

SPORT



Shaping up to be the worst since '08

SAKEBSUBHAN from Paarl
It happened to Test skipper Mushfiqur Rahim as early as the first day of the second Test and although ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is not prey to his emotions to the same extent, he reacted that stage after the loss in the second ODI was lost at Paarl on Wednesday. It was the stage where there are no answers. Bangladesh had come to South Africa bearing the reputation of a team on the up, with a World Cup quarterfinal, a Champions Trophy semifinal and a series win over the hosts in their last meeting behind them.

With just the dead rubber third ODI and the two T20Is to follow, what has happened here is Bangladesh's worst away tour since the last time they toured South Africa in 2008, when the closest result was a loss by 12 runs in the T20I. But that was the Bangladesh side of old, when the aim was not to lose badly. Since whitewashing New Zealand at home in the 2010 ODI series, Bangladesh had gone to another level in international cricket. In that time there have been two all-loss away tours – in West Indies in 2014 and the New Zealand tour in 2016-17 – and although it has not gotten to that stage yet on this tour, it seems only a matter of time.



Although Bangladesh's troubles in away Tests were to be expected, the ODI side were expected to compete in South Africa, something they have failed to do.

Even going back before 2010, the all-loss tour of New Zealand in 2009 was better than this tour is shaping up to be, as Bangladesh lost the third ODI by just three wickets after scoring 244. And while the excuses are locked and loaded – South Africa are a difficult country for the subcontinent teams (all the pitches they played on were uncharacteristically flat), Bangladesh were missing important players (South Africa were missing four frontline bowlers by the second Test) – Bangladesh have, or it was thought, come a long way to making such excuses.

Meanwhile, the team seems to be suffering off the field too, with the rift that showed up during the second Test between captain and coach probably still lingering. Coach Chandika Hathurusingha remains elusive, having said before the first Test that this was the best time to be playing South Africa, because of the injuries. That has now proven to be the biggest misread of a tour where Mushfiqur won the toss and chose to field twice.

LOOKING UP DOWN SOUTH

One degree of separation from Madiba

SPORTS REPORTER from Paarl

We had come to Paarl and were greeted warmly by Lu at La Guesthouse, a place just five minutes' drive away from Boland Park, the venue for the second ODI between Bangladesh and South Africa on Wednesday. Lu, a welcoming and jovial woman of around 60 years of age, keeps a nicely furnished house that was full of pictures of South Africa's great revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela.

Later that evening, we needed to buy some groceries and were looking for an Uber, but Lu intercepted and said that her husband will drive us to a nearby mall and bring us back. During the drive with Lu's husband, Nathan Baldwin, we realised that we were being driven to and from a mall by someone who not only worked in the jail, Pollsmoor, that Mandela had been moved to in 1982, but also stayed in Victor Verster, the house Mandela was held under house arrest in from the late 1988 to his release after 27 years of incarceration on February 11, 1990. It was a house the great man liked so much that he built an exact replica in Transkei. Not only that, while he was president Mandela visited the Baldwins in 1999 to show his wife where he stayed before he was freed.

What's more, Lu Baldwin herself worked at Pollsmoor as the warden of the juvenile section.

Having received the information that we were in the presence of people who were in the presence of Mandela, and had seen part of the legendary story unfold, we were a captive audience.

"Madiba was moved to Pollsmoor in 1982 and I joined in 1988," Nathan, who was the second-in-command at Verster during Mandela's stay and the head of the facility when the president visited, said. "Those were still the days of apartheid, and black workers were not allowed to talk to Mandela. He was held in the maximum security section of the prison, but I managed to sneak him some newspapers on a few occasions."

"Back then they knew which way the political wind was blowing, so they took Mandela out in secret on drives around Cape Town to have discussions with him."

Lu offered an insight into just why Verster was so precious to Mandela. "If you had gone to Robben Island, you would have seen the condition he lived in. His cell was smaller than the bathrooms you have here. Verster was a much better place and we lived there; it was nicer than this."

Nathan told the story of when Mandela visited with his second wife Graca Machel and had tea under a tree in the backyard at Verster. "Mandela told the story of the time he saw a snake here. Graca asked whether or not he killed it and Madiba replied, 'Why should I kill it? It didn't harm me.' That is why he was special, even after those 27 years, there was no bitterness."



