

TIGERS ROAR

- ➔ Bangladesh's 10-wicket in Rawalpindi yesterday is the Tigers' first Test win in 14 overall meetings against Pakistan. The Tigers drew one in 13 before this contest.
- ➔ This is the first time that Bangladesh won a game against Pakistan in Pakistan in 21 matches across formats.
- ➔ The win also saw Bangladesh jump from eighth to sixth position in the World Test Championship points table.
- ➔ Bangladesh have now won against nine Test-playing nations. Only India and South Africa remain unbeaten against the Tigers.
- ➔ Pakistan have suffered a 10-wicket loss at home for the very first time in Tests.
- ➔ Pakistan were bundled out for 146 in the third innings -- their lowest team total against Bangladesh in Tests.
- ➔ Bangladesh's first innings total of 565 is now the highest for the Tigers in a winning cause.
- ➔ Shakib Al Hasan is now the most successful left-arm spinner in cricket's history with 707 wickets, surpassing New Zealand's Daniel Vettori who has 705.
- ➔ Mushfiqur Rahim, who was adjudged player of the match for his 191-run knock, has now won seven POTMs -- most by a Bangladeshi player.



Bangladesh players, all 16 in the two-match Test series against Pakistan, were in a jubilant mood at the dressing room following their historic 10-wicket victory against Pakistan on the fifth day of the first Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Shanto lauds Shakib's 'unique' way of turning things around

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto lauded the team effort in Rawalpindi following a 10-wicket win -- the very first Test win in Pakistan -- and signified the effort the players put during preparations.

The birthday boy lauded special performances such as Mushfiqur Rahim's 191, Mehedi Hasan Miraz's four-wicket haul and a three-for from Shakib Al Hasan.

"Really special moment for us and we are really happy because of the way everyone showed their character in these hot conditions. The way we practised over the last 15 days, did all the right things off the field are why we got the results.

"Obviously it was a team effort. Mushfiqur bhai's innings was outstanding and it helped our team go forward but overall if you see the match and our batting and bowling and fielding, it was a team effort," Shanto said when focus was drawn to Mushfiqur's knock, Mehedi Hasan Miraz's spells and the pacers' grit.

What Shakib attained, though, was true to his cricketing spirits, fit for a legend. Accused in a murder case back home, criticisms of his performances getting more vocal, Shakib overcame his personal situation and pulled out a special performance.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN
1st innings: 448-6 dec (Rizwan 171, Shakeel 141; Mahmud 2-70, Shoriful 2-77)

BANGLADESH
1st innings: 565 all out (Mushfiqur 191, Shadman 93, Miraz 77, Naseem 3-93)

PAKISTAN
2nd innings: 146 all out (Rizwan 51, Shafique 37; Miraz 4-21, Shakib 3-44)

Result: Bangladesh won by 10 wickets and lead the two-match series 1-0

Player of the match: Mushfiqur Rahim

Bangladesh's team selection had put faith on their spinners and the spinners finally came into play on Day 5. Shakib bowled 16 overs on the trot between morning and tea sessions; his variations, mind games all being employed to pacify Pakistan's resistance. He brought his flight and trajectory into play to bag both Saud Shakeel and Abdullah Shafique, arguably the backbone of the Pakistan batting.

A spin web in conjunction with Miraz saw the duo pick up seven wickets together, with Miraz bagging four for 21 and Shakib getting three for 44.

Shanto was asked about Shakib's mentality, which helps him turn things around. Shanto said it was what the team expected.

"When he [Shakib] takes the field to represent the country, from what I understand, he is very dedicated as a person. He does everything that's required to win. He pushes aside everything in his personal life to one side to think and focus on what he can do for the team, what he can do to help a junior cricketer and things like that," Shanto said.

"Doing these sorts of things in a unique way to be in a situation like that and still being able to bring out a performance like that and to give his inputs, especially in bowling, is outstanding. This is what we expect from him and hopefully in the next game we are expecting something even better," he added on Shakib.

Bangladesh's Tiger-like HUNT IN PINDI

Inzamam [Ul Haq] was extraordinary and a few umpiring decisions did not go our way. It was bad luck overall. It bothered us for quite a while. Everything could've been different if we won. I think this win could be the start of a new dawn for Bangladesh in Tests because winning away from home, especially against Pakistan in Pakistan is a big thing. We don't play well consistently in Tests; it can be a start.

Alok Kapali



ASHEFAQ-UL-ALAM

For years, the moniker of 'The Tigers' has been a point of derision for the Bangladesh cricket team.

Online trolls have pounced on every opportunity to mock the Bangladesh team by using this nickname, scoffing at the players by calling them plastic Tigers and in some cases 'Toygars'.

The underlying theme of all of these mockeries is the same -- the trolls draw attention to the irony of calling Bangladesh, a team that often falls short against top opponents, 'The Tigers', one of the deadliest predators on planet earth.

However, the presumed deadliness of tigers is often exaggerated. In reality, tigers are far from the most efficient predators in the wild. The success rate of Bengal Tigers is estimated to be around 10-20 percent, making them in a sense an apt symbol for the Bangladesh cricket team, especially in Tests.

Across three formats, Bangladesh's average win percentage is 32.67 percent, but in Tests, the percentage comes down to 13.98 percent, inside the success range of the Bengal Tigers.

And much like how a successful hunt of a tiger is no less than a spectacle, when Bangladesh finally manage to win a Test match after many unsuccessful attempts, it becomes a sight for sore eyes.

On Sunday at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, the Najmul Hossain Shanto-led Bangladesh side presented one such

spectacle when they defeated Pakistan in a Test match for the very first time.

And, in a sense, the 10-wicket win in Rawalpindi was not too different from how tigers hunt in the wild.

