



Zimbabwe ready to return to top league

25th October 2009, Sunil Gavaskar

In a day or so, international cricket will start again with India taking on Australia. Later, England will tour South Africa while Pakistan play New Zealand in the United Arab Emirates. But till then, the second level teams in the world will be contenders for the 'CEAT International Cricketer of the Week'.

The Champions Trophy is over and many of the players playing in that will now be playing for their respective countries and be contenders for the weekly award from next week. Zimbabwe are out to prove that they are now good enough to come back to the first level and their performances against Kenya have been top-class. They will play Bangladesh soon and that may well be the test of how ready they are to get back to the top league.

Bangladesh has always been good competitors in limited-overs cricket and they have some remarkable wins under their belt in this version of the game. The lack of regular top-class cricket has certainly hampered Kenya's progress and the losses against Zimbabwe will add to the woes.

For Zimbabwe it is good to see the return of all former players, who had stayed away from the game for various reasons. A team that is short on match experience can do with all the help they can get and nothing quite like having former players to put them through their paces.

Hamilton Masakadza had taken a break from the game to pursue an academic degree. That was understandable since there were no guarantees with the game of cricket in Zimbabwe a few years back. Not that there is more of it now but at least the game is getting back on its feet.

He has had a very good series against the Kenyans, scoring a massive century and that makes him this week's CEAT International Cricketer.