



The Bangladesh team took time off from cricket yesterday but batsmen Tamim Iqbal (L), Liton Das and Co will have to get their game plans in order when they take on Sri Lanka in their T20I tri-nation Nidahas Trophy match in Colombo today.

PHOTO: BCB

'Desire must come from within'

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo



Taskin Ahmed loves to come up with some mission and vision whenever he gets the chance to share his views with reporters. Swing, reverse swing, slower, increase of pace are some of the charming terms the paceman has pointed out when talking about progress in his bowling, although he has hardly been able to translate his words to action on the field.

The 22-year-old fast bowler, whose batting average is in single digits in all cricket except the first-class format where he averages 10.7, revealed yet another new desire yesterday when he said he wants to become a bowling all-rounder. It was Taskin's turn yesterday to face the press following a six-wicket defeat to a depleted India in their opening Nidahas Trophy match on Thursday, and he also identified the need for 'extra work' and 'self-motivation' after spending nearly four years in international cricket, during which inspirational Bangladesh ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has repeatedly been advocating for these qualities whenever asked questions about the frustrating performance of youngsters.

"Honestly speaking, you have to have the will power. We are made to work very hard. Lower-

order batsmen get batting practice but if you want to make progress you have to do extra work, which we have done sometimes, but we need more.

"The desire has to come from you. In world cricket the bowlers bat well and it is also my desire to become a bowling all-rounder in the



TASKIN AHMED

future," hoped Taskin. The team will certainly be happy to see him contributing with the bat but what the team desperately needs from him is a disciplined bowling effort to make his comeback to the team meaningful.

It has been a difficult phase for Bangladesh,

be it on the field or even when answering questions during press conferences as one question has been asked of the players repeatedly: "What went wrong and how can Bangladesh overcome the situation?"

Taskin's solution was very simple -- do well in batting and bowling.

"We made some mistakes in the last game, which we have to sort out. The wicket is different [from home] here, so our game plan will change accordingly. We have to put up a good total -- that's the main thing. Then we have to bowl well, but I am confident that we can come back into the competition. Still, there will be pressure as we lost the last two games against them. It is a good wicket, so chasing 170-180 isn't that hard. We have to bowl better, but I guess we should have scored more runs too. If we can bowl tighter in the next game, we will do better," said Taskin.

Bangladesh did not have a training session yesterday as the players spent some time in the hotel pool while Taskin came to the R Premadasa Stadium to speak to the media about today's game against Sri Lanka.

"We are still in the competition. We have to win at least two of the three remaining matches. It is a big challenge to play against the home side. Sri Lanka are in good shape. We have to execute well with bat and ball," added a hopeful Taskin.

Easier coaching in Sri Lanka: Chandika

MAZHAR UDDIN from Colombo



During most of his three-plus years of coaching Bangladesh, Chandika Hathurusingha was the centre of all discussions both positive and negative.

There were more than a few occasions that the Sri Lankan faced criticism from fans, players and the media because of his stern demeanour and straight-talking attitude.

And since Hathurusingha's resignation from his post as the Tigers' head coach became known in November last year, the 49-year-old did not reveal the amount of pressure felt during his tenure.

Interestingly, his first assignment as the Sri Lankan head coach was away in Bangladesh earlier this year when the visitors managed a clean sweep of the hosts in all three formats under Hathurusingha and, more importantly, Sri Lanka looked confident in their body language after a prolonged lean patch.

The home side also started off the Nidahas Trophy with a five-wicket win over India in the opening game and Sri Lanka will face Bangladesh yet again in their second game today.

Hathurusingha cut a busy figure during yesterday's training session at the outer nets of the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo where he was working with Dhananjaya De Silva on his pull shot and explaining to the right-hander to keep both his legs flexible

while pulling a short ball on the up.

A calmer Hathurusingha has his own style of coaching which helped Bangladesh immensely over during a large portion of his tenure between mid 2014 and late 2017 and it seemed Sri Lanka are getting the benefit of a relaxed and astute head coach now.

While viewing Sri Lanka's training session, this reporter went up to Kusal Mendis, the right-hander having just finished batting in the nets, and asked: "Do you think Hathurusingha is more like Jose Mourinho [Manchester United coach]?"

"Oh yes," was Mendis's smiling reply.

Soon enough, Hathurusingha noticed this reporter watching and asked with a smile: "Oh, how are you?"

When congratulated on his team's win in the first game against the world's top-ranked side, Hathurusingha volunteered the following insight: "You know, I am very relaxed here. It's easier coaching in Sri Lanka... you know what I mean?"

Those words, coming from a coach who was not often forthcoming with the media during his time in Bangladesh, was enough to intimate both the satisfaction he is feeling as Sri Lanka's coach and the pressure he often felt as the Bangladesh coach.

BANGLADESH IN T20Is					
Span	Mat	Won	Lost	Tied	NR
2006-2018	72	21	49	0	2
AGAINST SRI LANKA					
2007-2018	9	2	7	0	0



Sri Lanka coach Chandika Hathurusingha (R) cut a relaxed figure as the team trained at the R Premadasa Stadium premises yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

Bangladesh start with 5-0 win

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national hockey team made a winning start in the Asian Games Qualifiers with a convincing 5-0 win over Thailand in their Pool A match in Muscat, Oman last night.

Sarwar Hossain, Hasan Jubair Niloy, Milon Hossain, Ruman Sarker and Mamunur Rahman Chayan scored one goal apiece for holders Bangladesh.

The boys in red and green, who have set their sights on defending the title they won in the qualifiers for the 2014 Asian Games and thus qualify for the 2018 Asian Games as champions, will play their second Pool A match against Hong Kong tomorrow.

