

SPORT

Tigers look to stay afloat

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo



After suffering a crushing 91-run defeat in the first ODI on Friday, Bangladesh will certainly be desperate to stay alive in the three-match series against Sri Lanka when the sides face off in the second one-dayer at the R Premadasa stadium in Colombo today.

In the first match, openers Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar once again failed to provide a good start but it should be mentioned that both left handers were dismissed by signature Lasith Malinga yorkers. Much to the Tigers' relief though, Sri Lanka will be without the services of Malinga today as the pace legend retired from the format after Friday's encounter.

It will also be crucial for Tamim to get back in the groove. The Tigers' stand-in captain has seemingly not been able to overcome the added

We did not have a good start as we lost three wickets for 30 runs.

But still the way we recovered and if that partnership [between Mushfiqur Rahim and Sabbir Rahman] could add more 60-70 runs then the game could have been different. I think the most important thing is whoever gets in, he has to make it big.

TAMIM IQBAL
Bangladesh stand-in captain

pressure which began with the ICC Cricket World Cup, where the 31-year-old remained below par throughout.

Apart from Tamim, this series is also the perfect platform for the likes of Mohammad Mithun, Sabbir Rahman and Mosaddek Hossain to prove their worth and take their game to the next level.

In the first one-dayer, the Tigers lagged behind in all three departments -- batting, bowling and fielding -- not just in comparison to their opponents but also considering their own standards.

Sabbir did manage to score his sixth ODI fifty in a crucial juncture of the encounter when Bangladesh were struggling on 34 for four. Sabbir, alongside wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim, added 111 runs for the fifth wicket with the latter scoring a 50.

However, just when Sabbir needed to play a big innings to steady the ship, the right hander lost his cool and tried to take on the off-spin stylings of Dhananjaya de Silva only to be caught at deep mid-wicket on a 57-ball 60, featuring seven boundaries.

Much like Sabbir, another bright prospect, Mosaddek, needed to deliver as the 23-year-old had been rated as an aspiring all-rounder on the Bangladesh team.

Mosaddek showed a glimpse of his abilities when he smashed the fastest ODI fifty in Bangladesh's record books to help the Tigers defeat West Indies in the ODI tri-series final in Ireland ahead of the World Cup in May, delivering a maiden multi-nation trophy in process.

On Friday, despite a flying start



Bangladesh batsman Sabbir Rahman hit a 56-ball 60 during the Tigers' 91-run loss in first ODI against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Friday but he will need to take his innings further if the side are to win the second one-dayer against the hosts today.

PHOTO: AFP

with the bat, courtesy of a blistering hundred from Kusal Perera, Bangladesh's bowlers did manage to bounce back well in the latter part of the innings. Sri Lanka were eventually restricted to 314 even though it looked as though they would post something closer to the 350-run mark at one point.

Shafiu Hossain made a decent return to the ODI side following a three-year hiatus as the right-arm seamer was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets. However, Mustafizur Rahman and Rubel Hossain were expensive and so the pace trio will surely need to

step up today.

According to sources, the team management will opt for the same combination that played in the first ODI but will feature a better approach to all three departments with fielding being a major concern following some poor ground work in the first ODI.

There was no official training session for the Tigers yesterday and the team spent their time at the gym before a pool session. However, in a promising turn of events, Tamim, Taijul Islam and Anamul Haque opted to bat at the R Premadasa Stadium nets instead.



'He knows how to find talent'

Malinga lavishes praise on mentor Ramanayake

MAZHAR UDDIN from Colombo

Chompaka Ramanayake's contribution to Bangladesh's fast-bowling department during his first tenure as bowling coach is still remembered by many, including ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

That time from 2008-2010 was when the Tigers' pacers improved significantly and the 54-year-old was again appointed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board as head coach of the High Performance Unit in August 2017.

The former Sri Lankan pacer is currently in Sri Lanka as Bangladesh's acting bowling coach after Courtney Walsh's departure. He will go back to the High Performance Unit once Charl Langeveldt joins the team as a full-time bowling coach after the tour.

Ramanayake's impact on Sri Lanka's legendary pacer Lasith Malinga is widely known and it is why the 35-year-old did not forget to pay tribute to his mentor on his farewell game on Friday.

"Champaka is the main guy in my cricketing career because when he found me in 2001, he might have realised that I had something. My action was different but I have something and then he realised I have pace. Pace was very important at the time because we had Dilhara Fernando and so many pace bowlers during that period.

