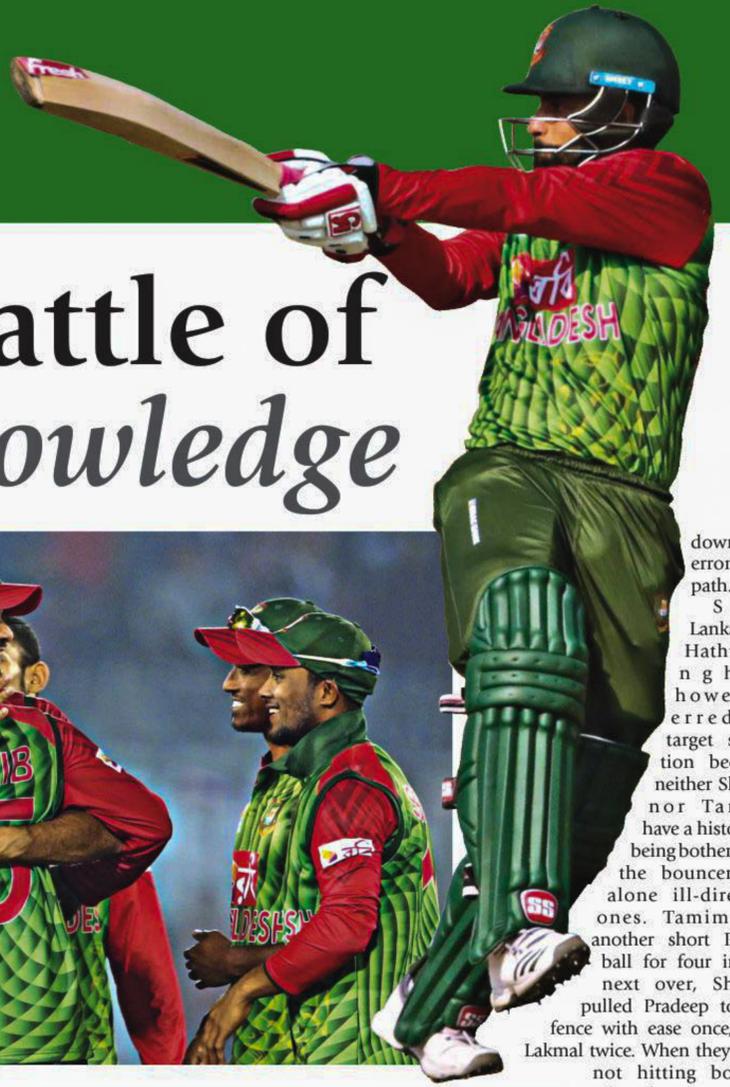


SPORT



'Making our own decisions'

Bangladesh romp to biggest win

MAZHAR UDDIN

It was an open secret that during the tenure of former head coach Chandika Hathurusingha, the involvement of Bangladesh's senior members was less than ideal when it came to planning and taking decisions on the field.

And when the post-Hathurusingha era began, a new Bangladesh team emerged on the field with the seniors taking responsibility, which has proved fruitful in the first two games of the ongoing tri-series. The Tigers were clinical yet again in their first meeting against Hathurusingha's Sri Lanka, since he resigned from his Bangladesh post, and clinched their largest ODI victory by 163 runs yesterday.

From skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's economical and incisive spell of eight overs, to Tamim Iqbal not willing to throw his wicket away despite having a tough time initially, Mushfiqur Rahim's body language be it with the bat or behind the stumps and of course Shakib Al Hasan's all-round performance and involvement, the Tigers seemed to be pumped throughout the game.

When asked about the difference in mindset and game planning compared to Hathurusingha's tenure, Shakib highlighted the importance of seniors taking decisions, which changed the mindset of the side.

"Those who do our planning had a change in mindset. We had a change of coach, so the new person has his own thinking. I won't say we played without freedom in the past but now we are also playing freely. At the same time, we also take our own decisions. This is a big advantage for



Chandika Hathurusingha's second outing as Sri Lanka coach was worse than his first as his current charges suffered a heavy defeat against his former disciples. PHOTO: STAR

everyone to be involved. Sujon bhai [Khaled Mahmud] and Richard [Halsall] know what we need," Shakib said after the comprehensive win yesterday.

