

Bashar finds fielders at fault

Cricket

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

The one-day series was over for Bangladesh after suffering a 75-run defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka here on Friday.

With one match to go, the Tigers who are trailing by 2-0, had only the solace of denying the second-ranked team in the world from bowling them out in successive matches.

But skipper Habibul Bashar was not happy at all at their fielding efforts.

"I'm not too happy with the fielding again. I expected a lot better and it is not acceptable from such a young side. We have dropped a very important catch as well as commit a number of misfields in the outfield," Bashar said at the Premadasa Stadium after their second match.

Bangladesh performed poorly in the field during their only practice match which was followed by four dropped catches, missing stumping and run out chances in the first ODI.

Bashar, who fielded first for the second time, mentioned that the conditions forced him to change plans in the morning.

"We planned to bat first but when we came to the ground, we found the wicket wet because of heavy overnight rain," he said.

"Sri Lanka really played well today. Their batsmen and bowlers both dominated. We must give them credit. They played a planned innings, we just failed to stop the runs.

"Anything can happen in the first 20 overs but actually, they did the

damage in the last 30 overs today. Still we should have had restricted

them from reaching 295.

"In our previous match, we lost too many wickets early in the innings. Today we had wickets in hand and a hope to do something. But we failed to force the singles and doubles in the middle. We gave a number of dot balls after 20-25 overs.

Bashar blamed the set batsmen for giving too many dot balls saying that 'it is a crime'.

When asked whether dropping man-of-the-match Upul Tharanga led the opposition to score near 300 runs, Bashar though they were unfortunate.

"Just dropping one can't make all the differences. I think luck is not favouring us," he added.

"A team like Sri Lanka will definitely take advantage of such a situation. We need to take the half chances but we are not even availing the full chances.

The surprised skipper said that he found no reason behind constant poor fielding.

"We are trying hard but we have lost consistency as a fielding side. I am surprised.

"Our batting was better today than the first match. We could have reached 260 but to win matches, we need to click in all departments.

"When we were set a daunting total, our initial plan was to play and see how far we can go. We also sent in Rafique early to give the innings a tempo but we never got it.

"We wanted to use the third powerplay and gambled by sending Rafique when Upul Chandana was bowling. He is a hard-hitter and that is why I came later," he said in reply to a question.



PHOTO: AFP
Bangladesh opener Shahriar Nafees Ahmed plays one on the on side during his half-century in the second ODI against Sri Lanka at Colombo on Friday.



Many countries claim to have invented the chess game in some incipient form. The most commonly held belief is that chess originated in India, where it was called Chaturanga, which appears to have been invented in the 6th century AD.



Shane Warne
(Australian spin wizard)
"Too many of our guys are under-performing. It'll be a case of going back to basics and getting those right. I'm backing them to come good."
After losing the fourth Ashes Test against England.



STAR Sports
FIFA World Cup Qualifier
Uzbekistan vs Bahrain
Live at 7:00 pm
TEN Sports
US Open
Live at 5:00 am & 9:00 pm



Premier Football League
Farashganj vs YMC Club (5:00)

Learning the hard way

Cricket

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Bangladesh were learning the new rules of the game the hard way. With both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka introduced to the new one-day rules in the ongoing series, they had no other way but to take lessons from their mistakes and they just did that during the second match at the Premadasa Stadium on Friday.

While the hosts termed powerplay as simple, Tigers skipper Habibul Bashar had to go through a tough time when he decided to take the first five-over slot reserved for fielding restriction after Sanath Jayasuriya and Upul Tharanga had put on 49 runs.

Bashar had said earlier that with two set batsmen at the crease, taking powerplay becomes risky. He, perhaps, never thought it would be beyond control.

In those five overs (11-15) Sri Lanka rattled 51 runs to put 100 runs on the board as both the left handed pair chose the aerial route, espe-

cially against first-change bowler Nazmul Hossain.

Tharanga raced to his maiden one-day century, thanks to a dropped catch at second slip on 13 by Manjarul Islam off Tapash Baisya in the 14th over. His senior partner, who even replaced his helmet with a cap against a docile Bangladesh attack, then showed glimpses of what he was capable of with the willow.

The explosive Jayasuriya, a member of the rare 10,000-club, remained calm at the start but took advantage of just two fielders outside the circle with trademark over-the-top shot. He was on fire in the 15th over, pulling and driving Nazmul straight for two boundaries before pulling the fifth ball over the fence. The six over mid-wicket also brought the Lankan hundred but the Bangladesh nightmare was soon over when Nazmul had his revenge.

