

Ishant-led pace battery wreaks havoc

Bangladesh skittled out for 106; Kohli and Pujara consolidate

DAY-NIGHT TEST

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

The Indians enjoyed the challenge of the pink ball, adapted effortlessly and put up an emphatic performance in their day-night Test debut.

Asked to bowl on a dry track, India's world-class pace battery bundled out Bangladesh for 106 in less than three hours. Then, aided by disciplined half-centuries from captain Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, the host scored 174 for three at close on the opening day at the Eden Gardens here on Friday.

Wriddhiman Saha's words about the Indian speedsters prior to the Test turned out to be prophetic. They grew in confidence after about half-an-hour and wreaked havoc on Bangladesh in front of their Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Lovely rhythm

Ishant found his rhythm, chose the right areas and extracted fine movement off the surface to be the first from the country to take a pink five-for – his first at home in 12 years.

Bowling round the wicket to the left-handed opening duo, Ishant looked effective right from the start. He mixed his stock deliveries with ones that cut into the southpaws.

The lanky Delhi bowler became the first Indian to take a wicket with the pink ball when he trapped Imrul Kayes in front. The batsman had used the DRS lifeline to survive a caught behind decision.

Umesh Yadav then changed ends to deal a double blow. Rohit Sharma, who had practised sharp catches prior to the match, leaped to



All at sea: Ebadot Hossain becomes one of Ishant Sharma's five victims. ■K.R. DEEPAK

his right to remove skipper Mominul Haque and give Umesh his first scalp. Mithun inside-edged an incoming delivery.

Mohammed Shami extracted huge lateral movement, but benefited by sticking to the stumps. He drifted the ball enough as Mushfiqur Rahim, Bangladesh's top-scorer in the first Test, played on.

The visiting batsmen made things easier for the host with their lack of footwork. Opener Shadman Islam (29) became Wriddhiman Saha's 100th dismissal and Umesh's third victim.

Mahmudullah poked at Ishant's away-going delivery to be spectacularly held by

Saha in front of first slip as Bangladesh was reduced to 60 for six inside 20 overs.

A defiant Liton Das displayed his compact game, but his innings was cut short rather unfortunately. Liton, who missed a pull off Shami and was hit on the helmet when he was on 15, shrugged off the blow to play a few lovely boundaries. Liton complained of discomfort in the next over when umpires called for supper with Bangladesh at 73 for six. He retired and was replaced by all-rounder Mehidy Hasan.

As the lights were switched on in the second session, sighting the pink ball became an issue. Ishant, egged on by an enthusiastic

crowd, uprooted Nayeem and Ebadot Hossain's off stumps and had Mehidy caught at short-midwicket.

And when Rohit fumbled with a catch at slip, Pujara lapped it up on the rebound to end the Bangladesh innings.

Mayank Agarwal and Rohit began confidently, but could not convert their starts.

Pujara and Kohli applied themselves, their determined 94-run partnership for the third wicket putting India on top. Pujara drove, cut and played his trademark wristy shots on the outside to hit eight fours in his 21st Test half-century (55, 105 balls). He was caught at second slip, the unexpected bounce from

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH – 1ST INNINGS

Shadman Islam c Saha b Umesh 29 (52b, 5x4), Imrul Kayes lbw b Ishant 4 (15b), Mominul Haque c Rohit b Umesh 0 (7b), Mohd. Mithun b Umesh 0 (2b), Mushfiqur Rahim b Shami 0 (4b), Mahmudullah c Saha b Ishant 6 (21b, 1x4), Liton Das (ret. hurt) 24 (27b, 5x4), Nayeem Hasan b Ishant 19 (28b, 4x4), Ebadot Hossain b Ishant 1 (7b), Mehidy Hasan c Pujara b Ishant 8 (13b, 2x4), Al-Amin Hossain (not out) 1 (4b), Abu Jayed c Pujara b Shami 0 (3b); Extras (b-8, lb-6); 14; Total (in 30.3 overs): 106.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-15 (Kayes, 6.3 overs), 2-17 (Mominul, 10.1), 3-17 (Mithun, 10.3), 4-26 (Mushfiqur, 11.5), 5-38 (Shadman, 14.2), 6-60 (Mahmudullah, 19.4), 7-82 (Ebadot, 23.5), 8-98 (Mehidy, 27.6), 9-105 (Nayeem, 29.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Ishant 12-4-22-5, Umesh 7-2-29-3, Shami 10.3-2-36-2, Jadeja 1-0-5-0.

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
Mayank Agarwal c Mehidy b Al-Amin 14 (21b, 3x4), Rohit Sharma lbw b Ebadot 21 (35b, 2x4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Pujara c Shadman b Ebadot 55 (105b, 8x4), Virat Kohli (batting) 59 (93b, 8x4), Ajinkya Rahane (batting) 23 (22b, 3x4); Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 46 overs): 174.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-26 (Mayank, 4.4), 2-43 (Rohit, 12.5), 3-137 (Pujara, 39.1).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Al-Amin 14-3-49-1, Jayed 12-3-40-0, Ebadot 12-1-61-2, Taijul 8-0-23-0.

Toss: Bangladesh.