"He [Ramanayake] said that I had a unique action and that he was a coach and player in world cricket. He said he wanted to find a team for me. So, I went and he made way for me in a team and I got eight wickets. Then he decided to stop playing and start coaching. I can't think of anyone else doing that. He is that kind of guy," an emotional Malinga told reporters after his last ODI game, against Bangladesh, on Friday.

According to Malinga, Bangladesh are lucky to have someone like Ramanayake in their ranks.

"When he went to Bangladesh, I knew the Bangladeshi fast bowlers also really appreciated him and that the Bangladesh board also appreciated him. He has a talent; he knows how to finalise talent, he knows how to develop. I think we miss him but we can't control that; Bangladesh guys are very lucky because he is there."

However, it is not only the coach who can develop a fast bowler. The player also has a duty to get the most out of his coach and then execute on the field. Malinga can be such an example for the Bangladesh seamers, who again have the chance learn from someone like Ramanayake.

Malinga said that it took a lot of hard work and patience to become the Malinga of today and added that there is no way to become successful without having a desire to become the best.

Obviously, it was not solely Ramanayake's contribution that took Malinga to his stratospheric levels although the partnership between the coach and player was key. It was also Malinga's hard work and dedication.

'Can bounce back from here'

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo



It is said that in cricket it takes considerable time to improve the overall skills of a player in bowling and batting, however, fielding is one of those aspects which can be improved upon in a short time through hard work.

Apart from the poor batting and bowling, the Tigers' fielding was far below par during their 91-run defeat in the first of a three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka on Friday.

The fielders had leaked at least 10 to 15 runs while the experienced Mahmudullah Riyad dropped a rather simple catch of Kusal Mendis at long on, despite having covered quite some ground to reach the ball which inexplicably popped out of his hands.

"Fielding is not something you go for technique. You can't change the techniques while fielding. You have to see their attitude in the ground and involvement. If they can relate more, that would be better. Sometimes we become

shattered when opponents dominate. We have to come out of that situation and play better," Bangladesh interim coach Khaled Mahmud told reporters in Colombo yesterday.

"We had a lot of missed fielding yesterday. I believe, the way they fielded, we are definitely a better fielding side. Our back against the wall but I believe we can come back from here."

Interestingly, those who were rated as the best fielders on the Bangladesh team, such as Sabbir Rahman, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Mosaddek Hossain, were all culprits of not being able to live up to their own standards in the first one-dayer.

A dropped catch can often serve a double blow as it demoralises the bowlers while if the reprieved batsman goes on to play a big knock, it puts a lot of mental pressure on the team. Fielding is an especially important chink to iron out for teams like Bangladesh, who are often unable to score or chase above 300 runs.

It will be vital for the team management, along with fielding coach Ryan Cook, to work on this aspect if they are to stay alive in the series.

Carey omission baffles Aussie greats

AFP, Sydney

Alex Carey's omission from the Ashes squad was met with disbelief Saturday by former Australian greats Mark Waugh and Shane Warne.

Australia named a 17-man squad for the five-Test series against England on Friday, with opener Cameron Bancroft recalled alongside Steve Smith and David Warner following their bans for a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa last year.

"Got to be kidding re Alex Carey," 128-Test veteran Waugh tweeted. "For me Alex missing the squad is the biggest shock particularly after his batting during the World Cup and being the second best gloveman."

Spin king Warne was also stunned at Carey's omission.

"Very surprised/disappointed that Carey didn't make the Aussie squad," he said on Instagram.

Archer in England's Ashes squad

AFP, London



Uncapped fast bowler Jofra Archer has been included in England's 14-man squad announced Saturday for next week's Ashes opener against Australia, with all-rounder Ben Stokes re-appointed as vice-captain.

The pair both enjoyed starring roles in England's stunning World Cup final win over New Zealand at Lord's on July 14, with all-rounder Stokes ensuring England drew level with the Black Caps total in regulation play before Archer bowled the decisive Super Over that sealed victory.

Archer, 24, who only became England qualified earlier this year, could now make his Test debut when the first of a five-match series starts at Edgbaston on August 1.

He carried a side strain throughout the World Cup but

SQUAD

Joe Root (captain), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes.

reported fit after a brief holiday in his native Barbados, with Archer returning to action for Sussex on Friday, where he took 2-21 in a tied Twenty20 Blast match with Surrey.

