



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

(From L-R) Paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, left-arm spinner Mosharrar Hossain, wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh, Abdur Razzak and opener Tamim Iqbal go through a fitness drill at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday. Dhiman and Mosharrar are likely to make their debut when Bangladesh play the first one-day international against South Africa at this ground today.

## Ash sings youth song

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

### WARID Cricket Series

Bangladesh is believed to be a combative team in limited-overs

cricket and that tag perhaps keeps skipper Mohammad Ashraful positive and inspired on the eve of any one-day international series.

So it was quite natural that the Tigers captain expressed his clear intent to give South Africa a real hard time once again in the three-match series beginning at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium today.

Bangladesh posted their maiden one-day victory against South Africa in the 2007 World Cup. This time around Ashraful banks on his young brigade especially the spinning trio to repeat the famous act in the Caribbean.

"Playing three spinners in the one-dayers is certainly an option for us. Our spinners have often troubled batsmen not used to the spinning ball," Ashraful said at a pre-match press briefing before practice yesterday afternoon.

"We have a very young team since we are looking to build a team for the future, especially with the 2011 World

Cup in mind, which will be played on the subcontinent, where spinners will play a key role," he said.

"A score between 230-240 on this wicket, may eventually appear not only challenging but defensible provided we stick to all the basics of the shorter version of the game," the ace batsman added.

"We beat South Africa in the last World Cup. This time the home condition will be an advantage for us, plus the slow wicket here may favour us and above all considering the strength of our spin attack and the discomfort of the Proteas to withstand the spinners, I think we have a good chance," he added.

Ashraful however admitted that they are facing a formidable opponent who are the second best in the world.

"South Africa is currently the No 2 team in the world. In a 50-over game, you need to give a good all-round show," Ashraful spelt out his version of strategies.

Ashraful was all praise for the four new players in the team and said they were playing good cricket for quite sometime for Academy, Bangladesh A and in the National Cricket League.

"We don't have any pressure with so many young, new genera-

tion players. Rather this may prove as a big positive for us if we can exploit them properly," the Tigers skipper said.

Referring to the defeat in the Test series, the Bangladesh captain said, "Test matches require highly experienced players and the situations in it change constantly. Pitch conditions also change and you need that sort of experience to adapt to those changes."

"On the other hand, one session in a ODI lasts for only three-and-a-half hour for which the pitch usually remains in good condition. Considering these aspects, I think we have chance in the one-dayers," he said.

Coach Jamie Siddons echoed Ashraful but insisted that wickets must be in hand going into the final ten overs.

"That's (score of 230-240) possible provided you keep your wicket intact at initial stages and do well in all sections," he observed.

Referring to the utter failure of wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim in the Test series, Siddons admitted that he failed to deliver the goods.

"Yes, I've felt that a bit," the coach replied when asked whether he had any lamentation of keeping Mushfiqur in the Test team.

## Ryan hattrick turns the tide in England's favour

AFP, Hamilton

A sensational hattrick by Ryan Sidebottom shattered New Zealand's run chase and ignited an England fightback on day four of the first cricket Test here Saturday.

New Zealand, who had been in control and rapidly building a challenging target, lost five wickets in 29 balls to be struggling at 147 for eight in their second innings.

Daniel Vettori, not out on 13, and Jeetan Patel on six were grimly trying to extend the lead of 269 while Sidebottom was basking in figures of five for 37 off 14 overs and Monty Panesar had three for 33 off

12. Sidebottom's consecutive wickets of Stephen Fleming, Mathew Sinclair and Jacob Oram -- the first hattrick against New Zealand in more than 70 years -- was central to the dramatic switch of momentum.

New Zealand had started their second innings with a 122-run lead after dismissing England for 348.

Following the early loss of Mathew Bell, Fleming and Jamie How struck more than 3.6 an over as New Zealand upped the tempo, seeking a result despite England's unhurried batting.

They raced to 99 for one in the 28th over when Sidebottom snatched the initiative, albeit assisted by some magnificent

catching. He started with the wicket of How for 39, claimed in a high and diving fashion by Matthew Hoggard.

On the last ball of his next over Sidebottom started his hattrick run when he had Fleming flay once too often and he was gone for 66, caught by Alastair Cook diving to his left in the gully.

With the first two balls of his next over Sidebottom had Mathew Sinclair caught by Cook diving high to his left for two and Oram was trapped in front for a duck.

