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Bangladesh young opener Tanzid Tamim whacks it over the top during an impressive 51-run innings against India in the ICC World Cup match in Pune yesterday. The 22-year-old left-hander, whose previous highest score in eight matches was a mere 16, smote five fours and three eye-catching sixes.

PHOTO: REUTERS

"Sorry for stealing it (the player of the match award) from Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja). I wanted to make a big contribution. Have made fifties in World Cups, wanted to finish it off this time. (Free hits to start off) I was telling Shubman (Gill) that even if you dream about this situation, you go back to sleep. It was a dream start. It just calms you down. The pitch was good, allowed me to play my game - hit the gaps and find the boundaries whenever I could."

Virat Kohli
Player of the match



SCORES IN BRIEF

India vs Bangladesh

Bangladesh: 256 for eight in 50 overs (Liton 66, Tanzid 51; Jadeja 2-38, Bumrah 2-41)
India: 261 for three in 41.3 overs (Kohli 103 not out, Gill 53; Miraz 2-47)
Result: India won by seven wickets
Player of the match: Virat Kohli

WORLD CUP TIDBITS

Liton, Tanzid refresh memory of 1999

The opening stand of Liton Das and Tanzid Hasan did not click in Bangladesh's first three matches of the ongoing World Cup as they could only muster a total of 31 runs.

But yesterday, the duo gave Bangladesh an ideal start against India at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune and, in the process, broke a 24-year-old record.

Liton and Tanzid forged a 93-run partnership off 14.4 overs, which is now Bangladesh's highest partnership for the first wicket after 45 appearances in the prestigious event.

They broke the record of Mehrab Hossain and Shahriar Hossain, who stitched 69 runs at the top to lay the foundation for Bangladesh's famous victory against Pakistan in the 1999 edition.

Kohli rolls his arm in ODIs after six years

Losing a bowler in the ninth over into the innings was a blow for India after all-rounder Hardik Pandya hurt his ankle three balls into his first over of the match.

But as Pandya limped off the field, the fans at the stands erupted in a huge roar upon seeing Virat Kohli getting ready to finish the over.

Kohli, who bowls gentle medium pace, had last bowled in an ODI back in 2017 against Sri Lanka.

The 34-year-old conceded a couple of singles in three balls and his service with the ball was not required further.

Mushfiqur joins Shakib in 1k club

Mushfiqur Rahim became the second Bangladeshi after Shakib Al Hasan and the 24th batter in history to complete 1000 runs in World Cups.

It took Mushfiqur 32 innings to reach the landmark when he ran two off Ravindra Jadeja in the 30th over.

Following a 38-run knock, the 36-year-old is still a fair bit behind Shakib at the end of the day, who has scored 1201 runs off the same number of innings and appearances, 5, in the mega event.

TANZID DELIGHTS in drab day for Tigers

MAZHAR UDDIN from Pune

Bangladesh carried on with their underwhelming showing with the bat in the ongoing ODI World Cup on Thursday, posting a modest 256 for eight against India in Pune, in an innings that hardly merits an in-depth dissection.

After a stellar opening stand, the innings followed what has been Bangladesh's trend in this World Cup since winning their opener against Afghanistan - losing wickets in regular successions, not stringing more than one meaningful partnership per innings and in the end settling for a below par total.

But amidst all the mediocrity, young Bangladeshi opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim stood out with some refreshing aggression at the top of the order.

After failing to get going in the first three games of the tournament, the junior Tamim finally showed a glimpse of his immense ability, smashing his maiden half-century in ODIs against India at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

There were no doubts about the 22-year-old's immense talent, which he has showcased at the Under-19 level for Bangladesh. Tanzid has made 1018 runs in Youth ODIs, which is not that impressive considering 29 other players have more runs than him at that level.

However, Tanzid has scored those runs at a strike rate of 102.82, which is the second best among all batters who have made at least 1000 runs in Youth ODIs, second only to India's Shubman Gill. Tanzid's attacking mindset at the top of the order is what makes him an exciting prospect

for Bangladesh in limited-overs cricket.

Despite poor returns, the management persisted with the left-hander for this ability. And on Thursday, he finally lived up to his reputation.

Followed by a cautious start, Tanzid's innings went to the next gear when he pulled Jasprit Bumrah over the deep square leg region with great authority for the first six of the innings.

After that shot, there was no looking back for Tanzid. He in particular launched on to Shardul Thakur, striking him for two sixes and a four in the 10th over.

