

## Bangladesh earn

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take to grab the gift and it appeared that Bangladesh were heading for another collapse.

Akram Khan fell cheaply for four when Bangladesh were on 28. The former captain was beaten by a variation in Dillon's pace out offered a dolly to Lara.

Aminal Islam was not comfortable in the chill. He perished just before the drinks break. Behind stumps, Jacobs did not have to move at all as he held on to a King delivery via the captain's bat.

Minhazul Abedin, making his World Cup debut, was dropped at second slip by Simmons, again off King, when on two. Abedin soon went his captain's way and was caught to the same royalty. Bangladesh, overcome by the wind, the falling temperature and the Windies were reduced to 55 for four by the 23rd over.

There was sunshine when the second drinks break was taken in the 35th over with Naimur Rahman and Mehrab Hossain making a partnership that made Bangladesh smile. Mehrab Hossain's 51 came in 113 balls, that also included a quartet of boundaries. There was growing confidence.

The 50-partnership in the fifth wicket came from 14 overs, a commendable performance as the batsmen began to dominate the bowlers.

As the excited Bangladesh crowd hoped for a hundred partnership, Mehrab skied at mid-wicket of Simmons down Chanderpaul's throat. Mehrab's bold 64 came from 129 balls, that included a huge six against Dillon. The 85-run, 78-minute

partnership came to an end and Bangladesh were respectfully placed at 139 for five.

Soon it was time to look forward to Naimur's fifty but the gutsy lad was five short when he was trapped leg before to Walsh.

Next to go was Khald Masud, already termed as a good wicket-keeper by some in the English press. He was beaten by King's pace and saw his middle and off stumps uprooted.

Khaled Mehmud, displaying a degree of positiveness in his approach, as did most of the Bangladeshis on the day, was next to go as he top-edged Walsh to third man where Bryan did enough acrobatics to draw the entire West Indies team after the dismissal.

In the end Bangladesh did not reach the 200-mark but 182 was a very proud score against the might of the West Indies.

Walsh was the most successful West Indian bowler with figures of 10-0-25-4 and King did a shade less with three for thirty.

An 85-run fifth-wicket stand between Mehrab Hossain and Naimur Rahman helped Bangladesh garner the respectable total before being bowled out in the final over.

In the first ODI at Clontarf and the first between the two sides Bangladesh was not disgraced. The rank-outsiders put up a pretty good effort, and not many sides would be able to score 183 against the West Indies.

The West Indians may need to tidy up their fielding as well as bowling, for Mr Sundries at 38 was the third highest to account for the Bangladesh total.

Neil Fairbrother (R) helps out his England teammates with the bowling machine during a net session at The Oval yesterday. — AFP photo



## Champs' back

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### SQUADS

**SRI LANKA (likely):** Sanath Jayasuriya, Roshan Mahanama, Marvan Atapattu, Aravinda De Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Mahela Jayawardena, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda

Vaas, Upul Chandana, Pramodawickremasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan.

**ZIMBABWE (likely):** Neil Johnson, Grant Flower, Paul Strang, Murray Goodwin, Andy Flower, Alastair Campbell (capt), Guy Whittall, Stuart Carlisle, Heath Streak, Eddo Brandes, Henry Olonga.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

Zimbabwe toured Sri Lanka in January last year, losing both the Test and one-day series. But they took revenge in the Champions Trophy limited-over event at Sharjah in November by beating the world champions twice to reach the final against India.

#### World Cup

Sri Lanka have won both their World Cup meetings. In 1992, Zimbabwe lost a high-scoring thriller in the final over in New Zealand and four years later lost by six wickets in Colombo.

#### Players to watch

**Sri Lanka:** Mahela Jayawardena. The 21-year-old is Sri Lanka's most promising batsman. The team can boast just two one-day centuries over the past year and both came from his bat.

**Zimbabwe:** Henry Olonga. The right-arm fast bowler is Zimbabwe's first black Test cricketer. He was called for throwing in 1995 but returned a year later after training at Dennis Lillee's academy in India. Beat India on his own on Wednesday with three wickets in the last over.

#### Venue

Worcester. The county ground at New Road, overlooked by the city cathedral and bordered by the river Severn, is known for its picturesque setting. New Zealander Glenn Turner and England's Tom Graveney scored their 100th centuries here. The club, in more recent years, has hosted the skills of Ian Botham, Graeme Hick and Australian Tom Moody. Capacity: 7,000. (AFP)

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Twose, who was hungry for runs after coming back to international cricket at the beginning of this year following an 18-month break.

Fleming described Twose's innings as "outstanding" and said the fifth wicket stand was crucial after the bounce became "variable" at the latter stages of the Australian innings.

Fleming said taking wickets at vital stages of the Australian innings was also crucial.

Having started as second favourites behind South Africa, Australia finds itself facing the biggest challenge — trying to qualify for the second phase of the tournament. To do that they need at least three wins.

Australia must beat Pakistan in their next match on Sunday in Leeds and then West Indies if they need to qualify for the Super Six.

Waugh said the Australians had their chances "and we didn't take them. We let the game slip away."

Australia squandered a great opportunity to make more than 250 when they lost 4-35 and managed just 50 runs in the final 10 overs.

They also let New Zealand off the hook when they were reeling at 49 for four in the 16th over.

"I thought the pitch suited their bowling better. I also thought 213 was enough on this pitch, but we could have done with 240-250," Waugh said.

Still, the players are not too down. "We need to find a way to get up. We lack the edge at this stage," he said.

Winning captain Stephen Fleming said all matches against Australia were "confidence games" and Australia should not be written off after its loss.

Fleming felt the tournament was not a stage for "pinch-hitter" at the top of the order at this time of the year which demands a more orthodox approach.

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