Ebadot's delivery doing him in.

Kohli (59 batting) defended deliveries that deserved respect and drove beautifully to collect most of his runs down the ground and through the cover region.

A gorgeous pull off Ebadot brought up his 50. He stood firm with deputy Ajinkya Rahane (23 not out) till the end.

'Pink ball behaves differently'

Ishant reveals that his 'special' delivery is working wonders



Standing tall: Ishant Sharma was the toast of the team on an eventful day. ■K.R. DEEPAK

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Ishant Sharma, who took a five-for at home after a gap of 12 years, attributed the variety he has added to his arsenal for the swing in fortunes.

"I was looking for variety for quite some time. For instance, I was usually bowling outswingers to the left-handers. But I worked on a delivery that comes straight after pitching while appearing to move away. I think it is quite effective as I got three wickets with the delivery today [Friday]," said Ishant.

About his pink-ball experience, Ishant said it was quite different from the red ball. "The pink ball behaves quite differently and initially we had a bit of a struggle and had to adjust our line and length to be consistent."

Ishant, when asked about finishing with a five-wicket haul at home after a long time, said he had tried to replicate the mindset with which he bowls while playing abroad. "I just tried to

get into the mindset with which I play abroad. I told myself that if I can bowl and take a good number of wickets abroad, then why not do it in India," he said.

Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo admitted that his top-order batsmen found it tough against the disciplined and deadly Indian pace attack. "The biggest difference was the tentativeness of our batsmen who could not counter the discipline with which the Indian pacers bowled," he said.

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Two concussion subs

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Two players from the same team were substituted under the concussion rule for the first time in a Test.

Bangladesh's Liton Das, struck on the helmet by a Mohammed Shami bouncer, wanted to continue after being attended to by the physio, but soon felt discomfort

and retired. He was replaced by Mehidy Hasan.

The second one
Off-spinner Nayeem Hasan was then hit by a Shami bouncer in the second session.

Though he carried on gamely before being the last man dismissed, Nayeem retired, making way for Taijul Islam.

STAT SPHERE

- Kohli becomes the first Indian batsman to score 5000 Test runs as captain. He took just 53 matches (86 innings) to reach the landmark, beating Ricky Ponting's record (54 Tests, 97 innings)

- Ishant's five for 22 in Bangladesh's first innings is his 10th five-wicket haul

- Saha is the fifth Indian wicketkeeper to effect 100 dismissals. Kirmani, More, Mongia and Dhoni are the others to achieve the feat

Spectacular start and gala shows

Sheikh Hasina and Mamata Banerjee set the pink ball Test rolling

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

India and Bangladesh, taking part in their first-ever day-night Test, were initiated into the innovative version with fanfare. The occasion was made more special by the presence of government heads from either side of the border.

Eden Gardens, which had filled almost to capacity, presented an electrifying setting for the visiting Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee as they set the pink ball Test rolling by ringing the bell.

They were also introduced to the teams by captains Virat Kohli and Mominul Haque, and were accompanied by an illustrious group, including the



When legends meet: V.V.S. Laxman, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble and Sachin Tendulkar talk shop at the Eden Gardens on Friday. ■K.R. DEEPAK

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and his Bangladesh counterpart Nazmul Hasan.

The 60,000-strong spectators were in for a full dose of entertainment during the intervals.

At the first break, there

was a panel discussion featuring India greats Sachin Tendulkar, V.V.S. Laxman, Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh – each of whom had a special story to tell about the momentous Test win against Australia in 2001. They reminisced the best moments of their careers.

The next break saw a galaxy of stars descending on the venue.

The fans in the stands roared as Rahul Dravid, Tendulkar, Kumble, Mohammad Azharuddin, Dilip Vengsar, Farokh Engineer, Kapil Dev, K. Srikanth and G.R. Viswanath, along with the stars of women's cricket – Jhulan Goswami, Mithali Raj and Shantana Rangaswamy – were taken around Eden in golf carts.

Grand opening



Talking heads: Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, right, with West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, left, and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly during the inauguration of India's first day-night Test in Kolkata on Friday. ■K.R. DEEPAK

Bharat to join squad

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Andhra wicketkeeper-batsman Srikr Bharat has been asked to join the Indian team in Kolkata.

Talking to *The Hindu*, the 26-year-old Bharat said, "It's a big moment. It means my performances are being recognised."

Apparently, the Indian team-management wants to have a closer look at Bharat who has earned praise for his 'keeping skills, ahead of the tour of New Zealand.

Learned from Saha
Bharat said he learned much from Wriddhiman Saha during the India 'A' tour of the West Indies this year. "Saha treated me like a younger brother, we spoke about different aspects of 'keeping.' While the basics in 'keep-

ing were important, Bharat added, "What matters at the highest level is how you cope with and react to pressure."

Somebody who averages 37.58 with the bat in First Class cricket, Bharat revealed he learnt much from the legendary Rahul Dravid.

Dravid's advice
Bharat said, "Dravid sir would speak about reading the game situation, batting through sessions."

And Bharat honed his skills, particularly standing up, playing in the first division league in Chennai, at Young Stars, for five years before moving to MRC-A.

