





The dismantled stumps of Bangladesh opener Imrul Kayes (L) and India captain Virat Kohli's wild celebration probably best epitomise the Tigers' state of helplessness against a rampaging home side. The visitors went down by an innings and 130 runs on the third day of the first Test in Indore yesterday.

# What is good preparation?

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Indore

 "I don't think there was any lack in preparation. If you look at the eight players that arrived for the Test series, all of them played four-day matches before coming. I didn't think there would be a problem. I thought they would be able to adjust well."

Thus began Bangladesh's newly-appointed Test captain Mominul Haque in the press conference a day before the first Test at Indore. He cited that domestic four-dayers were adequate preparation, but what is good preparation? Is it reading into the opponents' psyche? Getting to know the conditions and acclimatizing with them? Analyzing the strengths of the opposition? Or perhaps all of the above?

When he cited the domestic game as an equivalent, he was perhaps talking about getting into that mental zone for longer-version cricket. But in no way was it adequate enough for what Bangladesh faced in this first Test against their more experienced counterparts.

The pitch was a fascinating one that the Tigers chose to bat on in the early morning on Thursday. The decision was brave but none of the Bangladesh batsmen were prepared for what was to come.

Shadman Islam's Test career is only five matches long, including Tests at Hamilton and Wellington this year. Those were fast pitches too with good bounce, but the Indore one offered swing and seam movement.

The openers, Imrul Kayes and Shadman, were both found wanting although the gem of a delivery produced by Ishant Sharma in the second innings to castle the latter was almost unplayable. The former had struck a double ton in NCL just recently but here failed to get in line with the deliveries.

Mominul is one of Bangladesh's best in Tests but, bar one, all of his tons were scored in Dhaka or Chattogram -- on wickets that did not resemble the one at Indore -- and his struggles should have been expected on a track with swing and bounce.

Too little was seen from middle-order batsman Mohammad Mithun. A relatively new Test player, his mentality and how he views Test cricket seems like he

needs a rework.

Mahmudullah Riyad guarded against the short ball very well during the New Zealand tour. It could be said that pace was not a problem but the nagging line and movement from India seamers was a tough task for one known to be a jittery starter. He gifted his wicket in the first innings and saw his lack of foot movement early in the innings exploited on his second turn with the bat by Mohammad Shami.

Liton Das has all the make-up of a terrific batsman but having gotten starts in both innings at Indore, he continued his trend of making shot choices unfit for Test cricket even after a sublime and chanceless innings yesterday. Amongst the batsmen, only Mushfiqur Rahim was able to put a price on his wicket during the second innings.

Adding to that was the fact that there was no time for the team to prepare leading up to the series as the T20I series ended on 10th and the first Test began on 14th November.

In the first Test, Bangladesh had read the wicket wrong. They picked two seamers and out of a defensive mindset had tried to protect their batting by picking an extra batsman. The spinners, often looked up to but not as effective in away conditions, were depended upon purely because the game was in India.

However, India has changed. They rely on pace now. When Mominul cited adequate preparation, they overlooked India's strength and thus failed in execution of their own skills.

Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan were certainly big misses but what happened in Indore is not new.

The Tigers may have played in domestic four-dayers, but a side with a bad record in Test cricket and one which yesterday suffered its 41st innings defeat in their 19-year history, must account for the fact that they are not up to the mark of Test cricket.

Changes, broad changes -- in structure, in thinking and mentality -- are needed to groom a side that can actually prepare for a match in away conditions like Indore. The fight could have been closer this time but it would not have absolved the mistakes that the Tigers have made simply because of the culture and how Test cricket is planned for. The rest: The words, the matches become just formalities.

I don't know what to say (laughs), another clinical performance. Very professional with the bat, playing five batters with one guy taking responsibility is what we want with overseas tours coming up. Hats off to the boys. These guys [our fast bowlers] are on top of their game. When they bowl, it looks like any pitch is a good pitch. Jasprit isn't here but this is a dream combination for any captain. Having strong bowlers is the most important thing in any team.

**VIRAT KOHLI**  
INDIA CAPTAIN



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## MOMINUL agrees on need for restructuring

SPORTS REPORTER from Indore



Head coach Russell Domingo had said during a press conference on Friday that he was prepared to risk struggling for a period of time with new faces in the

squad in order to reform and reinvent Bangladesh's Test squad.

Following Bangladesh's defeat in the first Test at Indore by an innings and 130 runs, captain Mominul Haque agreed with Domingo's observation yesterday and said it would be important to have a discourse and approach with patience regarding such matters.

"If there is an opportunity for me to sit with the coach, it will provide a good structure to improve in Test cricket. Results will not come immediately; some time is needed. We have to approach with patience. It's a positive aspect," Mominul said at the post-match press conference yesterday.

