



“A lot of players have never had Old Trafford bouncing like that. The feel-good factor for these players can be massive for the rest of the season.”

Former Manchester United captain **Roy Keane**, after the Red Devils rallied from behind to beat Liverpool 4-3 in an FA Cup quarterfinals fixture on Sunday.

From concussion sub to ‘timed out’ re-enactment

STAR SPORTS DESK

A century, a collision while fielding, a concussion substitute, a whirlwind innings, and a petty act of dragging the past – the final ODI of the three-match series, which the Tigers won by four wickets yesterday, had produced a number of memorable moments.

TIGERS’ COMMENDABLE START

The toss went Sri Lanka’s way but the visitors suffered early after deciding to bat first. Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed got the ball talking, pegging back the Lankans by removing both their openers inside 3.5 overs. Mustafizur Rahman, returning to the side after sitting out the first two matches, joined the party. Spinners Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Rishad Hossain also had their say as Sri Lanka were reduced to 154-7.

LIYANAGE’S RESOLVE

It was Janith Liyanage’s resolve that eventually helped Sri Lanka reach a competitive total of 235 all out in 50 overs. Liyanage walked in at number six, with Sri Lanka in a spot of bother at 74 for four. Lending his side some stability, he stitched a 43-run fifth-wicket stand with Charith Asalanka before the latter departed in the 25th over. Liyanage soon lost two more partners. Burdened with the weight of carrying the Lankan innings, Liyanage forged an innings defining 60-run eighth-wicket stand with Maheesh Theekshana and stayed unbeaten till the end to score his maiden ODI hundred (101 off 102 balls).

CHAOS ENSUES

The end of Sri Lanka’s innings was utterly chaotic for Bangladesh as the Tigers saw three players injured, two of them stretchered off the field, in the final three overs. Having bowled the first delivery of the 48th over, Mustafizur cramped up badly and had to be stretchered off the field. Soumya Sarkar finished the over but he too hurt himself while fielding in the very next over. While fielding on the boundary, he crashed onto the advertising hoarding, hurting his neck and knee, and was later replaced under concussion substitution rules by Tanzid Hasan Tamim. The other mishap in the field included Anamul Haque Bijoy and Jaker Ali Anik, who was on the field as a substitute fielder. Anamul and Jaker collided trying to take a catch. Even though Anamul managed to grab the catch, Jaker ended up on a stretcher.



CONCUSSED BLESSING?

Tanzid Hasan Tamim would not even have played the game had it not been for Soumya Sarkar’s unfortunate collision with the advertising billboard. However, Tamim ended up playing a crucial role in the Tigers’ triumph as he capitalised on the opportunity to score a career-best 81-ball 84, laced with nine fours and four maximums. He might rue being dismissed just 16 runs shy of what would have been his maiden ton in Bangladesh colours, but the 23-year-old can rejoice in the fact that he now holds the record for scoring the most runs as a concussed substitute in ODIs. Tamim surpassed Australia’s Marnus Labuschagne, who had scored 80 runs after coming in as a concussion substitute for Cameron Green in a three-wicket win over South Africa in September last year.



RISHAD STORM

Sri Lanka, especially their premier leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, were hit by a storm that they might have not anticipated. The outcome of a four-wicket win with 58 deliveries to spare might be misleading as things got a bit nervy for Bangladesh at one stage of the game. When Rishad walked in, Bangladesh still needed 58 more runs to win after 36.1 overs with no recognised batter left. Rishad was included in the squad for the game considering his abilities with the bat but an 18-ball 48 not out is something no one might have foreseen from the leg-spinner. He started his innings by slog-sweeping Hasaranga over square leg for a maximum and went on to take the Lankans’ lead spinner to the cleaners, smashing him for four more sixes and three boundaries. Rishad’s only other boundary was hit off a Theekshana delivery.

