

We all batted badly: Mash

SPORTS REPORTER



Following yesterday's defeat at the hands of Zimbabwe in the second and final match of the T20I series, Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha admitted that the Tigers still have 'a long way to go' before they can become consistent in Twenty20 cricket.

Speaking to reporters at the post-match press conference, the Sri Lankan said, "I think we still need to find our best approach and best combination. We are still developing in the T20 format. So in that sense I think we probably have a long way to go to become consistent."

"Individually, players should understand how to build a T20 innings. I don't think we have found our way yet. In the next two months we need to do a lot of work on our approach and mindset.

"I think we have the skill, if we didn't then we would not have been able to win the ODIs. But it's all about the approach," he added.

When asked if the way the Tigers played in the T20I series was a concern considering that the Asia Cup T20 and the ICC World T20 are around the corner, Hathurusingha said, "Yeah it's an uphill task for us because we don't have much T20 matches coming up. And as a team we can't blame the players either since we haven't played much T20

cricket leading up to this.

"Even in domestic cricket the last time we played a T20 tournament was back in 2013. So unless you play you don't find the approach. It's a big task but it's not impossible. We were in the same situation before the World Cup in Australia, but we were competitive till the end. We will find a way to come back from here," he added.

Speaking about yesterday's match, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza felt that his batters could have put up a much better performance.

"The wicket was actually not that easy to bat on, but even then we should have scored more than 130. Around 150 would have been a good total. Personally I think we played badly as a team," said Mashrafe.

When most of the top-order failed, Anamul Haque persevered with a 51-ball 47. And while the batsman ended up posting the highest total, he also played the most dot balls and failed to accelerate in the later stage. On the whole Bangladesh had 53 dot balls in the match.

However, Mashrafe refused to put the blame on Anamul.

"We lost today but one can't just single out one player. You have to understand that he was playing international cricket after a long time and some of his shots weren't working. Yes we are disappointed, but I personally feel we all batted badly," concluded Mashrafe.



Neville Madziva, who became an unlikely hero to get Zimbabwe to a three-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the second T20I in Mirpur yesterday, takes an almighty leap after smacking Nasir Hossain for the winning six off the penultimate delivery of the match.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

	R/B	4/6
Tamim c Chigumbura b Madziva	21/15	1/2
Imrul c Williams b Chisora	10/11	2/0
Anamul run out	47/51	3/0
Mushfiqur c Williams b Cremer	9/8	1/0
Sabbir lbw b Cremer	17/18	1/0
Nasir c Panyangara	3/5	0/0
Mahmudullah c Jongwe		
b Panyangara	8/4	2/0
Mashrafe b Madziva	0/1	0/0
Arafat c Jongwe b Panyangara	5/8	0/0
Mustafizur not out	1/1	0/0
Al-Amin not out	1/2	0/0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-2, nb-2)	13	
Total: (For 9 wkts in 20 overs)	135	
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-35, 3-59, 4-98, 5-113, 6-121, 7-122, 8-130, 9-134.		
Bowler	O	M
Raza c Mustafizur b Al-Amin	5/6	1/0
Chakwera c Sabir b Mustafizur	4/11	0/0
Williams b Al-Amin	0/1	0/0
Ervine run out	15/17	0/1
Imrul c Al-Amin	34/38	1/0
Chigumbura c Mahmudullah		
b Arafat	O	M
Raza c Mustafizur b Al-Amin	0/2	0/0
Waller c Sabir b Mustafizur	40/27	2/3
Madziva not out	28/19	3/2
Cremer not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-2, nb-2)	10	
Total: (For 7 wkts in 19.5 overs)	136	
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-7, 3-15, 4-33, 5-39, 6-94, 7-118.		
Bowler	O	M
Mashrafe	0	27
Al-Amin	4	0
Mustafizur	4	0
Arafat	4	0
Nasir	3.5	0
Result:	O	M
Zimbabwe won by 3 wickets and 2-overs	2-0	
Player-of-the-match: Neville Madziva.		
Player-of-the-series: Malcolm Waller.		

JUNIOR ASIA CUP Hockey team edge Oman

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-21 hockey team came from behind to hand a 5-4 defeat to Oman in their second match of the Men's Junior Asia Cup in Malaysia yesterday.