Since making his senior debut in 2016, Archer has taken 131 wickets in 28 first-class matches at an average of 23.44.

Stokes was restored to his position as Joe Root's deputy after being stripped of the vice-captaincy following a late night brawl in September 2017. He was

subsequently cleared on a charge of affray last year, with Jos Buttler acting as vice-captain.

Both Buttler and Stokes were rested from a see-saw Test against Ireland that England eventually won by 143 runs at Lord's on Friday, with veteran spearhead James Anderson also returning to the squad after missing the match with a side injury.

But while 10 of the 11 players who defeated Ireland were included, there was no place for left-arm



New bowling coaches part of new vision

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has appointed former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori as spin bowling consultant while former South Africa paceman

Charl Langeveldt was appointed for the full-time bowling coach position in hopes of taking the national team's performance to the next level.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan disclosed this information during a press conference following a board meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Nazmul also said that they will come up with another good bit of news in regards to the appointment of a head coach to fill the vacuum left by the premature departure of Steve Rhodes soon.

In addition, the BCB extended the



CHARL LANGEVELDT



DANIEL VETTORI

tenure of Minhajul Abedin as chief selector and Habibul Bashar as selector till next year's ICC T20 World Cup in Australia as they had no qualms over the performance of the two former national cricketers, who have remained at the helm of selection procedures since 2011. Thus, the speculations regarding changes in the selection panel put to rest.

Hassan also informed that they will take a decision on including another former cricketer in the selection panel later as they did not reach a conclusion on the two probable candidates when the matter was discussed during the meeting. He added that as they stick with their policy of a two-tier selection procedure, Minhajul will lead the selection panel while cricket operations committee chairman Akram Khan will lead the selection committee.

The board also extended the contracts of batting coach Neil McKenzie and strength and conditioning coach Mario Villavayen till the T20 World Cup. Hassan informed that poor fielding has become a major headache for them, especially after the dismal performance against Sri Lanka in the first of a three-match ODI series on Friday, however, they are awaiting a report from current fielding coach Ryan Cook before taking any decision regarding the department.

"We have reached a position in world cricket and now we have to go to the next level and we are trying to hire the best people in that vein. We are not worried with the appointment of a new head coach. We are talking with the candidates, including Andy Flower, and we are hopeful that we can give you a positive news within the next few days," Hassan told reporters after the meeting.

40-year old Black Caps great Vettori has agreed to work with the Bangladesh spinners up until the ICC T20 World Cup 2020 in Australia. He will be available for around 100 days in his role with

Bangladesh which combines a preparation phase, series' and tournaments, including the upcoming tour of India, the Asia Cup and tour of New Zealand in 2020. Hassan said that they were looking for a full-time spin coach and had another candidate in that regard but chose Vettori, who was the head coach of Indian Premier League (IPL) side Royal Challengers Bangalore and Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) team Brisbane Heat, even though he will not be able to be here full-time.

Langeveldt will join the Bangladesh team as their full-time pace bowling coach once the Tigers return from the Sri Lanka trip in place of Courtney Walsh, whose contract ended with the World Cup.

Vettori said he was excited with the prospect of guiding Bangladesh's spin department.

"I have followed Bangladesh cricket for a very long time and have some great

memories from touring the country. This is a team on the rise and there is so much experience and potential. It will be a pleasure to work with the likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam and the other up coming youngsters. I am looking forward to my work with a lot of interest."

In other major decisions, the board decided to start the 7th Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) on December 6. The opening ceremony will be held on December 3.

Hassan said that the board's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place from October 20 to October 28 this year.

The BCB boss also said that the ICC is going to hold an Under-19 Women's World Cup for the first time and that the board have already expressed a desire to take part in the meet. However, as no Under-19 women's team exists at the moment, they will make an initiative very soon.

Hassan added that apart from the arrangement of two T20I matches between Asia All Star and Rest of the World to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman next year, they decided to arrange an Under-12 Cricket Carnival all over the country and a Youth T20 Divisional Tournament.

Spin bowling has been a traditional strength for Bangladesh. I hope to share my knowledge as a player and coach of the demands of modern day spin bowling in all versions of the game and help the bowlers make good intelligent decisions so that they can maximise their talents and skills.

DANIEL VETTORI
Bangladesh spin bowling consultant