Shami charged after complaint

AFP, Kolkata

Police on Friday charged Indian fast bowler Mohammad Shami after his wife filed a formal complaint alleging assault, domestic violence and infidelity.

Shami's wife Hasin Jahan, a former model, filed a written complaint with the police in Kolkata just days after going public with claims that Shami had affairs with other women.

The controversy has already cost Shami as India's cricket board has put the 27-year-old bowler's annual contract with the national team on hold while an investigation is conducted.

All eyes on Taylor NZ-Eng series decider today

REUTERS, Wellington



New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor ran freely while completing some fitness drills on Friday, with the team to make a decision on his availability for Saturday's series-deciding fifth one-day match against England just before the start of the game.

The 34-year-old produced a match-winning unbeaten 181 in the fourth one-day international on Wednesday, despite having aggravated a thigh injury and suffering cramps that restricted his movement and forced him to limp singles in the successful run chase.

Taylor, who had his left leg heavily strapped, however did not seem to be hampered as he completed a series of drills on Hagley Oval on Friday and a team spokesman told reporters the final decision would be made just before the toss on Saturday.

The batsman's inclusion for the Christchurch match would be a massive boost for New Zealand.

If New Zealand win the series they would end their limited overs programme this summer having won 11 of their 13 games.

SL thrive on smart options

SPORTS REPORTER



Bowling coach Rumesh Ratnayake has credited Sri Lanka's 2018 resurgence to new head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and the culture of freeing players to take the 'smart option' that he has brought to the team.

Sri Lanka endured torrid times for most of 2016 and 2017, when they lost 65 and won just 28 matches across formats. 2018 has been much happier, however, with the latest example being their Nidahas Trophy opening win against India, the world's top T20I side, on Tuesday. That was preceded by a triumphant tour of Bangladesh where they won the ODI tri-series before outclassing the hosts in the Tests and T20Is.

"As I always say talent was aplenty in our team; it's just that the mindset of the boys... and I think coach Hathuru has come in and played

a big part in that; I would say he has changed their mindset by letting them do things on their own," said the former Sri Lankan pacer on the eve of today's Nidahas Trophy match against Bangladesh.

"It's all about smart options, I think he lets people take smart options and even if you fail he will say 'well, that was good enough; let's try again next time'. For example, you tell a boy to go and play some shots but if he gets out you can't ask him 'why did you play that shot?' So he's a man of his word.

"It's about adapting to in-game situations quickly. What Hathuru has done since he came in is he has given the players the freedom to make those decisions."

Although Ratnayake was happy with where the team are now, for him the real goal is one that will take time to achieve. "We have given the players that confidence and if it has shown in the boys that's good, but consistency is what we're looking for in the future," said Ratnayake.

"If there was any doubt that Sri Lanka's coaching staff are dead serious about their need to improve, Ratnayake dispelled them by finding errors even in Tuesday's dominant showing against India. "We still need to look at our bowling. I personally thought we gave 15 runs too many [against India]. We have scrutinised that a little bit... there is a lot to learn even though we won, while sometimes you have to lose to learn as well."

Their opponents today, Bangladesh, are in a lean patch similar to what Sri Lanka endured for the last two years, and Sri Lanka and their former coach -- none other than Hathurusingha -- have had a hand in that.

"It's how you see it. You see it as them struggling, but I think we have gone and performed well there. Maybe they're going through a little bit of a rough patch," Ratnayake said. "And I'm sure they would want to go and show us that they're something different. But we're well prepared and ready for it."



South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada (C) gives Australia captain Steven Smith a fiery send-off. The 22-year-old's five-wicket haul saw the Aussies fold for 243 in their first innings on the first day of the second Test yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Rabada puts SA on top

AFP, Port Elizabeth



South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada ripped the heart out of Australia's batting when he took four wickets in seven balls on the first day of the second Test on Friday.

Rabada added a fifth wicket in the same spell as Australia were bowled out for 243 after winning the toss and batting on a green-tinged pitch on an overcast day at St George's Park.

South Africa were 39 for one at the close.

Rabada finished with five for 96, having done all his damage on either side of tea, taking the key wicket of Australian captain Steve Smith, then following up by dismissing the Marsh brothers, Shaun and Mitchell, in his next over.

Tea was taken after Mitchell Marsh

was out. With his remaining ball in the over, Rabada had Pat Cummins caught behind to be on a hat-trick. He didn't manage that but 11 balls later he bowled Mitchell Starc.

It was a day of contrasts. Australian opening batsmen Cameron Bancroft and David Warner survived a testing first hour, scoring only 23 runs in 14 overs, then seemed to have taken control as they added 75 runs in the next hour, only for Bancroft to be out for 38 off the last ball before lunch.

Two more wickets fell quickly after the interval, including that of Warner for 63, made off 100 balls with nine fours.

Warner had at least let his bat do the talking after a week punctuated by the fallout from his altercation with South African wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock during the first Test.

Smith and Shaun Marsh steadied the innings with a patient fourth wicket stand of 44 before Rabada started his

devastation.

Rabada produced a fast delivery angled in to the stumps to strike Smith on the back pad. Smith failed in a review of umpire Kumar Dharmasena's decision.

In Rabada's next over Shaun Marsh was beaten by a ball which swung into his pads and was also leg before. Mitchell Marsh edged a four but then was caught behind off an inside edge.

Australia were 182 for eight when Starc was out but wicketkeeper Tim Paine batted well with the last two batsmen, Nathan Lyon and Josh Hazlewood as the last two wickets added 61 runs. Paine was last man out for 36.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 243 (Bancroft 38, Warner 63, Smith 25, Marsh 24, Paine 36; Philander 2-25, Rabada 5-96, Ngidi 3-51)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 39 for 1 (Elgar 11 not out, Rabada 17 not out 17, Cummins 1-9)