The charges of Mahbub Harun went into the match on the back of a 3-1 defeat against Pakistan on the previous day, and were immediately on the backfoot as Mohammad Al Latifi gave Oman a third-minute lead.

However, Bangladesh got themselves on level terms in the very next minute, thanks to a field goal from young forward Roman Sarker. A penalty stroke from Ashraful Islam and another field goal from Arshad Hossain, within the next 12 minutes, gave Bangladesh complete control. Al Latifi, however, pulled one back for Oman in the 20th minute as the game continued in a keenly-contested fashion. But Bangladesh once again opened up a two-goal cushion, Deen Mohammad striking the fourth goal for the team in the 25th minute.

Oman, though, kept at it and reduced the margin yet again in the 38th minute, with Al Batashi Khalid's field goal making it 4-3. However, Ashraful, who was later adjudged player-of-the-match, secured a goal in the same minute restoring the two-goal lead.

Al Shaaibi Amar struck for Oman in the 56th minute to make it 5-4, but Bangladesh held on to the slender lead to keep their winning streak against the same opposition, having beaten them 4-0 at home in the qualifying campaign for this tournament back in December, 2014.

Bangladesh will play their third match in Pool B against South Korea tomorrow.

Madziva heroics dampen year of the Tigers

NAIMUL KARIM



One can't say that it wasn't on the cards. While Bangladesh did manage to escape a defeat despite poor batting in the first T20I, their bad run got to them in the second.

A brilliant comeback from Zimbabwe saw the visitors edge past the hosts by three wickets in Mirpur yesterday to draw the T20I series 1-1.

The message from yesterday's result, which completed an otherwise magnificent year for the Tigers on a sour note, was obvious. If the Tigers want to make any mark in next year's Asia Cup or even in the World Twenty20 in India, they desperately need to sort out their batting strategy in the shortest format of cricket.

After restricting Bangladesh to 135, Zimbabwe revived themselves from 39 for 5 after nine overs to requiring 43 runs in the last five overs. Malcolm Waller and Luke Jongwe brought Zimbabwe back from the dead by putting on 55 runs in just 41 deliveries.

The hosts relaxed a bit after Al-Amin removed Jongwe in the 16th over, however, the momentum shifted back towards the visitors after Neville

Madziva smacked the bowler for two consecutive boundaries.

That brought down the equation to just 24 required off the last two overs. A brilliant penultimate over from Mustafizur Rahman, who gave away just six runs and was denied a wicket due to a no-ball for overstepping, left the visitors with a daunting task of 18 runs from the last over.

The equation turned harder for the visitors when Nasir Hossain, who bowled the last over, dismissed dangerman Waller off the first ball. But Madziva, who was hardly putting his bat to ball while Mustafizur was operating in the previous over and got the reprieve due to that no-ball, took the game from the firm grip of the Tigers by a whisker. His four-ball pyrotechnic that stunned the capacity home crowd into silence contained six, two, four and a massive six straight over the bowler's head. Madziva finished on 28 off just 19 deliveries.

"I enjoy facing spinners and I told myself that this was it. It was now or never. I was hundred percent sure that I could win this for my country," an elated Madziva said after the match.

When asked to describe his feelings, Madziva replied with a mere 'whoa'!

His skipper, Elton Chigumbura, was

more composed and described this victory as a morale boost for the team after the series ODI series defeats to Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Earlier, despite getting starts, none of Bangladesh's batters actually managed to move on. While Anamul Haque did score a cautious 47, in what was his second international match since the World Cup, he required 51 balls and struggled to pierce the gaps.

Tamim Iqbal was the only batsman who seemed to be able to hit the ball clean, smacking two sixes and a four early on. However, he was caught at long-on in the fourth over while attempting to clear the ropes for the third time.

Bangladesh lost quick wickets after Tamim's fall and the middle order crumbled.

After the exchange, Al-Amin Hossain removed Sikandar Raza and Sean Williams in consecutive deliveries in the second over. Mustafizur, coming in as the first-change in the fifth over, struck with his second delivery and got Regis Chakabva caught.

A run-out saw Craig Ervine depart in the eighth over while Elton Chigumbura fell exactly six balls later, getting caught at long-on. But that's when Zimbabwe's

Old demon strikes
Siddikur

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman endured the worst day of the season, and perhaps his entire Asian Tour career, when he carded an 11-over-par (82) in the final round of the World Classic Championship in Singapore yesterday to fluff yet another chance of earning a third title on the tour.

