Rohit storm flattens Bangladesh, helps India get back on its feet

The skipper makes it a memorable 100th T20I with a brilliant knock as the host chases down a target of 154 with ease

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

The Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium escaped the fury of Cyclone Maha on Thursday, but a storm of a very different nature made landfall. In what was his 100th T20 international, Rohit Sharma hammered a sayage 43-ball-85 to wipe Bangladesh out. Set 154 for victory in the second T20I here, India strolled home in 15.4 overs, with eight wickets in hand.

It was as if Rohit had had enough of all the slipping up, enough of all the talk of a series defeat, enough of the doubts around India's competence in T20 cricket. He took all that angst and walloped it into the night sky high above Rajkot.

Any possibility of the runchase being a close affair melted away as Rohit took off. Mustafizur Rahman was thumped for 15 in the fourth over, a crunching cover-drive followed by a six into the sight-screen. Al-Amin Hossain was twice steered to the boundary behind square, Rohit placing the ball wherever he pleased. Shafiul Islam bowled what he thought was a decent delivery; Rohit lunged out of the crease and deposited him over long-off.

The off-spinner Afif Hussain was brought on; his first ball was put into orbit, as Rohit raced to an 18th T20I fifty off 23 balls. Mahmudullah gave young Mosaddek Hossain a try; Rohit clobbered his first three balls for six. India's 100 arrived in 9.2 overs; Bangladesh was yet to take a wicket. Rohit eventually fell 15 short of what would have



Hitman: Rohit Sharma did as he pleased, toying with the Bangladesh bowlers. • VIJAY SONEJI

been a fifth T20I hundred, caught at deep mid-wicket. Shreyas Iyer then applied the finishing touches as India levelled the series 1-1. The third and final T20I will be played at Nagpur on Sunday.

There was no sign of the rain that had lashed the ground on match-eve as India won the toss and put Bangladesh in. Liton Das and Mohammad Naim

briskly as Khaleel Ahmed suffered, leaking 24 runs from his first two overs.

Yuzvendra Chahal came on in the sixth, and struck at once. Or so he thought. Liton had been beaten after charging a long way out of his crease, and Rishabh Pant had whipped the bails off. The third umpire, however, ruled that the wicket-keeper had gathered the ball in front

of the stumps. Liton was on

A little later, he was put down at square leg by Rohit, who had a lot of ground to cover to complete a high catch. Liton was finally run out for 29, after some smart work from Pant, breaking an opening stand of 60.

Mushfiqur Rahim and Soumya Sarkar, two of Bangladesh's senior players, had



India (41) now has the most number of successful chases in T20Is, eclipsing Australia (40)

41 India (61 matches) **40** Australia (69)

36 Pakistan (67)

Rohit was unbeaten on 79 after 10 overs, the highest by a batsman in a T20I chase, bettering Gayle's 75*

79* Rohit (Ind vs Ban, 2019) **75*** Gayle (WI vs SA, 2015)

74* Shahzad (Afg vs UAE, 2015) 74* Paul Stirling (Ire vs Zim, 2019)

73* Roy (Eng vs NZ, 2016)

been their side's top two scorers in Delhi. Chahal dismissed both of them in the same over. Mushfiqur slogswept him, just like he had at the Kotla, and the ball sailed towards Krunal Pandya on the leg-side boundary again; this time, the fielder made

Sarkar was thoroughly deceived by a googly and stumped; a relieved Pant was This is Rohit's 320th T20 match, the most by an Indian,

surpassing Raina (319) Rohit is the second batsman to feature in 100 matches in T20Is, after Shoaib

Most T20I games played 111 Shoaib Malik

100 Rohit

99 Afridi

98 Dhoni Number of century

partnerships for the opening wicket between Rohit and Dhawan, the most by any pair in T20Is Most 100-plus

stands for the first wicket

4 Rohit-Dhawan 3 Warner-Watson

3 Guptill-Williamson 3 Rohit-Kohli

3 Guptill-Munro First Indian to play... 100 Tests: Gavaskar

100 ODIs: Kapil

(1987)100 T20Is: Rohit (2019)

found to have gathered the ball just behind the wickets.