Many international sides have separate teams for the three different formats and Domingo spoke of 'siphoning out' players for the longer format. Mominul agreed that players with the right mentality to play Test cricket were needed.

"To be mentally strong, you have to think about good aspects all the time. If there is a different structure for Test cricketers then it would come in very handy in the future. When you are thinking of one format, you will focus on that format all the time. Ultimately, those ideas will form in your head automatically. I think that's the way to go," Mominul reiterated.

Bangladesh were bundled out for 150 and 213 in the first and second innings respectively as the Indore Test ended inside just three days. However, Mominul said they missed opportunities despite the obvious quality of the India pace attack.

"There was obviously a threat. At the same time I think we failed in our batting. They are not the number one bowling side in the world for nothing and the threat was there. We couldn't use our opportunities and missed out.

"You have to understand that against an opponent like that, you have to bat with a lot of patience. You have seen the game and you will find that there were very few loose deliveries. The openers and the top order need to bat with more passion," he said about the batting approach of the side, which caused the debacle.

If experience was an issue, playing more Tests is an obvious remedy.

"We are definitely happy [to be playing the Test Championship]. It is a big opportunity for a player who plays regular Test matches. If the ICC arranges them this way, we will get more Test matches. It will be better for everyone."

The second Test, a day-night affair under lights in Kolkata, will be more challenging due to the pink ball getting more swing than the red ball. But the Indore pitch had a lot of swing on offer and Mominul did not quite entertain the idea of the pink ball swinging any more. The Tigers are scheduled to start practising from 4:00pm today to prepare for the pink ball Test.

"We need to get as much practice under lights as possible. I feel that there won't be more movement than there was here. We have had some good practice playing against the swinging ball here. Maybe it will be a challenge and it has to be taken positively," Mominul said.

SINGER

No.1 Refrigerator Brand

SCORECARD

### BD-IND SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First Innings 150 all out				
INDIA: First Innings 493 for 6 declared				
Bangladesh: Second Innings				
Shadman b Sharma	6/24	0/0		
Imrul b Yadav	6/13	1/0		
Mominul lbw b Shami	7/20	1/0		
Mithun c Agarwal b Shami	18/26	4/0		
Mushfiqur c Pujara b Ashwin	64/150	7/0		
Mahmudullah c Sharma b Shami	15/25	2/0		
Liton c b Ashwin	35/39	6/0		
Mehedi b Yadav	38/55	5/1		
Tajjul c Saha b Shami	6/43	1/0		
Jayed not out	4/9	1/0		
Ebadat c Yadav b Ashwin	1/3	0/0		
Total: (all out in 69.2 overs)	213			
Extras: (lb-2, lb-9, nb-1, w-1) 13				
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-16, 3-37, 4-44, 5-72, 6-135, 7-194, 8-208, 9-208, 10-213.				
Bowler				
Sharma	11	3	31	1
Yadav	14	1	51	2
Shami	16	7	31	4
Jadeja	14	2	47	0
Ashwin	14.2	6	42	3
Result: India won by an innings and 130 runs.				
Player-of-the-match: Mayank Agarwal				



Bangladesh Emerging Team skipper Najmul Hossain scored 94 against India at the BKSP-3 ground yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Hosts notch 6-wicket win over India

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Bangladesh registered their second win in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup by beating India by six wickets in a Group-A encounter at the BKSP-3 ground in Savar yesterday.

A century from India's Armaan Jaffer went in vain as Bangladesh comfortably chased down the modest 247-run target with 47 balls to spare.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto led from the front with 14 fours and two sixes but fell just six runs short of a century while opener Soumya Sarkar continued his fine form, scoring a 68-ball 73 laced with three sixes as the pair added 144 for the second wicket and laid the foundation for a win.

Earlier, after being asked to bat India were all-out for 246 as middle-order batsman Armaan fought the lone battle, scoring 105 runs off 98 balls, featuring eight fours and three sixes.

Bangladesh right-arm seamer Sumon Khan, who picked up four wickets against Hong Kong in their previous fixture, bagged the same number of wickets once again while Tanvir Islam and Soumya scalped two wickets each.

In the other Group-A match at Cox's Bazar, Pakistan successfully defended their small 183-run total against Sri

Lanka to clinch a 90-run win.

Pakistan were all out for 183 with Amad Butt scoring a team-high 44 while pacer Asitha Fernando picked up three wickets for the Lankans.

In reply, Sri Lanka lost their way from the start. Opener Pathum Nissanka could only add a team-high 34 as the Lankans were bundled out for 93. Mohammad Hसनain ended with figures of six for 19 from his seven overs while Umer Khan and Khushdil Shah took two wickets each.