The 30-year-old golfer had started the fourth round on top of the leaderboard, having racked up scores of 71, 71 and 69 on the three previous days at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club, which proved to be a challenging course for most golfers. And one would have thought that his consistent performance in recent times – especially over the last six weeks when he made two top-ten finishes and didn't miss a cut in five events – would help him brave the final round jitters. But the old demon struck once more as the two-time Asian Tour winner, who had failed to drive home the advantage from a leading in the final round quite a few times since his second Asian Tour title two years ago, lost his game completely.

While Siddikur had amassed nine bogeys over the first three rounds, he carded four bogeys and same number of double bogeys yesterday. The only birdie of the day for him came on the fifth hole, but that was hardly any consolation for a golfer who eventually slipped from the top of the leaderboard to the 30th position in a matter of 18 holes.

BD A on top after Day 1

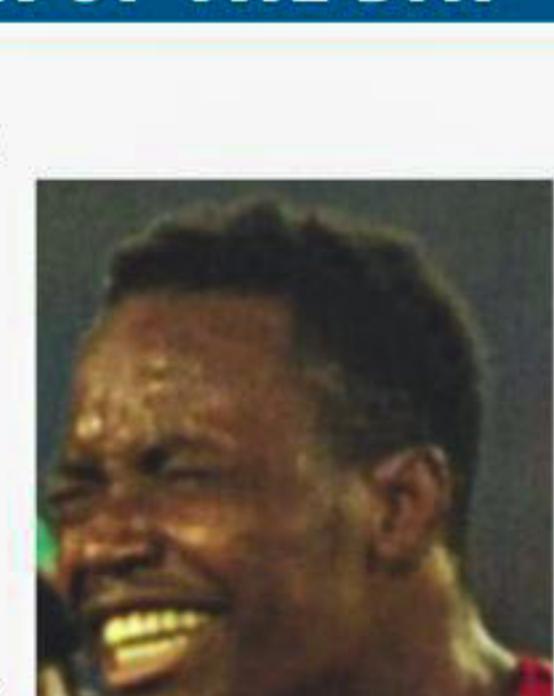
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Pacer Abu Jayed provided Bangladesh A with the breakthrough in the second over but a 118-run second wicket stand between Hamilton Masakadza and Peter Moor helped Zimbabwe A recover from the early hiccup to score 248 for eight on the rain-interrupted first day of the second four-dayer at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

Saqlain Sajib removed Masakadza for 50 runs after Jayed dismissed Brian Chari. Moor fell victim to a run-out after scoring 62. Jayed, Mohammed Shahid and Shuvagata Hom took two

PERFORMER OF THE DAY

NEVILLE MADZIVA



Neville Madziva did not have to make the long walk back to the pavilion after surviving a caught behind off a no-ball, but he made a walk which he wished would never end after leading Zimbabwe to a dramatic victory against Bangladesh yesterday. The initial reprieve in the penultimate over did not calm him, instead seemingly making him more glum as he failed to score on the next three balls. But as Malcolm Waller departed in the final over, Madziva entered beast mode with Zimbabwe needing 18 from five to get a win. A huge six was followed by a quick double to reduce arrears, before another boundary left Zimbabwe needing six off two balls. On the penultimate ball, Madziva hit a shot high into the stratosphere, with fielders clamouring, but the ball sailed safely over the boundary and into the stands as he sealed the victory.

Taylor takes attack to Oz

AFP, Perth



New Zealand batsman Kane Williamson and Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc joined elite company as bat continued to dominate ball on the third day of the second Test against Australia at the WACA Ground on Sunday.

In reply to Australia's formidable 559 for nine declared on a placid wicket, the Kiwis were 510 for six at stumps, trailing by just 49 runs.

Ross Taylor had emerged from a form slump and scored his second Test double century to be a career-best 235 not out, with Mark Craig on seven.

Williamson became one of the four youngest players to reach 12 Test centuries when he made 166, while Starc bowled what is believed to be the fastest recorded delivery in Test cricket.

Williamson rarely looked troubled in posting his second century in as many matches, before mistiming a pull shot off Josh Hazlewood and was caught at mid-on by Mitchell Johnson to end a record 265-run stand with Taylor, a new benchmark for New Zealand in Tests against Australia.

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