



South Africa's Keshav Maharaj, en route to a seven-wicket haul, gets through the defenses of Yasir Ali on the fifth day of their first Test at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday. Bangladesh's second innings ended abruptly at 53, resulting in a 220-run loss for the Tigers.

PHOTO: AFP

‘We couldn’t handle the pressure’

“We still want to play in conditions where you play three seamers, an all-rounder and a spinner. Fast bowling is our prime source of attack.”

Dean Elgar
South Africa captain

SCORES IN BRIEF (DAY-5)

South Africa: First Innings- 367 all out and Second Innings- 204 all out.
Bangladesh: First Innings- 298 all out and Second Innings- 53 all out (Shanto 26, Taskin 14; Maharaj 7-32, Harmer 3-21)
Result: South Africa won by 220 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Keshav Maharaj.

BANGLADESH'S LOWEST TOTALS IN TESTS

43 - against West Indies in North Sound, 2018
53 - against South Africa in Durban, 2022
62 - against Sri Lanka in Colombo, 2007
86 - against Sri Lanka in Colombo, 2005
87 - against Pakistan in Mirpur, 2021

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's innings ended in cataclysmic fashion, bundled out in 13 overs of the fifth and final day in Durban for their second-lowest Test score of 53. Most importantly, all of Bangladesh's second innings wickets fell to spin with Keshav Maharaj bagging seven and Simon Harmer scalping three. The 53 Bangladesh managed was also the lowest score by any team at the Kingsmead and only the third time that South Africa have managed to get all 10 wickets in an innings through spin.

However, the last four days of the match had seen the Tigers go toe-to-toe with the Proteas in trying to wrest back control of the match. The visitors were effective, to a certain extent, as they bundled South Africa out for 204 in their second innings but losing three wickets in a six-over spell on day four had proved to be the fatal error as Bangladesh's fourth innings reminded of their past debacles.

Having played spinners in surfaces that are more conducive to spin, it was surprising that Mominul Haque and his troops were not up to the mark with the bat, having fought so well over four days.

“We couldn’t handle the pressure of losing three wickets yesterday very well. I don’t see any other reason,” Mominul said at a press conference yesterday after Bangladesh’s 220-run loss.

“I think it’s a crime to give wickets to spinners on foreign soil. You should not give wickets to spinners while playing overseas. And that’s why

I think I am the one most accountable for such a plight. Obviously, it is a batting failure,” the skipper added.

That Bangladesh gave South Africa a fight for four days and had a real opportunity in the game, chasing 274 in the fourth innings, could also be seen from the way South Africa tried to provoke the Tigers, often in verbal terms. Mominul felt that the on-field behaviour from the Proteas often went overboard. South Africa however managed to rile up the Tigers, who had been frustrated with a few umpiring calls on day four.

“It is normal that there will be sledging on the field. But if sledging crosses the line, then it’s a problem,” Mominul opined on the matter.

Despite the controversial issues, Bangladesh can take heart from their performances in the first Test. Mahmudul Hasan Joy’s 137 -- becoming the first Bangladesh batter to score a Test ton against South Africa --

showed how to handle pressure situations and Khaled Ahmed’s four-fer in the first innings made pacers’ contribution more pronounced.

Mominul felt his team will be able to bounce back from this match but it remains to be seen whether experienced heads such as his and Mushfiqur Rahim’s, who batted during those crucial stages when Bangladesh were dwindling to spin, can take up the challenge and put up better contributions in the next Test at Port Elizabeth on April 8.



Bangladesh’s 53 in the second innings against South Africa in the first Test is the Tigers’ second-lowest total in Tests and also the lowest by any team in Durban.

Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer’s 10 wickets in the second innings is only the third instance of South Africa’s spinners taking all the wickets in an innings.

It is the first time in 72 years that South Africa scalped all 10 wickets in an innings in Tests with spinners.

It was the first time in over 100 years that a seamer didn’t bowl a single delivery in a completed innings for South Africa.

Bangladesh’s second innings lasted for 114 deliveries. There have only been five instances of a complete innings lasting fewer deliveries in the last 50 years.

