

Jadeja heroics put India on top

REUTERS

India's bowlers picked up four Sri Lankan wickets after all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's unbeaten 175 helped the hosts post a massive first innings total on the second day of the opening Test at Mohali on Saturday.

The left-handed Jadeja combined in two century stands with Ravichandran Ashwin and Mohammed Shami on Saturday to put the touring side on the mat as India declared their first innings closed on 574 for eight at the tea interval.

Jadeja's impact with the ball was also immediate. The left-arm spinner dismissed Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne leg before wicket for 28. Sri Lanka ended the day on 108 for four.



Bangladesh T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad fails to hide the apparent gloom from his face as he walks past the T20I series trophy, which the Tigers had to share with Afghanistan following an eight-wicket thumping in the final T20I in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Azhar hits huge 'daddy hundred'

REUTERS, Islamabad

"Daddy hundreds" of 185 from Azhar Ali and 157 from Imam-ul-Haq helped Pakistan score a commanding 476 for four before declaring their first innings on the second day of the opening Test against Australia in Rawalpindi yesterday.



Australia, on their first tour of Pakistan in 24 years, were five for no loss in reply when bad light forced early stumps, with their Islamabad-born opener Usman Khawaja on five and David Warner yet to score at the other end.

The teams observed a moment's silence before play began for the day, in memory of Shane Warne and the victims of Friday's attack in a mosque in Peshawar.

Familiar woes UNDO TIGERS

SPORTS REPORTER

A top-order failure, failure to utilise the Powerplay, a lack of partnerships and dropped catches were features of the Bangladesh team in the second T20I.

After restricting the Tigers to a modest 115 for nine, Afghanistan rode on Hazratullah Zazai's unbeaten fifty to help the visitors register a comprehensive eight-wicket win and level the two-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Usman Ghani also added 47 runs during a 99-run second-wicket stand with Zazai, which lay the platform for the visitors.

Bangladesh's inconsistency in the shortest format was also again exposed as they crashed after winning the first T20I by a 61-run margin.

It was again the batting department that failed miserably after Mahmudullah Riyad won the toss and elected to bat. The fact that it was the hosts' fourth-lowest total at home when batting first and that the Tigers have been able to post over 150 only once in their last ten T20I reflects the entire situation.

"It wasn't a 160-run wicket but even if we could get 135 after being at 99 for four, we could have stayed in the game. Obviously, there were some concerns in the batting department. There is no doubt about that but the wicket wasn't easy to bat on today (Saturday),"

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH

115 for 9 in 20 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 30, Mahmudullah 21; Farooqi 3-18, Azmatullah 3-22, Nabi 1-14)

AFGHANISTAN

121 for 2 in 17.4 overs (Zazai 59 not out, Usman 47; Mahedi 1-19, Mahmudullah 1-2)

RESULT

Afghanistan won by 8 wickets.

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH

Azmatullah Omarzai.

PLAYER-OF-THE-SERIES

Fazalhaq Farooqi.

Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo said during the post-match press conference yesterday.

The Bangladesh batter raised questions with their approach and inability to adjust and change the game plan after losing early wickets.

Young Munim Shahriar may have realised the difference between domestic and international cricket as he once

again found himself guilty of playing too many strokes before eventually paying the price. Naim Sheikh was still struggling to find his feet while the in-form Liton Das looked good until he perished after scoring 13.

Shakib Al Hasan looked shaky and threw away his wicket in ugly fashion when he played a nothing shot off Azmatullah Omarzai after scoring nine runs to leave Bangladesh struggling on 45 for four inside 10 overs.

A 43-run fifth-wicket stand between Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim, who played his 100th T20I for the Tigers, may have raised some hope, but they were also guilty of not being able to construct their innings. Mahmudullah was dismissed after scoring 21 while Mushfiqur top-scored with 30 off 25 balls.

From 92 for 5 in 15 overs, Bangladesh added just 23 runs and lost four wickets in the last five overs.

Bangladesh were sloppy on the field despite defending such a small total, dropping three catches, including chances to send back Zazai and Ghani.

"We dropped nine catches in the last five games (three ODI and two T20Is). If we knew what the issue was, we would probably try and do it right. Whether that is concentration, dealing with pressure or confidence, I am not sure. But this cost us in the World Cup and costs us in Test matches," he said.

Tigresses start with a defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh yesterday marked their debut in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in Dunedin with a 32-run defeat to South Africa as their bowlers' brilliant efforts were undone by a brilliant spell from Ayabonga Khaka.

Khaka's match-winning four for 32 included a spell of three wickets in nine balls. She also put the clamps on Bangladesh and ensured her side were able to defend a modest 207.

