

Bashir's 'patience' leaves India dizzy

AGENCIES

Spinner Shoaib Bashir took four wickets to lead England's bowling charge and put India on the back foot at 219 for seven on day two of the fourth Test yesterday.

The rookie off-spinner rattled the Indian reply to England's first innings of 353 in a marathon spell of 31 overs unchanged spread over three sessions in Ranchi.

The in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal made 73 but Bashir bowled him after the left-hander attempted to defend a low ball that caught the toe of the bat and crashed into the stumps.

Bashir, who missed the opener due to a visa delay and is playing his second Test, was ably supported by two wickets from fellow spinner Tom Hartley.

Earlier, Joe Root hit an unbeaten 122 for England after the visitors resumed on 302-7, but the day belonged to Bashir.

He removed Shubman Gill (38) and Rajat Patidar (17), both out lbw, and then got Ravindra Jadeja caught at short leg to put India in trouble at 131-4 at tea.

Former India spinner Pragyan Ojha told Cricbuzz that Shoaib had "outfoxed India with discipline".

"Although the pitch has assistance [for spinners], one still has to bowl at the right areas... He [Shoaib] showed patience and kept on hitting his target areas," Ojha explained.

England trail 2-1 and are fighting to stay alive in the five-match series.



Know-how of 'pacing innings' blocking Tamim's run-spree

SPORTS REPORTER

When it came to ability, Bangladesh team management had no doubt about Tanzid Hasan Tamim as the dashing opener was given the license to play freely during his surprise inclusion at last year's ICC ODI World Cup in India.

The left-hander did show a glimpse of his talent in the mega event, striking a blistering fifty against the hosts, but a lack of consistency has remained the biggest area of concern for Tamim.

During the start of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), Tamim was unable to convert promising starts into big knocks for Chattogram Challengers.

However, the 23-year-old managed to finally burst into



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

"When he was not getting runs, I spoke to him about why he is failing to convert his starts into big ones. I always remind him about the knock that he played against India in the World Cup, how he played those strokes in that wicket, and why he was unable to score runs in different wickets."

Chattogram head coach Tushar Imran

the scene with a 51-ball 70, laced with six sixes and a four, against Durdanto Dhaka before hitting his maiden T20 century as he piled on the misery for Khulna Tigers during a 65-ball 116 which featured eight sixes and as many fours.

The two match decisive innings had revitalised Chattogram's campaign, propelling them to the playoffs in a late turnaround. Tamim now ranks third in the ongoing BPL's best run-scorers list, having scored 382 runs in eleven innings with a healthy strike-rate of 134.62.

Although Tamim was included in the ODI squad, he was sidelined from the Tigers' T20 squad for next month's home series against Sri Lanka. According to Chattogram head coach, Tushar Imran, the youngster from Bogura only needs some minor tweaking to get going in the coming days.

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and why he was unable to score runs in different wickets," Tushar told The Daily Star yesterday.

"He has got the ability to score big knocks and I try to remind him which strokes he needs to play in particular wickets. Since he has got all the shots in the book, it is important for him to have a good shot-selection. He is definitely a stroke-maker but it is also important for him to know how to pace the innings, as at times you need to go defensive rather than going out and play your shots right from the word go."

Tushar, who is the first Bangladeshi batter to score ten thousand first-class runs, also opined that, apart from fixing the shot-selection issue to score big frequently, Tamim needs to find the right approach and the frame of mind to "get in the habit of staying at the wicket".

SHORT CORNER

India, Pakistan drive US ticket demand for T20 WC

Organisers of June's T20 World Cup games in the United States say that early ticket sales have shown there is a huge demand for the sport among cricket lovers in the country. The highly anticipated clash in New York between cricket rivals Pakistan and India was over-subscribed by 200 times in the public ballot for tickets, ICC said.

Neymar slammed for giving Dani Alves' €150,000 in rape case

Alves, 40, was jailed for four and a half years on Thursday after being found guilty of raping a woman in a Barcelona nightclub in December 2022. According to Brazilian outlet UOL, the payment made by Neymar on behalf of Alves had a serious impact on the length of the sentence imposed.

Guardiola expects Man Utd rise under Ratcliffe

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola is expecting a tougher challenge from Manchester United in the coming years after British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe's purchase of a minority stake in the club was completed this week. Ratcliffe has wasted little time in rejigging United's backroom staff, poaching Omar Berrada from City to be the club's new CEO and attempting to land Newcastle's sporting director Dan Ashworth.

Don't judge me on silverware, says Pochettino

Chelsea are languishing in 10th place in the Premier League, 25 points behind leaders Liverpool who they face in the League Cup final at Wembley on Sunday. Pochettino hopes to deliver Chelsea's first trophy since co-owner Todd Boehly bought the club from Roman Abramovich in May 2022.

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