

Bangladesh's six-wicket win in the second Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi yesterday confirmed the Tigers' **third overseas Test series win**. They won their one-off Test away to Zimbabwe in 2021 and swept the two-match series away to West Indies in 2009.

This was Bangladesh's **21st** win in **144 Tests**.

Overall, it was Bangladesh's **eighth** win in an overseas Test -- two each in West Indies, Zimbabwe & Pakistan and one each in Sri Lanka & New Zealand.

This was also Bangladesh's **ninth** Test series victory, having played a total of 74 series so far. The other series victories came against Zimbabwe (4 times), West Indies (2), Ireland (1) and Afghanistan (1).

This was only the **second** time Pakistan got whitewashed at home in a Test series after seeing England sweep a series 3-0 in 2022/23.

Bangladesh went on to win the second Test against Pakistan after losing six wickets for 26 runs in the first innings. The last instance of any side winning a Test after losing six wickets below 30 runs happened **137 years** ago when England beat Australia by 13 runs in a game in Sydney in which they had lost six wickets for just 17 runs in the first innings.

The 185-run target that Bangladesh chased down to win yesterday is the Tigers' **third-highest** successful chase behind 215 vs West Indies in St George's in 2009 and 191 vs Sri Lanka in Colombo in 2017. This was also the third-highest chase by a visiting team in Pakistan and the **highest** since Sri Lanka chased 220 in 2000.

Pakistan have now gone **ten** Tests at home without a win (six defeats & four draws).

Pakistan have lost all **five** Tests under Shan Masood -- the worst start by a Pakistan captain.



Mushfiquir Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan celebrate as Bangladesh win second Test against Pakistan by six wickets in Rawalpindi yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Miraz relishes ‘one of his happiest moments’

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

From Mushfiquir Rahim's majestic hundred in the opening Test to Liton Das's resilient ton and the pacers' lethal performance in the series-deciding second Test, there were a number of heroes who played pivotal roles in Bangladesh's maiden Test series victory over Pakistan.

But among them, one particularly stood out with his superb all-round display throughout the series. It was Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who did the job with both the ball and bat, helping Bangladesh clean sweep Pakistan in the two-match series, materialised when the Tigers registered a six-wicket victory in Rawalpindi yesterday their 10-wicket win in the same venue last week.

Since his emergence in the U19 scene in 2016, Miraz has repeatedly shown that he has the mettle to be the true successor of Shakib Al Hasan -- the best all-rounder has produced to date. Especially in the last couple of years, the 26-year-old has come up with some splendid performances, mostly in Tests and ODIs, to justify the point.

In the opening Test, Miraz scored a brilliant 77 after coming to bat at number eight and his record 196-run stand with Mushfiquir helped Bangladesh take a handy first-innings lead over the hosts. Later, he came up with a four-wicket haul in the second innings to orchestrate the Tigers' maiden Test win over Pakistan.

Miraz continued his superb form in the second game as well, registering a fiver to restrict Pakistan under 300 in the first innings. And when Bangladesh were left tottering at 26-6, Miraz made 78 off 124 balls and was part of the rescue act that saw him stitching a record 165-run seventh-wicket stand with Liton Das to help Bangladesh avoid the embarrassment of follow-on and reduce the first innings deficit down to just 12 runs.

"I never thought negatively. If you do that, you can't perform well in this condition. So I just tried always to be confident," Miraz said after yesterday's win.

Having finished with the most number of wickets (10) and as the fifth-highest scorer (155 runs), Miraz justifiably took home the player of the series award. This was his second such accolade as he became only the third Bangladeshi cricketer after Shakib (5) and Taijul Islam (2) to have won the award more than once.

The last and only time Miraz achieved such a feat was back in 2016 when he took 19 wickets in his debut Test series against England at home.

"The team is very happy with my performance, they keep supporting me. This is one of the happiest moments for me," Miraz concluded.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

### Pakistan vs Bangladesh, 2nd Test

**PAKISTAN 1ST INNINGS:** 274 all out (Ayub 58, Masood 57; Miraz 5-61, Taskin 3-57)

**BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS:** 262 all out (Liton 138, Miraz 78; Khurram 6-90)

**PAKISTAN 2ND INNINGS:** 172 all out (Salman 47 not out, Rizwan 43; Mahmud 5-43, Nahid 4-44)

**BANGLADESH 2ND INNINGS:** 185 for 4 (Zakir 40, Shanto 38, Mominul 34; Salman 1-17, Abrar 1-40)

**RESULT:** Bangladesh won by six wickets and took the series 2-0

**PLAYER OF THE MATCH:** Liton Das

**PLAYER OF THE SERIES:** Mehedi Hasan Miraz



# Defiant Liton stepped up ‘to take the game on’

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

If Liton Das's last Test series against Sri Lanka at home is anything to go by, he had been struggling immensely both mentally and technically. His technique, especially against the new ball, had come under scrutiny even before those Sri Lanka Tests. Thus, when he was batting in the Rawalpindi Test on day three, he had to contend with the momentum Pakistan had built up against Bangladesh, as well as his own recent struggles.

