



Time to address the debacles

BISHWAJIT ROY



in the final.

The New Year held hopes of a fresh beginning following the debacle on the tour of South Africa but it ultimately turned into tumult and actually reminded of Bangladesh cricket's horror year

of 2014. The post-Chandika Hathurusingha era that began with authoritative wins against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe eventually fell to pieces, with the rot starting with the defeat against Sri Lanka in the tri-series match and the loss of ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan due to injury

It was not only the heartbreak of the triseries; there were pathetic capitulations in the second Test and awful defeats in the T20I series. The manner in which Bangladesh performed all through against a rejuvenated Sri Lanka under Hathurusingha has come as a big warning about whether the Tigers are going to face the same fate that they suffered in 2014 when they won two (against Afghanistan and Nepal) and lost 22 matches across formats in the first 10 months.

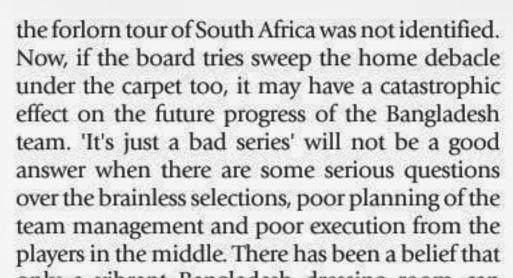
The ominous signs are however there as the team has looked clueless. Many can still remember what had happened in that fateful year of 2014 as the Tigers lost the Test series against Sri Lanka, which was followed by a 3-0 loss in the ODIs, and suffered losses at the hands of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan in the Asia Cup. They even lost to Hong Kong in a winless World T20 at home. More importantly, disciplinary issues -- especially surrounding Shakib -- had completely dented the confidence of the team.

After the debacle in South Africa in October last year and the first home assignments this year, the questions moved up around the corner whether the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will be able to fix the problem and steady the ship by taking honest measures to avoid another 2014. Will the board high-ups be sincere enough to indentify the problems behind the debacles?



A MONTHLONG SLIDE: (Clockwise from L-R) It all started very positively with Bangladesh winning their tri-series match against Sri Lanka by 163 runs in Mirpur on January 19, but once Bangladesh talisman Shakib Al Hasan injured his finger in the final on January 27 it all went downhill, starting with the loss in the final, through a Test series defeat and culminating in the 2-0 loss in the T20Is in Sylhet on February 18. Former Bangladesh coach Chandika Hahthurusingha's decision to switch to his native Sri Lanka has paid dividends in his first tour in charge.

PHOTOS: STAR FILE



ensure a vibrant team on the field.

It is useful to remember how the honest approach from Hathurusingha and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza brought the team-first attitude at the end of 2014 and injected enthusiasm, making all players hungry and eager to bring the team back on track after a dreadful year.

In terms of courage, planning for the team and unearthing the opposition's weaknesses,

ing their credentials as a strong team at home after a maiden run to the World Cup quarterfinal, but it all went missing in the just gone series as well as their previous series in South Africa.

The board probably needs to shelve the 'senior players are the coaches' concept and instead rethink the role of former national skipper Khaled Mahmud -- technical director

tantly the role of the current selection panel to at least ensure that the best is brought out from the best players in Bangladesh.

A recovery like that staged in late 2014 and 2015 will need the right people in the right places and if some initiative can be taken before the Tigers' next assignment in the Nidahas Trophy, the T20 tri-series involving India and hosts Sri Lanka from March 6, it will definitely provide a good signal.

only a vibrant Bangladesh dressing room can Bangladesh made a big statement by establishfor the concluded series -- and most impor-What went wrong on and off the field during Jamal climb to second, MSC up to fifth

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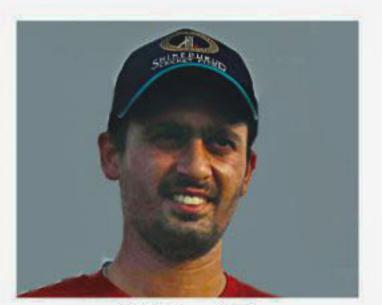


Mohammedan Sporting Club took the second step in their early-season resurgence as they won their second consecutive match yesterday by

defeating newly promoted Agrani Bank Cricket Club by a whopping 159 runs in Mirpur. The Old Dhaka outfit -- who lost their first two matches -- are in fifth place on the 12-team Dhaka Premier League table, one spot behind fellow newcomers Shinepukur Cricket Club, whose 88-run win over Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity in BKSP placed them above Mohammedan by virtue of a better net run rate.

