



None of the Tigers' four debutants could make an impact yesterday as Bangladesh lost the third T20I against Zimbabwe at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. With the pressure building, debutant Mosaddek Hossain was thrown in at the deep end at number four and he got himself dismissed after trying to play an injudicious reverse-sweep.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Couldn't execute our plans: Mash

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Did Bangladesh's tendency to experiment get the better of them? With Tamim Iqbal rested and four debutants included in the squad, that was the most popular question doing the rounds in the press box after the Tigers endured a thumping defeat in the third T20I against Zimbabwe at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

While Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza did admit that it was always going to be 'difficult' to win the game with the new players in the squad, he blamed his side's inability to play as per the plan for the defeat. "From the outside it will seem like that because we had four new players and a change. But honestly speaking these players were asked to be mentally prepared in the last few days.

"On the whole, we weren't up to the mark and we couldn't execute our plans," said Mashrafe. "As a captain, the biggest thing for me is to win the match and the same goes for the team. None of us wanted to lose the game," he added.

From promoting debutant Mosaddek Hossain to four to giving Imrul Kayes a go ahead of Tamim Iqbal, the team management, according to Mashrafe, wanted to provide these players with enough game-time in order to test them.

Mohammad Shahid, Abu Haider and Muktar Ali were the three other debutants. "I don't want to name players and speak about their performances individually. Four of them have just started their careers. But it was a little difficult to observe all these players in a single T20 encounter," said Mashrafe.

The skipper also said that the rains had made things a bit difficult for the hosts. "The ball started gripping a lot more in the second innings and that made it difficult for us to chase," said Mashrafe.

Zimbabwe batsman Malcolm Waller though disagreed with Mashrafe and said that the visitors faced difficulties as well since their bowlers couldn't grip the ball properly.

The Zimbabwean further said that the victory had lifted the spirit of his team, which had been desperately hunting for a win.

"It's very nice. The guys are very happy. Back in the change room there are lots of smiles and laughter. I think in the last few days we had games that we probably should have won and didn't quite get over the line."

The Zimbabwean believes that the visitors



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Experiments go awry

NAIMUL KARIM from Khulna

The contrast between the scenes at the end of yesterday's match at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna and those of the previous two T20Is at the venue could hardly have been starker.

The crowd had quietly slipped away from the stadium; there were no firecrackers burst; and almost nobody celebrated on the ground.

In fact, Zimbabwe's 31-run victory over the hosts was so one-sided that it even failed to bring a spring in the steps of the visitors, which was a bit surprising considering that this was their first win in five matches.

The silence and the lack of excitement following the game almost reflected the ambience generally witnessed during a domestic encounter.

The hosts had made five changes to the team yesterday. They decided

to rest Tamim Iqbal and give Imrul Kayes a go and also included four debutants in the playing eleven.

And the Zimbabweans took advantage of those changes and attacked right from the start.

Debutants Abu Haider and Mohammad Shahid were asked to open the bowling. Sensing an opportunity to attack, both Vusi Sibanda and Hamilton Masakadza unleashed themselves.

19-year-old Haider was guilty of bowling too full and was smacked for 18 runs in the third over by Sibanda. The debutant was punished to the tune of three fours and a flat six.

In the very next over Masakadza powered Shahid for four consecutive fours. Shahid though managed to get Masakadza out as the Zimbabwean slapped a wide delivery straight to point.

Unlike the last two games, the wicket did not change the flow of the match as Zimbabwe raced to 59 for 1

in six overs. The rains briefly interrupted the game soon after the seventh over. Upon resumption, Shakib Al Hasan removed Richmond Mutumbami and Sibanda to peg back the visitors a bit.

However, the boundaries began to flow once Malcolm Waller took to the crease. He smacked four sixes and two fours in his 23-ball 49. While he began the charge in the 13th over, his partner Sean Williams joined the carnage a bit later and hit a 26-ball 32. The duo put on 70 runs in just seven overs as Zimbabwe finished on 187 for 6.