If going against the grain is a sought-after trait when achieving a backs-to-the-wall turnaround, Liton mythically overcame his performance issues and played an innings that completely changed the scenario. To put it in perspective, it was Liton's first Test century in 27 months, since the one against Sri Lanka in 2022. Since then, he had scored five fifties in 18 innings, but problems with concentration led to poor shot selection and low scores.

The Tigers were reduced to 26-6, in reply to Pakistan's 272 in first innings, with Mir Hamza and Khurram Shahzad nipping the ball around at will. Usually, Liton is the aggressor, but this time he played according to the situation.

Former captain Mominul Haque, watching with the rest of the team,

described the feelings that engulfed the dressing room at the time.

"The mood within the team was certainly one of disappointment -- it's only natural after losing six wickets so early," Mominul told The Daily Star over the phone from Pakistan.

"When Liton and Miraz were batting, I was sitting upstairs in the dressing room, feeling quite depressed. It was even more acute because the previous day we had been buoyed by the win in the first Test, and all of a sudden it felt like we had nothing.

"Then I went down and felt a bit more optimistic. At that point, they had added around 12-15 runs to our score of 26. I was with Taijul and remember telling him that from here Miraz would score a hundred and Liton would get a ton -- that's 200 runs, and then we'd win. It was just something I said out of the blue without context, but maybe someone granted my wish," he added.

Even with Miraz's massive innings, Liton's task did not end when the last recognised batter, Miraz, got out. He went on to complete his century with only Hasan Mahmud for company, showcasing all the class and maturity that had been missing from his earlier Test innings.

"Liton and Miraz were just

unbelievable. It proves that there is nothing unbelievable in cricket," Mominul said.

"After Miraz got out, we were a bit tense, as another wicket would mean Liton wouldn't get his hundred. The way he played throughout the innings, doing what was necessary, taking risks when needed, and his shot selection and counter-attacking at the right moments, showed he took all the responsibility to take the game on," Mominul aptly remarked.

Mominul noted that Liton was nervous at the start, but once Miraz relieved some pressure with boundaries, Liton capitalised on that momentum to end up scoring a 228-ball 138 that set the stage for Bangladesh's first series win in Pakistan.

"You need to counter-attack according to your strengths. His [Liton's] move was that when they attacked his strong zones he went on the attack. He plays the cuts and pulls very well and they set him up for short deliveries but he capitalised," said Mominul.

As a fast bowler, I was looking for wickets, and the boys, our effort [with the ball], we really deserved it.

HASAN MAHMUD

They [Pakistan] had good momentum. We [me and Miraz] had to kill that momentum [while batting in first innings after Bangladesh lost six for 26 runs]. It's a big achievement by the Bangladesh cricket team.

LITON DAS

Very proud. Very young group, in terms of the number of games they have played. Probably not the kind of wickets we were expecting but this group has improved every Test and showed some good control, particularly in the second innings.

Bangladesh pace bowling coach  
ANDRE ADAMS

I dedicate this award to the student protestors who were martyred. A rickshaw-puller was hurt in the violence, and eventually died. I want to gift this award to his family.

MEHEDI HASAN MIRAZ

Heartiest congratulations on behalf of the government and myself. The whole nation is proud of you.

PROF MUHAMMAD YUNUS,  
Chief Adviser.

Extremely disappointed, we were excited for the home season. The story has been the same as Australia, we have not learnt our lessons.

SHAN MASOOD, Pakistan skipper

Means a lot, can't express in words. Really happy. We were looking to win here and very happy with the way everyone has done their job.

NAJMUL HOSSAIN SHANTO, Bangladesh skipper

We don't play Test really well. We don't even have a good track record in Tests. The team went to Pakistan having these in their minds. Beating Pakistan in Pakistan is a massive thing for any country whether it's India, Australia or England. And we won both the matches by dominating them.

NAZMUL ABEDEEN FAHIM, BCB director

# Bangladesh make big strides on WTC table

## WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS TABLE

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts	Pct
1	India	9	6	2	1	74	68.52
2	Australia	12	8	3	1	90	62.5
3	New Zealand	6	3	3	0	36	50
4	Bangladesh	6	3	3	0	33	45.83
5	England	15	8	6	1	81	45
6	South Africa	6	2	3	1	28	38.89
7	Sri Lanka	6	2	4	0	24	33.33
8	Pakistan	7	2	5	0	16	19.05
9	West Indies	9	1	6	2	20	18.52

## STAR SPORTS REPORT

Bangladesh have moved to fourth position on the World Test Championship (2023-25) table following their historic 2-0 series victory away in Pakistan on Monday.

The Tigers started the two-match series in eighth position on the nine-team table and moved up two places following their 10-wicket win against Pakistan in the first Test in Rawalpindi. The win in the second Test, which the Tigers won by six wickets, moved them two places further up, leapfrogging England and South Africa.

The Najmul Hossain Shanto-led side are currently in fourth position with three wins and three defeats from six matches, with a 45.83 percentage points.

India, Australia and New Zealand occupy the top three positions on the table.

Bangladesh will play two Tests against India later month before hosting South Africa for a two-match series in October-November.

The Tigers will wrap up the World Test Championship Cycle with two Test matches away at West Indies in November-December this year.

The two finalists of the World Test Championship, which will be held at Lord's in London from June 11, 2025, will be declared on January 28 next year.

Australia are the reigning World Test champions after beating India at The Oval in 2023.