Kohli and Ishant pile on Bangladesh's misery

The former's 136 and the latter's four-for put India in a winning position; Mushfiqur's defiant knock keeps the visitors afloat

DAY-NIGHT TEST

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Skipper Virat Kohli scored his 27th Test century – his 70th in International cricket – as India seized control of the second Test against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens on Saturday.

Thanks to Kohli's 136, India declared at 347 for nine after resuming at 174 for three – a 241-run first innings lead – and dictated the course of the first-ever pink-ball Test in the country.

Bangladesh rode on Mushfiqur Rahim's fighting unbeaten 59 to partially recover from another disastrous start and was 152 for six at close on day two.

Earlier, the overnight batsmen Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane put on 99, the latter reaching his 21st half-century. The older pink ball, unlike the red one, was negotiated with ease by the two. Only after the ball was changed in the 55th over, the Bangladesh bowlers started to pose a threat.

Bowling from the second over of the day, Taijul Islam relished the 'new' ball as he bowled slower, flighted the ball and extracted turn to beat the Indian batsmen. He scalped Rahane (51) who cut straight to point.

Kohli, who unleashed some copybook cover-drives, entertained the crowd which turned up in large numbers for the second day runnings.

Amidst chants of 'Kohli, Kohli!', the India skipper turned Taijul to the leg-side for a couple of runs to reach his second consecutive hundred at the Eden.

Another day at office: Virat Kohli added to his collection of international centuries with a 70th on Saturday. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

Kohli, who welcomed Abu Jayed with four consecutive boundaries through gully, mid-on, midwicket and cover, added 51 with Ravindra Jadeja (12).

The partnership was broken by Ebadot Hossain in the first over after supper. In the twilight period, Bangladesh took the new ball immediately after the 80th over.

Stunning catch

Taijul, who bowled 17 overs on the trot, had a big hand in removing Kohli in the 81st over. The century-maker flicked Ebadot only to see Taijul, positioned at long-leg, move to his right and complete a stunning two-handed catch. After India declared with 44 overs left in the day, Ishant Sharma carried on his fine form to trap Shadman Islam in the first over. He also sent back Imrul Kayes and captain Mominul Haque in quick time as Bangladesh slid to 13 for four in the seventh over.

The recovery

The experienced pair of Mushfiqur Rahim, who was hit by an Umesh delivery, and Mahmudullah, who was tested by Shami with some rising deliveries, showed courage to resist the Indian pace attack. However, the 69-run stand ended with Mahmudullah (39) retiring hurt after pulling a hamstring.

Mushfiqur, who collected most of his runs through cut shots and twice used the DRS to survive, sent Ishant to the point boundary to reach his half-century.

He was involved in a valuable 51-run association with Mehidy Hasan. The latter, who was dropped by Ajinkya Rahane in R. Ashwin's first over of the Test, was dismissed by Ishant on his return.

The day ended with Taijul's departure, but Bangladesh has its task cut out on Sunday when another full house is expected at the Eden Gardens.

STAT SPHERE

1 Kohli becomes India's first century-maker in a pink ball Test. It is also his 27th Test hundred

7 India has declared in seven consecutive innings, the most by a team. England is second (six successive innings in 2009)

41 Number of international centuries for Kohli since becoming India's captain, the joint-most by a skipper alongside Ricky Ponting

70 Kohli has 70 international centuries in 438 innings, the third highest behind Sachin (100 100s in 782 innings) and Ponting (71 in 668)

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH — 1st innings: 106.

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 c Taijul b Ebadot 136 *(194b, 18x4)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Ebadot b Taijul 51 *(69b, 7x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja b Jayed 12 *(41b)*, Wriddhiman Saha (not out) 17 *(41b, 2x4)*, R. Ashwin lbw b Al-Amin 9 *(21b, 2x4)*, Umesh Yadav c Shadman b Jayed 0 *(3b)*, Ishant Sharma lbw b Al-Amin 0 *(3b)*, Mohammed Shami (not out) 10 *(5b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-12, lb-2, w-8): 22; Total (for nine wkts. decl. in 89.4 overs): 347.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-26 (Mayank, 4.4 overs), 2-43 (Rohit, 12.5), 3-137 (Pujara, 39.1), 4-236 (Rahane, 61.1), 5-289 (Jadeja, 76.2), 6-308 (Kohli, 80.3), 7-329 (Ashwin, 85.6), 8-330 (Umesh, 86.4), 9-331 (Ishant, 87.3).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Al-Amin 22.4-3-85-3, Jayed 21-6-77-2, Ebadot 21-3-91-3, Taijul 25-2-80-1.

