

SPORT



Bangladesh batsman Mahmudullah Riyad, known as one of the cleanest hitters in the line-up, rediscovered his form by hitting five sixes and one four during his 41-ball 62 that helped the hosts to post a challenging 175 for seven against Zimbabwe in the T20I tri-series encounter at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. Bangladesh won by 39 runs to reach the final.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Where is Hider?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Monday named the Under-23 squad for the tour of India and there was no place for left-arm pacer Abu Hider. His non-selection raised eyebrows as chief selector Minhajul Abedin told reporters a few days ago that the pacer would tour India with the HP team when asked why the 23-year-old was not part of the Bangladesh T20 side.

Hider was picked in the squad for the T20I tri-series on September 14 -- reportedly after a side strain to Yasin Arafat -- a day before Bangladesh's match against Afghanistan on September 15. The selectors then dropped him without giving him an opportunity to prove himself. Minhajul had argued that the likes of Mahedi Hasan and Hider were not being dropped. "No, they are not being dropped, they are within our system and will tour with the HP [High Performance] team," he said on Monday.

When The Daily Star asked the chief selector yesterday why Hider was excluded from the U-23 squad, he queried: "Who told you that he was not in the team? He went to India with the Under-23 team."

According to Hider's Facebook status, he was in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, where Bangladesh Under-23 will play five one-day matches against their Indian

counterparts on September 19, 21, 23, 25 and 27 at Lucknow's Ekana Cricket Stadium.

So why was his name not in the official squad? Was it a mistake from the BCB's media & communications department (which sent the press release with the squad information to the media houses).

Rabeed Imam, senior manager of media & communications, however made it clear that the name of Hider was not in the final squad, which was approved by the BCB president.

Abu Hider Rony was at Renaissance Lucknow Hotel.
9 hrs • Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh • 📍

Renaissance Lucknow Hotel
Hotel • Lucknow, India
108,093 check-ins

You, Yasmin Hasan and 144 others 1 Comment

Abu Hider Rony was travelling to India from Hazrat Shajalal International Airport.
Yesterday at 21:10 • Dhaka, Bangladesh • 📍

Want to continue dominating: Mahmudullah

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram

After the restlessness in the entire thinking process from the Tigers' team management which had a negative impact on game plans and led to a string of disappointments in the recent past, Bangladesh's decision to come out with rather conventional cricket paid dividends against Zimbabwe in Chattogram yesterday.

The team management had come up with some outside-the-box strategies starting with the one-off Test against Afghanistan earlier this month by opting for an all-spin bowling attack against the newest Test-playing nation. Whether it was that step, or even promoting someone like Mushfiqur Rahim to open the innings for the first time in his 12-year career in the second game of the ongoing tri-nation T20I series, the ploys proved horribly wrong for the Tigers.

That outside-the-box theory also alienated the mantra of banking on their own strengths but Shakib Al Hasan's side came out with a rather clear mindset and approach to clinch a much-needed

39-run win over Zimbabwe to confirm a place in the final of the tri-nation T20I series.

Although Bangladesh opted to play two debutants at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in the form of Najmul Hossain and young leg-spinner Aminul Islam yesterday, the Tigers made sure to rely on their strengths and put the blocks in the right locations in the playing eleven.

The Tigers got a decent start courtesy quickfire 22-ball 38 from Liton Das, which was later cashed in on by two experienced campaigners -- Mushfiqur Rahim, batting at his regular number four position, and Mahmudullah Riyad at number five.

The pair stitched together a valuable 78-run fourth-wicket stand and although Mushfiqur was dismissed for 32, Mahmudullah made sure he remained till the end. He scored team-high 41-ball 62, which featured five sixes and a four, as Bangladesh posted 175 runs.

According to Mahmudullah, who scored a T20I fifty after over two years, the win was a breath of fresh

Before going to the ground, I wanted him [Aminul Islam] to do well. I did not know him personally and hadn't seen him play, but when I saw him in the nets, I felt he had that X-factor. I am really happy for the way he bowled today [Wednesday]. I was telling Shakib [Al Hasan] the way he bowled was outstanding. He is a good fielder and also has good ability with the bat. If he is able to continue in such manner, he can play for Bangladesh for a long time.

MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD
ON YOUNG LEGGIE AMINUL ISLAM

air for the Tigers and he believed it would help them gain in confidence in the coming days.