Tanzid's charge down the ground against fast bowlers reminded every Bangladeshi fan of a certain young swashbuckling opener who did the same against India at the Port of Spain during the 2007 World Cup.

The sixes an 18-year-old Tamim Iqbal hit against pacer Zaheer Khan in that game remains an iconic moment in Bangladesh's cricket history.

Fast forward to 16 years, another opener named Tamim was dealing the same sort of punishment to Indian pacers.

The similarities between the innings of the two namesakes didn't end there as like the senior Tamim, Tanzid also finished on 51 runs. The only difference being, he took 10 balls less than his senior.

But the major difference between the two innings is that while Tamim's knock in 2007 led to Bangladesh's first and only win over India in World Cups, young Tamim's fifty eventually ended in a losing cause.

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Stokes 'in good place' to play Proteas match

AFP, LONDON



Ben Stokes has declared himself ready for action in England's crucial World Cup clash against South Africa after missing the first three games of the campaign through injury.

England's title defence in India is in deep trouble after a shock defeat to Afghanistan left them with a single win to their name.

Test skipper Stokes suffered a hip injury during England's build-up to the tournament but has given himself the green light to face the Proteas in Mumbai on Saturday.

Speaking before a training session at the Wankhede Stadium that will double up as a final vigorous fitness test, Stokes told the BBC: "It was a frustrating little niggle to get before the tournament but I have worked very hard to get back to where I am and making myself ready to be available for selection."

"We have had a few days off since the last game and first training session here in Mumbai. I'll give it a good push but, yes, I think everything is pretty good. I am in a good place."

The powerful batsman played down the hype surrounding his return.

"I know I am one person in a team sport," said the 32-year-old, who starred in the 2019 World Cup final.

"No one looks to one person in this team to inspire them or anything like that. It is not the case that if I do come in then all of a sudden, we are going to do well. It is just one of those things that gets spoken about a lot but I don't read too much into it."

Shining Santner content in supporting role

REUTERS

Mild-mannered Mitch Santner rarely hogs the limelight in the New Zealand team but the all-rounder has made a big noise at the World Cup, taking a screamer of a catch against Afghanistan and a milestone 100th ODI wicket.

Santner's haul of 3-39 helped the Black Caps thrash the Afghans by 149 runs and continue his side's perfect start to the global showpiece.

On the way, he became the second New Zealand spinner to reach 100 wickets in the format, following in the footsteps of his idol, Daniel Vettori.

Santner has work to do to catch Vettori, who bowled out of a brilliant career with 305 ODI victims.

"Yeah, it's obviously nice to get to that milestone," the 31-year-old told reporters of the 100 club.



"I guess I wasn't thinking about it too much leading into the game. It's just (about) trying to perform my role and do a job out there just like every other game."

"I think I'm 200 odd wickets behind (Vettori), so it's going to be a tough challenge to get there."

With 11 wickets so far, including a five-wicket haul against the Netherlands, Santner tops the bowling at the World Cup ahead of paceman teammate Matt Henry, who grabbed his ninth against the Afghans.

More accustomed to toiling on New Zealand's pace-friendly pitches, it is not often Santner gets to outshine the seamers.

"It's obviously nice to come here and see the ball spin a little bit," he said.

"You don't really get those (pitches) in New Zealand... I think as a whole, we've been bowling in partnerships,

that's what we talk about."

Afghanistan grassed a slew of catching chances at the MA Chidambaram stadium, the home ground of Santner's IPL team Chennai Super Kings.

Santner did not let the 15,000-strong crowd down, though, when he ran back and dived for a stunning one-handed catch to remove Hashmatullah Shahidi for eight when the Afghanistan captain miscued a pull off a short Lockie Ferguson ball.

"Lucky for me I've got really long arms and was able to kind of pluck it out," said Santner.

"I think Lockie's expression said it all. It was more of a surprise that I caught it."

New Zealand's next match is a blockbuster against hosts India on Sunday in Dharamsala, a rare Indian pitch offering bounce and movement for seamers.

"I think what we've done well through this tournament is being able to adapt to different conditions," said Santner.

"Every pitch we've played on has been slightly different."



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India spinner Ravindra Jadeja celebrates the dismissal of Bangladesh stand-in skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who fell to another soft dismissal in the tournament, during his miserly spell of 2-38 in 10 overs. The all-rounder also pulled off a stunner at backward point to send back Mushfiqur Rahim.

PHOTO: REUTERS