



## Cautious batting, skillful bowling behind Tigers' Pindi triumph, say coaches

**Exceptional performances from both batting and bowling units, coupled with some fantastic catching and astute captaincy catapulted Bangladesh to a history-making 10-wicket win over Pakistan in the first Test in Rawalpindi on Sunday. In three days' time, Bangladesh will be looking to clinch their maiden Test series win over Pakistan when they take on the hosts in the second Test at the same venue. On Monday, Bangladesh's batting coach David Hemp and pace bowling coach Andre Adams spoke with The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan, shedding light on their convincing win and what they hope to achieve in the following match. Here are the excerpts:**

**The Daily Star (TDS):** How do you see the pace unit's performance in the historical Test win over Pakistan?

**Andre Adams (AA):** I'm incredibly proud. If you look at our last Test performance against Sri Lanka, they were certainly under par. I think there are certain ways to win Test matches. We felt that the way we played in the first Test gave us the best opportunity. And credit to our bowlers as they won it for us at the end. The pacers were fresh in the second innings thanks to the batters and were able to strike and bowl with pace. I think our first innings bowling was pretty good. I think Shakib (Al Hasan) bowled brilliantly. Mehedi (Hasan Miraz) was also amazing. The pace bowlers were excellent in both innings and really challenged the Pakistani batsmen, made it difficult for them. I thought the fields (Najmul Hossain) Shanto set in the second innings were spot on. So that was a very good game.



**TDS:** What do you feel was behind the bowling attack's success in the match?

**AA:** The thing about this group is they are incredibly skillful. I look at the batting and bowling group and think if they can play their part, they can put pressure on most teams. We have a very young bowling line-up. The Bangladeshi people should be incredibly proud of that performance and they should also be pretty excited about the young bowling group coming through.

**TDS:** How challenging will it be for the pacers to maintain consistency in Tests?

**AA:** That's the focus for every coach. Consistency might be the most used word in coaching. We try to help the guys understand how they can be more consistent. When you look at Mushfiqur (Rahim), the standard he sets on and off the field, that's a living example on how one has to do to be world class. It's always wonderful to have such an example, that kind of beacon to walk towards. That's the

kind of desire, discipline and hunger we want to see day in day out.

**TDS:** How do you view the 'pace revolution' in Bangladesh cricket?

**AA:** Well, it's been a couple of years in the making. I think as a group they want to get better. They have to work hard off the field, do things to get fitter, stronger and faster. But the main thing with fast bowling is to bowl the right ball in the right moment. That's something you can learn. The more leadership we get in the bowling group, the more chance the young guys will have to learn faster. So, it's pretty good when you do well on a flat wicket. We have the pace to cause some uncertainty, we have the skill to bowl the right ball at the right time. The guys are learning every day. They want to get better and they have that desire. The competition in the fast bowling group is a great thing for Bangladesh cricket. It's a good headache for everyone.

**TDS:** What will be Bangladesh's plan in the second Test, where a draw or win will earn them their maiden Test series win over Pakistan?

**AA:** I don't know what sort of wicket we will get for the second Test. I don't know how much the plan will change. This is a country where you have to be patient in Test matches. I don't see the plans changing too much from the blueprint of the previous game. The plans could change if they (Pakistan) change their playing XI.

**TDS:** It looked like you guys had specific plans for Babar Azam, can you share that?

**AA:** I can't share the plan (laughs). Obviously, Babar is a great player and you have to be clear about what you want to do to get him out early. You have to pay attention to guys like Babar and (Mohammad) Rizwan, who can take the game away from you.

**The Daily Star (TDS):** What a fantastic performance from the players, pulling off their maiden Test win over Pakistan, that too on Pakistan soil...

**David Hemp (DH):** When you play a Test match, you have to play well every day. That's why it's so difficult to win Test matches. Hats off to the players. We showed great energy and consistency on the field, kept supporting the bowlers in taking wickets, some of the catches that were taken were excellent, coupled with the batting and bowling. That was a really good win. The trick is now to turn up and do it all again in three days' time.

