



Although it was his final game as Bangladesh's ODI captain, 36-year-old Mashrafe Bin Mortaza showed that the fire within him had not waned, warning non-striker Regis Chakabva with a fiery stare at his direction immediately after dismissing Tinashe Kamunhukamwe. The skipper gave Bangladesh the breakthrough with just the fourth ball of the second innings and the Tigers went on to win by 123 runs in the final ODI in Sylhet yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Difference between captaincy and leadership'

MAZHAR UDDIN from Sylhet

It was an emotional moment for Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as the inspirational cricketer, for one last time, walked into the press conference area as Bangladesh captain after the Tigers gave him a perfect send-off in his last match in charge. The most successful Bangladesh captain, with his 50th win under his belt, walked into the press conference after Bangladesh whitewashed Zimbabwe by winning the third ODI by 123 runs.

The excerpts of the press conference are given below:

Question: Captain, how are you feeling? Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (MBM): Extremely well.

Q: Are you relaxed?

MBM: Obviously, one big job is done now. Obviously, some people feel good, some feel bad and I have a mixed feeling. But to be honest, it feels good as I am able to finish at a good stage as a captain as it ended with a win, so it feels good.

Q: Your take on Tamim and Liton's opening pair?

MBM: Even Tamim and Liton know that I always like to watch two batsmen in world cricket, one is Virat Kohli and the other is Liton. There are many players

who score a lot of runs but whenever Liton is at the crease, it's a treat to watch and I have said that a long time ago. I always believe that Liton is not just staying at the crease, he is important as he is able to change the momentum and he can play a big knock. I believe he is able to do that and his game is in his head now, as he has gained some experience from playing four years in international cricket. The hundred he scored against India in the final of the Asia Cup [2017], I think that's his natural game. Obviously, Tamim has scored 7,000 runs in ODIs. Yes, there is talk when you are not playing well, but obviously, I feel this is the best we have and there are others too.

Q: Where does captain Mashrafe want to see Bangladesh in this format after you leave?

MM: It's tough to say at the moment but I feel Bangladesh will do a lot better in the 2023 World Cup and we will play the semifinals. I have said this previously, and whoever leads the side will have the players of today, who will reach their peak then.

Q: You are the most successful Bangladesh ODI captain in terms of results. What are the attributes that a true leader should have?

MM: It actually varies man to man. But the thing is, it's good to have

the leadership quality but to ask for captaincy is not good as then the person becomes selfish, and I have seen a lot of players who failed by doing this. But I think even Liton and others should learn about leadership. There is a difference between captaincy and leadership. Although there is not much for a

and off the field.

Q: Evaluate your captaincy?

MM: Obviously, thanks to Almighty for the 50th win as a captain, as it would never have been possible without that and this is the main reason. I have never evaluated myself and if pressed, I would say average and nothing else. I have

There is a difference between captaincy and leadership. Although there is not much for a captain to do on the field, there is a lot for a captain in Bangladesh to do off the field. Players tend to be disturbed when faced with problems regarding family, personal issues, lack of form, differences with coaches and fitness issues, so there are a lot of aspects.

MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA
BANGLADESH ODI CAPTAIN

captain to do on the field, there is a lot for a captain in Bangladesh to do off the field. Players tend to be disturbed when faced with problems regarding family, personal issues, lack of form, differences with coaches and fitness issues, so there are a lot of aspects. It's important for the captain to take responsibility both on

never seen the captaincy as a special thing.

Q: Did you feel anything different when you were at the field leading the team today?

MM: No, I was concerned about not making mistakes, although we had a big total. Whenever you call it a day in any

aspect, there is always a high chance for mistakes as the person calling it a day knows there will be no evaluation after this. I was always trying to do my job.

Q: Under which coach have you enjoyed your time most as captain?

MM: Obviously, Bangladesh is an international team and every coach has that ability, and if you want me to mention one, I will name Chandika Hathurusingha. Many might think he was the reason I quit T20Is, but that is not the case. Jamie Siddons played a great role as a batting coach behind the success of Shakib [Al Hasan], Tamim [Iqbal], and Mushfiqur [Rahim] and others. Hathurusingha took Bangladesh to a certain stage and, as I said before, this is not the time of experiment in Bangladesh cricket. It will be important to see where Bangladesh goes after Hathurusingha took the side to a certain stage.