A tiger stealthily closes in before cinching its incisors on the neck of its prey, and Bangladesh did something similar, making slow progress for four days before going for the kill on Day 5.

Aided by the fifth day wicket and

Heading into the final day, Bangladesh had their noses slightly ahead in the contest, however, the likeliest conclusion was still a draw.

But the match suddenly sprung into life in the morning of Day five when, like hungry predators, the Bangladesh bowlers pounced on the Pakistan batters.

Aided by the fifth day wicket and



After winning the toss, the pacers did their job on the rain-hit opening day, reducing Pakistan to 21-3 at one point.

The Pakistan batters fought back on Day two on the placid surface but Bangladesh ended the day with the satisfaction of foiling Pakistan's plan of taking wickets late in the day.

The third and fourth day saw Mushfiqur Rahim script his epic 191, and four other batters stepping up with half-centuries to power Bangladesh to a first innings lead of 117.

by some careless shot-making from the Pakistanis, the Bangladesh attack, led by spinners Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan, bundled out Pakistan for 146, setting up a 30-run target which the batters chased without breaking a sweat. After 13 unsuccessful attempts, Bangladesh finally managed to triumph over Pakistan in Tests. However, if Bangladesh want to at least match a tigers' hunting success rate in Tests against Pakistan, they will have to win the next match and sweep the series 2-0.



I've been asked a lot whether I've been able to forget the sorrow of the Multan Test. To that, I say no. That was a special Test. We were in the first three years of our Test status. But I am proud of this victory. Our team beat Pakistan by dominating them. We've won a thrilling Test. Nothing drastic happened with the pitch, apart from the Shaheen [Shah Afridi] dismissal. We must be proud of the bowling on the fifth day.

Habibul Bashar

SAFF U-20 CHAMPIONSHIP Bangladesh face strong India in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Hoping to bounce back from their defeat against Nepal in their final group match a couple of days ago, Bangladesh will be taking on tournament favourites India in the second semifinal of the SAFF U-20 Championship at the ANFA Complex in Lalitpur, Nepal today.

The match will kick off at 3:15 pm (Bangladesh Time), with the winners playing hosts Nepal, who yesterday beat Bhutan 4-1 in a shootout following a 1-1 draw in regulation time, in the final on August 28.

Before leaving for Nepal, Bangladesh coach and players vowed to play the final and win the regional youth championship in which they finished runners up three times out of five editions.

However, getting to the final now seems to be an uphill task, especially since the way Bangladesh played in their 2-1 defeat against Nepal. In that game, a fumble from captain and goalkeeper Mehedi Hasan Srabon saw Nepal score the opener and then extend the lead just minutes later. Bangladesh did manage to pull a goal back that was not enough.

Since that defeat, Bangladesh coach Maruful Haque held a few mental-recovery and tactical sessions to boost the players.

According to Maruful, Bangladesh can make it into the final if they go into the match hungry

for a positive outcome.

"The players showed their dedication, hard work, and effort in the last two days and they have really been hungry for victory," said Maruful.

"If they can take this hunger into the match against India, I believe we can move into the final. If the boys can start the match with the mentality of bouncing back, then we hope we can advance to the final," Maruful added.

Captain Srabon also sounded optimistic.

"If we can play in line with the tactic of the coach, we can hope to leave the ground with



a positive result," said Srabon, adding that the players must stick to the plan and not get driven by their emotion.

Bangladesh have won only twice against India, losing thrice and drawing twice in the eight matches they played in the previous five editions.

Djokovic eyes Slam record

AFP, New York

Novak Djokovic, fueled by an emotional Olympic triumph, has new Grand Slam records in his sights at the US Open, where title rival Jannik Sinner hopes to shake off a doping controversy.

Defending champion Djokovic can become the oldest Open era champion at the tournament if he secures a fifth title, a record he would share with Jimmy Connors, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer.

The 37-year-old would also move to 25 Grand Slam triumphs, taking him clear of the 24 he currently shares with Margaret Court.

The final Grand Slam of the year comes at a critical time for Djokovic. This year he was succeeded as Australian Open champion by Sinner who also relieved him of his world number one ranking.

Carlos Alcaraz took his French Open title with the Spanish crowd pleaser then sweeping Djokovic off court in a one-sided Wimbledon final.

However, Djokovic, returned to the clay courts of Roland Garros to stun Alcaraz in the Olympic final.

Sinner, meanwhile, arrives after an emotionally draining doping investigation, in which he escaped a lengthy ban after officials accepted his explanation that the banned substance entered his system as a result of contamination from a support team member.

The 23-year-old Italian had twice tested positive for clostebol, a banned anabolic



agent, back in March. The International Tennis Integrity Agency announced this week he had been cleared of wrongdoing -- a day after he won the Cincinnati Masters.

"I'm just happy that it's finally out," said Sinner, who fired his physiotherapist and trainer in the wake of the affair.

Alcaraz, who won his first major at the US Open in 2022, was badly bruised by his defeat to Djokovic in the Olympic final.

He lost his cool in a second-round exit at Cincinnati and tweaked an ankle in practice at Flushing Meadows, but insisted he'd be "100 percent" for his first-round match on Tuesday.

Defending women's champion Coco Gauff has endured a worrying dip in form in recent weeks, raising doubts

over whether she could become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2014 to successfully defend her US Open crown.

A stormy third-round exit from the Olympics was followed by early defeats in Toronto and Cincinnati.

Five-time major winner and world number one Iga Swiatek, the 2022 champion, made the Cincinnati semifinals where she was defeated by Aryna Sabalenka.

Sabalenka, the Australian Open champion and runner-up to Gauff in New York last year, is another contender in a wide-open field that also features Wimbledon winner Barbora Krejickova and Olympic gold medallist Zheng Qinwen.