In Group-B, Afghanistan and Nepal both registered their first wins of the tournament by beating Oman and Hong Kong respectively.

Following a brilliant win against Sri Lanka, Oman fell to a crushing nine-wicket loss to Afghanistan in Cox's Bazar.

Opener Jatinder Sharma top-scored for Oman with a 84-ball 72 as his side were bundled out for 153. Afghanistan left-arm spinner Tariq Stanikzai picked up four wickets for 29 runs.

Afghanistan, riding on an unbeaten 102-ball 91-run knock featuring 12 fours and two sixes from opener Abdul Malik, easily clinched the win.

At the BKSP-4 ground, Nepal successfully defended a small total of 217 against Hong Kong to register a 40-run win. Hong Kong were all out for 177 runs with pacers Karan KC and Abinash Bohara picking up three wickets each.

## Ruyel scalps record eight

SPORTS REPORTER



Ruyel Miyah of Sylhet Division stole the show in Bogura yesterday when the 18-year-old recorded the best figures by a pacer in Bangladesh's first-class cricket history during his side's encounter with Chittagong Division on the first day of the sixth and final round of the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL).

The left-arm pacer returned astounding figures of eight for 26 in 14.1 overs. He eclipsed the previous best performance by a pacer which came from Talha Jubair, who had taken eight wickets for 35 runs in 2012 while playing for Dhaka Metro against Rangpur Division.

In the face of such fierce bowling, Chittagong were bundled out for 106 in just 35.1 overs before Sylhet scored 186 for five when stumps were drawn.

It is said that the best sight for a fast bowler is to see stumps take flight and the left-hander was first-hand witness to that numerous times, rattling the stumps of four Chittagong batsmen on his way to achieving the incredible feat.

After asking Chittagong to bat, Sylhet kept their batsmen at bay from the word go. Right-arm pacer Imran Ali started the wicket-fest when he trapped opener Sadikur Rahman in the



**RUYEL MIYAH 8 for 26**

### SCORES IN BRIEF

<b>CHITTAGONG V SYLHET</b>	
CHITTAGONG: 106 all out (Irfan 21, Tasamul 21; Ruyel 8-26)	
SYLHET: 186 for five (Amite 55; Irfan 4-76)	
<b>BARISHAL V DHAKA METROPOLIS</b>	
BARISHAL: 338 for six (Fazle 141, Salman 69 not out; Taskin 2-40)	
<b>RANGPUR V RAJSHAHI</b>	
RANGPUR: 263 for eight (Shuvo 105, Ariful 57; Delwar 4-55, Mohor 3-53)	
<b>DHAKA V KHULNA</b>	
DHAKA: 273 for seven (Taibur 110, Mazid 66, Hom 56 not out; Halim 5-27)	

first over. It was all Ruyel after that, the youngster running riot and scalping all but the wicket of Irfan Shukkur, who was dismissed Rejaur Rahman.

Following the exchange, Amite Hasan's 63-ball 55 and another 70-ball 41 from veteran Alok Kapali helped Sylhet finish the day on 186

for five. For Chittagong, it was another pacer, Irfan Hossain, who scalped four of the five Sylhet wickets that fell on the day. However, he also gave away 76 runs from his 14 overs.

In Dhaka, a brilliant 168-ball 141 from Fazle Mahmud helped Barishal Division pile up 338 for six.

Electing to bat, opener Shahriar Nafees provided a steady start, scoring 44. Barishal found themselves in a spot of bother when they were reduced to 155 for five, but a 128-run sixth-wicket stand between Fazle and Salman Hossain steadied the ship before Fazle was dismissed in the 77th over. That was the last wicket that fell as Salman remained unbeaten for a 122-ball 69.

National discard Sohrawordi Shuvo shone with the bat for Rangpur Division against hosts Rajshahi Division at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium. Riding on Shuvo's 217-ball 105, Rangpur scored 263 for eight before umpires stopped play at 4:51pm due to bad light.

The Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna also played host to an eventful contest. After a shaky start, Dhaka Division ended the day on 273 for seven against Khulna Division. Taibur Rahman's 189-ball 110, a 174-ball 66 from opener Abdul Majid and an unbeaten 90-ball 56 from skipper Shuvagata Hom helped Dhaka's cause.

**Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan unveiled the logo for the upcoming Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League yesterday. The players' draft of the tournament will be held today. Seven teams --Jamuna Bank Dhaka Platoon, Premier Bank Khulna Tigers, Rajshahi Royals, Rangpur Rangers, Sylhet Thunder, Cumilla Warriors and Chattogram Challengers will pick players from a pool of 439 overseas and 181 Bangladeshi cricketers.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

