



MAGNIFICENT MILLER: South Africa batsman David Miller smashed the hapless Bangladesh bowlers all over the park on way to a mindboggling 35-ball 100 – the quickest in the shortest format of the game – during the second and final T20I at the Senev Park in Potchefstroom yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

FASTEST CENTURIONS

PLAYER	RUNS	BALLS	AGAINST	YEAR
David Miller	101	35	Bangladesh	2017
Richard Levi (SA)	100	45	New Zealand	2012
Du Plessis (SA)	100	46	West Indies	2015
Lokesh Rahul (Ind)	100	46	West Indies	2016
Aaron Finch (Aus)	100	47	England	2013
Chris Gayle (WI)	100	47	England	2016

Tigers undone by the losing 'virus'

SAKEB SUBHAN from Potchefstroom

There was one stage of the match yesterday that perfectly summed up Bangladesh's tour of South Africa. After five overs of the chase Bangladesh were 33 for three, and on the digital scoreboard at Senev Park one number stood out -- the Duckworth-Lewis par score was 88. That has been the gap between where Bangladesh would have liked to be and where they actually wound up repeatedly during this month-long tour. The 83-run defeat in the second T20I yesterday was a fitting end to a tour with very little in the way of positives to talk about.

There have been three captains in charge of the three formats that Bangladesh were whitewashed in on this tour, but it fell to T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan to reflect on the tour as a whole and he homed in on a lack of mental fitness for the results on this tour.

"It is a little normal that results like this will happen on overseas tours," said Shakib when asked if, like ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza had said a week earlier, he thought the outcome was alarming. "Maybe it was expected we would lose, but we did not expect to lose the way we did. We know what our ability is, but nobody could perform up to that."

"If the team does not win, it does not matter who did what," Shakib responded to a question about positives from this tour. "As this is a team game, everyone tries to win for the team. It was a tough time, we have a break from international cricket now, so the effort will be to work hard and improve our mental fitness, which I think is more important to attain than physical fitness. Physical is impor-

tant of course, but if we can overcome the mental block then we can move forward."

As far as yesterday's match was concerned, Shakib paid tribute to David Miller's fastest T20I hundred, which he reached in 35 balls.

"After the first T20 we thought there was a chance of a comeback," said Shakib. "The way we started today, we thought we had a good chance but the way [David] Miller batted we did not have any answer on the field really."

"We do not have the mental strength yet to chase down totals in excess of 200 or 220," said Shakib, implying the team may have mentally checked out after conceding 224 for four, the highest total against Bangladesh in the format.

In terms of results it was the most one-sided tour the team have been on since they last visited South Africa in 2008.

"If we perform well against Sri Lanka at home then you will say that we are on the right track or we are a good team," said Shakib when asked if this is a step back for Bangladesh cricket. "I am not saying that we should have won the series, but at least we could have competed. The conditions were not that tough. We got batting wickets here. When we went to New Zealand, we competed. But here, we did not compete in any match. And that's the frustrating thing."

Such was the state of the team that Shakib compared the atmosphere in the dressing room to a virus.

"It's like a virus. If we did well in Tests, then we could have done even better in ODIs, and even better thereafter in T20Is. That's how these things work; the mentality is different in a winning dressing room; everyone talks about winning. In a losing dressing room, people talk about personal things, and unwittingly negative things come in."



India prevail in thriller

AFP, Kanpur

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah helped India pull off a thrilling six-run win over New Zealand in the third and final ODI and clinch the series 2-1 on Sunday.

Bumrah claimed three wickets and effected a crucial run out of dangerman Tom Latham in the 48th over to make the visitors falter in their 338-run chase at Kanpur's Green Park Stadium.

The Kiwis, who looked like favourites with 35 runs required from the last 24 balls, ended on 331-7 despite Latham's 5-ball 65.

Earlier sparkling centuries by opening batsman Rohit Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli steered India to 337-6 after being put in to bat.

Player-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma.

Player-of-the-series: Virat Kohli.



India opener Rohit Sharma (R) and captain Virat Kohli, both of whom scored centuries, run between the wickets during the third ODI against New Zealand at the Green Park Cricket Stadium in Kanpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

MOMENTS

AMLA'S REVENGE

Young Bangladesh off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz is one of the most respectful cricketers around but yesterday, in the sixth over he physically floored Hashim Amla, one of the most respected cricketers in the world. AB de Villiers hit one back hard to the bowler's right and Mehedi leapt across to field it, and in the process he kneed Amla in the midriff, causing the batsman to tumble back on the crease. Mehedi was profuse in his apology and Amla, ever gracious, shook the youngsters hand with a smile. The next ball he faced from Miraz later in the over, Amla simply paddled it around the corner for four and smiled some more.

MILLER LIFE

It was all happening for Bangladesh. They had gotten rid of the deadly AB de Villiers in the 10th over and David Miller had not done too much damage in the first T20I. In the 11th over Rubel Hossain dug in a bouncer which Miller tried to hook but could only glove it to the right of keeper Mushfiqur Rahim, who put in a spectacular effort to catch the ball at full stretch, but could not keep it in his hands when he hit the ground. Miller was on 0. And then...

6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 1

Mohammad Saifuddin had gotten the two big fish in De Villiers and Amla, and was looking pretty good with two for 22 when he ran up to bowl his fourth over, the 19th of the innings. Miller was on 57 off 25 and South Africa on 178 for four. The first ball was full on the stumps and it was dispatched over wide long on. The second was full outside off and was dismissed over extra cover. The third was on the pads again and travelled over fine leg. Taskin Ahmed, who had given 41 off his three, ran up to have a talk with the flummoxed Saifuddin, but the result of the fourth ball was identical to the third. Saifuddin changed it up and bounced Miller in the fifth and it was five in five. The last was full and wide, but Miller could just toe-end it for one, missing out on being just the second batsman to hit sixes in an over in T20Is. The damage, however, was not much less than if he had achieved it.