Q: Being the most successful bowler for Bangladesh, do you want to bow out as a Bangladesh cricketer from the field of play?

MM: That is the hope, definitely. But as I said before, I don't think about such things as I was not prepared for what I received today. Even with Sachin Tendulkar, who retired from the field, people only talked about it for one day. So, it's his only special for me.

BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH	R/B	4s/6s		
Tamim not out	128/109	7/6		
Liton c Raza b Mumba	176/143	16/8		
Mahmudullah lbw b Mumba	1/4	0/0		
Affir c Williams b Mumba	7/4	1/0		
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-5)	8			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 43 overs)	322			
Did not bat: Mohammad Naim, Mohammad Mithun, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (c), Tajjui Islam, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mustafizur Rahman				
Fall of wickets: 1-292, 2-312, 3-322				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mumba	8	0	69	3
Tshuma	6	1	48	0
Raza	7	0	64	0
Madhevere	5	0	29	0
Tiripano	8	0	65	0
Williams	9	1	46	0
ZIMBABWE	R/B	4s/6s		
Kamunhukamwe c Liton b Mashrafe	4/4	1/0		
Chakabva b Tajjui	34/45	1/0		
Taylor c Mithun b Saifuddin	14/15	3/0		
Williams b Afif	30/36	5/0		
Madhevere c Mehedi b Saifuddin	42/42	3/1		
Raza c Naim b Saifuddin	61/50	5/2		
Mutumbam run out	0/2	0/0		
Mutombodzi c Naim b Mustafizur	7/6	1/0		
Tiripano b Tajjui	15/18	0/2		
Mumba not out	4/6	0/0		
Tshuma b Saifuddin	0/1	0/0		
Extras: (lb-1, w-6)	7			
Total: (All out in 37.3 overs)	218			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-28, 3-74, 4-113, 5-150, 6-164, 7-173, 8-202, 9-218, 10-218				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	6	0	47	1
Saifuddin	6.3	0	41	4
Mehedi	8	0	47	0
Mustafizur	6	0	32	1
Affir	2	0	12	1
Tajjui	9	0	38	2
Result: Bangladesh won by 123 runs (D/L method) and clinched 3-match series 3-0.				
Player-of-the-match: Liton Das.				
Player-of-the-series: Tamim Iqbal & Liton Das.				



Fans turned up with numerous placards to give Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza a fitting farewell, but this simple one perhaps best captured the feelings of the nation as the 36-year-old led the team out for the final time.

PHOTO: STAR

'O Captain! Our Captain!'

Sylhet bids adieu to Mashrafe in grand style

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet



After low attendance in the first two ODIs, the stands at Sylhet were packed for the final game yesterday as fans flooded in to give a fitting farewell to captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

The holiday on Friday ensured that every corner of the stadium was packed for the last time the nation would witness Bangladesh's most successful ODI skipper in action.

A crowd started gathering outside hours before the game to collect tickets and watch the historic match. Many had come from all parts of the country to give a memorable send-off to 'Captain Fantastic'.



His teammates would also be looking to make the occasion more special with a win in the third ODI, which would be Mashrafe's 50th win as captain in the format.

"It is undoubtedly a huge moment for all Bangladesh fans because this is the last game for our captain, that too in our own city. I was unable to make it for the first two games but I had made up my

mind to watch the third game only because of Mashrafe," Mohammad Shahin a service holder, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mashrafe shocked everyone on Thursday by declaring his decision to step down as captain after the third ODI, finally ending the saga that started following Bangladesh and Mashrafe's below-par performance in the 2019 World Cup.

Despite that, his fanbase never wavered. It has been hard for them to accept that their hero will not be in action again as national captain.

"You will be missed" and 'O Captain, our Captain' were some of the more common banners and the crowd even patiently withstood the pouring rain, which stopped play for more than two hours.

Mashrafe's close friends and younger brother, Morsalin Bin Mortaza, were also present.

"The fans expect us to win every game and hopefully the next captain can motivate the team to do well. I love this game and the supporters. They support us if we win or lose and that's been my motivation," Mashrafe said during the toss.