‘TIMED OUT’ RE-ENACTMENT



Mushfiqur Rahim added further fuel to the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka rivalry as he re-enacted Angelo Matthews’ ‘timed out’ dismissal from the 2023 World Cup during their series-winning celebration with the trophy. As Bangladesh players were standing with the trophy, Mushfiqur carried his helmet and sarcastically complained about the strap getting loose – just like Mathews complained during a World Cup game against the Tigers last year before being the first cricketer ever in international cricket to be ruled as ‘timed out’. Even though skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto said after the third T20I that the Lankans had not “moved on” from that incident, it seems like the Bangladesh players themselves are yet to do so.



RISHAD'S BLAZING 48*					
6	0	4	6	0	1
0	1	0	1	4	1
6	6	4	4	4	0

Rishad Hossain goes Calypso style, with his left leg in the air following a glance down the leg side during his hurricane knock of unbeaten 48 off 18 deliveries which helped Bangladesh to a four-wicket win in the third ODI against Sri Lanka at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday, sealing the three-match series 2-1.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka

235 all out in 50 overs (Liyanage 101 not out, Asalanka 37, Mendis 29; Taskin 3-42, Mustafizur 2-42, Miraz 2-38)

Bangladesh

237 for six in 40.2 overs (Tanzid 84, Rishad 48 not out, Mushfiqur 37 not out; Kumara 4-48, Hasaranga 2-64)

Result

Bangladesh won by four wickets and took the series 2-1

Player of the match

Rishad Hossain

Player of the series

Najmul Hossain Shanto



We were surprised at the sub. Because we saw the footage and we saw him diving for the ball. He did not seem to have hit whatever it is during that incident.

Naveed Nawaz
Sri Lanka batting coach

RISHAD'S upside down journey

SPORTS REPORTER

When Rishad Hossain came out to bat in yesterday’s third ODI against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh still needed 58 off 83 deliveries with four wickets in hand.

Just 25 balls later, the match was done and dusted with Rishad, who faced 18 of those deliveries, plundering 48 runs to complete the win with 58 balls to spare.

The look of disbelief on the faces in the Bangladesh dugout said it all as they were relishing the carnage the 21-year-old was unleashing against Wanindu Hasaranga.

But what makes Rishad’s innings truly special and makes him a unique figure, sort of an enigma in Bangladesh cricket, is the fact that despite being considered a future prospect for the national team, he remains a largely ignored cricketer in the domestic scenes, having played just six List-A games, which included three ODIs for the national team.

His batting exploits, which first came into focus in the preceding Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka, where he smashed 53 off 30 balls in the third match, has gone largely unnoticed in the domestic circuit, simply because he hardly ever breaks into the playing eleven.

The reason behind domestic sides’ apathy towards him is the same reason why he is considered an important prospect for the national team – it’s his leg-spin bowling.

The clubs in Bangladesh have always been reluctant to use wrist spinners as usually on low and slow tracks in Bangladesh the left and right arm off spinners are far more reliable and this tendency has denied Rishad a chance to hone his skill at the List-A level.

While batting yesterday, Rishad’s partner Mushfiqur Rahim told him to go for it when ‘it’s in his zone’, he relayed at the post-match presentation.

This shows that perhaps the national team players and management have seen something in his batting that others missed.

Naturally everyone gets their chances in the national team by playing domestic cricket. Now he is playing in the national team but is not getting chances in domestic cricket. I won’t say it’s disappointing but the team he plays for should take care of him.

Najmul Hossain Shanto
Bangladesh captain

In the match, he also bagged the important wicket of Lankan skipper Kusal Mendis for 29, which was his maiden wicket in the ODIs after going wicketless in his first two games.

When asked if Rishad would now be the first name on the team sheet, skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto

took a more cautious approach and said that he has a lot to improve upon in all departments and his leg-spin bowling remains the key.

“First of all, his bowling is very important. We don’t have leg-spinners and if you look at the last New Zealand series, he has been bowling well. His batting at number seven has improved from what was seen in the New Zealand series but still he has a lot of room for improvement.”

