

# SPORT



**Bangladesh's South Africa tour has so far been a listless one and if the Tigers are to make any impression in the third and final ODI at the Buffalo Park in East London today they will desperately need champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan to come to the party.**

PHOTO: SAKEB SUBHAN

## When will juniors step up?

SPORTS REPORTER from East London



The day before the third and final ODI against Bangladesh at East London, South Africa batsman JP Duminy hit upon a key difference between the sides when asked about Bangladesh missing key players like batsman Tamim Iqbal and bowler Mustafizur Rahman.

"I think it's a big loss, they are obviously key players and you know it's not always easy losing key players," said Duminy after South Africa's practice session at Buffalo Park in East London yesterday. "I think it's a benefit for us. But then again, if we had lost key players in our team it would have been a great opportunity for different guys to come in and show-case their talent. That's the same kind of story for Bangladesh; they are a cricketing nation that produces a lot of experienced cricketers. We'd like to think that they are going to step in and produce their best performances, so we are going to have to be at our best tomorrow."

Although Duminy seemed to be speaking hypothetically, in reality South Africa have been without some key players but such has been the chasm in ability between the two teams that it has not been noticeable. From the team that played their last Champions Trophy match against Pakistan in June, key bowlers in all-rounder Chris Morris, fast bowler Morne Morkel and Wayne Parnell are out injured for this current series. In their places, the likes of Dwaine Pretorius and Andile Phehlukwayo have taken wickets and kept a lid on the runs. In the Tests, Duanne Olivier stepped up to make up for Morkel's absence in the second match.

In the absence of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal in the Tests, Sabbir Rahman has averaged 6.5. Soumya Sarkar scored 12 in two innings and only Litton Das among the youngsters did something of note with 70 runs as a hail-Mary pass in the first innings of the first Test. In the ODIs, it has been as bleak; Sabbir has scored 36 in two innings, Nasir Hossain 14 and Litton 35.

As far as the bowling is concerned, the less said the better because apart from Rubel Hossain's four wickets in a total of 353 in the second ODI and Shakib's two scalps, there really has not been much to talk about, with or without Mustafizur.

"If you think overall, the senior players have been at the top, and not just for Bangladesh but by world standards too. And they have performed here too," said ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza yesterday. "And it's not like the juniors have not stepped up before. Of course I agree with what he [Duminy] said; it is a great opportunity for them in conditions like this. But I still think that the team management and I are only looking for them to give a hundred per cent effort, the rest is up to whether luck favours them or not."

Mashrafe is right in that the seniors have been carrying this team for quite a while. It was the same story in the Champions Trophy too when Tamim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim were the top run-scorers. Soumya - who has not been great managed to sneak into fourth place in the Ireland tri-series before that. Sabbir, by dint of a 66 managed the same in the Australia series before the tour, the last time that a young Bangladeshi batsman has had an impact. Whether that is because of a lack of luck, effort or application is another matter.



SABBIIR RAHMAN



LITTON DAS

## Mashrafe calls for team effort

SAKEB SUBHAN from East London



Tamim Iqbal will reach Dhaka today, and Mustafizur Rahman will start off from South Africa tomorrow along with skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. Bangladesh will be without their best ODI batsman and their best limited-overs bowler for the remainder of what has been an ill-fated tour, and they will try to draw a measure of consolation from today's third and last ODI at Buffalo Park in East London.

With defeats by 333 runs, an innings and 254 runs, 10 wickets and 104 runs so far, any expectation of a turnaround at this point in the tour seems like wishful thinking. Mashrafe however was still hopeful, asking his team to develop tunnel vision and see this match in isolation.

"It is still possible but if we go about our job the way we played the last two matches, things become harder. I believe our team has the ability to play better cricket," said Mashrafe during the pre-match press briefing yesterday. "It is a big blow to lose your top batsman and top bowler, especially in South Africa. They are

our best players but that is not an excuse. There were other things that held us back. There are still three matches left and we have to focus on them on a match-by-match basis. We are all playing for the country. In the wider picture we have lost the series but we still have a chance to do well on this tour, which will help us in future overseas tours."

At this point in the tour there is nothing more for the same captain to say; assuming he will speak again after tomorrow's match, it was his penultimate official press conference on tour before Shakib Al Hasan takes over to try and explain the shambles that has been Bangladesh's tour of South Africa.

"At this point, it seems very difficult," Mashrafe said. "If we bowl, two early wickets can boost a team or two partnerships [if we bat] can be a boost."

He repeated his mantra of a concerted effort, which he had prescribed before the series. However, before the series he urged batsmen to convert starts into big innings; yesterday he seemed to have given up hope.

