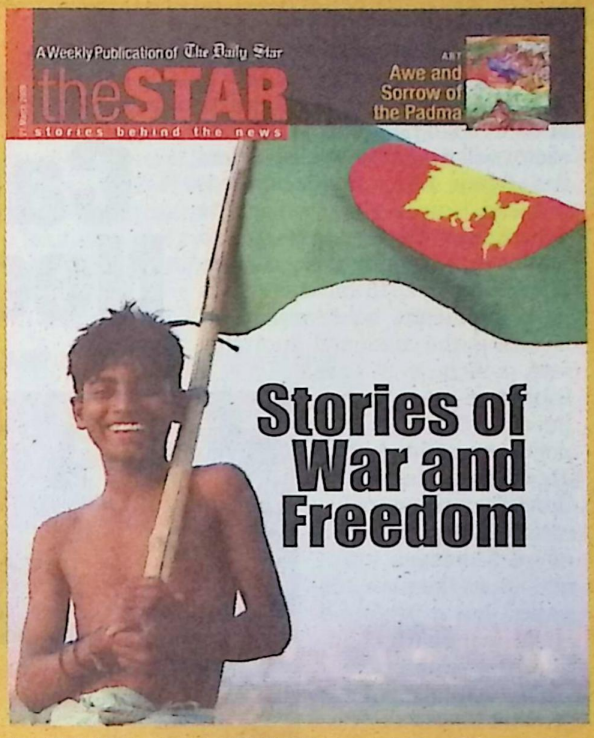
ple into the right places and making changes at the right time, he was a captain that led by performance. He narrowly missed out on a century while always bowling with fire and venom. Seemingly the West Indies had prepared the wickets even better than we could have hoped for at home, they slow, low and turning, just like our barrage of spinners liked. With victory in the second test and our first whitewash under out belts, it was time to move on the ODIs.

With a new found sense of professionalism, Bangladesh steamrolled the Windies into another whitewash. The most impressive of which was the second ODI where they chased down a score of 274, with time to spare. Mushfiqur Rahim who had such a terrible Twenty/20 World Cup redeemed himself with combination of immaculate glove work and astute batting. Ashraful may have flopped in the tests, yet in the shorter from of the game he rattled off a few fifties and looked to regain some of his lost sheen. The individuals started playing like a team and with Shakib at the helm they seemed to have a good Shepard as well.

Flying out to Zimbabwe from the West Indies the team was full of confidence and now looked to cap their eventful time abroad with back-to-back series victories. Embarrassingly they were trounced in their only tour match against Zimbabwe A, and our old fears began to crop up again. Would they lose to the relative minnows of Zimbabwe after beating the West Indies so convincingly? Thank goodness they continued where they left off against the West Indies as they eased to victory in first ODI. Ashfarul marked his return to form in the shorter from of the game with a century while the spinners strangled Zimbabwe's batting. The second ODI was nothing short of a revelation as Shakib scorched the 9th fastest ODI century ever as Bangladesh posted their highest ODI score of 320. Zimbabwe were behind the rate from the very start and even a spirited finish only saw them come up second best.

A sloppy loss in the third ODI led the team to what they must have thought was a must win match. Zimbabwe scored a massive 312 with Charles Coventry equalling Saeed Anwar's 12 year record of 194 in an ODI, the only difference being that Coventry remained not out at the end of the innings. But this was seemingly the new Bangladesh, without many risks they breezed through to an emphatic win with Tamim Iqbal compiling a gorgeously stroke filled 156 to see them over the line. The final game was a formality as Bangladesh again proved their dominance over the Zimbabweans to leave with their second series victory in a row.

These last two tours may in the future be known as the time we turned our cricket around. Two series' two away wins and a new leader who seems destined for success, this has been the team the nation has dreamed about. Now if they can only keep mind, body and soul together they could scale even greater heights. The challenge now it not to relive the games we have won, but plan for the ones we have not. ■



WRITE FOR theSTAR

The Star Magazine, which has just celebrated its 13th anniversary this year, is looking for young, energetic individuals who will be able to write on arts, culture, film and sports, and will also be able to write features on different events that the Editor might assign her or him to cover. To become a contributor you must be a Bangladeshi citizen residing in the country, at least 18 years old, fluent in both English and Bengali and will be able to work well in a team.

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or you can send it by post to:

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Before you start sending in, remember that the sample article must be written in English in 700-1200 words. We do not publish poems and we are not expecting them as sample write-ups. Because of the huge volume of submissions we receive it will not be possible for us to acknowledge the receipt of your article. Please know that we strongly believe in the principle of equal opportunity; any attempt (other than your writing skill) to influence our decision will disqualify your submission.