Home delight for Pakistan

AFP, LAHORE

Pakistan marked the return of Sri Lanka with a 3-0 Twenty20 series whitewash on Sunday. The third and final T20 match, which Pakistan comfortably won by 36 runs at Gaddafi stadium in Lahore, was Sri Lanka's first since their team bus was attacked near the same venue in March 2009.

It was the fourth international since the attack, with Zimbabwe playing a five-match



Pakistan fans enjoy the first international match against a top touring side, after eight long years in hibernation, at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BD-SA SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA		R/B	4s/6s
Amla c Soumya b Saifuddin	85/51	11/1	
Moshele b Shakib	5/5	1/0	
Duminy b Shakib	4/8	0/0	
De Villiers c Imrul b Saifuddin	20/15	1/1	
Miller not out	101/36	7/9	
Behardien not out	6/5	0/0	
Extras: (lb-1, w-2)	3		
Total: (For 4 wkts in 20 overs)	224		
Did not bat: Phehlukwayo, Frylinck, Phangiso, Hendricks, Pretorius.			

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-37, 3-78, 4-151.

Bowler O M R W

Shakib 4 0 22 2

Taskin 3 0 41 0

Mehedi 4 0 46 0

Rubel 4 0 51 0

Saifuddin 4 0 53 2

Mahmudullah st Moshele

1 0 10 0

b Phangiso 24/20 2/0

Liton c Frylinck b Pretorius 9/7 0/1

Soumya c Amla b Phangiso 44/27 6/1

Shakib c Duminy 2/4 0/0

Moshele c Phehlukwayo 13/10 0/1

Taskin run out 2/3 1/0

Rubel not out 1/2 0/0

Extras: (lb-2, w-2) 8

Total: (All out in 18.3 overs) 141

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-29, 3-32, 4-37, 5-72, 6-93.

Bowler O M R W

Hendricks 2.3 0 28 1

Duminy 4 0 23 2

Frylinck 2 0 9 1

Pretorius 3 0 27 1

Phangiso 4 0 31 2

Phehlukwayo 3 0 21 1

SPORTS REPORTER

Fit Mosaddek eager for comeback

SPORTS REPORTER

Mosaddek Hossain has fully recovered from his eye infections and is now gearing up for his comeback with defending champions Dhaka Dynamites in the upcoming fifth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL).

Earlier this year, the youngster made a brilliant Test debut for the national team against Sri Lanka and was instrumental during the Tigers memorable win over New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy as he bagged three quick wickets to get the side back into the game.

The 21-year-old then contracted an eye infection ahead of the home series against Australia and subsequently missed the South Africa series as well since he had not recovered in time. However, the cricketer from Mymensingh is now fully fit and informed that his main challenge will be to recapture his previous form that helped the Dynamites conquer the BPL last season.

"I was out from the national team

since the Champions Trophy and my main challenge will be to find the rhythm and return to the flow where I finished in the BPL last season for Dhaka," Mosaddek told reporters after his team's first training session at the Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

Mosaddek, who scored a total of 288 runs and bagged ten wickets across 10 ODI's, also revealed that having to sit on the outside and watch his fellow teammates play on television was a tough period in his career.

"I did not want to return without clearance from the doctor so when I received the green signal I returned to the field immediately. Every player goes through such tough periods and it was also difficult for me to watch Bangladesh play on TV. I was eagerly waiting to return to the field as early as I could through a tournament and it's a great opportunity for me to make a comeback so early. We have a home series later with the national team and if I am able to perform well in the BPL I hope to make a comeback to the national team again," he concluded.

BCB POLLS

All but three elected unopposed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Nazmul Hasan led panel is seemingly heading towards victory in the upcoming Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) elections since out of the 25 director posts available only three will be contested for after the election commission announced the list of final candidates, yesterday.

On the same day, which was the deadline for nomination withdrawal, only Dhaka Division candidate Junaid Hossain removed himself from the race. However, there will still be competition for the two Dhaka Division posts as well as the one for Barisal Division, all of which are category-1.

Naimur Rahman (Manikganj), Syed Ashfakul Islam (Kishorganj), Shahinul Islam (Narsingdi) and Tanvir Ahmed Tito (Narayanganj) will vie for the Dhaka Division posts while MA Awas Chowdhury (Chittagong), Kazi Inam Ahmed, Sheikh Sohel (Khulna), Saiful Alam (Rajshahi) and Anwarul Islam (Rangpur).

Similarly, Nazmul Hassan, Afzalur Rahman Sinha, Gazi Golam Mortuza, Honifur Bhuiya, Ismail Haider Mallick, Jalal Younis, Lokman Hossain, Mahbubul Anam, Manzur Kader, Najib Ahmed, Showkat Aziz, and Tanjil Chowdhury have had their category-2 positions confirmed while Khaled Mahmud will win category-3.

Enayet Hossain Siraj and Ahmed Sajjadul Alam were the nominated directors from the NSC quota.

The election for the three posts will take place on October 31 at the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium.

PERFORMER OF THE DAY

DAVID MILLER



South Africa batsman David Miller had earned the nickname Killer Miller for his IPL exploits with the Kings XI Punjab, but for the most part of his international career, the left-hander has been a bit of a hit-and-miss, failing to do proper justice to his incredible talent. He has played some substantial knocks, but often failed to deliver when his country needed him to step up. However, yesterday a different Miller turned up, one looking to hit everything Bangladesh bowlers threw at him out of the park. He did have two reprieves -- one of those when he was on naught