





This shot from Tamim Iqbal typified Bangladesh's approach -- losing shape and composure while going for big shots -- as they posted a below-par 139 for eight in their T20I tri-nation match against India at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo last night. PHOTO: AFP



त्र यग्त्य ध्रम्य धूला-म्याला आय् न्य



Mahmudullah points to dot balls

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo



Mahmudullah Riyad pointed at dot balls their bats. played by batsmen as their biggest concern in the shortest form of the game, and they played

out 55 of those during a six-wicket defeat against India to start their Nidahas Trophy campaign at the R Premadasa stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The Tigers' skipper", who himself played seven dot balls in Bangladesh's innings of 139 for eight before being dismissed for just one, informed that the Bangladesh think tank must figure out some kind of solution before going into the next match tomorrow against hosts Sri Lanka.

"I think it's obvious we didn't score the way we wanted to, but T20 is a type of format where you have to take calculated risks and look for boundaries as well. I think we have been lacking in that area in the middle overs for the past few matches where we played quite a few dot balls and also threw our wickets away. I think we need to find a way to give less dot balls and score as much as we can. If we can rotate the strike it will release the pressure from batsmen," Mahmudullah said at the post-match press conference yesterday.

There were questions about the overaggression displayed by Bangladesh's batsmen who were looking for big shots

in almost every delivery. The team's senior-most batsmen in Tamim Iqbal and Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim were each dismissed in overs that contained two boundaries off

> "At some point we should have been sensible but I won't say we were overaggressive as it's the nature of T20 cricket. We did give away quite a few dot balls going for big shots and we have to rectify how to play the over when we have already scored few boundaries. If we can do that, I believe our batsmen can continuously score big runs," he added.

> Mahmudullah blamed the batsmen and informed that the pitch was a 170-180 run wicket. However, he found some positives from the bowlers and informed that it will be important to have a collective approach and the Tigers are just one win away from overcoming the lean

> He reacted with annoyance when asked whether he is giving the positives undue importance. "Not at all, otherwise I would have not said that I am disappointed," he bristled. "We are not able to do things right... that's what I said. If I see the small positives as big then I think I should stop playing cricket. We still have the capability to do a lot better and I believe that. I think we need a game in which we can do everything right to gain the confidence and we are waiting for that momentum and if we get that you will see a different Bangladesh team."

Afghan's WC dream all but over

STAR SPORT DESK

Afghanistan's dream of a World Cup berth was shattered in unexpected fashion when they suffered a 30-run defeat (D/L method) to Hong Kong in Bulawayo yesterday. It was Rashid Khan-led

Afghanistan's third defeat on the trot, which means they are almost out of the running to qualify for the World Cup

They were never in the hunt after being set a revised target of 226 and managed only for 195 for 9. SCORES IN BRIEF

Hong Kong: 241 for 8 (Anshuman 65, Mujeeb 3-26, Nabi 3-48)

Afghanistan: 195 for 9 in 46 overs (Nabi 38, Dawlat 40 not out; Nadeem 2-37,

Ehsan 4-33) Result: Hong Kong won by 30 runs (D/L method)

Ton-up Shadman lifts Shinepukur to 2nd

SPORTS REPORTER



Shadman Islam, Junaid Siddiqui and Robiul Islam slammed centuries in the eighth-round Dhaka Premier

League matches at three different venues yesterday, but Robiul's effort went in vain. Shadman missed his season's

first century in the previous match by only five runs but he continued his form to bounce back with a magnificent 144 that helped Shinepukur Cricket Club to an eight-wicket win over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Their fifth win also took Shinepukur to second place on the 12-team points table.

Shinepukur reached the target of 263 with eight wickets and nine balls in hand thanks to a 95-run opening partnership between

Fardeen Hasan (38) and Shadman, who later contributed in an unbroken 121-run third-wicket stand with Towhid Hridoy (50). Shadman hit nine fours and two sixes during his 147-run knock.

Earlier, Sheikh Jamal scored 262 in 49.5 overs thanks to Ziaur Rahman, who top-scored with 79, and Hasanuzzaman, who struck 61, but it was not good enough for them to avert a fourth defeat in eight matches.

At BKSP, Legends of Rupganj rode on two half-centuries from Islam to secure their fifth win,

beating Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity by six wickets.

Naim and Naeem added 144 for the third wicket as Rupganj overtook Khelaghar's 259 six wickets to spare. 18-year old Naim made 81 off 96 balls with the help of seven fours and two sixes while skipper Naeem hit 70 off 64 balls with three fours and two sixes.

