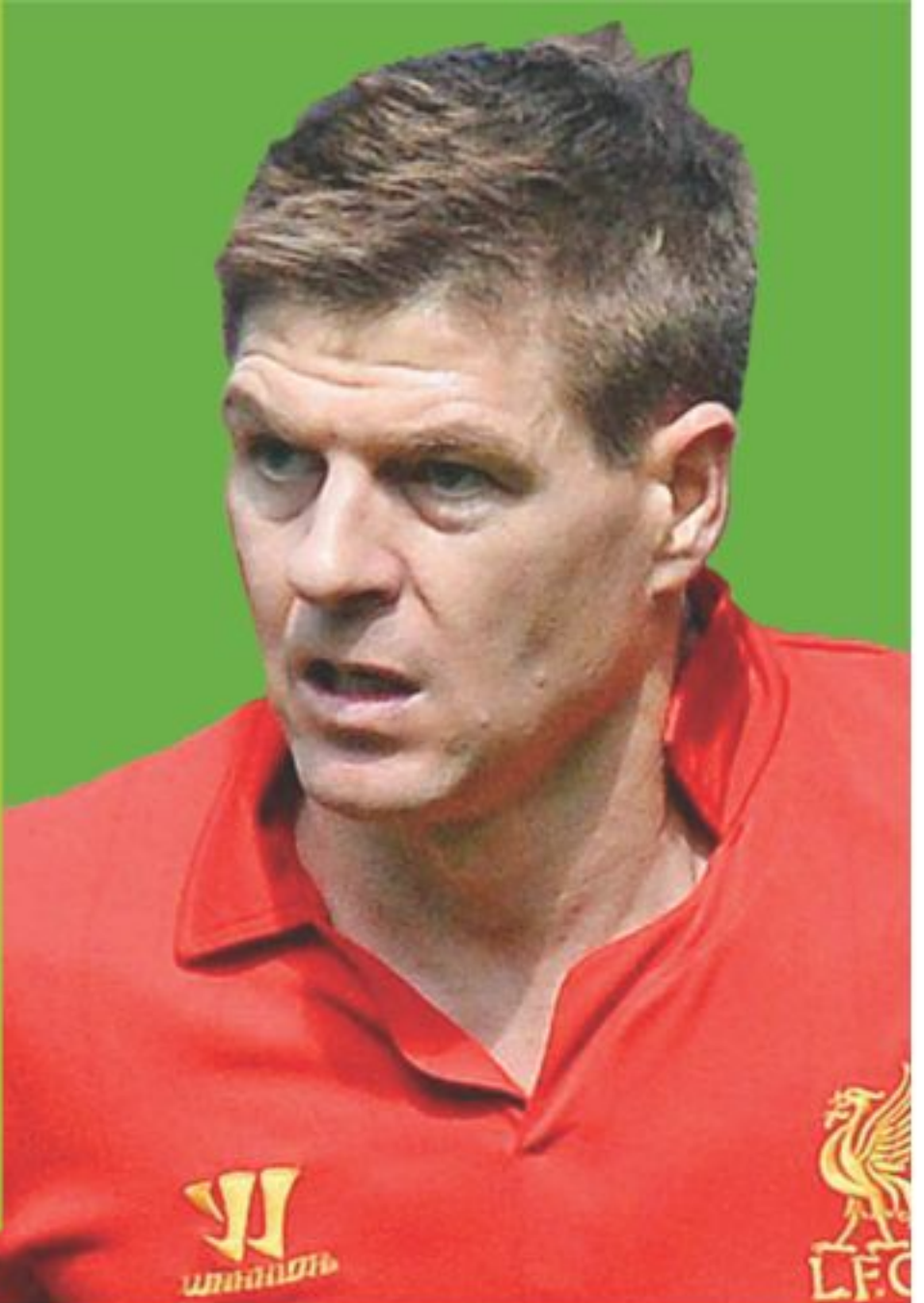


Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 9, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Gerrard to have shoulder surgery

Liverpool and England captain Steven Gerrard will undergo shoulder surgery this week that will rule him out of the last two games of the season, the Premier League club said on Tuesday. The 32-year-old, who has been ever present in this season's league campaign, is now likely to miss England's friendlies against Ireland at Wembley on May 29 and away to Brazil on June 2. "The captain's injury has progressively worsened in recent weeks and requires an operation to cure it," Liverpool said in a statement on their website.



Tigers whimper to series loss

SPORTS REPORTER from Bulawayo



Bangladesh played possibly their worst cricket of the tour as they surrendered the ODI series to Zimbabwe, who outclassed their misfiring opposition by seven wickets in the third and final ODI at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

Vusi Sibanda played the innings that Bangladesh's batsmen should have played, as the right-hander scored exactly 100, bringing up the century with the winning run edged over the absent slip cordon with 2.5 overs to spare.