After impressive bowling performances from Fariha Trisna, who was the pick of the Bangladesh bowlers with three for 35, Jahanara Alam (two for 28) and Ritu Moni (three for 36), the Tigresses got off a perfect start in their innings courtesy of openers Shamima Sultana (28) and Sharmin Akhter (34).

The openers reached 69 without loss, but Khaka's timely intervention reduced the score to 72 for three with wickets falling in quick succession and the required run-rate continuing to rise.

Nigar Sultana (29) and Ritu Moni (27) put on 53 for the seventh wicket but the required run-rate continued to grow and Bangladesh were eventually bowled out for 175 in the final over.

Bangladesh will play their second match against New Zealand tomorrow.



Kings increase lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bashundhara Kings consolidated their lead at the top of the Bangladesh Premier League table with a 2-0 win against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Kings Arena yesterday.

Suman Reza gave the home side the lead in the 11th minute, smashing home from the middle of the box following a flick Mahadi Yusuf at the end of a low cross from Mohammad Ibrahim at the right edge of the box.

Kings skipper Robson Robinho, the only foreign player on the pitch for the two-time champions, doubled the lead eight minutes later with a solo effort, cutting into the box between two opposition defenders from the left before picking the far corner of the with a diagonal placing shot.

Mohammedan had to play almost the entire second half with 10 men after midfielder Anik Hossain was shown a second yellow card two minutes after restart. Kings failed to increase their lead but kept a clean sheet and took their winning run to six matches.

The victory took the Kings to 18 points from seven matches, five clear of Abahani while Mohammedan remained in sixth position with nine points.



Shane Warne, you crazy diamond!

Many loved to hate him back then, they must confess. This great cricketer, bona fide superstar, genius among geniuses, mythical hero, legend and so on and so forth... 'Back then' of course refers to the time after cricket had irreversibly lured them in. They hated him on the night their team lost against his since he often was the major culprit.

KHALID HOSSAIN

Some were young and somewhat loyal, but mainly it was because they were committed to teams not named Australia. But when emotions had subsided, the same people could not help but love him for the player he was.

Shane Keith Warne, the Aussie whose magnificent career stats and highlights had justifiably flowed since the news of his untimely demise broke on Friday. But upon waking up yesterday morning, the way he went about his business on the field, is all that people could probably think of.

The run-up and the way he stepped towards the popping crease bore the signature of someone who had experienced solitude amidst chaos, someone who could write poetry in a buzzing bar.

Was there anyone who did not emulate it at some point? The first couple of steps. There is a pause; a series of pauses rather, which somehow caused a strange time dilation. Or time stood still, however one perceived it.

The tongue-wagging before release and level of concentration as a leg spinner. Who did not fantasize about having him play for their team! It makes one wonder: among those who witnessed the dinosaur-era of the 90s, when giants roamed the globe, can anyone form a dream eleven without Warne!

Audiences, on the field and in front of screens, remained glued in anticipation during



Warne's masterclasses, demonstrating the art of beautiful repetitions. Warne naturally had everyone fixated on him, such was his charisma.

Out pops the kookaburra. The shoulder, arm, wrist all seem to rotate in cosmic harmony, like spiral arms of the galaxy. Then the little wooden sphere drifts in mid-air with

numerous, luminous revolutions on it, as if planets and satellites mysteriously spinning on their axis. The rest, what usually followed, had created history, almost periodically.

'Bowling, Shane!' in the voice of a Healy-Gilchrist hybrid echoes through the fabric of cricketing space-time. Seasons change yet the

song remains the same, metronome ticks on and Warne walks back to his mark again.

He never seemed the type of bowler who had figured what exact delivery they'd throw after they'd set the field and walked back to the start of run-up. Warne appeared to have left his final decision late during those time-dilated moments in between steps; like a monk meditating in the middle of a storm, he would've outfoxed himself at the last second if he had to.

Shane knew the batter's game better than they did themselves. He could call their bluff while tipsy. Someone like Warne didn't wear shades to hide. He was no conformist; for there is no fun playing safe, for there exists no proper-certified way to behave in the so-called gentleman's game.

Dear Shane, a spin wizard, you conquered time and motion, conquered the ebb and flow of neurons that construct the human psyche and its notions. You were used to leaving a full house with all in awe and disbelief on the field, and sometimes off it. And we could never have enough of it.

But can you hear us all say, "Come on, Shane!" in unison for one last time? Why not pull one Cullinan out of that white floppy hat of yours, and deal death with a ripper of a flipper, mate!

Shane Warne, you crazy diamond! The generations that witnessed your glorious journey are grateful.