It was only the second hattrick against New Zealand in their 338-Test history with the first by England's Maurice Alton in 1930

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PHOTO: AFP  
Ryan Sidebottom (C) of England is over the moon after claiming his hattrick wicket of New Zealand's Jacob Oram on the fourth day of the first Test at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday.

WARID Cricket Quiz  
Day's top scorer wins Sony Ericsson W200i and series top scorer wins an exclusive W510i as Grand Prize!  
To register now, click on Warid menu - Entertainment - Games - Quizz  
Standard charges, taxes and conditions apply. For more details call 710



### Did U Know?

During the 1932 Walker Cup, golfer Leonard Crawley accidentally hit his ball in the wrong direction and it ended up hitting and denting the Walker Cup trophy.



### Talk Turkey



### Harbhajan Singh

(Indian star spinner) "He is also not a saint. He, of course, pretends to be a saint -- someone who doesn't say an offensive word on the field. But this is completely wrong. There are times when he doesn't let an opportunity go (to) waste." On Adam Gilchrist.



### What to Watch

- BTV & Super Sport 2  
Bangladesh v South Africa  
First ODI  
Live from 9:30am  
ESPN
- FA Cup (Round Six)  
Middlesbrough v Cardiff City  
Live from 7:55pm
- Bristol Rovers v West Bromwich  
Live from 11:55pm
- English Premier League  
Wigan v Arsenal  
Live from 9:55pm
- Primera Liga  
Barcelona v Villarreal  
Live from 2:00am (Monday)
- STAR Sports  
Bangalore Open  
Women's Singles Final  
Live from 6:30pm

## Mehrab steers DOHS

WARID Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehrab Hossain guided Old DOHS to a six-wicket win over much-fancied Victoria Sporting Club in the Premier League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 163 for their first win, Old DOHS stumbled early on but skipper Mehrob took up the mantle and his unbeaten 85 fashioned the victory in 33.5 overs. Victoria were earlier bowled out for 162 runs in 42.4 overs.

In the other matches, Bangladesh Biman registered a 14-run victory over Young Pegasus at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Kalabagan beat Sonargaon by 23 runs in Savar.

Meanwhile in Fatullah and Dhanmondi, matches had to be curtailed due to thick fog causing low light for play to begin on time.

### VICTORIA-OLD DOHS

Paceman Rashedur Rahman and Kamrul Islam justified Mehrob's decision to put the opposition into bat, as the two reduced Victoria to 4-38 in the 14th over.

Paceman Kamrul removed Gazi Salahuddin, Mohammad Salim and skipper Ehsanul Haque cheaply to return with figures of three for 22.

Later, it was the Mahub Alam's

off-spin that pegged back Victoria. He took two wickets, including the vital one of Farhad Hossain who was dangerously poised on 49 that included six boundaries. DOHS's foreign recruit Monir Ahmed also grabbed two wickets.

Left-handed Mehrob, batting at four, first rescued his side from a calamitous 2-25 and then played some attractive shots in his 87-ball knock. He smashed eleven fours and a six to score 85.

For Victoria, Jaffar Quaraishi took two wickets for 29.

**BIMAN-YOUNG PEGASUS**  
Put into bat first, Biman ran into big trouble in the 46-overs-a-side match. Three wickets each from pacemen Mukhtar Ali and Jubair Ahmed reduced the strong Biman batting line-up to 66-7 in the nineteenth over.

But stubborn resistance from Ahsanullah Hasan helped the national aerliner to respectability. The experienced left-hander struck four boundaries to score 33 off 71 balls. Earlier, national discarder Javed Omar hit a 54-ball 36 with seven boundaries.

Tail-enders Alamgir Kabir (16) and Mahubul Alam Robin (19) aided Hasan to take Biman's total to 148 in 41.3 overs.

In reply, Young Pegasus were never in with a chance as the pace duo of man-of-the-match Robin and Alamgir took three and two

wickets respectively. Later, it was Alok Kapali who snapped three for 32 in 8.2 overs as only Sabbir Rahman of Young Pegasus offered resistance with a 72-ball 53 that had a six and four boundaries.

**KALABAGAN-SONARGAON**  
Kalabagan rode on opener Nazmus Sadat and left-arm spinner Murad Khan to bag their first win in the most attractive domestic competition.

Sadat showed patience in his 97-ball 57 as the rest of the Kalabagan batsmen failed to capitalize on starts Arif Reza (21), Hannan Sarkar (31) and captain Nahidul Haque (34).

Later, Sonargaon pegged back the lower-middle order with some tight bowling to keep Kalabagan to 205 all out in 48.4 overs. Mohammad Azim took three wickets for 37 runs.