If Chahal was the best of India's bowlers, finishing with two for 28 from his four overs, Washington Sundar and Deepak Chahar were also quietly efficient. Bangladesh struggled for momentum towards the close, just about crossing the 150-run mark. It would prove woeful-

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH

Liton Das run out 29 (21b, 4x4), Mohammad Naim c Shreyas b Washington 36 (31b, 5x4), Soumya Sarkar st. Pant b Chahal 30 (20b, 2x4, 1x6), Mushfiqur Rahim c Krunal b Chahal 4 (6b), Mahmudullah c Dube b Deepak Chahar 30 (21b, 4x4), Afif Hossain c Rohit b Khaleel 6 (8b), Mosaddek Hossain (not out) 7 (9b), Aminul Islam (not out) 5 (5b, 1x4); Extras (b-2, nb-1, w-3): 6; Total (for six wkts.

in 20 overs): 153 **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-60 (Liton, 7.2 overs), 2-83 (Naim, 10.3), 3-97 (Mushfiqur, 12.1), 4-103 (Sarkar, 12.6), 5-128 (Afif, 16.3), 6-142 (Mahmudul-

INDIA BOWLING Deepak Chahar 4-0-25-1, Khaleel 4-0-44-1, Washington 4-0-25-1, Chahal 4-0-28-2,

2-0-12-0, Dube 2-0-17-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c sub (Mithun) b Aminul 85 (43b, 6x4, 6x6), Shikhar Dhawan b Aminul 31 (27b. 4x4). K.L. Rahul (not out) 8 (11b), Shreyas Iyer (not out) 24 (13b, 3x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 15.4 overs): 154

FALL OF WICKETS

1-118 (Dhawan, 10.5 overs), 2-125 (Rohit, 12.2).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Mustafizur 3.4-0-35-0, Shafiul 2-0-23-0, Al-Amin 4-0-32-0, Aminul 4-0-29-2, Afif 1-0-13-0 Mosaddek 1-0-21-0.

Toss: India Man-of-the-Match: Rohit.

India won by eight wickets with 26 balls remaining to level

The conditions perfect for hitting, says Rohit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah admitted that there was little he could have done to stop Rohit Sharma.

"If Rohit is having a good time, it's really hard to stop him," he said.

Washington Sundar enjoyed watching Rohit's innings. "Honestly, I had the best seat in the ground," he said. "If he bats like this, it's a treat for anyone in the stadium. Certain boundaries he hit were unbelievable. I also think from a bowler's point of view. There were a few balls they executed really well but Rohit as usual, was on song today."

Rohit himself was pleased with his knock. "I knew conditions were perfect so all I had to do was stay still and tonk (sic) the ball," he said at the presentation ceremony.

India had the upper hand going into the series decider, felt Washington. "Definitely. We've just lost one game and that was also a close game. A couple of things our way and we would have won that as

"This game we won very very convincingly; and we can expect a similar track and boundaries (big) in Nagpur as well and we will look to win there too," he said.

Smriti, Jemimah power India to series win

INDIA IN WINDIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NORTH SOUND Comeback-girl Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues hit contrasting halfcenturies to lead the Indian women's team to a 2-1 series victory over the West Indies with a comfortable six-wicket win in the deciding third ODI, here.

Smriti, who missed the first two matches due to a toe injury, smashed a 63-ball 74 and raised a match-winning 141-run partnership with fellow opener Jemimah (69 off 92) on Wednesday night.

A solid foundation in place, India cruised to the 195-run target in 42.1 overs after the Indian bowlers did a commendable job of bowling out the host for a subpar 194 in 50 overs.

Fastest Indian to 2000

During the course of her innings, Smriti became the fastest Indian woman to score 2,000 ODI runs. The 23-year-



Having the last laugh: The Indian team rallied from a 1-0 deficit to clinch the ODI series 2-1. ■ COURTESY BCCI TWITTER

old reached the milestone in her 51st innings.

Seasoned pacer Jhulan Goswami and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav shared four wickets between them, troubling the middle-order after the West Indies elected to

Stafanie Taylor kept fight-

ing for the host with a combative 79-run knock but ran short of partners as other West Indies batters struggled

Apart from Taylor only Atacy-Ann King showed some stomach for a fight with a 45-ball 38.

to negotiate India's attack.

The two teams will now

play a five-match Twenty20 series, beginning Sunday at

The scores: West Indies 194 in 50 overs (Stafanie Taylor 79, Stacv-Ann King 38: Jhulan Goswami 2/30) lost to India 195/4 in 42.1 overs (Smriti Mandhana 74, Jemimah Rodrigues 69; Hayley Mathews 3/27).

