



'A stepping stone'

INTERNET, undated



New Zealand were lucky enough not to concede their maiden one-day international defeat against Bangladesh as their two-wicket defeat on Tuesday to the Tigers in the warm-up match will not be put into ODI record book, yet it could not dampen the spirit of Habibul Bashar to take inspiration from their stunning success ahead of the big challenge in the main event.

"It was a very good win and naturally we are pleased. It's a stepping stone in the right direction," Tigers skipper Bashar reflected with pride on his team's achievement in the first official warm-up game at the extended Three Ws Oval in Cave Hill, Barbados.

Bangladesh bowled their opponents out for 226 and then reached the target with one over and two wickets to spare thanks to an amazing all-round performance by Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who played a whirlwind knock of 13-ball unbeaten 30 after claiming four wickets for 44 runs.

"We bowled really well and then had a wonderful opening partnership, which was much-needed. We thought it was a 'gettable' total but we needed a good opening partnership -- and we got it. That was very important. We knew, if we could keep wickets in hand, we could win the game," said the most successful Bangladeshi skipper showing praises on 70-run opening stand between Tamim Iqbal and Javed Omar.

After the Tigers expected wins against Bermuda, their one of Group B opponents besides two subcontinent giants India and Sri Lanka, and Canada in the Caribbean the whispering was remained whether Dav Whatmore charges was only good enough against the minnows but anybody can set aside the word 'doubt' for few days after their victory against the formidable Black Caps.

Bangladesh definitely will go for an all-win record before launching the campaign in the mega event when they play their second and final warm-up game against Scotland, whom they recently defeated twice at home, today.

Branding his opponents a 'tricky side', New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming also heaped praise on Bashar's men performance.

"I always think they are an awkward side. They do the basics well,

and Dav Whatmore is a good coach. They've played a lot of international cricket now, have some players with experience and are going to be a tricky side," said the left-hander who made a duck in the match.

"It was a poor performance. It was a day when nothing went right. We batted poorly at the beginning and did not assess conditions that well. We knew it was going to be tricky at the start and we fell flat on our faces," said Fleming as he explained the reason behind the defeat.

"Then we bowled tentatively at the start. We kept clinging on in the field but we just couldn't shake them. It was a great performance from them, and it gives us some problems going forward," he added.

The experienced campaigner also highly applauded the Tigers fielding effort to snatch the game from them.

"We were always there in the game. We fought back after a poor start and if we had reached 250, that would have been enough, we would have won the game. They fielded brilliantly, you saw the run out of Brendon McCullum, and

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh braveheart Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) punches the air in delight after hitting the winning runs as batting partner Abdur Razzak looks on during their warm-up game against New Zealand at the 3W's Oval in Barbados on Tuesday.

CricInfo forgets Tigers!

SPORTS REPORTER

While the Tigers were picking up wickets and hitting sixes in Barbados, millions of fans all across the globe were sweating over their favourite team's whereabouts on Tuesday night.

With no television coverage of Bangladesh's warm-up match against New Zealand, everyone were trying to find score updates on websites but were left baffled with at least one of them.

While TigerCricket.com tried its best with its limited resources to inform the viewers of the latest scores, CricInfo left everyone perplexed with its inconsistency and mistakes. TigerCricket.com, the official website of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had its technical backbone put to test with thousands of hits. They regularly cater around 74,000 hits on an average but on Tuesday night, they had 151,493 hits on its homepage.

Although this kind of surge shows how popular the site is, it also puts forth the lack of lavishness on the part of the BCB when it comes to strengthening TigerCricket.com.

It could have been much accessible had the BCB posted a man for this kind of updates in the West Indies.

CricInfo, on their part, disregarded all the warm-up matches on Tuesday, save the one between India and the Netherlands. This may have been due to the television coverage provided for the India warm-up match on SETMax, but CricInfo frequently dispatched wrong information when it came to the Bangladesh-New Zealand match. This left millions of followers in a quandary as at the same time, a handicapped TigerCricket.com, which reportedly updated the score from Dhaka over phone, took a long time to open for viewing.



Did U Know?

Edward Grace, Frederick Grace and William Grace, representing England, provided the first instance of three brothers playing Tests.



TALK TURKEY

Edward Grace, Frederick Grace and William Grace, representing England, provided the first instance of three brothers playing Tests.

Mohammedan Sporting Club began their professional football league campaign with full three points when Zahid Hossain's lone second half strike bailed out the local giants with a 1-0 win over neighbours Arambagh in the B. League yesterday.

Mohammedan's performance in the Daka derby, however, was less than convincing although they created ample scoring chances against Arambagh, who fielded three nondescript Africans in their home match.

With Farashgan yet to play, Brothers Union, Khulna Abahani and Daka Mohammedan lead the table with maximum three points after the first round.

It took long to identify which side were the good old Mohammedan -- playing in their unfamiliar away green strip -- as both sides struggled to take control in the last match of the first week at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

A squad that had only one player -- skipper Nakib -- known to their loyal band of supporters, Mohammedan showed all signs of the damage they had suffered during the transfers. The local rookies were constantly looking to the four Nigerians, who make the core, for aid and Shafiqul Islam Manik's boys came alive after two half chances went astray.

It was national under-23 midfielder Zahid who threatened to open the scoring when his 20-yard drive smothered an otherwise busy Arambagh goalkeeper Piru in the 34th minute.

Mohammedan looked dangerous on setpieces but defender Biplab and Nigerian midfiel-

National Cricket League

Day-4 (Four-Day)

Dhaka v Sylhet

Venue: Fazlul Cricket Stadium



Day's Event

Day's Event