Lu (L) and Nathan Baldwin now own a guesthouse in Paarl, but their history has a thread from the story of Nelson Mandela.

PHOTO: SAKEB SUBHAN

Shafiqul leaves to join team

SPORTS REPORTER

Paar Shafiqul Islam left Dhaka yesterday evening to join the national team in East London, where the Tigers will play their third and final ODI against South Africa at Buffalo Park.

The right-arm paceman was recalled after left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman was ruled out of the tour after twisting his ankle during training before the first ODI. Shafiqul played the first Test match against South Africa and took two wickets but did not feature in the second Test and returned home after he was not considered for the three-match ODI series.

Shafiqul was already loaned to the ODI series after South Africa thrashed them in the first two matches. The first T20I will be held at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein on October 26 and the second one played at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom on October 29. Mustafizur along with ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza are likely to return home on October 24.

Tanbir rescues BD A

SPORTS REPORTER



TANBIR...61 not out

Sunzamul took 4 for 33 while Abul claimed 3 for 25. In reply, the home side lost their first wicket in the second over when Zakir Hasan was dismissed for 4 but Shadman Islam and captain Nazmul Hasan repaired the damage with a 56-run second-wicket stand before opener Shadman was dismissed for 24.

Nazmul made 44 for 69 balls but his side were reduced to 114 for six before Tanbir came to the rescue with a patient knock of 61 that came from 91 deliveries. Tanbir added 42 runs for the seventh wicket with Sunzamul (16) and 40 runs with Abul Hasan (10 not out) to take the hosts over the line.

SCORES IN BRIEF
IRELAND: 195 all out in 48.1 overs (Simi 33, Shannon 27, John 27; Sunzamul 4-33).

ABUL 3-25
BANGLADESH: 196 for 7 in 46.3 overs (Tanbir 61 not out, Nazmul 44, Sadman 24; Mulder 3-42, Duckett 2-41)
Result: Bangladesh A won by 3 wickets and lead five-match series 1-0
Man-of-the-Match: Tanbir Hayder.

Markram in for Amla

AGENCIES, Cape Town

Proteas opening batsman, Hashim Amla, has been rested for the final one-day international (ODI) against Bangladesh taking place at Buffalo Park in East London on Sunday.

Amla has been in prolific form in both the Test and ODI series against Bangladesh, with an aggregate of 492 runs in two Tests and two ODIs including three consecutive centuries.

Amla has been replaced by Proteas Test opener, Aiden Markram, who has earned his maiden ODI call-up following a successful Test debut.

Another option for the Proteas at the top of the order is Temba Bavuma, whose only ODI appearance is to date. He was named in the squad against Ireland in September last year when he scored 113 opening the batting.

Bangladesh will really learn from Tests

Since South Africa's readmission, no cricketer has been more closely linked with the highs and lows of the country's cricket than legendary fast bowler Allan Donald during his playing days. In Part One of this interview, he talked about hitting his peak between 1995 and '99, and those were some of the best years of South African cricket too. In Part Two of his interview with **The Daily Star's Sakeb Subhan**, the great speedster talks about his debut ODI which also happened to be South Africa's first international match in 20 years, the two World Cup exits, and the way forward for Bangladesh cricket. The following are excerpts.

The Daily Star (TDS): How was it like being part of South Africa's readmission, playing that first ODI in India and taking those five wickets in 1991?

Allan Donald (AD): I don't think you could have a better scenario than that to be honest. Arriving in Calcutta that morning, we didn't realise what a reception we would get. First of all, and what an impact it had on Indian people. And to arrive in Calcutta with hundreds of thousands of people lining the road, that for me was just an eye-opener of note. And playing in front of 107,000 people, taking five for 20, odd, that for me was just a dream come true, especially at Eden Gardens where it was loud. Although we won, we lost that series 2-1, just the experience was invaluable.

TDS: The four great fast bowlers of the West Indies faded in the 1990s, and as far as extreme pace was concerned, it was you and Waqar Younis... did you have a rivalry?