BANGLADESH — 2nd innings

Shadman Islam lbw b Ishant 0 *(5b)*, Imrul Kayes c Kohli b Ishant 5 *(15b)*, Mominul Haque c Saha b Ishant 0 *(6b)*, Mohammad Mithun c Shami b Umesh 6 *(12b)*, Mushfiqur Rahim (batting) 59 *(70b, 10x4)*, Mahmudullah retd. hurt 39 *(41b, 7x4)*, Mehidy Hasan c Kohli b Ishant 15 *(22b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Taijul Islam c Rahane b Umesh 11 *(24b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-8, lb-4, w-5): 17; Total (for six wkts. in 32.3 overs): 152.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Shadman, 0.5), 2-2 (Mominul, 2.5), 3-9 (Mithun, 5.2), 4-13 (Kayes, 6.4), 5-133 (Mehidy, 25.6), 6-152 (Taijul, 32.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Ishant 9-1-39-4, Umesh 10.3-0-40-2, Shami 8-0-42-0, Ashwin 5-0-19-0.

Batting under lights challenging: Pujara

Ace in the pack: Ishant Sharma's 'new' delivery has drawn the attention of one and all. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Ishant Sharma's 'special' delivery which he has developed recently has come in for praise from teammates.

"That is something which he has worked on and he is able to use this delivery both against the right- and left-handers. He generally bowls into the right-handers, but this delivery is something that moves away after pitching," said Cheteshwar Pujara here on Saturday.

"This is something he has learnt and we saw him bowl it in the previous Test in Indore too. Given the kind of length he is bowling, it is difficult to bat against," said Pujara of Ishant who has picked up nine wickets in the Eden Test so far.

About batting in a day-night Test, Pujara said the pink ball posed more problems under lights. "Batting is quite challenging under lights. The first session is a bit easier as it is under sunlight, but under lights the ball starts to swing a little more," revealed Pujara.

When asked to compare his experience with the SG ball used in this Test and the Kookaburra ball, the India No. 3 said the former was helpful to both the pacers and spinners. "The SG swings a bit more than the Kookaburra, but both come on to the bat. SG also helps the spinners more than the Kookaburra and we saw Taijul and Ashwin doing well with it," said Pujara.

IN BRIEF

Pant and Gill released for SMAT

SURAT

Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill have been released by the Indian team management from the Test squad to allow them to play for Delhi and Punjab respectively in the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament here in Surat from Sunday. Shikhar Dhawan will miss Sunday's match as well after he suffered an injury to his knee in the first match against Maharashtra.

Ghosal goes down in a thriller

LONDON

Sourav Ghosal lost a five-game quarterfinal thriller to top seed Mohamed El Shorbagy of Egypt ended in the Channel VAS squash championship, a PSA World Tour gold event, on Friday. The Egyptian won 5-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 12-10 in 85 minutes, saving a match ball in the process.

India clubbed with Argentina, Australia

NEW DELHI

India has been clubbed along with defending champions Argentina and World No. 1 Australia in Pool A of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics men's hockey competition. The women's team has also been placed in Pool A along with defending champions Great Britain and World No. 1 the Netherlands. PTI

Labuschagne, bowlers drive Australia forward

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISBANE

Australia looks certain to take a 1-0 lead in its series against Pakistan after dominating with both bat and ball on day three of the first Test here on Saturday.

Big centuries to Marnus Labuschagne (185) and David Warner (154) helped Australia to a first innings total of 580 in reply to Pakistan's 240.

