

SPORT



BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH	R	B	4s	6s
Tamim run out	76	98	7	1
Anamul c Sibanda				
b Panyangara	80	110	5	1
Shakib b Sibanda	0	1	0	0
Mushfiquir lbw				
b Kamungozi	27	29	1	1
Sabbir c Kamungozi				
b Panyangara	0	2	0	0
Mahmudullah c				
Panyangara b Kamungozi	12	21	1	0
Mominul not out	33	23	3	0
Mashrafe b Chatara	6	9	0	0
Rubel not out	5	8	0	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-8, nb-1)	12			
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	251			
Did not bat: Sunny, Al-Amin.				
Fall of wickets: 1-158, 2-158, 3-173, 4-173, 5-204, 6-204, 7-225.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	10	1	51	2
Chatara	10	0	58	1
Kamungozi	10	0	38	2
Nyumbu	10	0	56	0
Sibanda	10	0	45	1

ZIMBABWE	R	B	4s	6s
H Masakadza b Mashrafe	0	6	0	0
Raza c Mahmudullah				
b Mashrafe	16	24	2	0
Sibanda b Mashrafe	21	15	3	1
Taylor c Mahmudullah				
b Sunny	8	19	0	0
Mire c Sunny b Shakib	50	79	2	0
Chakabva c Mashrafe				
b Al-Amin	32	53	2	0
Chigumbura run out	38	31	5	0
Panyangara b Sunny	8	31	1	0
Nyumbu b Sunny	0	8	0	0
Chatara not out	1	2	0	0
Kamungozi b Sunny	0	1	0	0
Extras: (lb-4, w-5)	9			
Total: (All out in 44.5 overs)	183			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-37, 3-40, 4-50, 5-115, 6-140, 7-177, 8-181, 9-182.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	8	0	34	3
Al-Amin	8	0	44	1
Rubel	6	1	28	0
Sunny	9.5	0	29	4
Shakib	8	2	18	1
Mahmudullah	2	0	12	0
Sabbir	3	0	14	0

Result: Bangladesh won by 68 runs and lead the 5-match series 2-0.
Player-of-the-match: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Tamim Iqbal (R) and Anamul Haque laid the required platform against Zimbabwe yesterday from where the Tigers failed to build on. The pair added 158 runs for the opening stand in an innings total of 251.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Tamim, Anamul & then Mash

Tigers make it 2-0 after easy 68-run win against Zimbabwe

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza must be a happy man. Prior to the second ODI he asked for a team effort and that's exactly what he got in Bangladesh's 68-run win over Zimbabwe at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here yesterday.

And it was Mashrafe himself who led from the front. It looked like a scene from the past when the pacer bowled his nearly immaculate line with the new ball. Zimbabwe, who were chasing 252, a target set courtesy of a 158-run stand between openers Tamim Iqbal and Anamul Haque, virtually lost the match within the first 14 overs as they crumbled to 50 for 4 and a major reason behind that was Mashrafe's brilliant opening spell.

At a time when both Al-Amin Hossain and Rubel Hossain bowled either too short or too wide, the veteran stood up to scalp three crucial wickets. He removed danger-man Hamilton Masakadza in

the first over with an intelligent off-cutter that stayed low and went through Masakadza's defences. Five overs later, he used the same delivery to send Vusi Sibanda back for 21.

And just as Mashrafe was about to finish his spell, he found an edge off Sikandar Raza's bat which was well taken at short-cover. The only time Mashrafe looked out of sorts was during the powerplay overs, when he was smacked for four boundaries in an over by Elton Chigumbura. However, that did not matter for the player from being adjudged player-of-the-match for figures of 3 for 34.

While Mashrafe laid the foundation, the spinners did the rest. Arafat Sunny chipped in with three wickets in his last over and finished with career-best figures of 4 for 29. Shakib Al Hasan and Al-Amin Hossain, chipped in with one wicket each.

While Sabbir Rahman failed to pick a wicket, he however orchestrated a superb run out to get rid of Chigumbura in the 42nd over; the dismissal sent back Zimbabwe's last recognised batsman.

Tamim and Anamul's stand proved to be the

basis of Bangladesh's win though the two were a bit cautious initially. As the innings approached halfway, the pair decided to shift a gear. Tamim launched John Nyumbu straight down the ground for a six in the 23rd over to bring up his 50 off 72 balls. Four overs later, Anamul reached the landmark by driving Sibanda through the covers.

Things however changed on the last ball of the powerplay overs as Tamim fell short of his crease for a quick single. They lost their next four wickets for just 15 runs. Mushfiquir Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad attempted to rebuild, but both departed after a 31-run stand.