In Fatullah, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club won their third match of the season with a fivewicket outclassing of Prime Bank Cricket Club and moved into the second spot behind leaders Abahani, who won all their four matches so far.

In Mirpur Mohammedan's total of 335 for seven after being asked to bat did not have a big hundred but instead relied on telling contributions from the lower-middle order, with Irfan Sukkur's 83-ball 92



KAUL... 137

leading the way after Mohammedan were in a spot of bother at 121 for four. Bangladesh opener Soumya Sarkar, playing for Agrani Bank after having played the second T20I against Sri Lanka in Sylhet just the night before, had Rony Talukdar and Shamsur Rahman caught behind.

Irfan and Raqibul Hasan (77) put on a 112-run fifth-wicket stand, and after the latter's dismissal in the 41st over Irfan continued the good work with Bipul Sharma (41 off 29), adding 76 runs for the sixth wicket in just 7.3 overs. Irfan was then trapped in front by Agrani Bank skipper Abdur Razzak.

In chase, Soumya did what he did the previous night -- get out for a duck -- as he was bowled by pacer Subhasish Roy in the third ball of the first over. Enamul and Taijul Islam

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TEER

Martin Frederick for five years.



SUKKUR... 92

combined to cut down Agrani Bank to 57 for four. From that point it was just about reducing the margin of defeat for Agrani, and they did not do that very well as they were bundled out for 176 in 37.4 overs. Subhasish, Enamul, Qazi Onik and Sharma took two wickets each.

Back in Fatullah, Prime Bank put in an under-par performance after skipper Mehedi Maruf chose to bat first. An incisive and economical performance from Sheikh Jamal's 18-year-old medium-pacer Robiul Haque, who had figures of three for 34 from nine overs, helped cut down Prime Bank to 137 for five. There were no halfcenturies in the innings, and only a 35 from Sajjadul Haque and a 26 from Delwar Hossain got them to 227 before they were bundled out in the last ball of the innings.

Sheikh Jamal's chase was powered by 50-plus stands for the first two wickets as opener Ziaur Rahman (67) put on 70 for the first wicket with Shykat Ali and 65 for the second wicket with Rakin Ahmed. Although Prime Bank managed to take three more wickets after Zia's dismissal, in the bank, and Nurul Hasan and Tanbir Hayder took them home with

MOHAMMEDAN V AGRANI BANK MOHAMMEDAN SC: 335 for 7 in 50 overs (Jony 43, Rony 26, Raqibul 77, Sukkur 92, Sharma 41, Enamul 20 not out; Al-Amin 2-70, Soumya 2-32, Razzak 2-72)

AGRANI BANK CC: 176 all out in 37.4 overs (Nafees 22, Rafatullah 22, Dhiman 40, Razzak 23; Subashis Roy 2-29, Onik 2-42, Enamul 2-35, Sharma 2-22)

Result: Mohammedan won by 159 runs. PRIME BANK V SHEIKH JAMAL PRIME BANK CC: 227 all out in 50 overs (Maruf 41, Zakir 27, Al-Amin 26, Sajjadul

Frederick outlines detailed plans for archers

35, Delwar 26; Jayed 2-61, Robiul 3-34, Sunny 2-34)

5.2 overs to spare.

BKSP saw the day's sole century as, after being asked to bat, Shinepukur's Indian import Uday Kaul hit a sparkling run-a-ball 137.

Kaul's innings formed the backbone of a strong 294 for seven, where national returnee Afif Hossain hit the second-highest score of 43. In reply, Khelaghar were bundled out for 206 in 45.4 overs. Opener Rafsan Al Mahmud was the only half-centurion in the Jamal had too much time and runs innings. Shinepukur's left-arm spinner Raihan Uddin picked up three for 22. It was also a good day

> SHEIKH JAMAL DC: 229 for 5 in 44.4 overs (Shykat 39, Ziaur 67, Rangi 39 Nurul 28 not out; Monir 2-38) Result: Sheikh Jamal won by 5 wickets. SHINEPUKUR V KHELAGHAR SHINEPUKUR CC: 294 for 7 in 50 overs (Sabbir 34, Kaul 137, Towhid 24, Afif 43; Saddam 2-38, Moinul Islam 2-17) KHELAGHAR SKS: 206 all out in 45.4 overs (Rafsan 62, Mahidul 20, Amit 43, Nazimuddin 24, Saifuddin 2-44, Raihan 3-

22,Afif 2-49) Result: Shinepukur won by 88 runs.

for Mohammad Saifuddin, picking up two for 44 from 10 overs, a welcome change from the hammerings he suffered in the Sri Lanka T20Is.