Never before had Bangladesh chased a target of that magnitude in T20 cricket and it was bound to be tough without Tamim and Mushfiqur Rahim in the side.

The pressure was on and Imrul Kayes was the first to crumble, as he was bowled by Tendai Chisoro in the very first over. The in-form Sabbir Rahman and Soumya Sarkar put on a

67-run stand and brought Bangladesh back in the game.

However, as in the past, the batsmen failed to carry on with their starts. Soumya, who looked extremely vulnerable at the crease and was lucky not to be dismissed on a couple of occasions, eventually threw his wicket away for 25 in the eighth over.

The responsibility then fell on Sabbir, who responded with nine fours in a 32-ball 50. However, he was caught in the deep off Sikandar Raza soon after he reached his 50 in the 12th over.

From there on, Bangladesh's middle order crumbled. Debutant Mosaddek Hossain, Shakib and Mahmudullah Riyad were dismissed in a span of seven balls and by the 15th over the hosts were struggling at 107 for 6.

A scoop-filled 30 off 17 from Nurul Hasan towards the end lessened the margin of the defeat as the Tigers were restricted to 156 for

BCL's 2nd day washed out

SPORTS REPORTER

Inclement weather ruined the entire second day's play of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) second round matches in Rajshahi and Bogra as rainfall washed out both the games.

East Zone made 203 for eight on the first day against North Zone at the Shahid Chandu Stadium in Bogra while Central Zone made 233 for five against South Zone at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Former Galle curator banned

AFP, Colombo

The International Cricket Council on Wednesday imposed a three-year ban on top Sri Lankan official Jayananda Warnaweera for failing to cooperate with an anti-corruption investigation.

The world governing body said Warnaweera, a former Test player who was already facing a two-year domestic ban over allegations of involvement in match-fixing, had failed to attend interviews with its anti-corruption unit (ACU).

"Warnaweera failed, on two separate occasions, to attend a scheduled interview with the ACU in relation to an ongoing investigation and failed to provide documents required from him in connection with the investigation," the ICC said in a statement.

There was no immediate comment from Warnaweera, the former curator of the Galle International Stadium.

'It's anyone's game'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Any team could win the upcoming Under-19 World Cup, said Zimbabwean U-19 cricket team captain Brandon Mavuta.

"Now it is a tournament. It's any day, any game. It's anyone's game now. It's not like [it's] your home, you win obviously," he said, alluding to the home advantage of the Bangladesh U-19 team.

The captains of three participating teams in the upcoming U-19 world cup, beginning across the country from January 27, shared their opinions about the tournament in the press conference held at a Chittagong hotel yesterday afternoon.

Of the three teams, England and Namibia arrived in the port city yesterday morning while Zimbabwe came on Tuesday night.

England skipper Brad Taylor said, "We are excited about the tournament. We have prepared for a long time. It's a great opportunity to share skills with some of the best players of the world.

"We have plenty of options for subcontinent pitches. Of course we have had lots of practice playing in Sri Lanka pre-Christmas and playing against India in the tri-nation series. That gives us some of the best chances in the subcontinent. We have some talented seam bowlers and some talented batsmen." He made special mention right-handed opener Daniel Lawrence -- who has played first-class cricket for Essex -- and left-arm seamer Sam Karren.

According to the England captain, the Indian team will be the most challenging opponent in the tournament.

Zimbabwean captain Mavuta, on the other hand, thought that England will be the toughest opponent in their group.

Zane Green, the Namibia skipper, categorised the home side as being one of the toughest propositions for his side. "Anything can happen in Cricket. Bangladesh will be the team to watch with their home advantage," he said.

16 teams will play a total of 40 matches in the 20-day tournament ending on February 14.