Mushfiquir was trapped in front in the 44th over, an over after the former captain lost his temper. He wielded his bat like a sword at Tendai Chatara after he thought the bowler had deliberately got into his way while taking a second run.

Mominul Haque came in at seven and produced an eventful 33 to take the hosts past 250. He hit three fours in his 23-ball innings and dissected the field with ease.

'I'm still not at my best'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's crucial opening spell, which saw him take three wickets, pegged back Zimbabwe early in their innings. The captain however was repentant that he failed to give his best in yesterday's match.

"It's good that I got the wickets, but honestly speaking, I feel that only 80 per cent of my deliveries were landing in the right areas. I feel that I am not able to give my best as yet. It's not as though I would get more wickets if I were, but it's about getting that sense of satisfaction," Mashrafe told reporters at the post-match press conference here.

"For instance, against India and West Indies, I was happy with the way I bowled, regardless of the number of wickets I got. I was consistent. But I am not able to do that now, maybe because of the lack of bowling. Hopefully I will come back," the pacer further explained.

There were a number of changes made in the batting order yesterday, with Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiquir Rahim and Sabbir Rahman promoted up the order. Unfortunately, the move did not click for the Tigers, with a series of wickets falling after the century-stand by the openers. The changes in the order, according to Mashrafe, were made to give the 'best batsmen' in the side maximum time at the crease.

"Honestly speaking, I think our partnership was so good that it was a bit confusing for the other batsmen. Because we are not used to such situations we probably did not read the situation well. We need to improve on this."

"The openers had already played up to 26 to 28 overs so we wanted Shakib and Mushfiquir who are in form to get maximum number of overs so that they could accelerate the score. Sabbir played a good knock in the first ODI as well, so we wanted to give him more time," explained Mashrafe.

As a result of the move, Mominul, who scored a quick 33, had to bat at number seven.

"Mominul will definitely play at three for us, but it was also necessary to give our best batsmen strike. He was unlucky, but then again he showed us that he can bat well at number seven too."

When asked about the turning points of the game, Mashrafe talked about Mominul's innings at the end and Elton Chigumbura's run out.

"In that short time Mominul played a very good innings. Chigumbura's run out by Sabbir was also crucial because there have been times when he has played big innings from such situations," said Mashrafe.

On the other hand Zimbabwe captain, Elton Chigumbura blamed the defeat on his batsmen.

"I thought 280 in the first game was also chaseable, but we just made the same mistakes again, we lost too many wickets. There were a few parts where the bowlers bowled well and the fielders were enthusiastic, but we failed with the bat," said Chigumbura, adding that he hoped for a comeback in Dhaka.

Siddikur 52nd

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman capped off a miserable week by finishing at joint 52nd position in the Manila Masters in Philippines yesterday.

The two-time Asian Tour winner started the day with a birdie, but it went all downhill since as a double-bogey on the second hole was followed by another bogey on the third. An eagle on in the fourth gave signs of a comeback, but three more bogeys and a double-bogey put paid to his chances of a decent finish.

Siddikur returned a card of five-over (77) for the day and an aggregate of three-over (291) for the event, which was won by Mardan Mamat of Singapore (20-under).

DAV'S DISSECTION

MTB

DAV WHATMORE

The Bangladesh captain said at the toss that he wanted improvement in two areas, 1) more from his top order - well he certainly got it from his openers who scored 158 before Tamim Iqbal was run out. What he didn't figure was a procession of dismissals that followed. Anamul, Shakib, Shabbir, Mushfiquir, Mahamadulla and Mashrafe.

Yes the batting order was changed and I agree with demoting Mominul when after 30 overs both openers were still at the crease. The danger is that the batsmen who are padded up ready to go in see how easy batting is and they forget that both openers had taken plenty of overs to play themselves in before accelerating. The result is complacency sets in and each batsman leaves the job of scoring to the next one.

I still come back to the value of 30 overs and no wicket down, that gives the following batsmen time to get set or in this case, recovery when a cluster of wickets fall. Despite losing 8 wickets in the last 20 overs, Bangladesh were still able to score a respectable 251. If Mashrafe was offered that total at the toss, I rather feel he would have taken it.

The area to work on and there is always areas to focus on is to convert good starts by ensuring set batsmen are at the crease in the final few overs where intensity is at it's highest. That means a little more discipline and time at the crease before attacking shots are attempted.

The 2nd area of improvement the captain wanted was a better showing from his new-ball bowlers. It was a good thing that Mash himself was on the ball (3 wickets in 4 overs) as he got little support from the other end, again. 3 big wickets did little to mask a problem that exists at the moment.

