History awaits Shakib, **TIGERS**

SPORTS REPORTER



4-0-24-0. Those were Shakib Al bowling figures in the third T20I against New

Zealand. And when Shakib's wicket column remains empty, more often than not, it does not augur well for Bangladesh.

That proved to be the case in the previous game, with Bangladesh missing their chance to wrap up the series and instead suffering a 52-run thumping after the Tigers were bowled out in 19.4 overs for 76 runs -- their lowest total in T20Is at home.

Tigers have had a number of champion all-rounder has claimed performers, especially in the numerous records over the years bowling department, in recent and now finds himself on the cusp outings such as the five-match T20I series against Australia last month and in the ongoing series against the Kiwis.

Despite that, it was often Shakib's impact that the Tigers needed more than anything to turn things around after a dismal showing. After all, Shakib is said to be the vital cog in bringing balance to the side by his teammates, coach, skipper and team management.

In going wicketless, Shakib not only affected the Tigers' chances but also delayed a crowning Mirpur and, in the process, create ways.

There is no denying that the moment in his career. The of becoming the leading wickettaker in T20I history.

> With 106 wickets from 87 T20Is, the left-armer is breathing down the neck of Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga, who tops the chart with 107 scalps from 84 T20Is, and needs just two wickets to dethrone one of the finest and lethal T20I bowlers the world has ever seen.

The question on everyone's mind is whether Shakib can do today when Bangladesh take on New Zealand in the fourth T20Is in

Jadeja, opening the door for India.

In the third and fourth overs of his

spell, Bumrah blew that door off its

pressure on Ollie Pope, he made

Having steadily built the

another piece of history by sealing Bangladesh's maiden T20I series win over the Kiwis.

That question might even be going through the 34-year-old's head, who mentioned during the series against Australia that he "sometimes keeps track of his records" after becoming the only cricketer to get 1000-plus runs and 100 wickets in the shortest format of the game.

Going by Shakib's penchant for making spectacular turnarounds, it is not unlikely that he will achieve another milestone and help Bangladesh return to their winning

'Reading the pitch and adapting is important'

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After suffering a 52thrashing Zealand, questioned the approach

from Bangladesh's batting department, which folded for the just 76 runs -- the Tigers' lowest T20I score at

The pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur played better than in the first T20I of the series, when the visitors were bundled out for 60 runs. But in this instance, the hosts had themselves to blame for the poor batting display.

Bangladesh's batting coach Ashwell Prince admitted that the batsmen could have shown a more composed approach.

"I think we could have been a little more composed in our chase after a

we were possibly being too aggressive early on. I don't think the pitch changed much and I think 129 was a competitive score and we could have gotten it if we were calmer in our chase."

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Live from 12:45 am

(Thursday)

(Thursday)

The 44-year-old also pressed the need rotate the strike because boundaries were difficult to come by on such pitches, adding that the Tigers had the right batting combination but need to adapt to

"There was one particular run chase against Australia where Nurul Hasan and Afif Hossain had a good partnership. For me what's important is to have a combination of batsmen in the team. You have guys who can rotate the strike and can hit boundaries and then you have a group of guys towards the end of the innings who can chase nine-ten runs



beautiful start where Naim [Sheikh] hit per over if necessary and if the pitches are two boundaries in the first over and then Liton [Das] hit a couple of boundaries to put us at 20-odd runs after two overs," Prince told media yesterday.

"At that stage, we were ahead of the run rate. But we lost too many quick wickets over the course of the next few overs and

conducive.

"I think we have a good combination of both types of players but what's also very important of course is that every pitch is different. Being able to read the pitch on the day and adapt accordingly is

The six-over spell that turned the Test



In the record books, Jasprit Bumrah's figures of 2 for 27 at the Oval

will look unremarkable. In reality, his performance was one of the most eye-catching of a series that has not been short of standout

On a pitch that was offering little to the seamers in terms of movement, the match looked destined for a draw as England reached lunch on the final day

at 131-2, with Haseeb Hameed

well set on 62 and the series'

outstanding batter Joe Root

looking comfortable. To that point India's attack had bowled with discipline, turning the screws and asking the right questions only to be met with the correct answers by a determined England top order. Shardul Thakur had provided an early breakthrough when he struck in the eighth over of the day to remove Rory Burns but there was little encouragement for the tourists in the first session, with the run out of Dawid Malan a surprise

At the same time, just 54 runs came for England in the first session leaving their hopes of victory close to extinguished – 237 runs from the final two sessions was always

going to prove difficult -and India the shiny side. had an ace up their sleeve.

"Well it is quite relative what you call flat," Virat Kohli said of the pitch at the post-match presentation.

With the match in the balance and hints of reverse swing, Bumrah asked for the responsibility of putting the Test firmly in India's

a mess of his stumps, castling him with an inswinger that was simply favour. too hot to handle. It wasn't the The pace spearhead had looked trademark yorker that has served



India's most threatening bowler to that point in the match, leaking just 14 runs from his 11 overs so far, with five maidens to his name. On the sixth delivery of his post-lunch spell there was the first hint he was going to be even more difficult for ngland to play - the ball beating Hameed's outside edge, swinging ever so slightly in the direction of him so well, but it was still a fitting way for him to bring up his 100th Test wicket in just his 24th Test – the fewest matches for an Indian quick to reach the milestone.

In his next over, the yorker did come out - an inswinging rocket that took the pitch out of the equation and one Jonny Bairstow could do nothing about as he was

Hameed fell in the next over to the following over as Jadeja struck again to remove Moeen Ali for a duck. From 141-2, the hosts had slipped to 147-6.

The situation would have deteriorated even further if anyone other than Root had to face the final two overs of Bumrah's spell. Only a man in the form of his life could have denied Bumrah's next vorker and even then it was only ust, with the toe end of Root's bat jamming down in the nick of time to keep out the heat-seeker. Bumrah finished his spell with one more of those yorkers and again Root needed the toe end of his bat to protect his toes and his stumps.

His figures for the spell read an impressive 6-2-6-2, indicative of the pressure he had built and the blows he had struck. Its matchturning status was agreed upon by

both captains. "As soon as the ball started reversing a bit Jasprit just said 'just give me the ball' and he bowled that six-over spell and got us two breakthroughs which completely shifted the momentum to our side and from thereon we knew any more mistakes from England and we'll be all over this game," Kohli

was a brilliant spell of bowling from Bumrah and that really was the turning point in the game," said Joe Root.



WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT FIRE W

New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel, who took four wickets in the third T20I to bring his side back into contention in the five-match series against Bangladesh, shares a light moment with batting coach Thilan Samaraweera during their training session in Mirpur yesterday. "They [Bangladesh] have had a fantastic record not just against us but also against every other team in the world [at home]. So, for them to lose, they'll come back pretty strong and they'll be hurting from that [the 52-run defeat in the third T201]. We're certainly prepared for a backlash from them but we're going to fight fire with fire, so to speak, and we're certainly up for it as well," New Zealand stand-in coach Glenn Pocknall said ahead of today's game. And definitely, the visitors will be looking forward to Patel for keeping the series alive when they take on Bangladesh in the fourth match today.

PHOTO: **STAR**



Bangladesh women's football team players were in relaxed mood at the gymnasium of Aloft Hotel in Kathmandu yesterday ahead of their first of two FIFA tier-1 friendly matches against their **Nepalese counterparts** on Thursday. The players underwent the Covid-19 tests and the result came out negative. They will play two matches as part of their preparation for the **AFC Women's Asian Cup** Qualifiers in Uzbekistan.



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