Shakib, who won a second consecutive player-of-the-match trophy by scoring 67 with the bat and picking up three wickets, remained diplomatic when asked whether this win is extra special as it is against Hathurusingha's side.

"A win is a win for me. It is important to beat Sri Lanka, especially in the context of this tri-series. This will give us a lot of confidence ahead of the next two games," he said.

Shakib and Tamim Iqbal, who scored 84 runs yesterday, reached the milestone of scoring 10,000 and 11,000 runs respectively across three formats and according to the ace all-rounder, healthy competition between teammates drove them to do better.

"Everyone has their own expectations but it's good that three of us compete against each other.

"Of course we don't wish each other bad though," he said with a smile when reminded that the top run-scorer's record has been passed back and forth between Tamim and himself.

Tigers ace battle of inside knowledge

SAKEB SUBHAN

Leading up to what has virtually become a grudge match in the eyes of many home fans, chiefly because of the presence of former Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha in the opposition camp, the talk has mostly been about the advantage that the Sri Lankans will have because of their coach's insights into the Bangladesh team. Bangladesh technical director Khaled Mahmud, who stepped into the breach after Hathurusingha's sudden resignation last October, said that it was a two-way street -- the hosts also had a fairly good idea about the way the Sri Lankan's mind worked.

On the evidence of the Tigers' 163-run win yesterday, their inside knowledge trumped their former coach's. The first evidence of it was the decision at the toss to bat first. Sri Lanka had won the toss and fielded first in their first tri-series match against Zimbabwe, presumably because Hathurusingha knew about the dew factor that would handicap the spinners at night. The Tigers seemed to anticipate this decision and took luck out of the equation, picking a fourth seamer in Mohammad Saifuddin and choosing to bat first -- a decision that paid dividends in their clinical defence of 320 for seven.

They then seemed to anticipate the line of attack their former coach would lay out for his current charges.

Sri Lanka went into the match with three pacers, but none among Nuwan Pradeep, Suranga Lakmal and Thisara Perera can be described as out-and-out fast. Yet they proceeded to unleash a barrage of short balls against openers Tamim Iqbal, Anamul Haque and number three Shakib Al Hasan. Hathurusingha was in charge of Bangladesh in September-October 2017 when, on the tour of South Africa the batsmen struggled against the short ball. He may have taken his cue from that but the bouncer barrage backfired yesterday. While Anamul did fall edging a hook to a slightly wayward bouncer from Perera, it actually worked against the Lankans as it



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BANGLADESH'S BIGGEST ODI WINS BY RUNS

Margin	Target	Opposition	Venue	Date
163 runs	321	Sri Lanka	Dhaka	Jan 19, 2018
160 runs	293	West Indies	Khulna	Dec 2, 2012
146 runs	279	Scotland	Dhaka	Dec 17, 2006
145 runs	274	Zimbabwe	Dhaka	Nov 7, 2015
141 runs	280	Afghanistan	Dhaka	Oct 1, 2016

falsely gave them the impression that the play was working. Mashrafe and Co would have known what Hathurusingha, who was coaching them less than four months ago, thought of each

While Tamim Iqbal (R) led the early charge, it was an all-round performance both with the bat and ball from the Tigers that helped them register their biggest ever ODI victory in the 163-run drubbing of Sri Lanka in Mirpur yesterday. Mushfiqur Rahim (bottom) played his part with a quick-fire 62 while Shakib Al Hasan (top) took three wickets after having scored 67 runs.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

batsman's strengths and weaknesses, and they were prepared for it. Perera did hit Tamim on the helmet when the left-hander went through the hook too early in the 19th over, but he brushed it aside and slapped the next ball -- another bouncer -- for four. Shakib similarly went through a pull early from Lakmal -- a sign that the batsmen were on the lookout for the short ball -- and edged it onto his helmet but the ball landed safely. Like Anamul's dismissal, this only spurred the bowlers

down an erroneous path.

Sri Lanka and Hathurusingha, however, erred in target selection because neither Shakib nor Tamim have a history of being bothered by the bouncer, let alone ill-directed ones. Tamim cut another short Perera ball for four in his next over, Shakib pulled Pradeep to the fence with ease once, and Lakmal twice. When they were not hitting boundaries, they were dabbing the short stuff to third man and fine leg for easy singles. Mushfiqur Rahim, who came in after Shakib's dismissal, carried on in much

the same manner. The bouncer works particularly well when it is used as a surprise weapon as the fastest bowler on either side, Bangladesh's Rubel Hossain, proved later in the match, but Sri Lanka had lost that element by their over-eagerness to bowl short and also, perhaps, with Hathurusingha's presence in the dressing room.