Palpable distress and angst

Gautam and Kazi's arrest shocks cricketing fraternity

KPL SPOT-FIXING

N. SUDARSHAN

no mistake.

There was sense of deep anguish in the Karnataka cricketing circles over the arrest of senior cricketer C.M. Gautam and Abrar Kazi in connection with the match-fixing and betting scam in the Karnataka Premier League.

The people The Hindu spoke to – players, both former and active, seasoned coaches and officials - understandably chose to remain anonymous, but distress and angst was palpable.

The Ballari Tuskers players The Hindu reached out to expressed their shock at the developments. During the KPL final, they had not had any reason to suspect anything was amiss, they said.

A former Karnataka coach expressed a similar sentiment. "I'm really shocked; I'm feeling absolutely low," he said. "It is impossible to

Money is not everything. It is important, but not at the cost of

everything else

FORMER KARNATAKA COACH When I was playing, I didn't even think such [scams] could

be possible here FORMER KARNATAKA CRICKETER

even imagine. I never thought such big names would be involved. It's not as if they are some young, gullible players."

He added: "Players need to be mentored; they need moral values. The most important thing in life is self-respect and how you have lived. Money is not everything. It is important, but not at the cost of everything else."

A former seasoned Karnataka cricketer, who had also captained a side in the KPL, termed the fiasco damaging for the State's reputation. "I

always thought that big cricketers generally don't get involved in such things. Why do they need to? But this is very very surprising," he

"If you see the reputation Karnataka cricket enjoys, this comes as a huge shock. Forget this controversy, we don't even have simple friendly fights and arguments on the field! That's how good Karna taka cricket is. When I was playing, I didn't even think such [scams] could be possi-

ble here."

A top KSCA official said the administrative and cricketing fraternity was left deeply disappointed. "I do not think any level of player should get involved in such things. It is very unfortunate and disappointing that big players are involved. Now depending on where the investigations go, we may even consider life

(With inputs from Shreedutta Chidananda)

Real Madrid 6 (Rodrygo 4, 7,

90+2, Ramos 14-pen, Benzema

Group B: Bayern Munich 2 (Le-

wandowski 69, Perisic 89) bt

Olympiakos O; Red Star Bel-

grade O lost to Tottenham Hot-

spur 4 (Lo Celso 34, Son 57, 61,

Group C: Dinamo Zagreb 3

(Petkovic 25, Ivanusec 83, Ade-

mi 89) drew with Shakhtar Do-

netsk 3 (Patrick 13, Moraes

90+3, Tete 90+8-pen); Atalan-

ta 1 (Pasalic 49) drew with

Manchester City 1 (Sterling 7).

Group D: Lokomotiv Moscow 1

45, 81) bt Galatasarav O.

Goa terminates contract

→oa Cricket Association Thas terminated C.M. Gautam's contract.

"As soon as we came to know about the incident, we terminated his contract. We have also informed the BCCI," said GCA secretary Phadke. Acharya

Ashwin moves to Delhi **Capitals**

SHAYAN ACHARYA

Kings XI Punjab has decided to trade off Ravichandran Ashwin to Delhi Capitals. As per the deal, the Punjab franchise will be trading Ashwin with another spinner, Jagadeesha Suchith, and will also get a

sum of ₹1.5 crore. Ashwin is expected to be paid around ₹7.6 crore his auction value – by Delhi Capitals.

Anand in second spot

SPORTS BUREAU BUCHAREST

Korobov.

Viswanathan Anand started his campaign in the **Grand Chess Tour Superbet** rapid and blitz tournament with a resounding 37-move victory with black pieces over Russia's Vladislav Ar-

temiev here on Wednesday. Anand drew the next two rounds with USA's Wesley So and Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov to aggregate two points and share the second spot with Armenia's Levon Aronian and Ukraine's Anton

The results (rapid format): Third round: Viswanathan Anand (2) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 1.5); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 1) lost to Anish Giri (Ned, 2.5); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1.5) bt Wesley So (USA, 0.5); Le Quang Liem (Vie, 1.5) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm, 2); Vladislav Artemiev (Rus, 0.5) lost to Anton Korobov (Ukr, 2). Second round: So drew with Anand; Giri drew with Caruana: Aronian drew with Kariakin; Korobov drew with Le Quang Liem; Mamedyarov