Khelagar posted 259 for four in their 50 overs, riding on Robiul's 116. Robiul struck 13 fours and a six in his 138-ball knock and added 182 for the second wicket Mohammad Naim and Naeem with Mahidul Islam, who added 80 off 125 balls.



JUNAID... 123



ROBIUL...116



SHADMAN...144 not out

SCORES IN BRIEF

BROTHERS UNION V KALABAGAN

Brothers Union: 317 for 4 in 50 overs (Junaid 123, Myshukur 96, Kapali 26, Raman 22 not out, Yasir 30 not out; Mahmudul Hasan 1-39) Kalabagan KC: 186 all out in 45 overs (Tasamul 44, Akbar 35, Muktar 62 not out; Suhrawardi 3-39, Shakhawat 2-31, Mehedi 2-31) Result: Brothers won by 131 runs.

KHELAGHAR V LEGENDS OF RUPGANJ

Khelaghar SKS: 259 for 4 in 50 overs (Mahidul 80, Robiul 116, Masum 19 not out; Asif 1-33)

Legends of Rupganj: 262 for 4 in 46.3 overs (Mazid 41, Salauddin 35, Naim 82, Naeem 70; Result: Legends of Rupganj won by 6 wickets. SHEIKH JAMAL V SHINEPUKUR Sheikh Jamal DC: 262 all out in 49.5 overs (Shykat 23, Hasanuzzaman 61, Ziaur 79,

Menaria 2-46, Rafsan 2-35)

Sunny 28; Saifuddin 2-56, Hawlader 2-57, Shuvagata 2-48, Gaffar 2-14) Shinepukur CC: 263 for 2 in 48.3 overs (Fardeen 38, Shadman 144 not out, Towhid 50 not out; Shohag 1-46)

Result: Shinepukur Cricket Club won by 8 wickets.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, Junaid's sixth List-A hundred boosted Brothers Union to an emphatic 131-run win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra. It was Brothers' fourth win in eight matches while Kalabagan suffered their sixth defeat in eight games.

Junaid struck 16 fours and two sixes during his 123-run innings that came from 111 deliveries.

He added 205 runs for the second wicket with Myshukur Rahaman, who missed out on a hundred by just four runs as Brothers scored a mammoth 317 for four.

Kalabagan were bowled out for 186 in 45 overs and number eight batsman Muktar Ali's unbeaten 62 was the only highlight of their innings.

BANGLADESH R/B 4s/6s 18/14 2/1 Mehedi c Pandey b Unadkat 3/4 0/0 1/0 Taskin not out 0/1 0/0 Rubel run out 1/2 0/0 Mustafizur not out Extras: (lb-2, nb-2, w-11) Total: (For 8 wkts in 20 overs) Did not bat: Nazmul Chahal Shankar 55/43 5/2 Pant b Rubel Raina c Miraz b Rubel 28/27 1/1 Karthik not out Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-2) Total: (For 4 wkts in 18.4 Overs) 140 Nazmul Islam Result: India won by six wickets Player of the match: Vijay Shankar

'Discipline is the bridge to any goal'

It was early morning when a young boy and his father went up to Chaminda Vaas, one of the finest left-arm seamers the game has known, to learn the art of fast bowling at the outer nets of the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. The fast bowling consultant of Sri Lanka Cricket warmly accepted the father's request and immediately took a look at the son's bowling and started working, even capturing footage to show the areas that need work. The 44-year-old, who was part of Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning side back in 1996, spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin and, among other things, talked about his memorable career moments, Mustafizur Rahman and Bangladesh cricket. The followings are excerpts from the exclusive interview:

the most important part of a fast

The Daily Star (TDS): Do you go down memory lane while teaching youngsters the art of fast bowling?

Chaminda Vaas (CV): Well, interestingly, I have finished playing and I am doing the same thing that I have done in the last 20 years. But it's very enjoyable and I am trying to teach the young kids what I have learned and doing my best to contribute to the younger generation.

TDS: You have picked up 355 Test wickets and 400 ODI wickets. What is the secret behind your success as a fast bowler in the sub continent?

CV: You have to be focused and dedicated in what you want to get from cricket, whether you want to achieve heights, just want to complete the game or you want to achieve the target. These are things that help you give hundred per cent in cricket and make your country proud.