Seeing Jayasuriya charging down, the Bangladesh pacer who came into the side replacing Khaled Mahmud, dug one in short on the off-side. Jayasuriya tried to slice the out-of-reach delivery but gave the

faintest of edges to wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud.

With a new batsman at crease, Bashar was inspired to complete his quota and took the second five-over slot of powerplay. This time, he was right.

Promoted to number three, Tillakaratne Dilshan took ten deliveries to open his account and Nazmul, who conceded 34 runs in his first three overs, became very tidy. Returning for his second spell, Tapash also helped to restrict the rival scoring to just 19 runs in five overs. However, it could have been just 11 runs had Syed Raseel not been sloppy in the deep, allowing Tharanga to steal two more boundaries.

If Bangladesh had mixed fortunes, the home side must be happy about their performance because their Australian coach Tom Moody had wanted to score maximum runs during powerplays. His charges just finished the 20-over powerplay with 119 runs, 23 runs more than they scored in the first game.

Nazmul on the injury list

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Injuries kept following Bangladesh on their tour of Sri Lanka with Nazmul Hossain becoming the latest victim.

The pace bowler, who earned a place in the first eleven replacing Khaled Mahmud, suffered dehydration and picked up a hamstring injury after 29 overs of the Sri Lankan innings in the second ODI at Premadasa Stadium on Friday.

He was carried off the ground by teammates but returned to bowl. However, when he started his second spell in the 48th over Nazmul had a cramp in the calf muscle and so had to retire after just one over.

Meanwhile, team management is still waiting for the MRI report on pace spearhead Mashrafe bin Mortuza. An X-ray, however, confirmed that the Narail quick, who missed both matches due to a pain in the lower back pain, has suffered no major fracture.

Batsman Rajin Saleh, who only played in the lone warm-up match where he scored a half-century, also had a scan to check a nagging back pain that he has been carrying for nearly six months.

Both the reports are expected to be available on Saturday.

School soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Rubel Mridha continued his goal feast in the Pran-Cola School football tournament as Khilgaon Model High romped into the group semifinals as the first team crushing Dhamarajik Buddha Mondir 8-0 yesterday.

After triple hatrick against Haider Ali School & College in their previous match, Rubel slammed double hatrick yesterday while Arifur Rahman netted the other goals at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Motijheel Govt. High beat Millat High 2-1 goals and Khilgaon Govt Quarter High School blanked Sunshine Pre-Cadet School 3-0 at the same venue.

At the Uttara Armed Police ground, Amarat Hossain High School outclassed BIT 4-0.

Islami Adarsha High defeated Dr Muhammad Shahidullah Bidyapit 2-0 and BCIC drew 2-2 against Mirpur Shiddhartha High at the Mirpur National Bangla High School.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Rayer Bazar High beat Saleha High 3-0 and Kakoli High beat Post Office High by a solitary goal.

Victoria win in Cute h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club defeated Surjodoy Kirira Chakra 26-24 goals in the Cute Premier Division Handball League at the outer stadium handball court yesterday.

The winners led the first half 13-12.

Milon scored highest 13 goals for the winners while Sanjeeb was top scorer for the losing side with nine goals.



PHOTO: STAR
Abahani striker Shahajuddin Tipu (L) is ecstatic after scoring his second goal against Dhaka Wanderers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

Tipu sparks Abahani rout

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani may not be in title contention any more but the Dhanmondi

giants appeared no short of motivation on Friday as they rolled over Dhaka Wanderers Club 5-0 thanks to a Shahajuddin Tipu hatrick.

For the second consecutive day, the fans at the Bangabandhu National Stadium were treated to a goal-feast following Brothers Union's 7-0 drubbing of Dipali Jubo Shanga on Thursday.

Tipu, the veteran, capitalised on all the opportunities that came his way and did his chances of earning a recall to the national fold no harm.

With the league decider set for the final day in what could turn out to

be a blood and thunder match between Brothers and Mohammedan on September 9, Abahani's priorities yesterday lay on a strong last push to keep their hopes of finishing runners-up.

The Sky Blues, who raised their collection to 35 points, now must hope that there is a result either way in the Brothers Mohammedan game next Friday as that would enable them to catch the losing side on points and earn a replay to decide the second spot provided they get their expected victory against Youngmens Club in their final fixture.

Tipu put Abahani ahead in the 17th minute when he found the net with a left-footed placing shot after dodging past Wanderers custodian Sabbir.