At stumps, Pakistan was in big trouble on 64 for three, still needing 276 runs to make Australia bat again. Shan Masood was 27 and Babar Azam on 20 at the close.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan —1st innings: 240.
Australia —1st innings: D. Warner c Rizwan b Naseem 154, J. Burns b Yasir 97, M. Labuschagne c Azam b Shaheen 185, S. Smith b Yasir 4, M. Wade c Rizwan b Sohail 60, T. Head c Rizwan b Sohail 24, T. Paine c Shafiq b Shaheen 13, P. Cummins c Rizwan b Imran 7, M. Starc lbw b Yasir 5, N. Lyon (not out) 13, J. Hazlewood lbw b Yasir 5; Extras (b-6, lb-4, nb-3) 13; Total (in 157.4 overs): 580.
Fall of wickets: 1-222, 2-351, 3-358, 4-468, 5-506, 6-545, 7-546, 8-559, 9-567.
Pakistan bowling: Shaheen 34-7-96-2, Imran 24-3-73-1, Naseem 20-1-68-1, Iftikhar 12-0-53-0, Yasir 48.4-1-205-4, Sohail 19-1-75-2.
Pakistan —2nd innings: Shan Masood (batting) 27; Azhar Ali lbw b Starc 5, Haris Sohail c Paine b Starc 8, Asad Shafiq c Smith b Cummins 0, Babar Azam (batting) 20; Extras (lb-3, nb-1) 4; Total (for three wkts. in 17 overs): 64.
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-25, 3-25.
Australia bowling: Starc 4-0-25-2, Cummins 5-1-16-1, Hazlewood 6-1-16-1, Lyon 2-1-4-0.

Watling leads fightback

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

A gritty B-J. Watling, New Zealand's go-to man when the chips are down, produced an unbeaten 119 to put the Black Caps ahead of England in the first innings of the opening Test on Saturday.

At stumps on day three, New Zealand was 394 for six to lead England by 41.

Watling has toiled for almost seven hours to rescue New Zealand from a precarious situation and notch his eighth Test century.

Much of it was with Colin de Grandhomme in a 119-run stand for the sixth wicket, followed by an unbroken 78 with Mitchell Santner, who was 31 not out.

B-J. Watling toiled for almost seven hours to rescue NZ. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

England —1st innings: 353.
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 lbw b Root 41, B-J. Watling (batting) 119, C. de Grandhomme c Sibley b Stokes 65, M. Santner (batting) 31; Extras (b-22, lb-4, w-7, nb-2) 35; Total (for six in 141 overs): 394.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-72, 3-106, 4-127, 5-197, 6-316.
England bowling: Broad 25-10-45-0, Archer 30-8-84-0, Curran 23-6-74-2, Leach 37-6-97-1, Stokes 16-4-37-2, Root 10-2-31-1.

Liverpool's late show sinks Palace

Mourinho magic lifts Spurs; City gets the better of Chelsea

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
LONDON

Liverpool showed once again why it is the king of the late winners at Crystal Palace on Saturday as Jose Mourinho made an instant impact as Tottenham boss, masterminding an end to the club's dismal away record in the Premier League against rival West Ham.

Liverpool looked set to drop points for just the second time this season after Wilfried Zaha cancelled out Sadio Mane's opener but Roberto Firmino poked in after a goalmouth scramble to seal a 2-1 win.

Manchester City downed Chelsea 2-1, thanks to strikes from Kevin De Bruyne and Riyad Mahrez.

He is back! Mourinho won his first game in charge. ▪ AFP

Important results: EPL: Manchester City 2 (De Bruyne 29, Mahrez 37) bt Chelsea 1 (Kante 21); West Ham 2 (Antonio 73, Ogbonna 90+6) lost to Tottenham 3 (Son 36, Moura 43, Kane 49); Arsenal 2 (Lacazette 18, 90+6) drew with Southampton 2 (Ings 8, Ward-Prowse 71); Brighton 0 lost to Leicester 2 (Perez 64, Vardy 82-pen); Crystal Palace 1 (Zaha 82) lost to Liverpool 2 (Mane 49, Firmino 85).
La Liga: Leganes 1 (En-Nesyri 12) lost to Barcelona 2 (Suarez 53, Vidal 79).
Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Sancho 47, Witsel 84, Reus 90+3) drew with Paderborn 3 (Mamba 5, 37, Holtmann 43); Union Berlin 2 (Ujah 15, Andersson 90+1) bt Borussia M'gladbach 0.
Serie A: Atalanta 1 (Gosens 56) lost to Juventus 3 (Higuain 74, 82, Dybala 90+2).

Canada moves into the final

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MADRID

Denis Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil led Canada to its maiden Davis Cup final with victory in a deciding doubles rubber against Russia on Saturday.

The results: Semifinal: Canada bt Russia 2-1 [Vasek Pospisil lost to Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-4; Denis Shapovalov bt Karen Khachanov 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Shapovalov & Pospisil bt Khachanov & Rublev 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(5)].

