

The Olympic rings, from left to right, are blue, yellow, black, green, and red. The colours were chosen because at least one of them appeared on the flag of every





### Diego Maradona

(Argentinian football legend) "I've seen the player who will inherit my place in Argentinian football and his name is Messi."



### **ESPN**

Football Extra Live at 9:00 am South Africa vs Australia

Live at 2:00 pm **STAR Sports** 

English Premier Football League Liverpool vs Man City Live at 6:10 pm West Bromwich vs Middlesbrough Live at 8:55 pm



Barisal vs Rejshahi Chittagong vs Khulna Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

### Now Trescothick flies back home

AFP, Vadodara

England's woes on their Indian tour multiplied on Saturday when vice-captain Marcus Trescothick flew back home to attend to

unspecified family problems.
"Marcus has to go back for personal reasons. I think we have to respect the privacy of the matter," coach Duncan Fletcher told reporters here.

Fletcher said it was "too early to say" if Trescothick would be back in time for the first Test starting in Nagpur on Wednesday.

It is the latest blow for the beleaguered tourists as they are already struggling to field 11 fit men at Nagpur following a spate of injuries and illnesses since arriving in

India on February 13.
Captain Michael Vaughan is battling a recurrence of a knee injury, Kevin Pietersen and Paul Collingwood have back problems, fast bowler Simon Jones is recovering from a stomach bug and seamer Liam Plunkett has a

bruised left heel. England have called up bats-man Alastair Cook and fast bowler James Anderson to bolster the squad, team spokesman Andrew

Walpole said. The duo were pulled out of England A's match against the West Indies in Antigua and will reach India in time for the first of

three back-to-back Tests. Vaughan will take a decision on his fitness two days before the

Nagpur Test. "We will test it on Monday and make a decision after the training session," Vaughan told reporters

on Saturday. England will play three Tests and seven one-day internationals during the two-month tour.

# Something to cheer about

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh fell well short of making their dream of clinching the oneday series against Sri Lanka a reality but still, the Tigers

had some positive notes in the three-match battle ahead of the two-match Test series.

Habibul Bashar's men might have completed the series almost with the same syndrome of failing to carry on over a win but their record of winning at least one match in the last three home series, which also buried a nightmarish losing streak against the islanders, was something to cheer about.

The Tigers, put under ton of runs by the visiting side, suffered a 78-run defeat in the third and final one-day game on Saturday at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium but Bashar believed that it was not a demoralising loss.

"It was not demoralising at all. I rather believe that we have established ourselves as a team and we can give anyone a tough time. There has been a transformation in our mentality as we are now going into a match thinking about win-ning," said the Bangladesh captain at the post-match briefing.

The highlight of the series was Mohammad Ashraful's consistency with the bat (51 and 66) as the ace right-hander had a poor show in the last series in Sri Lanka following a heroic hundred against Australia and 94 against England.

Admitting the fact, Bashar said that the top order getting runs in the last two games was a significant change that they had been looking for long. "It was refreshing for us, espe-

cially with the Tests series coming. You know that it is the area where we have been struggling for long,"

Bashar, hundred percent coinlucky in the series, conceded that it was a mistake to field first after winning the toss as it was not easy to bat in the second innings against considerable turn by the spinners.

second session. Actually, our domestic experience in this ground motivated us to take the decision. I don't want to blame my bowlers and I must say that their batsmen, especially Kumar Sangakkara, took the match away from us,' explained Bashar who thought that it could have been an interesting match had they restricted the

opponents within 230-250. When he was asked why they had promoted Aftab Ahmed to number three, Bashar said that they were trying to win the match by sending the inform batsman

"Despite Sri Lanka scoring 309, we were hopeful. We thought that Aftab was the right choice because

he can accelerate the run rate but unfortunately, he failed. I also tried to take a chance after settling in the middle," he added.

Coach Day Whatmore also explained why they had decided to bat first at the latest international ground in the country.

'All the local teams, who batted second in the national league at this ground, achieved victory. So, we decided to bat later," said the

The Bangladesh coach found few positive things during the series. "I saw right attitudes, right efforts among the boys, who also put pressure on the opponents during the game, and that are the positive signs.



MAN-OF-THE-SERIES: Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara follows through on a square-drive during the third ODI against Bangladesh at the Chittagong

Jayawardene, who did not turn out for the briefing after losing the second match, said that his boys showed lot of characters to win the series, especially after losing the

"Kumar Sangakkara anchored the innings brilliantly and got good support from the young guys after a shaky start," said Jayawardene.

Man-of-the-match and manof-the-series Kumar Sangakkara, who is also vice-captain, said, "We failed to play up to our potential in the second game but we showed our character in the last one. I tried to stick to the wicket as both openers Tharanga and Jayasuriya returned to the pavilion within short time. I just played ball-by-ball as Jayawardene and Lokuarachchi went for the big hits," said the exciting left-hander.

