



➤ Sri Lanka's Dhananjaya de Silva and Kamindu Mendis became just the third pair to stitch 150-plus stands in the same Test. The previous two instances were, Ian and Greg Chappell for Australia against New Zealand in 1974, and Misbah-ul-Haq and Azhar Ali for Pakistan versus Australia in 2014.

➤ Dhananjaya de Silva had scored 108, to follow up on his first innings effort of 102. This was the first time since 2014 that a Sri Lanka had scored a hundred in each innings of a Test. The last time a player achieved this feat when Kumar Sangakkara scored 319 and 105 against the same opposition in Chattogram.

Sri Lanka's twin centurions -- skipper Dhananjaya de Silva and Kamindu Mendis -- celebrate on Sunday as the visitors find themselves in a dominating position in the first Test against Bangladesh in Sylhet. Thanks to tons in successive innings from Dhananjaya and Mendis, Sri Lanka were able to set a daunting 511-run target before the Lankan bowlers had pegged through half of Bangladesh's batting lineup on Day 3 yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Endrick shines in Brazil's 'special moment'

AGENCIES

A 1-0 win in a friendly might just have been routine work for a team that has won the World Cup record five times any other time but Brazil's victory against England at Wembley on Saturday had much greater significance.

Coming off their worst period for over 60 years, Brazil hope new coach Dorival Junior can trigger a revival in time to challenge for the 2026 World Cup. In that regard, things went just about decently as the former Sao Paulo



- Brazil snapped England's 20-game unbeaten streak at Wembley Stadium with a 1-0 win in Saturday's friendly game.
- The outcome also saw Brazil avoid losing four matches in a row for the first time since 2001.
- Aged 17 years and 246 days, Endrick is the youngest senior international goal-scorer at Wembley.
- Endrick is also the youngest player to score for Brazil since Ronaldo in 1994.

manager began his Brazil job with a step in the right direction.

"It's a really special moment, for sure," Dorival told reporters. "On only a few occasions has a Brazil side won in England which must say

something about us. But we must not lose sight of the fact that this is just the start of our work."

Adding to Brazil supporters' delight, the match's only goal was scored by Real Madrid-bound teenager Endrick in the 80th minute when the forward tapped in, defying England's appeals for offside after Vinicius Junior's shot was saved by Jordan Pickford.

Aged 17 years and 246 days, Endrick became the youngest senior international goal-scorer at Wembley. He also became the youngest player to score for Brazil since Ronaldo in 1994.

"Time will tell how far he can go. We have to be calm and patient with him," said Dorival Junior.

Brazil will now aim to build on the momentum from their first win over England since 2009 in another friendly against Spain on Tuesday.



PHOTO: X

Austria's Christoph Baumgartner runs off to celebrate after scoring the fastest goal in the history of international football during a friendly with Slovakia on Saturday. The 24-year-old sprinted from the centre circle and skipped past three challenges before firing a low shot from outside the box into the bottom corner just six seconds after kickoff. The goal came earlier than Lukas Podolski's for Germany against Ecuador in 2013 when the forward pinched the ball from a defender and scored seven seconds into the match.

Tigresses fail to execute plan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh followed a similar pattern of falling into their own spin trap while also getting bundled out for under 100 runs for the second consecutive game as the Tigresses suffered a six-wicket defeat against world champions Australia in the second Women's One-Day International in Mirpur yesterday.

The outcome also saw the Aussies take the three-match series 2-0 with a game in hand.

The deficiencies could be gauged clearly during the Powerplay of the Tigresses' batting innings when pacers Megan Schutt and Ellyse Perry and spinner Sophie Molineux operated. The lack of scoring shots led to just 17 runs being scored while losing a wicket in that phase.

Batters struggled even more against spin. Opener Fargana Haque played 52 deliveries for seven runs. Sobhana Mostary played out 20 deliveries for just three while Shorna Akter took 19 deliveries to score just two before the Tigresses' misery finally ended in 44.1 overs when they were bundled out for 97 -- two more than their accumulation in the first match.

"We are always coming up with a plan but sometimes can't execute in the middle and that's the reason," Bangladesh spin bowling coach Dinuka Hettiarachchi clarified why the Tigresses failed in this series.

The plan was different for the openers as well, not what was seen in their approach.

"As I said, we came into the game with a plan. We were trying to score 40-50 runs in 10 overs. I don't know but for some reason, their [openers'] plan is not working. Not like we have bad batters; we have a very good bunch of players and they batted really well in the last few years. Even we beat South Africa in South Africa," Dinuka added.

Aussie spinners accounted for nine of 10 Bangladesh wickets, with left-arm spinner Molineux picking up three for 10 runs before Ellyse Perry's unbeaten 50-ball 35 saw them coast to a victory with 157 balls to spare. However, Dinuka did not admit that trying to exploit the home advantage had backfired on the Tigresses in this instance.

"No, we are always going with spin bowlers in home soil and taking home advantage. As I said, if we bat first, we need to put up a good score for the bowlers. Then we can go ahead with a plan," he said.