"There have been individual performances, but we have not been performing as a team."

Whenever we have won, everyone contributed." When reminded that apart from Mushfiqur's century in the first ODI there really have not been many individual performances of note, Mashrafe said: "Yes, I will say that there haven't been big individual performances, but we have won matches with someone scoring fifty because someone else had scored 40 and another one had scored another 50. Here Mushfiqur has done it twice, Imrul has scored a fifty but if two others could do something similar... or if two other bowlers apart from Shakib and Rubel had provided a couple of breakthroughs -- I am talking about that."

As far as team selection goes, Mashrafe admitted that Tamim and Mustafizur's absence put them in a pickle. "It is tough to make the team selection when you have two of your best players missing. You have to give the rest a lot of confidence. When the team doesn't do well, there's a lot of all-round pressure, apart from a players' own expectations. But these things are quite normal these days. If they take it match by match, it will help them. It is also important to forget about what is being said, and focus on the cricket."

## Sarfraz turns down offer from a bookmaker

KARACHI, PTI

In a shocking revelation, Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed has disclosed that he turned down a lucrative offer from a bookmaker in Dubai during the ongoing ODI series against Sri Lanka and reported the matter to the anti-corruption and security unit officials.

The incident has shaken the Pakistan team management and anti-corruption and security officials travelling with the team in the UAE, as they felt that the bans imposed on batsmen Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif for spot-fixing in Pakistan Super League might have stopped such moves.

"The matter has been handled as per standard procedure but there is a lot of respect for Sarfraz, who as a captain and player, has set a great example for his teammates on how to avoid attempts to corrupt the game," an official of the Pakistan Cricket Board said on condition of anonymity.

"ICC rules don't allow us to name player (s) in such cases where approaches are reported but yes Sarfraz got an offer and he immediately reported the matter to the concerned officials, who have taken appropriate action," he added.

Incidentally the man who made the verbal offer to the Pakistani captain is based in Dubai and is learnt to be known to the players.

An official in the PCB said that the team management has increased vigilance of players and reset curfew timings.

"On the insistence of head coach Mickey Arthur, there was a bit of relaxation for the players during the ongoing series in the UAE and they were allowed to meet friends and go out for shopping and dinners but now strict procedures and timings have been enforced again," the official said.

The PCB has already changed the hotel of the national team in Dubai following the PSL spot-fixing scandal earlier this February which rocked Pakistan cricket.

The PCB's anti-corruption tribunal banned Sharjeel and Khalid for five years after both were found guilty of beaching anti-corruption code during the PSL and were sent back home from Dubai.



Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed

## Mominul back in T20 fold

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board announced a 14-member squad for the two match T20I series against South Africa, yesterday.

After an absence of three years, Mominul Haque returned to the T20I fold, with his last match for the side being against Australia in 2014.

Earlier, following a two year gap, the left-hander was also included in the ODI squad for the tour's three match series. However, the 26-year-old is yet to prove his worth in

### BANGLADESH SQUAD

Shakib Al Hasan (Captain), Mominul Haque, Soumya Sarkar, Imrul Kayes, Mushfiqur Rahim, Sabbir Rahman, Mahmudullah, Litton Kumar Das, Nasir Hossain, Mehedi Hassan Miraz, Rubel Hossain, Shafiu Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Saifuddin  
In: Mominul Haque, Nasir Hossain, Litton Das, Rubel Hossain, Shafiu Islam  
Out: Nurul Hasan, Subashis Roy, Sunzamul Islam.  
Injured: Tamim Iqbal, Mustafizur Rahman, Mosaddek Hossain.

the shortest format of the game as he played six matches in which his highest score was 26 runs.

All-rounder Nasir Hossain also made a comeback to the squad alongside wicket-keeper Litton Das, who replaced Nurul Hasan, while pacers Rubel Hossain and Shafiu Islam were also named in the side as replacements for Subashis Roy and left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam, players' of the previous T20I squad that faced Sri Lanka in April this year.

The Tigers are dealing with multiple injuries on their visit to South Africa as Tamim Iqbal and Mustafizur Rahman have already been ruled out for the rest of the tour while Mosaddek Hossain, also a member of the Sri Lanka T20I squad, was discarded from the beginning due to an eye infection.

This will be Shakib Al Hasan's first assignment as captain of the T20I team since Mashrafe Bin Mortaza announced his retirement from T20s earlier this year in Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh will play the first T20I at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein on October 26 while the second will take place at the Senwes Park in Potchefstroom on October 29.

## WI caught in Zim spinning web

AFP, Bulawayo



Zimbabwe spinners Graeme Cremer and Sean Williams shared seven wickets as the West Indies were bowled out for 219 on the opening day of the first Test at Queens Sports Club on Saturday.

