



TAMIM IQBAL
 Highest individual score by a Bangladeshi cricketer in ODIs - **158**
 Only Bangladeshi player to score two **150+** innings in ODIs
 First Bangladeshi player to score **7000** runs in ODIs
 Most fours in an innings by a Bangladeshi player in ODIs - **20**

Change in mindset brings relief to Bangladesh

MAZHAR UDDIN from Sylhet

There was hardly any celebration from Tamim Iqbal when he reached his 12th ODI hundred, his first since July 2018, against Zimbabwe in the second ODI yesterday. The left-handed opener just looked up at the heavens and soaked in the applause from teammates in the dressing room. The 30-year-old also reached quite a few other milestones, surpassing his own record for the highest individual ODI score for Bangladesh of 154 as he was eventually dismissed after a magnificent 158 off 136 balls, which featured 20 fours and three sixes. Tamim also became the first Bangladesh batsman to score 7,000 runs in the format but aside from all these achievements, it was perhaps relief more than any other emotion that washed over the left-hander as he finally rediscovered his best. There had been a lot of criticism about Tamim's recent batting approach, with questions raised over his conservative batting and what has been perceived as a tendency to overthink, but the left-hander finally managed to break the shackles in grand style. Yesterday's inning was in stark contrast

to his knock in the first ODI on Sunday, when he scored 24 off 43 balls. There was no change in technique or any improvisation from him yesterday. Instead, Tamim just looked relaxed and seemed a batsman with a clear mind. His change in mindset was evident right from the start and, after a watchful start, the left-hander displayed the aggressive side of one of the more complete batting arsenals in the country when he struck his first boundary with a gorgeous pull off Carl Mumba. Since then it was a walk in the park for Tamim as he smashed back-to-back boundaries in the next over of Charlton Tshuma, and off good deliveries, indicating that it was about to be a special day. There were no issues about maintaining a good strike rate or feeling the pressure to look for boundaries, which has been the case for the left-hander in recent times; Tamim was enjoying his batting, and that seemed to be enough. Tamim raced to his fifty off 42 balls and yes, he did remain watchful, but that has always been part of his game plan to play a big knock. There was a phase when, alongside Mahmudullah Riyad, there were no boundaries for 59 balls but Tamim remained calm and snapped the streak by slapping pacer Donald Tiripano towards stumps to enter the nineties. Tamim was even more focused in the nineties and eventually reached the milestone off 106 balls when he tapped Sean Williams for a couple towards cover. The best part of Tamim's innings was his hunger to go even further and he started to cut loose as he smashed three fours and a six to take 24 runs off Tinotenda Mutombodzi in the 40th over as Bangladesh set their stall for a big total. It took just 26 balls for Tamim to score his next fifty and it was his positive intent, a mixture of calm and aggression, that put a high price tag on his wicket even after reaching his hundred. The range of strokes from Tamim -- whether it was the trademark cover drive, straight drive past the bowlers or the pull from the meet of the bat unleashed after rocking back in inimitable fashion -- the left-hander played all the shots in the book with no hesitation about the pitch or conditions. Tamim may have struck an ODI hundred after nearly two years but even if he was unable to do that yesterday, he would still have felt a lot better over the change in mentality, which made all the difference.

BANGLADESH'S ODI SERIES WIN

TOTAL: 25 AGAINST

- Zimbabwe-11
- West Indies-4
- Kenya-2
- New Zealand-2
- Ireland-1
- Scotland-1
- India-1
- Pakistan-1
- South Africa-1
- Afghanistan-1

Double delight for Mash

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh survived a scare before winning the second match against Zimbabwe by four runs to clinch the three-match ODI series with a game in hand at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. And captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was delighted with the two major outcomes from the game, the first being the close win which he felt would bolster the team's confidence and the other being Tamim Iqbal's return to form with a big hundred. "I think a win is a win but this was a close win. We held our nerves well. Winning is something we'll take to the next match. After this match, everybody will say 'but what about the bowling', but this was a very good wicket, and there was also some dew. It was difficult for the bowlers. When you win a tight game, it gives you a lot of confidence going forward," Mashrafe said at the post-match presentation. About Tamim's record-breaking hundred, Mashrafe said: "I think he's always been our special player. The good thing is that he's happy after scoring runs. We know he has the ability to come back with such big knocks and this is nothing new. The others batted well around him, and that was good to see."