Bharat, whose idol is M.S. Dhoni, believed the competition for 'keeping slots in the Indian team was healthy.

Mumbai and Hyderabad swap T20Is

AMOL KARHADKAR
V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
MUMBAI/HYDERABAD

As a fallout of the Mumbai Police's refusal to provide security on December 6, the itinerary for India's T20I series against the West Indies next month has been tweaked.

The first and third matches of the series, earlier scheduled in Mumbai on December 6 and Hyderabad on December 11, have been swapped.

Hyderabad Cricket Association secretary R. Vijayanand confirmed to *The Hindu* that the city will now host the first T20I on December 6.

The swap was forced hours after the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) informed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) of its inability to host the series-opener on December 6.

Revised itinerary (T20Is): Dec. 6, Hyderabad; Dec. 8, Thiruvananthapuram; Dec. 11, Mumbai.

Warner puts Australia in driver's seat

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISBANE

Pakistan was left to rue a basic error from 16-year-old debutant Naseem Shah as Australia opener David Warner plundered the visitors' attack with a brilliant 151 not out on the second day of the first Test at the Gabba on Friday.

Australia finished the day on 312 for the loss of just one wicket, 72 runs ahead of Pakistan's first innings total of 240 and already in the driving seat.

Marnus Labuschagne was

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan —1st innings: 240. **Australia —1st innings:** D. Warner (batting) 151, J. Burns b Yasir 97, M. Labuschagne (batting) 55; Extras (b-2, lb-4, nb-3) 9; Total (for one wkt. in 87 overs): 312. **Fall of wicket:** 1-222. **Pakistan bowling:** Shaheen Afridi 18-5-44-0, Imran 12-1-43-0, Naseem 16-0-65-0, Iftikhar 6-0-26-0, Yasir 28-1-101-1, Sohail 7-0-27-0.

alongside Warner on 55, with the only wicket to fall that of Joe Burns (97).



Making hay: David Warner made the most of a reprieve to notch up a big hundred. ■GETTY IMAGES

England claims day's honours

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

England took the prized wicket of New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson to narrowly claim the honours on day two of the first Test as the host rued a missed review and was nearly made to pay for signing too many autographs.

After New Zealand slumped to 106 for three,

SCOREBOARD

England —1st innings: R. Burns c Watling b de Grandhomme 52, D. Sibley c Taylor b de Grandhomme 22, J. Denly c Watling b Southee 74, J. Root c Southee b Wagner 2, B. Stokes c Taylor b Southee 91, O. Pope c Watling b Southee 29, J. Buttler c Santner b Wagner 43, S. Curran lbw b Southee 0, J. Archer c Southee b Boult 4, J. Leach (not out) 18, S. Broad b Wagner 1; Extras: (b-2, lb-11, w-3, nb-1) 17; Total (in 124 overs): 353. **Fall of wickets:** 1-52, 2-113, 3-120, 4-203, 5-277 6-286, 7-286, 8-295, 9-347.

New Zealand bowling: Boult 31-6-97-1, Southee 32-7-88-4,

Williamson had been leading New Zealand's recovery when he was removed for 51.

At stumps, the Black Caps were 144 for four in reply to England's 353.

Henry Nicholls was not out 26 with B.J. Watling on six, still standing after a day when 10 wickets fell, some in contestable circumstances.

de Grandhomme 23-5-41-2, Wagner 32-7-90-3, Santner 6-1-24-0.

New Zealand — 1st innings: J. Raval c Denly b Leach 19, T. Latham lbw b Curran 8, K. Williamson c Stokes b Curran 51, R. Taylor c Pope b Stokes 25, H. Nicholls (batting) 26, B. Watling (batting) 6; Extras (b-9): 9; Total (for four wkts. in 51 overs): 144. **Fall of wickets:** 1-18, 2-72, 3-106, 4-127.

England bowling: Broad 10-4-20-0, Archer 14-4-40-0, Curran 10-4-28-2, Leach 12-1-29-1, Stokes 4-0-16-1, Root 1-0-2-0.

Russia, Canada in last four

DAVIS CUP

REUTERS
MADRID

Russia battled past 2010 champion Serbia 2-1 in the Davis Cup quarterfinals on Friday to reach the last four for the first time since 2008.

Russia will face Canada, which claimed its first ever Davis Cup victory over another former champion Australia.

Andrey Rublev put Russia in front by swatting aside Filip Krajinovic 6-1, 6-2 in the opening match at the La Caja Magica before Novak Djokovic dragged Serbia back into the tie with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Karen Khachanov.



Fantastic feat: Andrey Rublev and Karen Khachanov celebrate their win over Novak Djokovic and Viktor Troicki. ■GETTY IMAGES

No stopping Vijender



Vijender Singh. ■FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI

Indian boxing star Vijender Singh demolished Ghana's former Commonwealth champion Charles Adamu to claim his 12th successive win, and ensure that his four-year unbeaten streak in the professional circuit remained intact, here on Friday.

The 34-year-old former Olympic bronze-medallist prevailed unanimously in an eight-round super middleweight contest against the 42-year-old, who found the Indian's right hand too precise and powerful to handle.