

SPORTS

MAY 5, 2011



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PROTHOM ALO

Fresh after their comprehensive 121-run win in the first ODI on Friday, the Tigers gear up for the second game against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday. And a win today will seal the series for the visitors.

'We can bounce back'

SPORTS REPORTER from Bulawayo

After a record 335-run win in the first Test in Harare, Zimbabwe have seemed to be on a downward slide of increasing rapidity. They fought in the second Test, also in Harare, but lost by 143 runs before coming to Bangladesh's stronghold of Bulawayo and being blown out of the water by 121 runs in the first of three ODIs on Friday.

Matches against Bangladesh assume special importance because there is a general expectation from the man on the street that the home team can win. So after the capitulation in the first game vice-captain Hamilton Masakadza was eager to arrest the slide when they take on Bangladesh in the second ODI at the Queens Sports Club today.

"I think we just had a bad start in Bulawayo," said Masakadza who came back to form with a hundred in the second Test and also played well to get 38 in the opening ODI.

"We could not fight the way we were supposed to. I think 260 was a par score on this wicket. The wicket here is batting friendly but we just did not bat well enough to chase it down."

After the first game captain Brendan Taylor lambasted the team for not learning from past mistakes and continuing to play across the line to straight deliveries. It must also have pained him that after his departure with score on 78 for three, the side folded like a house of cards, renewing talk of over-dependence on the captain and vice-captain.

"No, I don't really think so," said Masakadza when asked about the issue.

"There are guys in the middle order who are also scoring runs and they did it in West Indies. So I think

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Tigers seek series

SAKEB SUBHAN from Bulawayo



Even before the Zimbabwe tour started thoughts had turned to

Bulawayo. The Queens Sports Club is the venue where Bangladesh have historically enjoyed success, and so there were even efforts to shift the Test matches to Bulawayo when the tour was in its planning stages. Few would argue that the Tigers' partiality to this venue and their success lie not in some mystical quality in the Bulawayo air, but in fact in the dryness of the pitch that aided their traditional strength of spin bowling.

However, in their convincing 121-run win in the first ODI eight of the nine wickets that fell to bowlers were taken by seamers. Even though the pitch had a tinge of green on it, it was nothing like Harare where in two Test matches seamers accounted for 21 of the 36 wicket to fall.

During practice ahead of today's second ODI here, it was Pakistan's off-spin legend and Bangladesh's spin-bowling consultant Saqlain Mushtaq who sang the praises of the seamers and welcomed their prominence in Bangladesh's tour so far. "You can see that we are improving not just in the spinning department, but the fast bowling department as well, the batting department and also as a team. I always say that we shouldn't say that we depend on the spinners. We play as a team, and the team plays together and they perform in all the departments. You can't win depending on just one department."

Over the last year and a half, starting with the Asia Cup in Bangladesh, the team have shown that they are equal to challenges thrown to them and in keeping with that tradition Bangladesh have seemed to overcome the challenge of a supposedly bare pace cupboard. First Robiul Islam with 15 wickets in two Tests,

then Ziaur Rahman with nine wickets in three innings on tour have put their hands up when needed, as so many have done over the past year.

Their resurgence on tour after losing the first Test by 335 runs -- the first real blotch on Mushfiqur Rahim's record since taking over the captaincy in late 2011 -- seems a continuation of their burgeoning strength of character.

Although the pitch had more grass than expected, both sides agreed that it was a good batting wicket after the first game and that it was the greater discipline of the Bangladesh bowlers -- in particular Zia who persisted in keeping the ball on a stump-to-stump line and had five wickets to show for it -- as well as careless batting from Zimbabwe that saw the home side crumble to 148 all out.

Zimbabwe are a side that pride themselves on discipline, so a capitulation of that sort may not be

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE

No progress as yet

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Two weeks have gone by after the Bangladesh Cricket Board had assured of holding the Dhaka Premier League, but little progress has been made in this regard.

Uncertainty surrounding this year's league, the most coveted 50-overs competition in the country, remains as BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon has yet to hold talks with the clubs. The BCB boss assured agitated cricketers, who had gathered at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on April 20 to protest the delay in start of the league, that the competition would surely take place this year. But Jalal Yunus, chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), has seen no positive sign regarding the start of the league though they were supposed to reach an agreement within a week's time from the BCB chief's assurance.

"We are actually waiting for feedback

from the clubs. As per their [clubs] desire we provided the list of the players two days back and, most importantly, the national players will be back by May 15, so we can easily start the league by end of this month. But the reality is that there is no progress regarding the start of the league," said Yunus, who is also the chairman of the board's media committee.

"Hopefully our president will meet with the club officials within next two-three days. Let's see what happens. There is no problem even if it is a single league tournament and we are also ready to keep a reserve day considering the weather. But the main thing is that the clubs have to come forward," he added.

However it could not be known whether the BCB president had taken any initiative on his own.

The league, which was initially scheduled to start in March this year, was postponed indefinitely as the clubs denied to participate in the league citing a number of problems, amongst which was the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Nasir Hossain has been a revelation for Bangladesh in international cricket. PHOTO: AFP

Nasir, new vanguard

SAKEB SUBHAN from Bulawayo



It has been less than two years since Nasir Hossain made his ODI debut, coincidentally on the ill-fated Zimbabwe tour in August 2011. Since then, he has embodied the new Bangladesh in his short career. After his debut in the second ODI in Harare in a series Zimbabwe went on to win 3-2, he saw a change of captaincy with Mushfiqur Rahim taking over from Shakib Al Hasan, and his rise has coincided with the upward swing in Bangladesh's ODI fortunes.

In the 23 matches since his debut, Bangladesh have won 10 and lost 12 -- a win-loss ratio of 0.83, much higher than the overall statistic of 0.4. With his record -- he has averaged 44.8 in those 23 matches with five fifties and a hundred -- his place in a successful team cannot be said to be coincidence, but rather he has been a major component of that success. The fifth of those fifties won Bangladesh the match after his senior teammates had fallen in a heap to leave the team at 94 for four in the first ODI against Zimbabwe on Friday.

Few if any Bangladesh cricketers have enjoyed the early success he has enjoyed, and that is down to his mentality as well as the newfound confidence of the Bangladeshi cricketers. On the field he sometimes comes across as brash as his shushing of the crowd in the first edition of the BPL in Chittagong after taking a catch implies but in reality he is as happy-go-lucky as it gets. Seeing him in the team hotel, interacting with journalists

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

CANDY WASHER DRYERS

Candy - Italian Technology Since 1954

THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO BUY A WASHER DRYER. PEACE OF MIND IS ONE OF THEM.

Even If You Don't Have To Use The Dryer Everyday, You Know It Is There When That Emergency Comes Along.

MADE IN ITALY



6Kg



8Kg



9Kg

www.update-bd.com

BEST PRICE

EXCLUSIVE DELONGHI KENWOOD SHOWROOM HOUSE # 24/A, ROAD # 47, GULSHAN # 2, DHAKA 1212, TEL: 02-8832883, 8832884. BASUNDHARA SHOPPING MALL, SHOP # 54, 55, 68 & 69, LEVEL 6, BLOCK-D. TEL: 01711695244. HOTLINES | 01713 330049, 01713 244767, 01711 595755, 01714 070409.

BUY MORE FOR LESS WITH INSTALLMENTS INTEREST FREE ON YOUR CREDIT CARD