



“For me, the Bangladeshis were the better outfit. They showed us how to play. You saw how clinical they were with the bat. We were completely outplayed in this series.”

Temba Bavuma
South Africa captain



SCORES IN BRIEF

South Africa: 154 all out in 37 overs (Malan 39, Maharaj 28; Taskin 5-35, Shakib 2-24, Shoriful 1-37)

Bangladesh: 156 for 1 in 26.3 overs, (Tamim 87 not out, Liton 48; Maharaj 1-36, Rabada 0-37)

Result: Bangladesh won by 9 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Taskin Ahmed.

Player-of-the-series: Taskin Ahmed.

TASKIN'S BEST FIVE

2014 (Mirpur)
5-28 against India

2022 (Centurion)
5-35 against South Africa

2021 (Mirpur)
4-46 against Sri Lanka

2017 (Dambulla)
4-47 against Sri Lanka

2016 (Mirpur)
4-59 against Afghanistan



‘BIGGER than the IPL’

MAZHAR UDDIN

“I am a proud man, especially with a Bangladeshi fast bowler getting a five-for, winning the series [for us] and winning the player-of-the-series award.”

This is how Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal expressed his emotions regarding Taskin Ahmed's brilliant performance which helped the Tigers seal a maiden ODI series win away to South Africa in Centurion on Wednesday.

The rise of the Bangladesh pace bowling unit in recent times has played a vital role behind the team's success and Taskin has led the way this time.

The 26-year-old showed great skill and consistency throughout the series, picking up three wickets in the first ODI before blowing the South African batting order away by utilising the pace and seaming Centurion surface yesterday. His match figures of five for 35 runs were outstanding to say the least.



Thanks to Taskin's second five-wicket haul, Bangladesh bundled out the Proteas for 154 runs – their lowest against the Tigers – on way to the comfortable nine-wicket victory.

But Taskin's performance was neither unexpected nor surprising as the tearaway pacer has been following the mantra of sticking to the process and not thinking about the outcome, which eventually paid off grand dividends in this series.

“I'm feeling happy and proud. This is the first time for me getting the player-of-the-series award. For the last one-and-half and two years, I have been following the same process. In every match, my captain always supports me, and gives me a clear role to be fast and aggressive and take wickets. I enjoyed it a lot here, and from when we arrived, I have been working on my length. I still have to learn how to get five wickets on a flat wicket,” an elated Taskin said during the post match presentation ceremony.

Interestingly it's the same Taskin, who was out of the national setup for over three years following Bangladesh's last tour of South Africa back in 2017. His transformation as a fast bowler since making a comeback was the result of sheer hard work.

“Obviously it's good that we won the series and I always want to contribute in every series and it's a big achievement for us winning this series. Before coming to this tour, someone said to me that I was dropped after the previous South Africa tour four years back and what was my goal

“Normally what happens is that when we get two or three quick wickets, the opposition then gets back into the game through a big partnership and goes on to post a big total. But today's attitude was different. It was that no matter what, we will finish it off as quickly as possible.”

TAMIM IQBAL

this time around. I said I wanted to be the main contributor behind Bangladesh's win and I am happy to have done that,” said Taskin.

Although South Africa made a flying start after choosing to bat first, reaching 46 in seven overs, the introduction of Taskin following the dismissal of Quinton de Kock in the eighth over started to turn things around, with the pacer immediately realising the bounce the pitch had on offer.

Taskin's five-wicket haul made him the first overseas bowler to achieve that feat on South African soil since Lasith Malinga in 2012. It takes immense will and focus for a cricketer to forego a lucrative first-time offer from the money-spinning Indian Premier League. Skipper Tamim Iqbal hailed Taskin's sacrifice, saying that what Taskin achieved in this series for Bangladesh is ‘bigger than the IPL’.

‘Go for the kill’ attitude makes the difference

SPORTS REPORTER

Clinical and ruthless. That's how the Bangladesh team looked yesterday in Centurion.

At no point of the game the Tigers looked down and out as they had their opponents dumbfounded in their own backyard by securing a dominating nine-wicket win, with 141 balls to spare, to seal the maiden series away to South Africa.

Often times, after taking control of the game at one stage, Bangladesh go on to lose the momentum, eventually succumbing to defeats. But yesterday was totally different. The Tigers bounced back with three quick wickets after South Africa had a good start, only to never leave them a shred of chance to get back into the game.

So what changed?

Bangladesh skipper Tamim said it was their attitude that made the difference.

“What we discussed during our team huddle was that we must give our everything out in the field today. To be honest, when they got a good start and we were able to scalp two quick wickets, I had only one thing in my mind and that was to go for the kill,” Tamim revealed his game-plan at the post-match press conference.

“I thought that no matter what we will be aggressive and I'll ask Taskin [Ahmed] to bowl as fast as he can and try and get wickets,” Tamim talked about the period when Taskin Ahmed, yesterday's player-of-the-match for his five-wicket haul, bowled with such gusto that took South Africa from none for 46 to five for 83 in no time.

Even after bundling out South Africa for their lowest-ever total against Bangladesh, Tamim was not to be tamed down as his message to players even during a chase of a paltry 155-run target was ‘to be as aggressive as possible.’