The match was over as a contest when Bangladesh, in the 44th over with Zimbabwe needing 26 runs, first dropped Sean Williams at midwicket and then Sibanda at long off. After that, the only point of interest was whether Sibanda would reach his second ODI hundred.

Bangladesh's bowlers were toothless in their defence of 247, the lowest total batting first in the series. The bowling from the pace bowlers let off pressure with short and wide deliveries, while the spinners failed to build any momentum except during a brief period in the middle of the innings. Hamilton Masakadza and

Sibanda put on 79 in 14.1 overs before Robiul Islam came back into the attack to dismiss Masakadza, caught behind off a beauty reminiscent of the bowler's Test exploits. Then Sikandar Raza and Sibanda put on 56, but the slow progress heaped some pressure on the batsmen, and it told in the quick dismissals of Raza and skipper Brendan Taylor, who played possibly his first rash shot of the tour, reverse sweeping Mahmudullah Riyad into Mushfiquir's gloves.

Then however, the man of the match in the second game Sean Williams batted comfortably and built a 109-run partnership at better than a run-a-ball to win the series for Zimbabwe.

Earlier, Mushfiquir Rahim lost his third toss in a row and Bangladesh seemed resigned to their fate as Tamim Iqbal and Mohammad Ashraful walked in to bat. The match marked the return to the Zimbabwe side of Brian Vitori, the left-arm fast bowler who had been the major thorn in the Tigers' side on their previous tour in 2011.

Yesterday his pace and hustle made one wonder why he was not in the side earlier in the series. In the fourth over, a short-of-

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PHOTO: AFP

Zimbabwe opener Vusi Sibanda pulls one during his century against Bangladesh in the third one-day at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

NEW

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Multi Expert Moment of the day

A shocker from Mushfiquir

SPORTS REPORTER From Bulawayo



There was something amiss in Bangladesh's post-match press conference yesterday.

A team representative took a long time to appear after the television formalities of the ODI had ended in a seven-wicket loss when, two minutes into the question and answer session, Mushfiquir jogged into the room and took a seat next to Riyad. The deputy's reaction upon seeing his captain was the first clue that this was no ordinary press conference, but that it would end with the resignation of a national captain aged 24 was still a surprise.

Riyad was attempting to explain the series loss to Zimbabwe after the third ODI had ended in a seven-wicket loss when, two minutes into the question and answer session, Mushfiquir jogged into the room and took a seat next to Riyad. The deputy's reaction upon seeing his captain was the first clue that this was no ordinary press conference, but that it would end with the resignation of a national captain aged 24 was still a surprise.

Mushfiquir started off answering questions as if it was just another press conference. However, when it was asked whether there was a little complacency

setting into the batsmen after they had underperformed for the third consecutive match, his answer was out of the ordinary. "Yes, it seemed like that. Of course I cannot say that they (Zimbabwe) did not bowl well, but as you said there was something missing in the application and skill, for which we lost four or five wickets when we should not have," he said. The strange thing about that utterance is that generally there would never be an admission of complacency from any player, much less the captain.

Then the bombshell dropped. As the journalists were saying thank you Mushfiquir raised his hand and said, "I have something to say."

"This will probably be my last series as captain, I will resign. It will be my last two matches (the two T20Is on 11 and 12 May) as captain," said Mushfiquir, whose eyes began to well up at that point.

"The reason obviously is the way we lost the match. I personally feel that I haven't been able to play well and I couldn't lead the team well, which is the reason we lost the ODI series. Since I am captain

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BCB didn't expect it

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have been caught unawares by Mushfiquir Rahim's sudden decision of resigning from the captaincy. The wicketkeeper-batsman made the announcement in a post-match briefing at Bulawayo last night after the Tigers suffered a seven-wicket defeat to lose the one-day series against Zimbabwe 2-1.

"We communicated with the team management soon after we heard the news. Although his tenure is up to the series but we were still surprised because there is no question about his captaincy. He is very capable of leading the team. The board has full faith on him," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus last night.

"We are not fully sure as to what compelled him to take this decision but apparently he took the

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Fergie era ends



Football

AFP, London

Alex Ferguson will retire as Manchester United boss at the end of the season, the Premier League champions announced Wednesday, ending the most successful managerial reign in English football.

Ferguson, 71, guided United to 13 Premier League titles and two European Champions League crowns in 26 years in charge at Old Trafford.

Rumours of Ferguson's shock retirement only began circulating a day earlier, but he said it was a decision he had

Highlight of Ferguson's career was the unprecedented Treble of 1999.

been considering for some time.

"The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great deal about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time," Ferguson said in a statement.

"It was important to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible shape and I believe I have done so," added Ferguson, who will bow out with United having wrested back the Premier League title this season from

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What's in the toss?