Asked if Australia's spinners were of a higher quality than anticipated, Dinuka said there was no room for excuses. "It is [of a higher quality] but they are the world's number one team. There are no excuses."

NONSENSICAL LITON reflects batters' flaws

SPORTS REPORTER

Batting disasters are a regular event in Bangladesh's Test cricket and having slumped in the first innings, the Bangladesh batters once again failed to take up the challenge against a resurgent Sri Lanka pace attack on the third day of the Sylhet Test.

The Tigers are now staring at a big margin loss which would extinguish any chance of them winning the two-Test series.

Specifically, batting at the latter part of the day has proved to be quite challenging for the Bangladesh batters. After bundling the Lankans out for 280 in the first innings, the Tigers had lost three top-order batters for just 32 runs negotiating the last 10 overs on Day 1. In their second innings yesterday, they slumped to 47 for five in 13 overs.

The lack of Test match temperament and mindset was portrayed by Liton Das's abysmal shot in the first delivery he faced.

Liton had walked in with the scoreboard reading 37 for four. Needless to mention it required a sensible approach from one of the most experienced batters in the line-up, but Liton chose to charge down the wicket to pacer Vishwa Fernando and play across the line only to sky it and throw his wicket away. He walked back for a golden duck, leaving Bangladesh tottering at 37 for five.

Even Lankan fielders seemed pleasantly surprised at Liton's nonsensical approach. Test cricket is about grit and perseverance and batters just do not give away their

wickets so freely.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who picked up a four-wicket haul, attended the end-of-the-day press conference and had difficulty explaining the scenario.

"I think the individual player can say what



spell, the Tigers simply failed to live up to the challenge. Even as two Sri Lankan batters hit tons in successive innings, Bangladesh batters did not know which to leave and which to play with soft hands and chose to rather play almost every delivery with hard hands.

"I won't say the wicket is that bad but it is difficult for the batters in the first 20 overs because, with the new ball, there is seam movement and swing," Miraz added.

Miraz's statement could be intriguing given that for players at this level, it should not be new knowledge that the red ball does a lot more for a longer period.

Questions could also be raised whether the impossible task of chasing a 500-plus target further derailed batters' mindset.

Selector Abdur Razzak was scathing in his criticism of the batters. "In Tests, a senior batter [Liton] can't get out like this. Actually, not only Liton, we lost five wickets. It is everyone's fault," he said.

The gap in technical abilities of Bangladesh batters was further exposed against the Lankans on a pitch that had something for both batters and bowlers. But if batters keep on failing in their application like this, long term development in Tests seems far-fetched.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA
First innings 280 all out in 68 overs and Second innings 418 all out in 110.4 overs (Karunaratne 52, de Silva 108, Kamindu 164, Shoriful 1-75, Khaled 11-46, Rana 2-128, Tajjul 2-75, Miraz 4-74)

BANGLADESH
first innings 188 all out in 51.3 overs and Second innings 47 for 5 in 13 overs (Fernando 3-13)

situation he is going through and what he was thinking in that moment. It is disappointing the way we got out and what can I say we have to play well," Miraz said.

Having been set a daunting target of 511, the Tigers managed to scrape through to stumps on day three at 47 for five. Skipper Nazmul Hossain Shanto chased at a really wide delivery and was caught behind. Zakir Hasan and Shahadat Dipu were made to play at deliveries.

If the end of the day is a testing

Contrasting fortunes for Shakib, Tamim

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan geared up for the second Test against Sri Lanka with an all-round performance for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in their six-wicket win over Rupganj Tigers in their Dhaka Premier League (DPL) match at BKSP Ground 3 in Savar yesterday.

Shakib, who is expected to be available for selection for the Chattogram Test against Sri Lanka starting on March 30, picked up one wicket for 47 runs and chipped in with 34.

Salman Hossain's 67 saw Rupganj reach 228 for 9. Saif Hassan's 69 and Fazle Mahmud's unbeaten 62, along with handy contributions from Yasir Ali (41) and Shakib saw Sheikh Jamal romp to victory with 33 balls to spare.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, Tamim Iqbal hit a fifty but it was not enough for Prime Bank Cricket Club to avoid their first loss of the ongoing DPL, falling to Gazi Group Cricketers by six wickets.

Sent to bat, in-form opener Parvez Hossain Emon fell early for 13 which was followed by a mini batting collapse. Tamim hit an 88-ball 54 but once he fell, the

team was tottering at 85 for five. Veteran Alok Kapali's 44-ball 47 saw them reach 181 all out in 49.1 overs. Abdul Gaffar bagged four wickets for Gazi.

Sabbir Hossen's 64 then guided Gazi to their fourth win this DPL.

Abahani Limited remained undefeated with their fifth win, beating City Club by 52 runs at BKSP Ground 4. Mohammad Naim struck 54 at the top before Alif Hossain's unbeaten 67 saw Abahani post 217 for 7.

Mohammad Saifuddin and Mosaddek Hossain bagged three wicket each as City Club were bowled out for 165.



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