Consistent length and line from both support pace bowlers were missing and they looked low in confidence.

35 runs in the Zim's Batting Power Play was not good enough either. The strategy of having both 3rd man and fine leg in the circle meant that pace bowlers had to bowl slower deliveries. This became too predictable and resulted in easy runs. A rethink is needed.

One positive in the second innings was the performance of Arafat Sunny. He stuck to his task and was discipline in delivering in the right areas and was rewarded a personal best of 4 for 29. Well done lad.

So now it's onto Dhaka leading the series 2 nil - every chance of making it 3 on Wednesday night.

The writer is a former Australia cricketer and Bangladesh's coach and currently a TV commentator.

Draw keeps Sheikh Jamal waiting

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Sheikh Jamal DC stayed on course for a semifinal berth in the King's Cup despite being held to a goalless draw by Thai Premier League outfit Nakhon Ratchasima FC in their second Group A match at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

A win would have seen Sheikh Jamal through, but a draw still leaves them with a good chance, as both Jamal and Nakhon lead the group table with four points with a match in hand. The groups other two teams, Mohun Bagan and Druk United FC, have one point each having played one and three matches respectively. As things stand, Sheikh Jamal will need only a draw in their last group match against Mohun Bagan on November 27 to qualify for the last four.

After an eight-day gap since their 3-0 win over Druk United, Sheikh Jamal took the field

in the same vein and dictated terms, with greater ball possession and number of attacks. According to the official facebook page of the tournament, the Sheikh Jamal forwards -- Wedson Anselme and Vaniel Sirin -- left the Nakhong defence in tatters and created two scoring chances in the first ten minutes, but the brilliance of the Thai goalkeeper frustrated the Dhanmondi giants. Nakhon, who routed Druk FC 5-0 in their opening match, also created a few chances of their own, especially towards the end of the first half, but failed to capitalise on those chances.

Sheikh Jamal coach Maruful Haque made two late substitutions, throwing in winger Rubel Miah in place of Sirin and striker Emmanuel Onyedikachi in place of Darboe, but none of those substitutions made an impact as both teams had to be content with a single point.

Meanwhile, Indian League outfit Pune FC qualified became the first team to book a semifinal berth after getting their third straight win in Group B yesterday.

The century jinx and an odd order

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

The 158-run stand between Anamul Haque and Tamim Iqbal in the second ODI against Zimbabwe here yesterday was only the sixth time that Bangladesh's openers put up a century partnership in the first innings.

Unfortunately, the hosts failed to build on the solid foundation, managing to add just 93 more runs. Oddly enough, statistics show that the Tigers are more prone to collapses and even likely to lose games after their openers gave them a good start.

Prior to yesterday's game, which the hosts eventually won, Bangladesh lost four out of the

five ODIs despite century stands from their openers, with the only win coming against Ireland in 2008. They tend to score below-par totals as well in these circumstances.

Back in 1999, openers Mehrab Hossain and Shahriar Hossain put on 170 in 35 overs against Zimbabwe. Bangladesh however ended up scoring just 257. Two other similar scenarios, both against Zimbabwe, saw them get bowled out for 183 in 2004 and 215 in 2001. In 2004, Hannan Sarker and late Manzarul Islam had put up 105 runs while in 2001, Al Shahrir and Javed Omar scored 103.

The collapses before 2005 can be understood; the Tigers after all were not used to winning matches back then. The dramatic fall in Chittagong yesterday however

seemed puzzling.

As many as five changes were made in the batting order from the previous match and that seemed to have affected the 'Tigers' flow. With the World Cup around the corner and this being Bangladesh's last bilateral series, experiments are bound to take place. However, yesterday's ploy has certainly backfired.

Shakib Al Hasan, for instance, was promoted to number three -- for the first time in his career -- in order to up the run-rate. While Shakib was bowled first ball, on any other day he could have rolled on his merry way; but the fall of wicket of course, is beside the point.

Bangladesh's strategy to send in their 'hitters' ahead meant that Mominul Haque, who normally bats at number three, would

have to come in at number seven; and despite scoring a fine 33, it's a position that clearly does not suit the left-hander. The role, in fact, seemed to suit Sabbir Rahman well in the first ODI on Friday here, where he powerfully finished the innings with two huge sixes. But he too was promoted to number five and ended up top-edging the second ball he faced.

That Bangladesh wanted to score a huge total was obvious; apart from the string of changes in the batting order they had also taken the batting powerplay in the 29th over. While the intent was positive, one feels that the hosts would have been better off making fewer changes in the order, especially after the wickets started falling.