"I am so far pleased by the atmosphere in the one-day series. It was just fantastic," he added.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third and final one-day international between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on

SRILANKA Tharanga c Nafees b Mortuza Jayasuriya c Baisya b Mortuza Sangakkara b Rafique Jayawardene c and b Rafique Lokuarachchi b Rafique Dilshan c Ashraful b Rasel Kapugedera c Bashar b Rasel Maharoof not out Bandara not out Extras: (lb-1, w-6, nb-1) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 309 Fall of wkts: 1-0, 2-17, 3-92, 4-196 5-258, 6-263, 7-282 Did not bat: Perera, Prasad

Super-sub: H Fernando (unused) Mortuza Baisya Rafique 61

Omar c Sangakkara b Perera Nafees c Dilshan b Prasad SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Mashrafee rested for Tests

SPORTS REPORTER



Mashrafee Bin Mortuza has been rested for the Test series against Sri Lanka as the national selectors announced a 15-

member squad on Saturday in Chittagong sans the Bangladesh frontline new ball bowler. The first game of the two-match

series will start from February 28 at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium while the second and final match will be played at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra from March 8. Chief selector Faruque Ahmed

said that it was not easy for them to rest their strike bowler (Mashrafee) for an important series but they had to consider his condition for the greater interest. It was difficult to exclude him but

we don't want to see another breakdown of our main bowler. His fitness level is still not up to the mark for taking the workload in the longerversion game," explained Faruque.

Mashrafee also missed the last series in Sri Lanka due to his back injury.

Mohammad Ashraful executes a reverse-sweep during the third ODI between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on

Wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfigur Rahim was the only surprise inclusion in the side as the 17-year old cricketer was not in the 20member preliminary squad. The Bogra lad, who had a very

good campaign as Bangladesh Under-19 captain, played his only Test against England at Lord's during Bangladesh's maiden tour of England in May-June last year. Faruque, however, was dismiss-

ive of the idea that ace wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud's recent bad patch forced the selectors to recall the young player.
"We didn't include him in the

## SOUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Khaled Mashud (vice-captain), Javed Omar Shahriar Nafees, Nafis Iqbal Mohammad Ashraful, Alok Kapali, Rajir Saleh, Aftab Ahmed, Mushfigur Rahim Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haque Jr. Tapash Baisya, Shahadat Hossain Rajib

busy for the Under-19 World Cup. We don't consider him as a wicketkeeper rather we take him is a very good batsman for the longer version cricketwho can also keep," he said.

The former national skipper said that they kept Alok Kapali, who played his last Test against New Zealand in Chittagong in October 2004, in the squad as the 22-year old all-rounder has impressed them in the one-day series.

"Alok showed that he is capable

of doing his new job properly."

Dashing batsman Tushar Imran
was the only player who was ignored from the 20-member list for both versions of the series.

"We still believe that Tushar is a better batsman for one-day cricket. On the other hand, Rajin Saleh might have struggled in the oneday series but we have full faith on him because he has the ability to occupy the crease," said Faruque.

Left-arm spinners Manjarul Islam, Abdur Razzak and paceman Nazmul Hossain were the other players who were not considered

# Series secured by Kiwis

Cricket

guided New Zealand to a 21-run victory here Saturday and an unassailable 3-0 lead in their five match one-day cricket series against the West Indies.

Astle reached his 16th one-day international century in the last over of the innings and he celebrated by smashing the last three balls of Chris Gayle's over for six. To cap a special day, he took an astonishing leaping catch on the boundary as the West Indian challenge crumbled.

The home side batted first after skipper Stephen Fleming won the toss, scoring 276-6 and in reply the West Indies were all out for 255.

Astle said it was important he played well after the team lost wickets in the early overs and had trouble finding a solid partnership. "I always thought 250 was going get up to 276 in the end," he said.

New Zealand had to overcome slumped to 87-4, while in contrast them pass 120 for the loss of just two wickets.

and only some late heroics by Ramnaresh Sarwan (65) and Ian Bradshaw (37) gave them a glim-

his promise with 3-42 from eight

playing an anchoring role after his side's mid-innings wobbles.

included seven fours and three

football transfer from April 15

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Pro-League

The month-long booters' transfer for the first-ever professional football league will be held from April 15 to May 15.

Besides, the inter-club football-

ers' transfer for the Dhaka Senior Division Football League will be held from May 16-22. The decisions were taken at a

meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Saturday.

The BFF officials will sit with the

club officials for their participation in the professional league by March 15. The meeting also handed the

responsibility to the BFF president to form an organising committee for the upcoming AFC Challenge Cup in Bangladesh.

## Asian countries agree to joint bid for WC

AFP, New Delhi

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh Saturday agreed to make a combined bid for the 2011 cricket World Cup but have sought time to finalise the bid document.

"Since there are a lot of financial matters to be sorted out we have asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to give us time to send the bid," Board of Control for Cricket in India chief Sharad Pawar said.