AD: I liked Glenn McGrath. He followed that world ranking quite closely. You see your name in the number one spot and you know you are going to have to work your socks off to stay there over the next calendar year. I know Glenn McGrath was once fender year. And when Waqar, geez, there's not many more competitive than the two Ws. Wasim and Waqar were just devastating. I think the best I ever played against was Wasim Akram. I think he was the most complete fast bowler in my era and this is not knocking the great West Indians of their era, but he was just unbelievable. White ball, red

ball... best I have ever seen. There is no one better, no one more skilful in bowling with the odd ball in any format of the game. He was it. And again, it was awesome to sit with Wasim, he was very keen to share his knowledge and to share his experience with the older ball and how he worked it out bowling from angles on the crease. I could watch him all day reversing the ball. He was the greatest I have ever seen.

TDS: Which one hurt you more, the 1992 World Cup exit or the 1999 one?

AD: '92 wasn't so bad. We came back to a reception line we had won the World Cup. You can't do anything about the weather; it happens. '99 was, to be involved in that mistake [mix-up with Lance Klusener that cost South Africa the last wicket], it will never be forgotten.

AD: You also took four wickets in that match.

AD: Yeah, four-for, had a great day with the ball. I actually did a talk out here at the beginning of this year at one of the cricket clubs. I was asked that question and I threw the question back at the floor and I said: "Can anyone remember how many wickets I took that day?" and I swear to you, not one person knew how many wickets I took that day. I said go and look it up. But that is what people will remember you for, that moment, and that's it.

TDS: Coming to batsmen, who would you rate as the best you bowled to?

AD: I think the three guys I would rate as the very best... obviously number one, technically, who could adjust his technique to any conditions was Sachin [Tendulkar], just patient, well-



organised, well-balanced. He would get himself in, then go hard. From a technical point of view he was outrageous. Second guy which I describe as an absolute genius is [Brian] Lara. Pure brilliance. Completely attacking-minded, would hit good balls for four, would upset your length. Very difficult to get out once he is flowing. But I feel with him you had a chance to take him on. Take him on, you had a chance. But once he is on a run, I found him so hard to stop.

Number three from a pure resilience point of view was Steve Waugh. Just gutsy as hell... and

he thrived on playing against South Africa. Loved the challenge, wanted to be there, wanted to be on the hot seat. Tough man, took a lot of balls on the body. When he got himself in, you just found him very tough to remove. Look, there were a lot of great players out there. But those three for me were the top three I bowled to.

TDS: How do you see the T20 thing and fast bowling now as opposed to before?

AD: I think the form of Twenty20 cricket has taken bowling to another level. It has become almost a one-sided affair with the bat. I think bowling has caught up. It's taught us a great deal about where the skills need to be. It's taught us new ways to train, being more specific in training than having a monotonous net. So you're working purely on your skill or a skill that is needed for Twenty20 cricket or for 50-over cricket. You've got 24 balls and you have to strategise very well. You're never out of it, and

somehow you're never in it. You need to be very clear in what you are doing. That is what it has taught me – I've only played two games provisionally when it was a hit-and-giggle to start with. Now it's absolutely enormous.

I still think it's a batsman's game. Now there's a restriction on the bats. It was just getting ridiculous, stupendous how big the bats are. A lot of batsmen will probably crumple me for saying this – "Spoken like a true bowler, go and cry somewhere else!" [Laughs]. But because of the size of the bats and how far these guys hit the ball now. It doesn't matter if it's a small ground or a big ground.

TDS: With Bangladesh, you talked about the bowlers lacking creativity and not playing many Tests. Do you think the answer would be to play more Test cricket?

AD: I think so, that's where you learn your best cricket. That's where you understand yourself, where you have to experiment much quicker, and much longer and being patient with that. We always talk about white ball cricket – that the ball has got to reverse, find the way to the ball reversing. It only has to swing that much to make a difference [makes a space about a bat's width with his palms]. But I think the best learning is coming from the longer version of the game. I think that's where Bangladesh will really learn from, in the longer formats.

This is but an unforgettable condensation of the great man's wide-ranging and generous interview. If you want to read the whole transcript, you can find it on The Daily Star's online page.