SAKEB SUBHAN from Bulawayo



It has been a little worrying that heading into a series-deciding ODI, most of the talk has centred on the pitch and the toss. Bangladesh won the first game after being put in to bat first and lost the second match from the same situation.

It is undeniable that the toss does provide an advantage, the ball swings more in the morning making life difficult for the top-order batsmen on an otherwise good pitch. But the question remains that should an international team -- one that not long ago won an ODI in Sri Lanka and beat T20 champions West Indies 3-2 at home -- be cowed by which way a coin lands against a team they themselves expect to beat every match?

The other side of the coin is that if the batsmen, after being put in on a difficult wicket, bat well and put up a formidable score, Zimbabwe's batsmen will be under the pressure of having to chase a big total and then batting first becomes an advantage.

There have to be and there are contingency plans for when lady luck does not favour them, as it has not for all three matches of the series. In the first two games, after being put in to bat, Bangladesh slipped to 94 for four and

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Sony like no other

ANISUR RAHMAN



There was a time in our domestic football when foreign players were household names, alongside local stars. Players

like Pakeer Ali, Samir Shakir, Bijen Tahiri, Ajmat Rahimov, Sergei Zhukov, Emeka Ezeigbo used to enthral the spectators with their quality and skill, week in week out. Those times are long gone.

Nowadays most of the foreigners that ply their trade here are usually devoid of genuine skill and instead use their brute force to get things going. Amidst this mediocrity, Sony Norde burst into the scene last year, like a breath of fresh air. A product of the Boca Junior academy, Norde came to Bangladesh after playing

in Mexico's second division and demonstrated his skills throughout the season, playing a key role in Sheikh Russel's treble winning campaign.

The 23-year old Haitian forward feels happy with his contribution. "I had no idea about Bangladesh or its football before

coming here but now I am happy as my teammates and the people of Bangladesh are very cordial and helpful. And I am very happy to have won three trophies in a season," said Norde yesterday at his club tent at Bakshibazar.

His unforgettable performances in the final of both Federation Cup and Independence Cup was ample evidence of his talent and many Bangladeshi journalists wondered why he was not picked by the Boca Junior despite being a youth cadet

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SONY NORDE

PREMIER LEAGUE BCB ponders BPL-type payment

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is mulling changes to players' payment system for the Dhaka Premier Cricket League.

Like the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), the board wants to introduce players' auction in different categories instead of the traditional payment system where the clubs negotiate with the respective players.

"We talked with the clubs regarding the matter and we already prepared a 181-player list and hopefully we will take a decision

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Abahani face TPC today



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Having played a 1-1 draw against Three Star Club of Nepal, Abahani are looking forward to securing another point when they face Taiwan Power Company in their Group A encounter in AFC President's Cup at the Dasharat Stadium in Kathmandu today.

"Taiwan Power Company are not ahead of us. I think both Abahani and Taiwan side are equal in strength. We will first want to ensure a point and then go for full three points," Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu was quoted as saying yesterday.

Rupu believes a draw would give them the edge to move into the six-team finals as they would face Erchim FC of Mongolia in their last match, which according to him, would be an easy encounter.

The former national footballer was however a bit worried with his defence, which led Abahani to concede the opener against Three Star Club as well as a penalty, which

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BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH				
Tamim c Taylor b Chatara				32
Ashraful c Sibanda b Vitori				5
Jahurul b Vitori				0
Mushfiquir c Chatara b Utseya				32
Shakib c Sibanda b Williams				18
Nasir c Taylor b Jarvis				63
Mahmudullah not out				75
Ziaur c H Masakadza b Chatara				5
Razzak c Taylor b Jarvis				4
Shafiuul run out				1
Extras: (lb-1, wd-9, nb-2)				12
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)				247
Did not bat: Robiul.				
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-15, 3-77, 4-84, 5-110, 6-189, 7-194, 8-211, 9-247.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jarvis	10	0	63	2
Vitori	9	0	43	2
Chigumbura	0.5	0	2	0
H Masakadza	5.1	0	16	0
Utseya	9	1	34	1
Chatara	10	0	59	2
Williams	6	0	29	1
ZIMBABWE				
Sibanda not out				103
H Masakadza c Mushfiquir b Robiul				41
Raza c Nasir b Ziaur				37
Taylor c Mushfiquir b Mahmudullah				2
Williams not out				55
Extras: (lb-7, w-5, nb-1)				13
Total: (For 3 wks in 47.1 overs)				251
Did not bat: Waller, Chigumbura, Utseya, Jarvis, Vitori, Chatara.				
Fall of wickets: 1-79, 2-135, 3-142.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shafiuul	10	0	58	0
Razzak	10	1	44	0
Robiul	7.1	0	45	1
Ziaur	5	0	25	1
Shakib	9	1	43	0
Mahmudullah	6	0	29	1
Result: Zimbabwe won by 7 wickets				