Salma delighted with WC recognition

SPORTS REPORTER

Having represented the nation for over a decade, veteran off-spinner Salma Khatun’s long-cherished dream finally came true as Bangladesh took part in their maiden ODI World Cup last month. And her joy knew no bounds when she learnt that she was included in the Most Valuable Team of the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2022. “All my teammates, including myself, have been dreaming to play the World Cup for a long time. So being inducted into the Most Valuable Team of the event, that too in the first-ever World Cup, means a lot to me,” Salma told The Daily Star yesterday.

Apart from the historic victory against Pakistan, the Tigresses impressed one and all with multiple close encounters against bigger opponents. Nonetheless, Salma earmarked her feat against Australia as her favourite memory from the tournament.

“Australia are a very difficult side to play against. So, bagging three big wickets against them, especially those of Alyssa Healy and skipper Meg Lanning, were very special for me,” Salma said. “I’m grateful that the board is much more serious about women’s cricket than any time in the past. If you see how we took preparation for the World Cup and came to New Zealand a month early to adjust with the condition, these are very positive signs.”



Adjah miss spares Russel’s blushes

SPORTS REPORTER

Big budget outfit Sheikh Russel survived another scare in the Bangladesh Premier League when they came from behind to play out a 1-1 draw against Rahmatganj MFS at the Bashundhara Kings arena yesterday.

However, the successive draw under interim coach Julfikar Mahmud Mintu helped Sheikh Russel come out of the drop zone and stay just above relegation-threatened Muktijoddha Sangsad with seven points from 10 matches. Federation Cup runners-up Rahmatganj were in eighth position with nine points.

Rahmatganj took a fourth-minute lead when Sunday Chizoba collected a left-flank cross from Wali Faisal and shrugged off Aizar Akmatov to drive home from inside the six-yard box.

The lead, though, lasted only two minutes as Mohammad Jewel levelled the margin with a clever shot from inside the box after a long throw-in from Rahmat Mia came his way via a deflection.

Rahmatganj got another opportunity to restore their lead when Philip Adjah was brought down inside the box by Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Ashraful Islam Rana, but the Nigerian striker floated his effort over the crossbar in the 12th minute. Sunday rattled the crossbar in the 48th minute before another effort from the Nigerian was saved by Rana in the 66th minute.

At the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla, hosts Mohammedan played out a goalless draw against Bangladesh Police to stay in the seventh position with 14 points, two less than fifth-placed Bangladesh Police.



Liverpool’s Mohamed Salah attends a training session ahead of tonight’s Champions League first-leg quarterfinal against Benfica in Lisbon.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER

Benfica target another European scalp

Guardiola promises new tactics against Atletico Madrid

AGENCIES

Benfica face a gargantuan task in the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday but after already knocking out Barcelona and Ajax, there is belief they can spring another surprise against Liverpool.

Many circled Benfica as the kindest opponent available when the draw was made in Nyon last month, with this the furthest the Portuguese club have gone in the Champions League in six years.

The last time Benfica made the semis, they went on to reach the final, in 1990, when a team coached by Sven-Goran Eriksson lost 1-0 to AC Milan and missed out on lifting their third European Cup.

That was the last time Benfica really belonged with Europe’s elite and it would be the shock of the round if they were to upset Liverpool, who, along with Manchester City, are surely this year’s tournament favourites.



“We know it’s Liverpool, but we have to fight, we can play better,” interim coach Nelson Verissimo said on Friday.

Meanwhile, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola admitted that he overthinks and comes up with “stupid tactics” in the Champions League but would not have it any other way as he prepares for Tuesday’s quarter-final tie with Atletico Madrid.

Guardiola, a two-time winner of the

competition as a manager with Barcelona, has not won the trophy in 11 years and his teams have often fallen in the knockout stages due to unexpected tactical tweaks and team selection which have caused his system to fail.

“In the Champions League I always overthink -- new tactics, tomorrow you will see a new one. I overthink a lot, that’s why I have very good results in the Champions League,” Guardiola told reporters on Monday.

“It would be boring if I always played the same way. If people think I play the same against Atletico and Liverpool, I don’t like (that).”

“The movements are different, the players are all different with different personalities. That’s why I overthink and create stupid tactics. Tonight I take inspiration and I’m going to (come up with) incredible tactics tomorrow.”