

Mushfiqur puts B'desh on top

AFP | Dhaka

Mushfiqur Rahim became the first wicketkeeper-batsman in history to score two double hundreds in Tests as Bangladesh built a strong total in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Dhaka yesterday.

Mushfiqur hit an unbeaten 219 to help Bangladesh declare their first innings at 522-7 an hour into the final session, before the hosts reduced Zimbabwe to 25 for one at stumps on the second day.

Tajjul Islam removed Hamilton Masakadza for 14 after an edge flew to Mehidy Hasan at first slip for Bangladesh's first breakthrough.

Masakadza was earlier spared when he was dropped at seven by Ariful Haque at first slip off the bowling of debutant Khaled Ahmed.

Brian Chari, 10 not out, and nightwatchman Donald Tiripano (naught) prevented further damage.

Zimbabwe, ahead in the two-match tournament 1-0, needs at least a draw to win their first Test series in seven years.

But it was Mushfiqur who shone, pulling leg-spinner Brendon Mavuta for a single at square leg after the tea break to become the first wicketkeeper-batsman ever to score two double tonnes



Bangladesh cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim (L) plays a shot as the Zimbabwe cricketer Regis Chakabva (C) and captain Hamilton Masakadza (R) look on

in Test cricket.

"I wasn't in bad form in Tests, but yes I wasn't getting a big innings. I believed that it was around the corner," Mushfiqur said at the close of second day's play.

"I knew that converting a fifty would ensure a big score. I had a lot of self-belief. I had my preparations in place."

Mushfiqur, who played 421 balls and hit 18 fours and a six,

also surpassed Shakib al Hasan to become the highest individual scorer in an innings for Bangladesh in Test cricket.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad called the batsmen to the dressing room soon after Mushfiqur nudged Sean Williams for a single to pass Shakib's 217 against New Zealand at Wellington in 2017.

Mushfiqur shared a record 144-run in their unbroken

eight wicket stand with Mehidy Hasan, after Kyle Jarvis took two scalps in the afternoon session to complete his third five-wicket haul in Tests.

Mushfiqur also had a hand in the previous eighth wicket record when he added 113 with Naeem Islam against England in 2010.

Jarvis, who claimed three wickets on the opening day, removed Mahmudullah for 36

Bangladesh 1st innings (303-5)	
Liton Das c Mavuta b Jarvis	9
Imrul Kayes c Chakabva b Jarvis	0
Mominul Haque c Chari b Chatara	161
M Mithun c Taylor b Jarvis	0
Mushfiqur Rahim not out	219
Tajjul Islam c Chakabva b Jarvis	4
Mahmudullah c Chakabva b Jarvis	36
Ariful Haque c Chari b Jarvis	4
Mehidy Hasan not out	68
Extras (b9, lb8, wl, nb3)	21
Total (7 wickets dec, 160 overs)	522
Bowling: Jarvis 28-6-71-5 (wl, nb1), Chatara 22.2-12-34-1, Tiripano 24.4-6-65-1(nb2), Raza 22-1-11-0, Williams 30-4-80-0, Mavuta 31-1-137-0, Masakadza 2-0-7-0	
Zimbabwe 1st innings	
H. Masakadza c Mehidy b Tajjul	14
B. Chari not out	10
D. Tiripano not out	0
Extras (b1)	1
Total (1 wicket, 18 overs)	25
Bowling: Mustafizur 6-4-11-0, Khaled 5-3-6-0, Tajjul 5-3-5-1, Mehidy 2-1-2-0	

Federer crashes to Nishikori in ATP Finals opener



Japan's Kei Nishikori (L) greets Switzerland's Roger Federer after winning their singles round robin match

AFP | London

Roger Federer suffered a shock straight-sets defeat to Kei Nishikori at the ATP Finals on Sunday, severely denting his bid for the 100th title of his illustrious career.

The Swiss, who has won the season-ending event a record six times, produced an uncharacteristically error-prone and fractious display in the round-robin match as the Japanese seventh seed prevailed 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

The result means Federer is now in danger of failing to qualify for the semi-finals for just the second time in 16 appearances at the event.

"I felt we both struggled, you know, throughout the first set," he said. "You could tell it was sort of a first round. I had my chances maybe a bit more than he did."

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