Tamim also said that he had belief in himself. "A lot of the credit goes to the team management because they always believed in me. I was batting well in the Test matches and in the nets, and I knew something big was coming. It was a bit up and down, but on the whole it was a really good batting wicket." "Mushy [Mushfiqur Rahim] was batting beautifully at the other end. The young ones, the way Liton [Das] batted well in the first match. [Nazmul Hossain] Shanto is also looking good. He's going to get a big one pretty soon. We are batting well, and it's good. At one point they had it but we pulled it back," he added. It was a disappointing end for Zimbabwe after Donald Tiripano and Tinotenda Mutombodzi's big-hitting display almost took the visitors almost to victory, but captain Sean Williams believed that they could take lot of positives from the close defeat. "Coming from the first game, and almost winning this game, we take a lot of positives. The young guys taking us close to winning this game is huge for us. Generally, Raaz [Sikandar Raza] plays a crucial role for us. Wesley Madhevere is an extremely good find for us. I wish Donald could have gotten us over the line. He's very disappointed right now, but he can hold his head high."



Donald Tiripano, the number nine Zimbabwean batsman, smashed a brave hearted unbeaten 28-ball 55 to take his team as close as within four runs of winning the second ODI against Bangladesh in Sylhet yesterday. Tiripano and Tinotenda Mutombodzi strung together an 80-run partnership for the eighth wicket which is also now the highest partnership for that wicket in Bangladesh. PHOTO: STAR

Forewarned but still not quite forearmed

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

Winning the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe was obviously the top priority for Bangladesh, but the home series against a relatively weaker opposition was also a platform for the Tigers to work towards the future. Like the think-tank's idea to form separate fast-bowling units for Tests and limited overs, there are other plans such as having a stable batting order with some big hitters down the order that are definitely on the cards for head coach Russell Domingo. Bangladesh batting consultant Neil McKenzie on Monday told The Daily Star that he was looking for specialist batsmen at number five, six and seven, who could utilise the long handle and score quick runs in the end. And perhaps the reason for resting seam bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin for the second ODI against Zimbabwe -- despite the cricketer showing his big-hitting ability and also scalping three wickets in the first ODI -- was to have a look at the others for the coming days. Saifuddin filled that void with a touch of class in the first ODI, scoring 28 runs during a 15-ball cameo. The left-hander smote three sixes off the final over, bowled by Chris Mpofo, as Bangladesh capitalised on the platform set by centurion Liton Das and added 46 runs in the last four overs to post their highest-ever ODI total of 321 for six. It was an almost identical situation yesterday, Tamim Iqbal's 12th ODI hundred giving Bangladesh the



Bangladesh all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin, who was rested for the second ODI against Zimbabwe yesterday in Sylhet, watched from the dugout as the Tigers felt the need of a big hitting batsman like him at the death. PHOTO: STAR

platform for a big total after they had come in to bat first. The Tigers did end up with one more than they had in the previous game, posting 322 for eight, but someone like Saifuddin, who takes on bowlers with sheer power and clears the fences often, was desperately missed towards the end. After Tamim's departure in the 46th over, Bangladesh were on 297 for five with Mohammad Mithun and Mehedi Hasan Miraz at the crease eyeing a score around the 350 mark. However, that did not materialise as the hosts managed just 25 off the final four overs, with Mithun -- mainly a middle-order batsman who relies on timing rather than going after the ball -- playing against his strengths. Although the right-hander remained unbeaten on an 18-ball 32, the absence of a hard-hitter was sorely felt. The target may have been too much for a rather inexperienced Zimbabwean batting line-up but number eight Tinotenda Mutombodzi and especially number nine Donald Tiripano took on the attack with their big-hitting abilities and almost snatched a win out of nowhere. Bangladesh did ultimately hang on to win a thriller by four runs and there is every chance that things will turn out differently when they face tougher opponents unless the cracks are sealed.