"It is not easy to ignore a bid when India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh decide to come together," said Pawar. Pakistan Cricket Board president

Shaharyar Khan, Sri Lanka Cricket CEO Duleep Mendis and Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar were the others to attend a meeting for the bid here on Friday. "The ICC has asked us to give several details and we need time for

confident after having already individually notified the ICC about our intentions." The region has held two World Cups in the past. India and Pakistan organised the 1987 edi-tion, while India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were joint hosts of the 1996 World Cup.

that," said Shaharyar. "But we are

Representatives of the boards are scheduled to meet in the northern Indian city of Mohali on March 12 for further discussions before sending the detailed bid.

## Faisal steals the show



MIRZAPORE TEA 7th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi brightened their chances to take solo lead in the first-class table of the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League yesterday as they continued their domination over hosts Barisal on the second day of the four-day match while co-leaders Dhaka collapsed in yet another pathetic batting display at home against Sylhet.

The day, however, belonged to Chittagong southpaw Faisal Hossain, who hammered 176 not out to give his side a handsome 86run first innings lead over Khulna.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL century as Rajshahi, resuming on

innings at the Barisal Stadium. Overnight 77, Nayeem was eventually dismissed by part-timer Hannan Sarkar on 102, studded with 22 boundaries in 136 balls.

Barisal, who reached 181-4 in the second innings at stumps with Shahin Hossain contributing 68 during a 110-run second wicket partnership with Hannan (41), now have an 88-run overall lead.

DHAKA-SYLHET

In spite of a fighting 60 off 74 balls by captain Al Shahriar, suddenly formless Dhaka slumped to 152 all out against Sylhet as Hasibul Hossain, fresh from a ten-wicket haul in the previous round, tore through the home batting with 5-68 from 24 overs.

Dhaka, who resumed the day on Naveem Islam completed his 30-2, lasted only 47 overs on a lively pitch conducive to the pace bowl-

Mirpur. New ball operator Ashiqur Rahman grabbed three wickets including the prized scalp of Shahriar, who hit seven fours and two sixes.

Sylhet in their second innings, reached 82-4 at close of play to extend their lead to 133 runs.

KHULNA-CHITTAGONG At the Khulna Stadium, Faisal SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

NOTICE

Dear readers. As our columnist Wasim Akram has gone to Pakistan on prior engagement, we could not publish his views on yesterday's third ODI. He however will be back here in time for the

remaining two Tests.



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Super-sub: Patel for Fulton PHOTO: AFP Bowler New Zealand opener Nathan Astle sets off for a run during the third ODI Bradshaw against the West Indies in Christchurch on Saturday.

to be competitive but it was good to sixes and was crucial to New another shaky start when they Stadiumpitch.

Six wickets tumbled for 46 runs

mer of hope in the last overs. For New Zealand, speedster Shane Bond took 3-47 off his ten overs while young spinner Jeetan Patel provided more evidence of

But the day belonged to Astle, who appears to be returning to top form after a recent slump. After scoring 90 in the first match in Wellington, he batted patiently through most of his latest innings,

His 118 came off 126 balls and



Zealand posting a respectable score on the batting-friendly Jade

The only other major contribuon unbeaten 118 by Nathan Astle the West Indies squandered a tion came from Hamish Marshall promising first 20 overs which saw who scored 43. He and Astle put on 99 runs together before Marshall holed out to Ganga at long on off Gayle's bowling.

New Zealand accelerated in the last 10 overs, scoring 96 runs after becoming bogged down by some tightWest Indian bowling. Ian Bradshaw was the best of the

West Indies bowlers, taking 3-41 from his eight overs. Things started promisingly for New Zealand soon after they took the field, Bond skittling Daren Ganga for one in the second over

with a perfect inswinging yorker. Chris Gayle failed in the first two games of the series but showed a glimpse of his class with a quickfire 38 off 23 balls before skying a slower ball from Michael Mason to

Vettoriatlongon.
Runako Morton kept the momentum going for the tourists, scoring 58 in a 62 ball innings which included seven fours and a

The West Indies collapse started

when Morton skied Vettori to

Franklin at long-on with the score

on 127, triggering a collapse which

saw them stumble to 173-8 by the 38th over. Astle grabbed the limelight again when he caught Dwayne Smith (2) off the bowling of Patel right on the midwicket boundary. He timed his leap perfectly to pluck the ball from the air, before landing

just inside the boundary rope. SCOREBOARD

Astle not out

Scoreboard of the third one-day cricket international between New Zealand and the West Indies in Christchurch on Saturday: NEW ZEALAND Vincent c Chanderpaul b Bradshaw

Fleming c Morton b Bradshaw 15

Styris c Ramdin b Bradshaw Fulton c Gayle b Smith Marshall c Ganga b Gayle McCullum run out Ramdin Franklin not out Extras: (lb-12, w-8, nb-3) Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 276 Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-61, 3-64, 4-87,5-186,6-211

Did not bat: Vettori, Bond, Mason

M 0 41 SEE PAGE 13 COL 4