Cremer claimed 4 for 64 and Williams took 3 for 20, with most of those wickets coming in a dramatic hour in which the West Indies lost their last seven wickets for 45 runs.

Top scorer Shai Hope was left stranded on 90 not out as he ran out of partners, with opener Kieran Powell's 56 the only other score of note on a pitch that took turn from the very first session.

Zimbabwe then made a positive start to their reply, with Hamilton Masakadza and debutant Solomon Mire carrying them to the close of play on 19 without loss.

Powell and Shai Hope kept West Indies ticking along on a slow day. Powell scored 56 before he fell to Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer in the second session, while

Hope ran out of partner with wickets falling in the final session thick and fast against the spinners.

The visiting side's sluggish progress after winning the toss was due to the slow surface, but also some combative bowling from Zimbabwe.

Both batsmen were caught behind by wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva, though Hope was only given out after the Decision Review System revealed an edge and overturned umpire Paul Reiffel's original decision.

From 35 for two, the West Indies rallied with a 75-run stand for the third wicket between Powell and Shai Hope, but Zimbabwe remained patient and never let the West Indian scoring accelerate.

That allowed the hosts to take control once again when Cremer made the breakthrough, as Powell was brilliantly caught at short leg by Craig Ervine.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: First innings 219 all out in 82.5 overs (Powell 56, Hope 90 not out, Chase 31; Cremer 4-64, Williams 3-20)  
ZIMBABWE: First innings 19-0 in 5 overs (Masakadza 0 not out, Mire 17 not out)

## 'We're focused on 3-0'



South Africa all-rounder JP Duminy

SPORTS REPORTER from East London



While Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has been talking about jettisoning the mindset that they have displayed in the last two games, it speaks to South Africa's performance on this tour so far that all they want to do now is continue the mindset with which they have taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the ODI series.

"Something that we spoke about before the series started was that we wanted to make sure of the 'walkaway' feel," said South Africa batsman JP Duminy yesterday at Buffalo Park. "That's still our main focus. We've had two amazing games, but that does not take away from the goal, which is to go out there and put in a solid performance and walk away 3-0."

"Bangladesh are a team that's always going to give their best, always going to challenge us in certain departments and I think the key for us is to focus on what we have been trying to do in the last two games. I think that's been the important factor in the last two games; that has been our success story. If we can go into tomorrow [Sunday] with that kind of mindset, it will stand us in good stead."

While crediting Bangladesh as a good one-day outfit, he was not mincing words when summing up the events that have led the two teams here. "We've been disciplined in all departments, put a lot of focus on what we are trying to achieve, and fortunately for us we have blown them away in all departments. It doesn't take away from what's going to happen tomorrow; I still believe that Bangladesh are going to come out trying to prove a point, to get back into this tour. It's been a pretty dominant tour from a South African point of view and we want to keep it that way. That 3-0 is something that we are focusing on and that is our goal for tomorrow [Sunday]."

As uncompromising as South Africa have been, they will take the opportunity of a dead rubber to blood at least one new player as Hashim Amla has been rested.

"Hashim has been rested so there's a spot up for grabs. In terms of other selection places I am not quite sure who's going to come in," Duminy said, but with Aiden Markram being drafted into the squad, there is a good chance he will get his debut opening with Quinton de Kock today.

## Third one-dayer today

Reserve days added  
SPORTS REPORTER

The third one-dayer of a five match series between Bangladesh A and Ireland A, which was scheduled for yesterday, will instead take place today at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket stadium in Cox's Bazar as the encounter was postponed due to heavy rain.

In an attempt to complete the series, the management from both teams decided to arrange reserve days, the first being set between the third and fourth one-dayers, which are scheduled for October 21 and 24 respectively.

The reserve day for the fourth match will be on October 25 however, there is no reserve day for the fifth and final fixture which is on October 26.

## Haider Ali no more

SPORTS REPORTER

1991

Colombo SAF Games gold medalist shooter Haider Ali breathed his last at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital at around 1:00am on Friday.

Ali, a member of the gold medal winning team in the 10m air pistol event of that tournament, was suffering from kidney ailments.

He was 59. He left behind his wife, daughter and a host of well-wishers.

Ali also won a gold medal in the 50m air pistol event of the SAF Shooting Championship in 1992.

He later served the country as a shooting coach as he worked for the Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation and Narayanganj Rifles Club.

Ali's namaz-e-janaza was held after Asr prayers at the Narinda Chini Mosque yesterday before he was laid to rest at the Narinda graveyard.

