



Bangladesh's inconsistency baffling

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The gap in the Tests in the Ashes series and the end of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan series has left the stage open for the lesser teams to take their bow in the spotlight though after their recent performances, albeit against a second string West Indian team, it is hard to refer to Bangladesh as a lesser team. With all due respect it is tough to call teams in the bottom part of the world rankings as top teams.

Hopefully that winning tour of the Caribbean will be just the spur that this cricket mad country needs to lift its game and become confident enough to take on teams in the top-half of the world rankings. Bangladesh have the capability of surprising top teams in limited overs cricket as they have shown by beating teams like South Africa, India and Australia. Once they start doing that regularly then they will automatically get the respect of the top ranked teams though none of these teams take them lightly in this format of the game. It is the inconsistency of their performances that can be so exasperating to their supporters as a good match is followed by a dismal one where a team that looks like world beaters looks like a schoolboy team.

Their current One-Day series in Zimbabwe is going the same way. Zimbabwe have been out of international competition for a long time now and so they are certainly looking to show the cricketing world that despite the lack of international cricket they still are a team good enough to get back in Test cricket too. That is unlikely to happen in the near future while we have countries deciding what is fair electoral practice in other countries and invariably if a government elected is not to their liking then the country and its leaders gets damned. How they can decide how another country should be run is beyond normal people's understanding.

Anyway coming back to cricket the matches are turning out to be high scoring ones with batsmen prospering on the good pitches that are invariably found in Zimbabwe and there have been a few highly entertaining batting efforts from both teams. Tamim Iqbal got a big century and for Zimbabwe Masakadza got a ton and picked up wickets too, but it was Charles Coventry who Indian viewers may remember playing some good shots some years back who is the CEAT International Cricketer of the Week with his outstanding innings of 194 which equalled Saeed Anwar as the highest individual score in One-Day cricket.