TDS: You had a successful bowling partnership with Muttiah Muralidaran when the pitch was favouring spinners on most occasions. How did you cope

with that? CV: Being a fast bowler I never complain in my life and as a pacer you have to bend your back on every surface. We all know that in Sri Lanka and in the subcontinents, the pitches are prepared for their number one bowler. Obviously,

Murali has been the number one bowler so I have to support him but I never complained and always wanted to support Murali throughout, as it's like a batting partnership. He has taken 800 wickets and I ended up taking 400 wickets. It's all about doing well, whether you are giving hundred percent, supporting someone and doing what you can do to win matches for Sri TDS: How did you master the art of

reverse swing? Did any Pakistani bowler help you?

CV: I asked so many Pakistani fast bowlers but they never revealed the secret. I learnt from videos and finally learned from Wasim Akram, who showed me the art. Then I developed from what he told me and learned from

TDS: Have you seen Mustafizur Rahman?

CV: Mustafizur is a good bowler and when he joined the Bangladesh team he started really well and took a lot of wickets. But with the amount of cricket played these days -- T20s, IPL, Big Bash, Test cricket and fifty-over format -- fitness is very important for a fast bowler. You have to be hundred per cent fit to become a fast bowler as it is not an easy job where you bend your back and bowl. I personally feel that fitness is

bowler. I think he will be able to get back soon and should watch some videos of when he was doing really well. And I am sure he will be able to come up and do really well for Bangladesh. TDS: Have you ever been approached

from the Bangladesh Cricket Board for coaching?

CV: Well, there were some talks during 2016 between me and the BCB, but later I got to know that they have taken Courtney Walsh as the bowling coach. But I always want to give my service to whoever wants to have that and I would love to give something back to cricket; that's why I am working with the Under-19 team here in Sri Lanka. Like I said, I am very happy if anyone wants me to work on cricket.

TDS: How do you assess Bangladesh now from what you witnessed during your playing days?

CV: In those days, Bangladesh just started playing cricket but nowadays Bangladesh are a very competitive side and not an easy team to beat. They have valued most of the players and they are giving their hundred per cent and want to achieve heights. They want to perform for the country and are a young side as well. Every day they are learning and doing well and I am sure that if



you put Bangladesh in front of any top team, it will not be easy to beat them. TDS: How have you have managed to

remain injury-free for more than 15 years during your career?

CV: Like I said discipline, is the bridge whatever goal you want to accomplish. I have always maintained discipline and I am very honest about my job. I never cut my training and fitness as I always believed that fitness is the number one priority for a fast bowler.

TDS: You have dismissed Sachin Tendulkar nine times in your career. Did you plan specifically for him?

CV: Well, you can't say that as he is a great batsman and people believe that he has given so much to cricket. He has scored hundred after hundred, scored over 15,000 runs and is one of the great

batsmen. I have always admired him. On your day whoever comes to the middle, you are the best person as it's between bat and ball, so I had nothing against him. I am very lucky that one thing I have learned being a fast bowler is to put the ball in the right areas, so if he misses I get the wicket. TDS: You have captained Sri Lanka

for just a game. Any regret about that? CV: I will never have regrets. One thing about being a cricketer is you always want to lead the side. As I have captained for a game for Sri Lanka I am happy for whatever I gave to Sri Lanka cricket over the past 20 years or so.

of your career?

CV: There are so many proud moments in my career but winning the world cup in 1996 is the proudest moment of my life.

TDS: You had a beautiful copybook bowling action. Did you develop the action or was it natural?

CV: Actually it was not natural as I had a mixed action when I used to play for the under-19s. I needed to adjust my action a bit with the bowling coaches and after that it started to become natural for me. Being a fast bowler, you need to adapt to different situations.

TDS: Which batsman was the toughest to bowl to?

CV: It's difficult to say but there are a few names such as Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden. And I am lucky to have been a part of a Sri Lanka team with the great Sanath Jayasuriya in the team. It's not easy to bowl to these batsman -- the margin of error is very small when bowling to them.

TDS: You picked up eight for 19 against Zimbabwe [Colombo, December 2001] and Murali picked the last two. Any regrets for not getting all 10 wickets?

CV: Well I never regret in my life. We wanted to bowl them out early and I TDS: What is the proudest moment think that was the lowest total [38 all out] for a long time and something is better than nothing so I am happy about what I gave for Sri Lanka cricket. My wife was also thrilled as it was her birthday that day.

TDS: What was going through your mind when you came on to bowl when you took four wickets in four balls against Bangladesh in the 2003 World

CV: You can't plan everything and take wickets like that. Your ultimate goal in the world cup is to try and get early wickets. I was lucky that everything went well and obviously the fielders also took brilliant catches.