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH		R/B 45/65			
Tamim c Mutombodzi					
b Mumba	158/136	20/3			
Liton run out	9/14	2/0			
Nazmul run out	6/10	1/0			
Mushfiqur c Mutombodzi					
b Madhevere	55/50	6/0			
Mahmudullah c Madhevere					
b Tshuma	41/57	3/0			
Mithun not out	32/18	3/1			
Mehedi b Mumba	5/6	0/0			
Mashrafe c Raza b Tiripano	1/4	0/0			
Tajjul c Mutombodzi b Tiripano	0/1	0/0			
Shafiqul not out	5/5	0/0			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-7)		10			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)		322			
Did not bat: Al-Amin					
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-65, 3-152, 4-258, 5-292, 6-307, 7-310, 8-311.					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Mumba	10	0	64	2	
Tshuma	5	0	35	1	
Tiripano	8	0	55	2	
Madhevere	7	0	38	1	
Raza	10	0	59	0	
Williams	7	0	35	0	
Mutombodzi	3	0	34	0	
ZIMBABWE		R/B 45/65			
Kamunhukamwe b Tajjul	51/70	5/2			
Chakabva c Liton b Shafiqul	2/5	0/0			
Taylor run out	11/21	2/0			
Williams lbw b Mehedi	14/24	3/0			
Madhevere lbw b Tajjul	52/57	5/0			
Raza c Mahmudullah					
b Mashrafe	66/57	5/2			
Mutumbami lbw b Tajjul	19/17	3/0			
Mutombodzi c Liton b Al-Amin	34/21	5/0			
Tiripano not out	55/28	2/5			
Mumba not out	0/0	0/0			
Extras: (lb-6, w-8)		14			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)		318			
Did not bat: Tshuma					
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-44, 3-67, 4-102, 5-183, 6-213, 7-225, 8-305.					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	10	0	52	1	
Shafiqul	9	0	76	1	
Mehedi	7	0	25	1	
Al-Amin	10	0	85	1	
Tajjul	10	0	52	3	
Mahmudullah	4	0	22	0	
Result: Bangladesh won by 4 runs.					
Player-of-the-match: Tamim Iqbal.					

Coronavirus to disrupt Pak tour?

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

The last phase of Bangladesh's tour of Pakistan might be in jeopardy after schools in the Sindh province were directed to remain closed till March 13 after a second person was confirmed to have been infected with the coronavirus. The Bangladesh Cricket Board said it would communicate with the Pakistan Cricket Board to get a clearer picture of the situation, adding that they were unwilling to send the team to Pakistan if there was any threat. "For us, players safety is our first priority and we are not going to compromise with that at any cost. We will talk to PCB in this regard and if we see that there is any threat, then we will certainly not send our team to Pakistan. But at the moment it is too early to make a decision. We still have time on hand," BCB media committee chairman Jalal Younus said yesterday. The Tigers are expected to travel to Karachi to play an ODI on April 3 and the second of the two-match Test series from April 5.

DPL TRANSFERS U-19 players in demand

SPORTS REPORTER

The first day of the three-day players' transfers for the upcoming Dhaka Premier League (DPL), slated to begin from March 15, started without creating much of a fuss at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Five Bangladesh under-19 players found clubs on the first day. Defending champions Abahani bagged the services of the under-19 pacer Tanzim Hasan. Mohammedan Sporting ensured Parvez Hossain's services while Shoriful Islam, Shamim Hossain and Rakibul Islam were acquired by Prime Bank Cricket Club, Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club and Old DOHS Sporting Club respectively.



Bangladesh Under-19 World Cup winning pacer Shoriful Islam (R), who was acquired by Prime Bank Cricket Club during the first day of the three-day players' transfers for the upcoming Dhaka Premier League, was present during the event at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED