



Know the Tigers



COACH: DAV WHATMORE

AL MUSABBIR SADI

In 16 months Dav Whatmore has travelled a lot with the Bangladesh team. He has rarely had the time to see his boys play at home. A year after the England series, the Tigers are back on familiar territory. How well Whatmore has prepared for his second home series is the big question, especially after two poor one-day tournaments in Sri Lanka and England.

Things have not gone right for the Australian-born Sri Lankan recently but he managed to bring the fire out of the Tigers in Australia, Pakistan and the West Indies. He always said that the graph of performance will never go up in a straight line but it will be on track after a few dips.

Sharing his views about the coming series against the New Zealanders, the 50-year-old said that his boys are

prepared to push the opposition hard especially in the Test series. "Preparation has been as good as it could have been. We've had interruptions due to rain but we managed to merge different sessions to accommodate that. The thing we've done a little differently this time is allowing more batting time to players. We also got to use the centre wicket that was very good," Whatmore said.

"Some of the boys got valuable match practice during the three-day match at BKSP, so we are hopeful that we can put up a good fight against New Zealand," when asked about the lack of match practice ahead of the two Tests and three one-dayers.

Whatmore had to train the side without a trainer following Justin Cordy's departure. "It's not easy when you have a valuable member of staff leaving. But he had a long talk with me and has left a programme which John

(Gloster) and I tried to implement." It was important to erase memories of the Asia Cup and the

ICC Champions Trophy failures before the series but Whatmore admits that it's going to be a totally different game. "This is the longer game and we've had some encouraging results. It's been 12 months since we've played at home and the boys are pretty glad to play at home. This will be my second series at home and in conditions you are more used to than you are abroad. The boys are looking forward to doing well."

Talking about his limited spin options, Whatmore said that he has a very good weapon in Mohammad Rafique. "Rafique has been supported well by Enamul Haque. But Enam is unavailable for the series due to a knee problem. In his absence, I think our options are really limited but only

for this particular game."

Showing his respect to the Black Caps, the Bangladesh coach said that they were a very disciplined side.

"They have got some batsman who can play for a long time and Fleming is one of them. I think Richardson is also another one and Styris is a good player. Oram has been probably the most improved all-rounder, particularly with the bat. Their spinners are disciplined and Vettori is really good. They have showed discipline in the three-day match and I think our batsmen will be tested as you would expect in Test match." Whatmore, who believes that the Tigers have to hit form to be competitive, reminded that Bangladesh looked good against England in their last Test at home.

"(Against England) we had a lead in the second innings with four or five wickets in hand but unfortunately we collapsed badly and just left them a

handful of runs to get to win the match. That was a reasonable effort when you consider that the very first day we won the toss and batted just one over and we had to come and bat 20 minutes before the end of first day which was a bit unusual. And we lost a few wickets. Without that, we would have been in a better position. We will focus more on the positives, enjoy the game, relax and do well," he said.

When asked whether they would be able to carry from where they left off in the West Indies, Whatmore recalled that the wicket at St Lucia was a good and very flat wicket.

"Given those conditions we have shown that we can bat even against a pretty good attack and we are able to bat for more than one day. That's the objective when we bat and we want to continue that. I think the groundsmen here will be providing us good wickets in Dhaka and Chittagong."

"We all are working very hard to reverse the recent trend. Oppositions have been very good no question about that but in certain periods of games we let ourselves down. We are aware of that. And we are working hard to overcome that and I reassure everybody in the country that we are on the right track. We are going to show everyone that we are improving."

There has been talk of reducing matches for teams like Zimbabwe and Bangladesh and recently, the team management and the players were warned by the Board to lift their game. But Whatmore was not concerned about any pressure on the cricketers because of it.

"We are mindful of administration and administrative discussions. But my players are focusing on one thing and that is New Zealand," he concluded.



Habibul Bashar

A natural strokemaker who is always batting at 60 mph no matter what the situation is. His technique is not a perfectionist's delight but extremely effective as his records show. The pull and hook are his bread and butter shots and his compulsive addiction to those strokes mean he'll get out going after the short ball every now and then. But he is the Tigers' Tendulkar and a pivotal figure in the line-up. Yet to score a Test hundred at home, a record he is desperate to erase. Born: 17 August 1972, Nagakanda, Kushtia RHB/OB

TEST Debut: Bangladesh v India at Dhaka, Only Test, 2000/01
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	1	0	0	10050	34.55	1.4	6	0	0	0	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	21	42	1	932	11922.73	34.55	1.4	6	0	0	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Javed Omar

An old-fashioned opener more intent on occupying the crease. Can be a pain for the opposition with his dogged resistance. Made a memorable Test debut when he carried his bat for 85 not out, in the first player in history to do so in his third match, against Zimbabwe in 2000/01.

Born: 25 November 1976, Dhaka RHB/LB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v Zimbabwe at Bulawayo, 1st Test, 2000/01
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	21	42	1	932	11922.73	34.55	1.4	6	0	0	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Rajin Saleh

Burst on to the scene with an impressive debut against Pakistan last year. Not the most talented individual but an honest hard worker. A grafter and the perfect man for holding the innings together in a notoriously brittle batting order. Strong on the off side. Came in with a reputation of being a brilliant fielder but standards have dropped alarmingly in recent times.

Born: 20 November 1983, Sylhet, Bangladesh RHB/CB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v Pakistan at Karachi, 1st Test, 2003
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	9	17	0	472	60	27.76	35.64	0	2	7	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Hannan Sarkar

Enhanced his profile as an opener with back to back fifties against the mighty Australians on a green-top in Cairns last year. A forgettable tour of the West Indies, where he became the bunny of Pedro Collins, kept him out of the fold for a while. But he has been recalled as Bangladesh look for a consistent opening pair. A good leaver of the ball. Shuffling towards the off leaving his leg-stump exposed has brought about his doom on more than one occasion. He claims to have tightened up his technique in that area.