Agar expects another run-fest in final

AFP, Wellington



Monday that Eden Park's notoriously short boundaries mean another runfest is likely in this week's Twenty20 tri-series final against New Zealand. Australia completed a world-record run chase to over-

Australian spinner Ashton Agar said

haul New Zealand's 243 at the Auckland ground last Friday in a match that featured 32 sixes. They go into Wednesday's decider as favourites after

winning all four of their round robin matches, and Agar said the "amazing" result had further boosted their belief. "It was great for us to take confidence out of chasing a

record total, knowing we can do that," he said. "We've had the right guys firing at the right times now and I think we're ready to put together a really good perfor-

mance again." Eden Park more closely resembles a rectangular pitch than traditional cricket oval, and the Australian spinner described the layout as "unique".

Agar said bowling there was the hardest challenge he had faced in T20 cricket but he had accepted batsmen were going to go after him at the ground.

"If I get hit I've got to turn around, keep a smile on my face and try my best with the next ball," he said, adding that "some people are going to get away to a flyer here".

Agar said containing New Zealand's in-form openers Martin Guptill and Colin Munro would be a key element in the final.

The pair took full advantage of the ground's tiny dimensions to score 105 and 76 respectively last Friday, only for Australia's batters to produce similar pyrotechnics and claim the win.

Sammo outplay Apollo Eleven

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Thakurgaon Sammo Krira O Shangskritik Goshthi subjected Apollo Eleven Club to a 34-run defeat in the inaugural First Division cricket League match at the Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium in Thakurgaon yesterday.

A total of twelve teams are participating in the tournament, where the fixtures are 50-overs a side, organised by the Thakurgaon District Sports

Association. Electing to bat, Sammo scored 188 in their allotted 50 overs. In reply, Apollo were bundled out on 154

in 44.04 overs. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jahurul Islam inaugurated

the event as chief guest.

"I am happy to be here and am looking forward to doing good work with the federation and archers. I came here last December for one week and could see hard-working archers, motivated coaches



the standard of Bangladeshi archers. The high-profile coach has happily taken over the responsibility with the challenge of delivering something good in and an enthusiastic federation and sponthe near future.

With the target of

winning at least a

auditorium yesterday. Even before putting pen on paper,



Chapal (2nd from R), executive director of City Group Shoeb Md. Asaduzzaman (2nd from L) and other members of the federation during the German coach's unveiling at the BOA auditorium yesterday. PHOO: BAF

sors. I said, 'Wow, here something is possible to do' and I accepted the challenge," Frederick said during his introduction and contract signing ceremony at the BOA

Frederick started his activities after arriving here last week. Yesterday he presented his plans -- long term, midterm and short term -- as well as a domestic calendar and international events which the archers will participate in 2018, before the media.

seeing Bangladesh in a stable position among the top teams in Asia while his midterm plans include an improvement in world rankings and success at international events. The short-term plans will be to upgrade training process, promotion of talented archers, transfer of knowledge among the coaches, improvement and stabilisation of performance, running coaches' courses, efficient planning, strategy and effective team work. Apart from local competitions, Frederick wants to judge archers at inter-

Frederick's long-term goals include

national events such as the South Asian Archery Championship, Asian Grand Prix, Asian Games, ISSF Islamic Solidarity tournament, World Cup and Youth Olympics this year before working out plans and strategies for the next years.

"I have come here to achieve something for Bangladesh but it is not possible within one year. I want to see young archers, who need to be promoted for next Olympics as part of future develop-

ment plan," said Frederick. "I think archers in Bangladesh have at the programme.

potential to shine at international level because infrastructure and facilities here are good and archers are young. The federation and sponsors are enthusiastic about working together, so something is possible to achieve but not within a short period of time," said the German. Frederick worked in the Berlin Olympic

center, German Shooting and Archery Federation and Chilean Archery Federation as coach. Under his guidance, German and Chilean archers won medals in different international junior and senior competitions. He last guided 16-year-old Ricardo Soto of Chile to a top 10-finish in his debut appearance in the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Under the agreement with BAF, Frederick will get US 5000 dollars per month along with accommodation, transport and food. He will also be given 90 euros per month for his insurance and two return air tickets per year, informed Shoeb Md. Asaduzzaman, executive director, sales and marketing of sponsors City Group. BAF general secretary Razib Uddin Ahmed Chapal was also present