Quarterfinals: Spain bt Argentina 2-1 [Pablo Carreno lost to Guido Pella 6-7(3), 7-6 (4), 6-1; Rafael Nadal bt Diego Schwartzman 6-1, 6-2; Nadal & Marcel Granollers bt Maximo Gonzalez & Leonardo Mayer 6-4, 4-6, 6-3].

Great Britain bt Germany 2-0 [Kyle Edmund bt Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 7-5; Daniel Evans bt Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6(8), 3-6, 7-6(2)].

Vidit lets Carlsen off the hook

TATA STEEL CHESS

RAKESH RAO
KOLKATA

Precisely six years to the day, after waking up as the new World champion in Chennai, Magnus Carlsen continues to provide reasons that underline the belief surrounding his invincibility.

After finishing day one of the Tata Steel rapid and blitz chess tournament with two wins, the Norwegian stretched his winning run at the expense of Hikaru Nakamura and Anish Giri on Saturday.

In the time between these wins, Carlsen dabbled in a bit of football, showed his control and dribbling skills. Feeling refreshed, he returned to dominate Anish Giri.

Contrary to the run of play and much to the joy of the spectators at the National Library auditorium here, Carlsen almost faltered against wild card Vidit Gujrathi.

Having held a one-pawn advantage and dominated the eventually drawn game, Vidit admitted being left with a feeling that he let Carlsen off the hook.

Vidit, before holding Carlsen, drew with Giri and lost to So.

All this while, for the second successive day, Anand's start-stop journey continued.

The results (rapid): Sixth round: Viswanathan Anand lost to Anish Giri (Ned); Vidit Gujrathi drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor); P. Hari Krishna lost to Hikaru Nakamura (USA); Ding Liren (Chn) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm); Wesley So (USA) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus).

Fifth round: Nakamura drew with Anand; Giri lost to Carlsen; Aronian bt Hari; So bt Vidit; Nepomniachtchi lost to Liren.

Fourth round: Anand bt Aronian; Carlsen bt Nakamura; Hari bt Nepomniachtchi; Liren lost to So; Vidit drew with Giri.

Points (Win: 2 points; Draw: 1, Loss: 0): 1. Carlsen 10 points; 2-3. So, Nakamura (7 each), 4-6. Anand, Liren, Giri (6 each), 7-9. Hari, Vidit, Aronian (5 each), 10. Nepomniachtchi (3).

Missed opportunity: Vidit Gujrathi dominated the game, but Magnus Carlsen held on for a draw. ▪ RAJEEV BHATT

Chhetri helps BFC overcome Blasters

ISL

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

Sunil Chhetri's diving header handed Bengaluru FC a 1-0 victory over Kerala Blasters at a densely-packed Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday. The BFC captain's second-half effort was enough to propel his side to a second win of the season, and to second spot on the table, level with leader ATK.

The game got underway in a frenzied, electric atmosphere, with the Blasters fans turning out in great numbers, easily matching the home support. BFC began cautiously, and it was a while before Carles Cuadrat's all-Indian front three began having an impact on the game. They gradually grew into the contest, though, and in the 28th minute, BFC felt it had taken the lead.

An Udanta Singh cut-back from the byline was headed in by Raphael Augusto, but the assistant referee deemed that the ball had gone out of play first. And so the goal was chalked off. On television replays, though, it was far from clear if the whole of the ball had crossed the whole of the line.

Dance of delight: Chhetri celebrates his strike. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

BFC continued to impose itself on the game, with Blasters limited to counter-attacks. A long goal-kick saw Messi Bouli through on goal, but the forward hammered the ball miles over the bar.

BFC stormed out of the traps in the second half, putting the Kerala defence under great pressure. The push yielded the desired result 10 minutes in. A corner from Dimas Delgado found Chhetri completely unmarked. He darted in from the edge of the area, and stooped to nod the ball home.

Augusto shows his class

Augusto, BFC's summer recruit, was excellent all evening. The Brazilian is quite simply a higher class of footballer than those around him; he brings a cutting edge to this BFC attack. He nearly doubled the advantage in the 74th minute, drawing a fine left-footed save from T.P. Rehenesh.

There were a couple of flash-points as the clock ticked down and Kerala desperately sought the equaliser. A lunging tackle on Kuruniyan from Bouli, already on a booking, went unpunished, much to BFC's fury. There were few clear-cut chances for Kerala, as it sank to a third loss in five games.

The result: BFC 1 (Chhetri 55) bt Kerala Blasters 0.