"We noticed something about Bangladesh's batting unit," said Perera after the match when asked if bowling short at Bangladesh was a deliberate ploy. "They don't expect bouncers so we planned to bowl bouncers."

Before the tri-series started, when asked whether they would try anything different to counter the presence of Hathurusingha in the opposition, Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza said that it was good to be smart in cricket, but not over-smart. They proved yesterday that by playing their usual brand of cricket and making one or two educated guesses about their former coach, they can come out on top.

Kiwis complete Pak whitewash

AFP, Wellington



New Zealand inflicted a rare 5-0 one-day international series whitewash over Pakistan on Friday with a 15-run win at Wellington's Basin Reserve.

A century to Martin Guptill helped the Black Caps set a 272 total that proved too much for Pakistan after Matt Henry tore through their top order.

Pakistan were all out for 256 with one over remaining.

It is only the third time Pakistan have been on the wrong end of a 5-0 ODI clean sweep after they succumbed by the same margin to Australia in 2010 and the West Indies

in 1988.

New Zealand have won by a 5-0 margin only once before, when they hosted the West Indies in 2000.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 271 for 7 in 50 overs (Guptill 100, Munro 34, Williamson 22, Taylor 59, De Grandhomme 29 not out; Raees 3-67, Ashraf 2-49)

PAKISTAN: 256 all out in 49 overs (Sohail 63, Ashraf 23, Shadab, Yamin 32 not out, Nawaz 23; Henry 4-53, Ferguson 2-64, Santner 3-40)

Result: New Zealand won by 15 runs and clinched the five-match series 5-0.

Player-of-the-match: Martin Guptill.

Player-of-the-series: Martin Guptill.



New Zealand opener Martin Guptill celebrates his century during the fifth and final ODI against Pakistan at the Basin Reserve in Wellington yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

BD-SL SCOREBOARD

Team	R	B	4s	6s
BANGLADESH				
Tamim c Dickwella	84	102	7	2
b Dananjaya				
Anamul c Dickwella				
b T Perera	35	37	3	1
Shakib c & b Gunaratne	67	63	7	0
Mushfiqur b T Perera	62	52	4	1
Mahmudullah c T Perera				
b Pradeep	24	23	2	1
Sabbir not out	24	12	3	1
Mashrafe c Dananjaya				
b Pradeep	6	5	1	0
Nasir b w b T Perera	0	1	0	0
Saifuddin not out	6	5	1	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-7)	12			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 320				
Did not bat: Rubel, Mustafizur.				
Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-170, 3-227, 4-277, 5-284, 6-297, 7-298.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lakmal	9	0	60	0
Fernando	10	0	66	2
Dananjaya	10	0	40	1
T Perera	9	0	60	3
Gunaratne	5	0	38	1
De Silva	7	0	51	0
SRI LANKA	R	B	4s	6s
K Perera b Nasir	1	3	0	0
Tharanga c Mahmudullah				
b Mashrafe	25	35	3	0
Mendis c Rubel b Mashrafe	19	34	1	0
Dickwella b Mustafizur	16	22	0	0
Chandimal run out	28	39	0	1
Gunaratne c Saifuddin				
b Shakib	16	19	2	0
T Perera c Mahmudullah				
b Shakib	29	14	3	2
De Silva c Mushfiqur b Shakib	0	1	0	0
Dananjaya c Shakib b Rubel	14	17	3	0
Lakmal b Rubel	1	6	0	0
Fernando not out	0	5	0	0
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-1)	8			
Total: (All out in 32.2 overs) 157				
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-43, 3-62, 4-85, 5-106, 6-117, 7-117, 8-150, 9-152, 10-157.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nasir	4	0	20	1
Mashrafe	8	1	30	2
Rubel	5.2	0	20	2
Mustafizur	5	0	20	1
Shakib	8	1	47	3
Saifuddin	2	0	14	0
Result: Bangladesh won by 163 runs.				
Player-of-the-match: Shakib Al Hasan.				

