experience in the bustling Dhaka city streets. Naturally, we decided to explore the long stretch of street to find out just exactly what we got ourselves into.

On the well-lit street, our nostrils flared at the pleasant aroma of culinary delights such as Dosa, Pani Pooori, Pav Bhaji and Bhejo wafting about. We first tried the Papri Chaat, which is Papdi (crisp puris) topped with lip-smacking chutneys, veggies and curd, to appease our rollicking stomachs. Then, after gorging on a Potato Twister and some Aloo Chaps, our small

band decided to try something new, a mix of local and international cuisine in Dosa Pizza.

To even just watch the Dosa Pizza being prepared was a treat all on its own with the chef adding all the various toppings to the pan with a thin portion of cheese and a Dosa base. His helper arrived shortly and it turned out that the pair, having come from Siliguri, spoke Bengali.

Even at 10 in the morning, the streets were still flooded with people of all ages with parents seen placing their little children in little amusement rides beside the food carts. The atmosphere was like that of a part but Indore style at that. One of the vendors concurred that the place is indeed very famous as for years the shops which have been set up here have been regularly frequented by film industry stars such as Shahrukh Khan, Salman Khan and others. The troupe of reporters eventually concluded their small but vibrant tour after having bathed in the glow and liveliness that is Chappan Dukan, wholeheartedly satisfied as they trudged off to their hotels.



Bangladesh pacer Abu Jayed (C) leaps in celebration after dismissing Rohit Sharma, the only Indian wicket to fall on the first day of the first Test in Indore yesterday. India were 86 for one at stumps.

PHOTO: BCB

BD-IND SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First innings		R/B	4s/6s		
Shadman c Saha b I Sharma	6/24	1/0			
Imrul c Rahane b Yadav	6/18	1/0			
Mominul b Ashwin	37/80	6/0			
Mithun lbw b Shami	13/36	1/0			
Musfiqur b Shami	43/105	4/1			
Mahmudullah b Ashwin	10/30	1/0			
Liton c Kohli b I Sharma	21/31	4/0			
Mehedi lbw b Shami	0/1	0/0			
Taijul run out	1/7	0/0			
Jayed not out	7/14	0/0			
Ebadat b Yadav	2/5	0/0			
Extras: (lb-3, w-1)	4				
Total: (All out in 58.3 overs)	150				
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-12, 3-31, 4-99, 5-115, 6-140, 7-140, 8-140, 9-148, 10-150.					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
I Sharma	12	6	20	2	
Yadav	14.3	3	47	2	
Shami	13	5	27	3	
Ashwin	16	1	43	2	
Jadeja	3	0	10	0	
INDIA: First innings		R/B	4s/6s		
Agarwal not out	37/81	6/0			
R Sharma c Liton b Jayed	6/14	1/0			
Pujara not out	43/61	7/0			
Extras:	0				
Total: (For 1 in 26 overs)	86				
Yet to bat: V Kohli (c), A Rahane, R Jadeja, W Saha, R Ashwin, I Sharma, Shami, U Yadav.					
Fall of wickets: 1-14.					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Ebadat	11	2	32	0	
Jayed	8	0	21	1	
Taijul	7	0	33	0	

It has been just over 19 years since November 10, 2000 when Bangladesh stepped into the Test arena with their inaugural Test against India, which the Tigers lost by nine wickets in Dhaka. Bangladesh were however applauded for their magnificent showing as the Tigers had the grip of the game even on the third day before a dramatic collapse on the fourth day had undone the fearless start.

Since then Bangladesh have travelled far, playing 114 more Tests, but do not have a lot to show for it, recording just 13 wins and 16 draws against 86 losses. Bangladesh did have some high points, with wins against England and Australia at home in 2016 and 2017 respectively being on top of a small list. Bangladesh registered their first ever overseas series win in July of 2009. But the fact that it was against a West Indies side that was nowhere near their full capacity reduces its significance. But the Tigers' win by an innings and 184 runs -- their biggest win till date -- against the Caribbean outfit at home in 2018, which also completed a 2-0 series, remains high on the list.

But more often than not, Bangladesh have been at the receiving end of humiliation. The most recent and the most

embarrassing of all was when Bangladesh had orchestrated their own downfall by preparing a spinning track in Chattogram last September against a spin-heavy Afghanistan, only to be hammered by 224 runs by a side playing just their third Test. And how far the list of ignominy goes can be gauged from the fact that Bangladesh



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have been at the receiving end of 40 innings defeats till date. The Tigers also saw a five-day game produce a result by the third day on 27 occasions, with the result going in their favour only four times -- two wins against West Indies in 2018, one against Zimbabwe in 2014 and the most prestigious one was the 108-run victory against England in 2016 -- all coming at home.

In these 19 years, Bangladesh clearly failed to gather the expected pace in the format. Meanwhile, India, who were a formidable side back in 2000 too, have only grown in stature and the gulf in

class between the two sides have widened since their first meeting. The prime reason behind India's ascent to being the number one Test side is their change in approach and mentality.

India were usually known to strangle opponents with spin at home by making tracks that offered aid to their spinners and



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batsmen. However, the trend has changed, or to be specific, it is their board that has brought in changes gradually over the years. India, who are usually known as the makers of world-class batsmen, have now produced lethal fast bowlers like Jasprit Bumrah, who has risen through the ranks to become one of the most feared bowlers in Test cricket since his debut in the format last year.

Bucking the trend of solely relying on spinners, India whitewashed South Africa in a three-match series last October on pitches that had ample help for fast bowlers

YET TO LEARN AT 19

NABID YEASIN

Modi extends invite to Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited his Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, to watch the second Test match between Bangladesh and India, which will begin at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on November 22.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen yesterday confirmed Modi's invitation letter to Hasina, saying that the Prime Minister will visit Kolkata on November 22.

However, Prime Minister Modi will not join Sheikh Hasina in Kolkata due to his pre-engagements, said the Foreign Minister while briefing reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said Prime Minister Hasina will be treated as a State guest and will spend a couple of hours there before returning.

Earlier, President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Sourav Ganguly invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to watch the second Test match.