Three under-19 skippers -- (L-R) England's Brad Taylor, Zimbabwe's Brandon Mavuta and Namibia's Zane Green -- were present at a press conference at a Chittagong hotel yesterday where they talked about the upcoming ICC Under-19 World Cup.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

8000 RUNS & 400 WICKETS IN THREE FORMATS		
Player	Runs	Wickets
JH Kallis (Afr./ICC/SA)	25534	577
ST Jayasuriya (Asia/SL)	21032	440
Shahid Afridi (Asia/ICC/Pak)	11085	533
N Kapil Dev (India)	9031	687
CL Cairns (ICC/NZ)	8273	420
Shakib Al Hasan (Ban)	8114	402



The scalp of Richmond Mutumbami may not be particularly prized, but for Shakib Al Hasan it was definitely one to remember. The left-arm spinner's dismissal of the Zimbabwe batsman in the third T20I was his 400th international wicket.

PHOTO: STAR

BREAKDOWN OF SHAKIB'S 402		
Tests	ODIs	T20Is
Matches: 42	Matches: 157	Matches: 41
Wickets: 147	Wickets: 206	Wickets: 49
Average: 33.31	Average: 27.89	Average: 20.67

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD			
ZIMBABWE	R/B	4/6	
Masakadza c Mosaddek	20/14	5/0	
b Shahid	44/33	6/1	
Sibanda c Sabbir b Shakib	20/14	1/1	
Mutumbami c Sabbir	32/26	2/1	
b Shakib	49/23	2/4	
Williams lbw b Hider	7/6	1/0	
Raza c Sabbir b Hider	10/4	0/1	
Moor not out	0/0	0/0	
Cremer not out	0/0	0/0	
Extras: (lb-2, w-3)	5		
Total: (For 6 wickets in 20 overs)	187		
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-80, 3-89, 4-163, 5-177, 6-186.			

Shakib in elite club

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Despite Bangladesh's defeat yesterday there were a couple of landmarks worth mentioning that were aced during the match.

ACE all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who had finished with figures of three for 32, took his 400th international wicket during the game. His 400th victim was Richmond Mutumbami whom he dismissed in the ninth over. He now has a total of 402 wickets, a tally that includes wickets taken in all the three formats.

Having surpassed the 400-wicket barrier, he has become only the sixth player to score more than 8000 runs and scalp 400 wickets in international cricket.

He joins a club that includes Jacques Kallis, Sanath Jayasuriya, Shahid Afridi, Kapil Dev and Chris Cairns.

Kallis tops the list with more than 25,000 runs and 577 wickets, followed by Jayasuriya's 21032 runs and 440 wickets. However, Shakib's next target would be overcoming Chris Cairns who has 8273 runs and 420 wickets.

The other achievement belonged to Sabbir Rahman. Sabbir has scored 139 runs in the three matches of this series and averages 69.50 at the moment. He has now scored the highest number of runs in a T20I bilateral series for Bangladesh.

He needs to score 48 more runs in the next match to be Bangladesh's highest run-getter in any T20I tournament. That's a record which currently Shakib holds. He scored 186 runs in seven matches during the ICC World Twenty 20 in Bangladesh back in 2014.

The final T20I will take place tomorrow.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hider	4	0	40	2
Shahid	3	0	32	1
Muktar	2	0	17	0
Mashrafe	4	0	37	0
Shakib	4	0	32	3
Mosaddek	2	0	10	0
Mahmudullah	1	0	17	0

Batter	R	B	4s	6s
Imrul b Chisoro	1/3	0/0		
Soumya c Masakadza	25/21	3/1		
b Cremer	50/32	9/0		
Sabbir c Muzarabani b Raza	15/19	1/0		
Mosaddek b Raza	3/10	0/0		
Shakib c Waller b Cremer	3/10	0/0		
Mahmudullah	6/4	0/0		
c Mutumbami b Cremer	19/15	1/1		
Muktar not out	30/17	5/0		
Nurul not out	0/0	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-3, nb-1)	7			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 20 overs)	156			
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-69, 3-92, 4-100, 5-102, 6-107.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Chisoro	4	0	15	1
Vettori	4	0	45	0
Muzarabani	3	0	41	0
Williams	3	0	27	0
Cremer	4	0	18	3
Raza	2	0	7	2

Result: Zimbabwe won by 31 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Malcolm Waller.