'One of the best wins'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza termed yesterday's 163-run victory, the Tigers' biggest in terms of runs, against Sri Lanka in the tri-series as one of the team's 'best wins' in the 50-over format.

"If you look at the recent past, this is one of the best wins for us. The way the boys played was really good and we have to keep it going," said Mashrafe during the presentation ceremony at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Mashrafe also expressed satisfaction over the performance of the top order batsmen.

"Once Shakib (Al Hasan) bats at No.3, he looks like a cool and calm

customer. Tamim (Iqbal) is hungry for runs and Bijoy (Anamul Haque) batted well for us. The top five has to bat 40 or 45 overs and they did that today [Friday]," he opined.

The right-arm pacer went on to add that there is always something new to gain whether the team wins or loses.

"Sabbir's role is to finish the innings. He is good to bat at No. 6 or 7, and he feels positive there. It is suiting him. We are still trying to find one more batsman who can hit like Sabbir," he said.

Mashrafe however, was pleased with his bowlers' efforts following their forlorn performance in South Africa last year.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal said: "Bangladesh played outstanding cricket, credit to them."

Imrul left out

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 15-member squad for Bangladesh's third and fourth matches of the tri-nation ODI series, omitting opening batsman Imrul Kayes due to his finger injury.

Despite incurring the injury during training ahead of the tournament, Imrul was included in the initial 16-member squad. However, as the left-hander is yet to fully recover and also considering the upcoming Sri Lanka series, the selectors decided to not risk him for the remainder of the tri-series. Bangladesh have already qualified

for the final following their record 163-run victory over Sri Lanka in their second match. Tigers currently top the table with 10 points from two matches.

Bangladesh's remaining matches against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka are to be played on January 23 and January 25 respectively. The final of the tri-nation series is scheduled for January 27.

Squad: Tamim Iqbal, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (C), Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Anamul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nasir Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Mohammad Mithun, Rubel Hossain, Abul Hasan, Mohammad Saifuddin, Sunzamul Islam.

MOMENTS

ONE BALL, TWO REPRIEVES, BUT STILL NOT ENOUGH

Recalled opener Anamul Haque has been given the license to go hell for leather to get Bangladesh off to flying starts while their best batsman, Tamim Iqbal, can settle in and score big. It is a ploy that seems to be working for now, but it does make for some chaotic batting. Having reached 34 off 35 balls in the 15th over while Tamim was on a sedate 29 off 51, Anamul charged Thisara Perera and skied the ball over mid off, from where Dinesh Chandimal sprinted back but saw the ball just elude his desperate dive. Anamul's frenzied attitude however offered another chance. He was more than halfway back to the striker's end as Chandimal gathered the ball and hurled it back, but Tamim said no to a second run. The throw was not on the mark as Anamul scampered back. A ball later when he got the strike back, he duly edged a hook to be on his way.

REVERSE LEG SPIN

The ball tracking technology to adjudicate on leg-before decisions is a welcome feature, but Bangladesh's Nasir Hossain may not agree with it. In the 49th over, Perera reversed a full-pitched delivery back into Nasir, who was facing his first ball. The movement beat Nasir and the umpire turned down the appeal, rightly it seemed as the ball seemed to be tailing just down the leg side. Sri Lanka asked for the review and in the ball-tracking replay, that impression seemed to be accurate till the point of impact, with the ball coming in from outside off stump to hit in front of middle. But while most ball trackers would have extended the predictive path from the actual path -- i.e. continue towards the leg stump -- this time it just drew a straight line from the point of impact to the middle stump, and Nasir had to walk back with a first-ball duck to a ball that was effectively shown to be a reverse swinging leg-break.

YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM SHAKIB

With stand-in captain Dinesh Chandimal and Asela Gunaratne at the crease and the score reading 106 for four, there was still an outside chance for Sri Lanka to pull off something special. But then Shakib Al Hasan happened. In the 25th over, Chandimal pushed a Mohammad Saifuddin delivery to the off side and set off for what seemed a viable quick single. Shakib, however, swooped in from mid off and, with one stump to aim at, ran Chandimal out. In the very next over he dismissed Gunaratne and Wanindu Hasaranga off successive deliveries and added the scalp of Thisara Perera in the 30th over. This after scoring 67 with the bat.