"I think we were unable to do well in the recent past. We lost a series in Sri Lanka which was followed by the Test against Afghanistan. I think everyone

had the hunger and we spoke about it as Shakib is very much involved. Our next step will be to continue the dominance and put up a same or even better performance to win against Afghanistan before the final, which would give us more confidence," Mahmudullah told

reporters yesterday.

As with the bat, Bangladesh remained clinical with the ball. It was Aminul who grabbed his opportunity with both hands to make an impact on debut. He ended up with two wickets for just 18 runs in his four overs.

Coming in to bowl in the seventh over, Aminul picked up his maiden T20I wicket with just his third ball when he dismissed Tinotenda Mutumbodzi, who went for a big shot and was caught at long off.

The 19-year-old went on to pick his second wicket when he trapped Zimbabwe skipper Hamilton Masakadza, going for a slog sweep, leg before as the ball did not turn, instead going on to hit Masakadza's back foot.

"I was talking to him [Aminul Islam] on the field and told him: whatever you do, do it with courage. I think he was also feeling that. I felt that he was quite aggressive when he was bowling and fielding, which is very important in T20 cricket. It might not work every day, but it will give him success most of the time. I am very happy about his performance," Mahmudullah said.

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

Player	R/B	4s/6s
Najmul c & b Jarvis	11/9	1/0
Liton c Madziva b Mpofo	38/22	4/2
Shakib c Williams b Burl	1/9	1/0
Mushfiqur c Taylor b Mutumbodzi	32/25	3/0
Mahmudullah c Williams b Jarvis	62/41	1/5
Aff c Taylor b Mpofo	7/8	0/0
Mosaddak c Chakabva b Jarvis	2/3	0/0
Saifuddin not out	6/2	1/0
Aminul not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (b-3, w-4)		7
Total: (For 7 wks in 20 overs)		175
Did not bat: Mustafizur Rahman, Shaiful Islam.		
Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-55, 3-65, 4-143, 5-159, 6-169, 7-169.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hdlovu	3	0	32	0
Jarvis	4	0	32	3
Mpofo	4	0	42	2
Williams	4	0	26	0
Burl	1	0	13	1
Mutumbodzi	3	0	17	1
Madziva	1	0	10	0

Player	R/B	4s/6s
Taylor c Shakib b Saifuddin	0/5	0/0
Mosakadza b Aminul	25/25	3/0
Chakabva b Shakib	0/2	0/0
Williams c Aff b Shaiful	2/5	0/0
Mutumbodzi c Najmul b Aminul	11/9	0/1
Burl b Shaiful 1/3	0/0	0/0
Mutumbanzi c Saifuddin b Shaiful	54/32	4/3
Madziva run out	9/15	0/0
Jarvis c Sub b Mustafizur	27/20	1/2
Hdlovu b Mustafizur	2/4	0/0
Mpofo not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-3)		5
Total (all out in 20 overs)		136
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-8, 4-35, 5-37, 6-44, 7-66, 8-124, 9-136, 10-136		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saifuddin	4	0	14	1
Shakib	4	0	28	1
Shaiful	4	0	36	3
Mustafizur	4	0	38	2
Aminul	4	0	18	2

Results: Bangladesh won by 39 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Mahmudullah.

ECB rallies round Stokes

AFP, London

England cricket chiefs on Tuesday rallied round star all-rounder Ben Stokes after he criticised a British newspaper report about a family tragedy more than 30 years ago.

Tom Harrison, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), said he was "disgusted and appalled" by the front-page story in The Sun tabloid on Tuesday.

Stokes, who helped England win the World Cup this year and played a starring role in the just-completed drawn Ashes series against Australia, has called the report "utterly disgusting" and said it touched on "deeply personal and traumatic events" involving the deaths of members of his New Zealand-based family more than 30 years ago.

Stokes, 28, was born in New Zealand but moved to England as a boy.

In an ECB statement, Harrison said: "We, like the wider sporting world, are disgusted and appalled at the actions taken in revealing the tragic events from Ben's past.

"We are saddened that an intrusion of this magnitude was deemed necessary in order to sell newspapers or secure clicks. Ben's exploits at Lord's and Headingley cemented his place in cricket history this summer -- we are sure the whole sport, and the country, stands behind him in support."

In his own statement, Stokes said: "It is hard to find words that adequately describe such low and despicable behaviour, disguised as journalism. I cannot conceive of anything more immoral, heartless or contemptuous to the feelings and circumstances of my family.

"For more than three decades, my family has worked hard to deal with the private trauma inevitably associated with these events and has taken great care to keep private what were deeply personal and traumatic events."