Goa bests Mumbai in goal fest

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

FC Goa's goalscoring ability came to the fore during its 4-2 win over Mumbai City FC in their Hero-ISL contest at the Mumbai Football Arena on Thursday. Six goals and a few misses kept the fans enthralled, the visitors scoring twice in each half to douse the home team's fightback

after the breather. Goalkeepers were in the line of fire at both ends. Amrinder Singh, under the MCFC bar, was left shaking his head in anger at the pace of his defenders as Goa struck a goal following a slick passing bout. Hugo Boumos threaded the ball to Seriton who tapped back and into the path of Corominas before the Spaniard finished with a cool tap into the net.

Amrinder could only watch from the goalline as the visitors scored off a setpiece to go up 3-2. Off a freekick, the ball was directed towards tall defender Mourtada Fall who headed to teammate Boumous who nodded it in.



In the thick of it: Lenny Rodrigues opened the scoring for FC Goa in the 27th minute. • VIVEK BENDRE

Mohammed Nawaz, under the Goa bar, too faced anxious moments early on in the first half, but Mumbai did not take advantage of its corners and free-kicks. Goa went ahead in the 27th minute through Rodrigues who lent the finishing touch with a shot on the turn after the ball landed within range off a deflection following a Fernandes

corner-kick. Crossing over with a twogoal cushion, Goa saw a spirited fightback from the hosts. Nawaz was first tested by striker Amine Cherminti, before getting beaten by a looping header from Sartak Mumbai pulled level

through a stunning strike from Sauvik Chakravarti, the defender connecting powerfully after the ball was nodded towards him by Rayner Fernandes. However, it was Goa which had the final say. The result: Mumbai City FC 2 (Golui 49, Sauvik 55) lost to FC Goa 4 (Rodrigues 27, Corominas 45, Boumous 59, Pena 89).

BCCI invites Anand for day-night Test

Y.B. SARANGI

The BCCI has invited chess legend Vishwanathan Anand for the pink-ball day-night Test between India and Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens here

from November 22. Anand will be in the city, participating in the Tata Steel rapid and blitz tournament, during that period.

"The BCCI has invited

Anand for day-night Test,"

said one of the organisers of the chess event. The BCCI and the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) are also trying to add more colour to the Test by trying to have current World chess

champion Magnus Carlsen.

"They are planning to invite Anand and Carlsen to jointly ring the bell at the Eden Gardens to mark the start of a day's play," said the organiser.

Juventus, Bayern in knockouts CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Douglas Costa scored a dramatic injury-time winner to send Juventus into the Champions League knockout stages after a 2-1 win at Lokomotiv Moscow on Wednesday, while Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich joined the Italian champion

in the last 16. Mauro Icardi's first-half goal was enough for PSG to edge past Club Brugge 1-0 at the Parc des Princes, as Bayern laboured to a 2-0 victory over Olympiakos.

Manchester City missed the chance to progress from Group C after a dramatic 1-1 draw at Atalanta which saw right-back Kyle Walker end the game in goal. Juventus knew three

points in Russia would be

enough to secure its passage

to the knockout rounds, and took a fourth-minute lead through Aaron Ramsey. Cristiano Ronaldo's freekick bounced in front of Lo-

komotiv goalkeeper Guil-

herme, who inexplicably al-



In the nick of time: Juventus' Douglas Costa, centre, beats Lokomotiv goalkeeper Guilherme for the winner. • AF

lowed the ball to squirm through his legs, with Ramsey prodding in from on the

goalline. Aleksei Miranchuk quickly levelled for the host by tapping in the rebound after his own header had struck the post, with Maurizio Sarri's Juve then struggling to

But Brazilian winger Costa came off the bench and netted a magnificent 93rdminute winner, slipping the ball through the hapless Guilherme's legs after a mazy run.

The results: Group A: Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Icardi 22) bt Club Brugge O;

90+3): Baver Leverkusen 2 (Partey 41-og, Volland 55) bt Atletico Madrid 1 (Morata 90+4).

Eriksen 85).

(Al. Miranchuk 12) lost to Juventus 2 (Ramsey 4, Costa

drew with Artemiev.