**TDS:** Bangladesh's first inning score of 565 was their best ever total against Pakistan in Tests, what was catalyst behind it?

**DH:** The batting effort was all about discipline and having the mentality of leaving the ball and not worrying about taking singles, not focusing too much on going for boundaries but still looking to score and keep the scoreboard ticking along.

**TDS:** What was the plan of the batting group before the match?

**DH:** What we talked about before the game was how we could set up the game from a batting point of view. Traditionally in Pakistan, the games go to the fifth day. If the bowlers keep bowling in a straight line challenging the stumps, for the batters it becomes a matter of not getting bored, taking singles and making sure you don't play across the line. From the batting point of view, we talked about putting ourselves in a position from where we can win the game. We spoke the importance of surviving the first 20-30 balls to get into the innings. Once you get yourself settled with 30-40 runs, you can make the innings count, try and go on to convert that to a significant score. We wanted to bat for a minimum of 125 overs.



**TDS:** Do you think the lengthy preparation Bangladesh took for the series helped?

**DH:** Obviously, there was a little bit of disturbance for a couple of weeks before we came here because of what was going on in Bangladesh. But up until that stage, the preparation was excellent. After the Sri Lanka series, we had a discussion about what we can do better against different oppositions in different wickets. The red-ball camps while the white-ball players were away worked really well and then the HP team playing in Australia and the 'A' team playing in Pakistan certainly assisted in the individual preparation. I think that had a positive impact on the team preparation.

**TDS:** Shadman Islam returned to the side in place of injured Mahmudul Hasan Joy and hit a brilliant 93. Having two performers for one position is a good headache to have, right?

**DH:** Sometimes it can obviously be a bit of a headache [laughs]. That means a difficult conversation. But you would rather have a difficult conversation because there is a lot of competition for spots than not have any conversations at all. If everybody plays well consistently and to their potential, I think the selectors and head coach will have a lot of tough decisions to make.

**TDS:** Shakib Al Hasan's batting form has been poor for a while. Is he now being considered as more of a spinner than an outright all-rounder?

**DH:** After watching him practice, my personal opinion is he is still driven to succeed and perform with bat and ball. He missed out on the first innings but from whatever I have seen from him in practice and preparation, he is certainly driven to perform and do well in both skillsets. So, I personally don't see that as a concern or an issue.

### SHORT CORNER

#### 'On-field, Shakib has nothing else on his mind'

Shakib Al Hasan's mentor and current Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was not surprised by the left-arm spinner's bowling performance on Day 5 of the first Test against Pakistan, saying his former pupil's ability to keep out all outside noise sets him apart. "He [Shakib] has nothing else on his mind. He only thinks about the batter and where to bowl. He may worry about those things at other times, but not while he is bowling. This is what separates him from others. We see others struggling to play their natural game after some incidents or facing criticism.



That's not the case for Shakib," Fahim told the media in Mirpur yesterday.

#### Bangladesh, Pakistan lose WTC points for slow over-rate

Pakistan and Bangladesh have suffered a blow to their chances of reaching the ICC World Test Championship final after they were found guilty of a slow overrate during the first Test in Rawalpindi. Hosts Pakistan were found to be six overs short during the Test and lost six World Test Championship points, while visitors Bangladesh - who recorded a 10-wicket triumph over their Asian rivals - were docked three points after being found three overs short of the acceptable rate.

#### I'm speechless, says Endrick after landmark goal

Endrick made his official Real Madrid debut in style. Spanish champions Real Madrid earned a 3-0 win over Real Valladolid in La Liga on Sunday and the Brazil teenager Endrick, who replaced Kylian Mbappe late in the match, needed only 10 minutes to become the youngest foreign player to score for Madrid in the Spanish league at 18 years, 35 days, surpassing Frenchman Raphael Varane, who was 18 years, 152 days when he scored in 2011. "I'm speechless. I can only thank God for all that is happening to me," he said after the match.