Kalabagan held back Sonargaon's chase of 206 as they stopped Elias Sunny from scoring freely. The left-handed all-rounder scored 17 painful runs in 98 minutes.

Sonargaon's Pakistani recruit Fahadullah tried his best to up the scoring rate, but fell for 34 off 50 balls. As Murad Khan got into the act, only Saif Mahmud's 43 acted as the losing team's top-score.

Murad took four for 36 but the man-of-the-match award went to Sadat for his half-century.

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## Dhiman's dream come true

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

The 21-year-old talented wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh is eagerly looking forward to make his presence felt in international cricket when Bangladesh begins the three-match ODI series against South Africa this morning.

"It's been a nice feeling to be called up to the Bangladesh one-day squad and I'm proud to be here," Dhiman told reporters, just emerging from a two-hour-long training session yesterday.

The aspirant debutant said every young player dreams to play for his country and he too is no exception.

"I'm very happy to be associated with the Tigers and I want to stretch this association with the team as far as I can," Dhiman said, elaborating his aspiration.

The aggressive batsman who hails from Dinajpur knows that performance is the key to turn his fortunes.

"I know that (performance is the key). My performance on Friday in the warm-up match has boosted my confidence further and I want to keep that up in the one-day matches," said Dhiman, who replaced struggling Mushfiqur Rahim.

In the warm-up match against South Africa, Dhiman took two sharp catches of the South African openers Graeme Smith and

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Portsmouth midfielder Sulley Muntari (C) celebrates scoring the decisive penalty in their win over Manchester United in the FA Cup at Old Trafford on Saturday.

## Pompey send MU crashing

AFP, Manchester



Portsmouth through to the semifinals for the first time since 1992.

Redknapp, who had previously guided Bournemouth and West Ham to FA Cup wins against United, saw his team win at Old Trafford for the first time in 51 years as Ghana midfielder Muntari netted from the spot after substitute keeper Tomasz Kuszczak had been sent off for felling striker Milan Baros.

Referee Martin Atkinson had earlier denied United a seemingly clear penalty, so his decision to award Portsmouth a spot-kick left United boss Sir Alex Ferguson

furiously.

Although the FA Cup lies in third place behind the Champions League and Premier League in United's list of priorities this season, Ferguson resisted the temptation to rest players en masse against Redknapp's team.

The United starting line-up was as close to full-strength as Ferguson could manage and they looked like a team at the peak of their powers at the start.

United should have been given the chance to go ahead from the penalty spot on seven minutes after Cristiano Ronaldo had been crudely bundled to the floor by defender Sylvain Distin.

Ronaldo had done brilliantly to beat Hermann Hreidarsson on the edge of the penalty area, but he delayed his shot and his hesitation allowed Sol Campbell to make a crucial tackle.

Carlos Tevez picked up the loose ball and shot goalwards from close range, but Glen Johnson was well-placed to head the strike off the line.

who argued with the fourth official before exchanging words on the touchline with Portsmouth coach Joe Jordan.

Portsmouth, operating a defensive 4-5-1 formation, found it difficult to put United under any pressure and their best first-half opportunity came when Croatian midfielder Niko Kranjcar saw a 20-yard effort fumbled by keeper Edwin van der Sar.

But despite their dominance, United proved wasteful in front of goal and Wayne Rooney spurned a golden chance to score on nineteen minutes after being released by Ronaldo.

The England striker had a one-on-one with keeper David James at the edge of the penalty area, but he delayed his shot and his hesitation allowed Sol Campbell to make a crucial tackle.

Carlos Tevez picked up the loose ball and shot goalwards from close range, but Glen Johnson was well-placed to head the strike off the line.

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## Sidebottom speechless

AFP, Hamilton

England hero Ryan Sidebottom admitted to being dumbstruck by his stunning hattrick which inspired his side's fightback on the fourth day of the first cricket Test against New Zealand here Saturday.

With England on the back foot as New Zealand piled on the runs in their second innings in an attempt to force a result, Sidebottom swung the game around in the space of three balls.

He dismissed Stephen Fleming, Mathew Sinclair and Jacob Oram to reduce New Zealand to 115 for six and by stumps they had struggled to 147 for eight, a lead of 269 runs with one day's play remaining.

"I didn't really know what to do, I just ran away like a bit of a headless chicken," Sidebottom said after he became the first English bowler since Matthew Hoggard four years ago to achieve the cricketer's rarity.

"I'll remember it as long as I'm

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