Strike partner Farhad doubled the margin three minutes later with an angular drive. Ujjal hit Abahani's third in the 24th minute and the result was a bygone conclusion when Tipu struck at the stroke of half-time.

Abahani relaxed after the breather and allowed Wanderers to launch a few moves. In the 78th minute, Abahani captain Joy brought down an onrushing Amirul inside the box but from the resultant penalty striker Milon could only ram the post.

Tipu completed his treble just before the final whistle. Wali Faisal released the ball to Tipu who outwitted two defenders and rounded goal-keeper Sabbir before tapping it in.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Kaif takes India home

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Harare

Mohammad Kaif struck an unbeaten century as India ended New Zealand's unbeaten record in the triangular series with a six-wicket victory.

Kaif struck 11 fours and was joined by Mahendra Dhoni, who smashed three fours and succes-

sive sixes in 37 off 27 balls to seal the win with 15 balls to spare.

New Zealand won the toss and chose to bat, posting 278-9 from 50 overs.

Scott Styris (56) and Craig McMillan (40) put on 87 after Stephen Fleming had launched the innings with 47.

Both sides made changes for the game with India recalling Virender Sehwag in place of Venugopal Rao and New Zealand including Chris Cairns and Andre Adams for Shane Bond and Daniel Vettori.

Fleming opted to bat after winning the toss and he and Nathan Astle put on 54 in 11 overs before Astle was caught behind off Agarkar for 11.

Skipper Fleming followed with the total on 83, run out by a distance when he attempted a quick single and bowler Agarkar threw down the stumps.

It was the first of two run outs, with Lou Vincent (37 off 23 balls)

beaten by Yuvraj Singh's direct hit after the fielder had brilliantly stopped the ball with a full length dive.

When Yadav bowled Hamish Marshall for eight, New Zealand were in some trouble on 115-4.

But they were again well served by the depth of their batting as Styris and McMillan turned things back in their favour with some excellent running between the wickets.

They only hit five boundaries between them and once McMillan had been bowled by Agarkar, wicketkeeper-batsman Brendon McCullum joined in with an enterprising 28.

Jacob Oram hit a six and four in his 14 off five balls, but Pathan picked up a couple of cheap wickets and Nehra had Styris caught by Sehwag as the innings reached its close.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP
India's Mohammad Kaif prepares to pull during his match-winning hundred against New Zealand in their tri-series match at the Harare Sports Club ground on Friday.

BD-SL SCOREBOARD					
Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Friday:					
SRI LANKA	R	M	B	4	6
Tharanga st K Mashud b Manjarul	105	157	110	9	0
Jayasuriya c K Mashud b Nazmul	40	67	45	5	1
Dilshan c Omar b Rafique	27	72	59	0	0
Atapattu not out	53	79	43	3	0
Sangakkara c Manjarul b Rafique	28	31	24	2	0
Dilhara lbw b Raseel	2	7	4	0	0
Jayawardene not out	23	22	18	2	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-6, nb-4)	17				
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs)	295				
Fall of wkts: 1-100 (Jayasuriya, 14.6 ov), 2-171 (Dilshan, 32.5 ov), 3-194 (Tharanga, 37.2 ov), 4-245 (Sangakkara, 44.2 ov), 5-252 (Dilhara, 45.4 ov). Did not bat: Vaas, Muralitharan, Arnold, Fernando.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Extras
Tapash Baisya	10	0	71	0	(2nb, 2w)
Syed Raseel	10	1	49	1	(2w)
Nazmul Hossain	6.1	0	47	1	(1nb, 1w)
Manjarul Islam	10	0	47	1	
Mohammad Rafique	10	0	47	2	
Aftab Ahmed	3.5	0	27	0	
BANGLADESH	R	M	B	4	6
Javed Omar c Atapattu b Vaas	18	35	36	2	0
Shahriar Nafees c Muralitharan b Dilshan	51	118	83	4	0
Aftab Ahmed b Muralitharan	18	41	24	2	0
Mohammad Ashraf c Chandana b Dilshan	9	31	62	54	20
Mohammad Rafique c & b Dilshan	9	13	15	1	0
Habibul Bashar not out	41	60	47	2	1
Tushar Imran b Dilhara	31	42	37	3	0
Khaled Mashud not out	2	10	10	0	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-8, nb-6)	19				
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)	220				
Fall of wkts: 1-38 (Javed Omar, 8.3 ov), 2-77 (Aftab Ahmed, 17.4 ov), 3-122					
SEE PAGE 13 COL 3					

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3