Born: 1 December 1982, Dhaka RHB/RM
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka at Colombo (PSS), 1st Test, 2002
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	9	17	0	472	60	27.76	35.64	0	2	7	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Mohammad Ashraful

Prodigiously talented. Can make batting look like a walk in the park. On September 8, 2001, at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo, he became the youngest batsman to make a Test century against Muralitharan and Co a day before his 17th birthday. The boy wonder has not lived up to that sensational standards but recent signs are that he is finding his way back. A free strokemaker with every shot in the book but his on drives are out of this world.

Born: 9 September 1984, Dhaka RHB/LB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	19	37	1	798	114	22.16	39.40	1	4	3	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Alok Kapali

Probably the most gifted in terms of talent but hasn't transferred that promise on to the playing field as yet. Impeccable timing and quick-silver reflexes are his main virtues. Can play all the shots but he is impulsive and gets himself out rather than the bowler getting him out. Hasn't played a Test in a year due to his erratic form but never far from the mind of the selectors for the potential he possesses. Was regarded more as a leg-spinner when he started off. In fact against Pakistan in August 2003, became the first Bangladeshi bowler to take a hat-trick.

Born: 1 January 1984, Sylhet, Bangladesh RHB/LB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka at Colombo (SSC), 2nd Test, 2002
Latest Test: Bangladesh v England at Chittagong, 2nd Test, 2003/04

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	14	28	1	519	85	19.22	50.73	0	2	4	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Khaled Mashud

Probably the most important member of the side apart from Bashar. Always there when the chips are down. Chippy, witty but fighter to core. Knows his limitations as a batsman and that makes him a hard nut to crack. Often comes in with half the side back in the pavilion and launches the inevitable rescue act. One of the best wicketkeepers around. A former captain.

Born: 8 February 1976, Rajshahi RHB/WK
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v India at Dhaka, Only Test, 2000/01
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	8	15	2	191	46	14.69	28.29	0	0	3	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



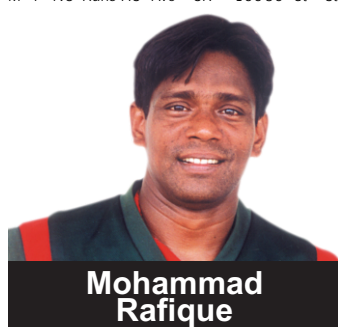
Mushfiqur Rahman

Closest thing to a genuine all-rounder in the Tigers line-up. Swings the ball both ways at medium pace and can be a handful in useful conditions. Bats in the middle or late-order according to the demands of the team and with an efficient batting technique, can be trusted to contribute.

Born: 1 January 1980, Rajshahi RHB/RM
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v Zimbabwe at Bulawayo, 1st Test, 2000/01
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	8	15	2	191	46	14.69	28.29	0	0	3	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Mohammad Rafique

The most successful bowler for Bangladesh in Test cricket. Bowls an impeccable line and very hard to get away a. Packs a mean arm-ball which gets him a lot of wickets. Had the reputation of a Mad Max in batting but showed every signs of a genuine all-rounder in May 2004 when he notched up an amazing 111 coming in at number 9 against the West Indies in St Lucia.

Born: 5 September 1970, Dhaka SLOB/LHB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v India at Dhaka, Only Test, 2000/01
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies, at Jamaica 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	12	23	4	375	111	19.73	55.97	1	0	4	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	566.5	127	1454	46	31	60	6.77	30	73.9	2.56	



Tapash Baisya

In the injury-absence of the more glamorous Mashrafe-bin Mortaza and Talha Jubair, Tapash Baisya has emerged as the Tigers premier quick bowler. An honest, hard working paceman. Baisya can be deceptively quick despite his moderate physique. Aggressive and at the batsman all the time.

Born: 25 December 1982, Sylhet, Bangladesh RFB/RHB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka at Colombo (SSC), 2nd Test, 2002
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	15	29	5	251	52*	10.45	42.97	0	1	4	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



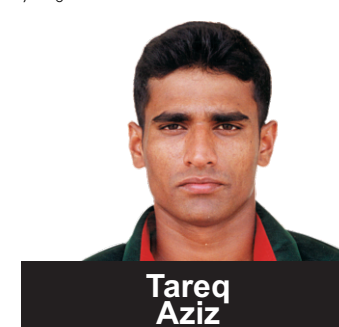
Manzarul Islam

Mohammad Rafique's understudy with a busy run up and a whippy action. His bowling is more suited for the one-day version but can be used as a defensive bowler in Test match situations. Can bat and gets away with murder! He is that lucky when it comes to batting. Nevertheless, makes a valuable contribution at every position.

Born: 4 May 1984, Khulna SLOB/LHB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v Zimbabwe at Harare, 1st Test, 2003/04
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	3	5	1	147	39	36.75	35.00	0	0	0	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Tareq Aziz

Steady seam bowler who can swing the ball. The in-cutter is his stock delivery.

Born: 4 September 1983, Chittagong RM/RHB
TEST Debut: Bangladesh v West Indies at Gros Islet, 1st Test, 2004
Latest Test: Bangladesh v West Indies at Jamaica, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	2	4	4	22	10	18.64	0	0	0	1	0

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
	48	6	202	1	202.00	1.76	0	0	0	0	0



Nafees Iqbal

Already played four ODIs for the Tigers but no Tests. That could all change over the next