*\*Read full stories on The Daily Star website*

## Cricket as it should be



Former Bangladesh national team cricketer Yousuf Rahman Babu has outlined remedies to cleanse what he feels is a corruption-plagued Bangladesh Cricket Board and suggested priority areas of reform to focus on in order to reap the rewards of the talent-base in the country and the hard work the cricketers put in.

To read the article, visit The Daily Star website.

## 'True gentleman' Eriksson dies at 76

AFP, London

Prince William hailed Sven-Goran Eriksson as a "true gentleman" as tributes poured in following the former England manager's death on Monday.

Eriksson passed away surrounded by his family after revealing in January he had "at best" a year to live after being diagnosed with terminal cancer.

The 76-year-old Swede was the first foreign manager of England, taking them to the World Cup quarter-finals in 2002 and 2006, while reaching the same stage at Euro 2004.

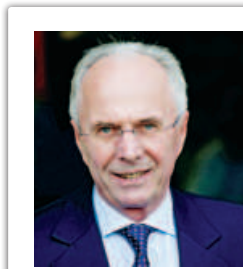
As well as his colourful five-year spell with England, Eriksson managed several of the world's top clubs and countries during 42 years in the dugout.

In his role as president of the English Football Association, Prince William met Eriksson on many occasions.

"Sad to hear about the passing of Sven-Goran Eriksson. I met him several times as England manager and was always struck by his charisma and passion for the game. A true gentleman of the game," he wrote on X.

Although Eriksson was unable to end England's wait for a first major trophy since the 1966 World Cup, his teams produced several memorable performances, including a 5-1 rout of Germany in a World Cup qualifier in 2001.

After stepping down from the England job in 2006, Eriksson managed Manchester City in the 2007-08 season and the Premier League club joined the tributes to their former boss.



## Local coaches deserve recognition and opportunities

SPORTS REPORTER

The likes of Mushfiqur Rahim and Mominul Haque were already going through their gears in the Bangladesh Tigers camp as early as May 26, preparing for the upcoming Test assignments. The camp, held under the guidance of local coaches, played a significant role in Bangladesh's preparations, even as unrest in the country presented obstacles.

While the national team have worked with local coaches for months, the players only began training with the foreign coaching contingent after moving to Pakistan.

Following Bangladesh's historic victory in the first Test in Rawalpindi on Sunday, questions surrounding head coach Chandika Hathurusingha's tenure were reassessed. Yet, the contributions of the local coaches in the country are never paid their due credit.

When spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz seeks advice, he turns to Bangladesh Tigers' camp head coach Sohail Islam, who has also mentored Miraz in the national side as a spin coach. Others, such as Mizanur Rahman Babul, have guided players during the camp and are



PHOTO: STAR

currently overseeing the Bangladesh 'A' side in Pakistan. Local coaches are, more often than not, shunned, with barriers often preventing them from becoming part of the national coaching staff.

Under the Nazmul Hassan Papon-led board, the lack of experience of local coaches had been frequently highlighted as a key factor behind their exclusion. Yet, players often rely on coaches like Mohammed Salahuddin

and others in grassroots coaching to better understand their game.

After the win in Rawalpindi, Mushfiqur Rahim paid tribute to the local staff who prepared them in Dhaka, Sylhet, and Chattogram.

"I just want to share a few things from before the Test series. There was a two, two-and-a-half-month gap, right? So we had a pretty special camp back home with the Bangladesh Tigers camp, and

all the local support staff were there. That was really beneficial for all the players in their preparation," he said.

The question remains as to how to strengthen the local coaching base. Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, mentor to many national team stars and now a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director, believes the contributions of local coaches need to be highlighted.

"I feel that the media are responsible for this too. The media never highlights these things. Maybe we don't do as well. By 'us', I mean the board doesn't appreciate it. The media do not highlight the areas where local coaches are contributing. I feel that whatever contributions are made, regardless of magnitude, should be recognised; it's very important.

"Appreciation is needed for those who are doing good work. The fact that they have been working for a long time has its effect," Fahim said.

As time goes by, BCB's task will be to put words into action and ensure that local coaches receive the credit they deserve, not only through recognition but also through opportunities to work and improve.