“He has been working on that but obviously we are very happy and having a player like that in the team makes the captain’s job easier.” Rishad hit five fours and four sixes in his knock at a time when the match was in a tense position. His capability as a power hitter late down the order could make him an exciting option in white-ball cricket.

But for him to flourish as a bowler and a late-order batter in international cricket, he needs to play regularly in domestic cricket.

“Naturally everyone gets their chances in the national team by playing domestic cricket. Now he is playing in the national team but is not getting chances in domestic cricket. I won’t say it’s disappointing but the team he plays for should take care of him,” Shanto said.

Rishad has been doing things his own way so far in his career and this surprise trick up his sleeve with the bat might finally open the door for him at the domestic circuit which had been shut for so long.

‘Exciting prospect’ Nahid in Tigers’ ‘balanced’ Test squad

STAR SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh’s 15-member squad for their upcoming first of two Tests against Sri Lanka in Sylhet, beginning on March 22, contain a newcomer in pacer Nahid Rana and the return of Liton Das, announced Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday.

Nahid’s first-class record, having taken 63 wickets from 15 matches since making his first class debut in November 2021, has enabled the 21-year-old speedster in making the cut, and he will form the pace battery alongside Shoriful Islam, Khaled Ahmed and fellow youngster Mushfik Hasan.

“[Nahid] Rana is a very exciting prospect. He is probably the quickest bowler in Bangladesh at the moment and can also extract steep bounce... There is another young pacer Mushfik Hasan in the squad,” selector Abdur Razzak said, adding that the squad has a good balance.

On the batting front, Liton Das, who was dropped from the final ODI against Sri Lanka on the basis of poor form in the format, was slotted back to red-ball squad after the batter-keeper was granted a paternity leave in Tigers’ last Test series, in New Zealand.

SQUAD:

Najmul Hossain Shanto (captain), Zakir Hasan, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Shadman Islam, Liton Das, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shahadat Hossain Dipu, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Nayeem Hasan, Tajjul Islam, Shoriful Islam, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Mushfik Hasan, Nahid Rana

Gazi Group, Legends hold nerves

SPORTS REPORTER

Two of yesterday’s three Dhaka Premier League fixtures churned out thrillers, with Gazi Group Cricketers winning by three runs against Mohammedan Sporting Club and Legends of Ruppangj edging past Ruppangj Tigers Cricket Club by a solitary wicket.

At Narayanganj’s Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium, Mohammedan keeper-batter Mahidul Islam Ankon’s valiant 94 off 123 balls went in vain as Gazi Group, who rode from opener Anisul Islam’s 71 to tally 191 all out in 47.4 overs, held their nerves in the last over, dismissing Ankon through a run-out in the penultimate delivery before ensuring the last ball did not yield any run.

Gazi Group’s Ruyel Miah started with a five-wicket haul and the left-arm medium pacer had left Mohammedan on the backfoot early by removing their first three batters, the likes of Imrul Kayes and Rony Talukdar.

Meanwhile, at Savar’s BKSP-4 Ground, Ruppangj Tigers were sensing victory after their oppositions were reeling at 133 for seven in chase of 210. However, middle-order batter Aminul Islam stayed unbeaten on a 71-ball 51 and shepherded the tail to guide Legends of Ruppangj past the finish line with two balls to spare.

Elsewhere, at BKSP-3 Ground, several players made good contributions for Partex Sporting Club who handed a 52-run defeat to Gazi Tyres Cricket Academy.



(From L-R) Sumaiya Akter, Farzana Akter Lisa and Nishita Akter Nishi – two relative newbies and one uncapped player of the Bangladesh women’s cricket team – are all smiles following a training session in Mirpur yesterday ahead of the upcoming home ODI series against Australia. The Tigresses had reason to be happy as Bangladesh Cricket Board announced Coca-Cola as kit sponsors of the team for the next three-and-a-half years.

PHOTO: BCB