The Sun defended its approach, saying the story had received extensive media coverage in New Zealand at the time. A spokeswoman for the newspaper said:



"The Sun has the utmost sympathy for Ben Stokes and his mother but it is only right to point out the story was told with the co-operation of a family member who supplied details, provided photographs and posed for pictures.

"The tragedy is also a matter of public record and was the subject of extensive front-page publicity in New Zealand at the time.

"The Sun has huge admiration for Ben Stokes and we were delighted to celebrate his sporting heroics this summer. He was contacted prior to publication and at no stage did he or his representatives ask us not to publish the story."

The story has also revived a debate about the ethics of the British press.

Press regulation campaign group Hacked Off condemned the story. Hacked off board member Steve Barnett told BBC radio the story was "graphic evidence" of a newspaper "driving a coach and horses through their own code of conduct."

"He's done absolutely nothing wrong and his own family history is dragged through the mud. I can't see any justification for this other than the fact it will sell papers. It was a brutally commercial decision which took no account of their own code of conduct, which says everyone deserves respect for their private and family life," Barnett said.

Moody named as coach of Oval team

AFP, London

Former Australia all-rounder Tom Moody and England World Cup winner Lydia Greenway have been appointed as head coaches of the Oval-based men's and women's teams for the new Hundred competition, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Wednesday.

The Hundred, starting in 2020, is a new tournament consisting of eight city-based franchise sides, breaking away from England's traditional county system.

Teams will bat for 100 balls each with overs, normally consisting of six deliveries, lasting for 10 balls with bowlers either bowling five or 10 balls consecutively.

Moody led Sri Lanka to the 2007 World Cup final and Sunrisers Hyderabad to the Indian Premier League title in 2016.

"Anything that is new and is innovative has an automatic appeal," said Moody. "From a coaching perspective it presents new challenges to test yourself against in a world-class environment.

"To be a part of the early stages of a tournament where you have the opportunity to set the tone around what the 100-ball format will look like is a unique opportunity."

The 53-year-old's appointment is the final one among the eight men's outfits in The Hundred.

Formative coach backs Smith's unconventional technique

AGENCIES, Melbourne

Lamenting Australian cricket's "aversion" to embrace unconventional styles, Steve Smith's formative coach Trent Woodhill observed that his famous ward's uniqueness would be accepted in the Indian system, where it is "all about the output."

Days after Smith redefined the art of run-scoring in an Ashes series that belonged to him, Woodhill said uniqueness and unorthodox styles should be celebrated.

"If Steven was Indian, his technique and mechanics and the strategy around his batting would just be accepted," Woodhill was quoted as saying in ESPNcricinfo.

"We see Kohli, Gavaskar, (Rohit) Sharma, Ganguly, Sehwag - all these players have unique techniques. The Indian system is all about output, about scoring runs. 'We don't care how you do it as long as you do it', whereas in Australia we wanted you to score well and we wanted you to look good."

However, his unique approach to batting, especially while leaving deliveries, was discussed by those who view his technique through the classical lens.

Woodhill isn't too happy with those struggling to accept uniqueness, saying this attitude can have a negative impact on a young player's career.

While talking about unconventional approach, he also cited Indian spin legend Anil Kumble and Afghanistan's star wrist-spinner Rashid Khan.

"Other nations just find a way to accommodate such players. Like a Rashid Khan, who holds the ball like an off-spinner but bowls leg-spin, an Anil Kumble - seam-up, wrist-spin,

predominantly wrong.

"Australian cricket likes to pass the baton on: this is how you do it, this is how it's always been done. Steven's come along, and to some extent, David Warner's come along and said, 'No, we're gonna do it this way now', and they've had a lot of success," Woodhill observed.

He called Smith the best since the great Donald Bradman.

"The old guard, the older Test greats, still can't understand how it works. So they still think, especially bowlers, 'Well, if I was bowling, I'd sort this guy out!'"

"And that's the thing with cricket, especially in England and Australia: 'If I can't understand how it looks, it

can't work'.

"Steven has proven them wrong. He's the best since Bradman; this is not even an argument anymore."

Meanwhile, former South Africa cricketer Jonty Rhodes on Tuesday picked Virat Kohli as the better Test batsman over Steve Smith in an interview to New Indian Express. "I enjoy watching Virat Kohli. Steve Smith, with that action and technique, makes the ugliest hundreds I have ever seen but the man just keeps scoring runs. Someone who likes to watch cricket would want to say 'Wow! What an amazing shot' as opposed to 'Oh! How on earth can he hit that?' So Virat Kohli right now," Rhodes had said.



STEVE SMITH