



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN  
Bangladesh paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza exults after capturing the prized scalp of New Zealand opener Brendon McCullum (behind) during the third and final ODI at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Tuesday.

## Comebacks for trio

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

There were three changes when the national selectors picked the team for the first Test against New Zealand, at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, which begins from October 17.

Apart from the retired Mohammad Rafique, there were replacements for the likes of Shahriar Nafees and Aftab Ahmed. All three were part of Bangladesh's last Test match this year, which took place at this same venue, against South Africa in March.

Aftab and Nafees have been banned from playing international cricket after their involvement in the Indian Cricket League (ICL) while Rafique, the record-breaking left-arm spinner, has since retired from international cricket.

Nayeem Islam, who displayed tenacity with his unbeaten 46 in the third ODI against New Zealand yesterday, made it into the 13-man squad while Rajin Saleh, Mehrab Hossain and Syed Raseel also made comebacks.

Rajin was part of the second Test squad against South Africa back in March but was ignored then. His timely 135 in the National Cricket League (NCL) game against Khulna

ensured he returned.

However there was much talk about Mehrab's inclusion as he has been a regular squad member but hasn't played since the first two games in Australia in August.

"He adds value to the team with his ability to bat as an opener and also in the middle-order," said selector Rafiqul Alam, adding that Mehrab's strike rate was also a

factor in the decision making.

Left-arm seamer Raseel, who hasn't played a Test since injuring his shoulder in New Zealand earlier this year, gave a good account of himself with some disciplined performance

in the just-concluded ODI series. There was no place though for left-arm spinner Enamul Haque.

"He hasn't been performing for a while now so we decided that (Abdur) Razaq will be our number one spinner," informed the former national player.

Middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan, yet to recover from a finger injury, may be considered for the second Test provided he proves his fitness.

From the recent ODI series, only Imrul Kayes and Mahmudullah Riyad were excluded while pace-man Mahbubul Alam kept his place.

It would be interesting to see if the national selectors go for experience in the form of Rajin or stick with youth as has been the case in the ongoing ODI series.

Meanwhile, the selectors have added pacers Sajedul Islam and Ziaur Rahman to the 24-man preliminary squad, announced for the ongoing home series, for the upcoming South Africa tour.

### SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Rajin Saleh, Shakib Al Hasan, Mehrab Hossain, Nayeem Islam, Mushfiqur Rahim, Abdur Razaq, Syed Raseel, Shahadat Hossain, Mahbubul Alam.



RAJIN SALEH

factor in the decision making. Left-arm seamer Raseel, who hasn't played a Test since injuring his shoulder in New Zealand earlier this year, gave a good account of himself with some disciplined performance

## No pleasure, only pains

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Chittagong



Cricket fans here turned up in their hundreds anticipating something special from the Tigers in the hundredth one-day international on

Bangladesh soil. But they had to leave the purpose-built venue with a broken heart after enduring the twin pains of a heavy defeat and the scorching heat.

The fans were seen standing in long queues in the morning to collect tickets from the makeshift counter of AB Bank at the entrance of the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. But, only a few of them could keep the patience with the mercury rising. They might have still forgotten that stifling heat had the home team could put up a decent fight against New Zealand in the deciding third one-day.

The galleries, which were packed to the rafters even before the first ball was bowled, almost turned empty with the Bangladesh chase reached the halfway mark.

Actually the crowd started to leave the ground after captain Mohammad Ashraful departed, contributing just eight runs off 7 balls.

"I was not feeling any heat when Tamim [Iqbal] was flaying the opponents. I still endured the heat with Ashraful at the wicket. But the moment he was out I suddenly started to feel the painful rays from the sun from the west," told Rashed Hasan to this reporter while he was leaving the ground in utter disgust.

When Ashraful was out, the match as a contest was all but over with Bangladesh reeling at 57 for four in 15.1 overs.

Mashuk Ahmed, an angry fan who came from Rangamati, also fumed against the management over the poor facilities in and around such an international-standard stadium.

"The atmosphere inside was suffocating and it could have been alleviated to some extent had there been a shamiana."

Even in the 'Special Enclosure', ticket of which cost Tk 200 each, the protective shield did little to alleviate the pain on a day the local met office recorded maximum temperature at 33 degrees Celsius with 66 per cent humidity, which was the highest in the last week.

The other serious problem the fans have been facing since international matches have been shifted here from the MA Aziz Stadium was the unavailability of food around the venue.

"It had to walk 30 minutes from the venue to a buy a sandwich. It's unacceptable. It could have easily been solved if the authorities had hired some mobile catering services in the open spaces outside the ground," said Rashed Hasan.

"But I still could live with those problems if our players presented competitive cricket day in day out."

## Canada T20 Sri Lanka's Zimbabwe third

Cricket

AFP, Toronto

Veteran Sanath Jayasuriya, with his trademark big-hitting, and newboy Ajantha Mendis, delving into his bag of bewildering spin tricks, led Sri Lanka to a five-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Canada Twenty20 final here on Monday.

Chasing 133 to win, Sri Lanka registered their first win over Pakistan in the new-style, wham-bang format with six balls to spare. He may be pushing 40 years old

turned to spin and Shahid Afridi dismissed Udawatte while Shoaib Malik accounted for Jayasuriya.

But despite losing skipper Mahela Jayawardene for just five, Kaushalya Weeraratne (12) and Chamara Kapugedera (17 not out) saw Sri Lanka home.

Earlier Mendis, 16 years Jayasuriya's junior, took 3-23 for a tournament total of 11 wickets as he put the brakes on the Pakistan middle order.

Opener Salman Butt top scored with 44 before he fell to Mendis who also accounted for Shoaib Malik and Kamran Akmal. Zimbabwe trounced Canada by 109 runs to claim third place.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe trounced Canada by 109 runs to claim third place in a one-sided curtain raiser ahead of Monday's final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Zimbabwe had needed a bowl-out to beat Canada in the group stage on Saturday but there was no repeat of that drama this time as the African side piled up 184-5, the highest score of the four-nation tournament.

Opener Hamilton Masakadza smashed 79 with useful contributions coming from Chamu Chibhabha (40), Elton Chigumbura (25) and Keith Dabengwa (16 not out).

After the early loss of Cephas Zhuwawo for nought, Chibhabha and Masakadza put on 89 for the second wicket.

Masakadza had made a brave 53 in his side's seven-wicket loss to Pakistan on Saturday and he was in brutal form again on Monday smashing two giant sixes off Abdoel Samad before the bowler had the last word when the batsman was stumped by Ashif Mulla.

Canada were immediately in trouble slipping to 10-3 by the sixth over as captain Ashif Mulla (2), Rizwan Cheema (2) and Sandeep Jyoti (0) all failed.

Ray Price had the joy of taking Rizwan's wicket after the batsman had hit 68 off Sri Lanka on Sunday in his team's narrow 15-run loss.

Canada just managed to avoid the lowest Twenty20 score of all

but Jayasuriya (40 runs) showed little sign of ageing as he and fellow opener Mahela Udawatte (25) put on 66 in 6.6 overs.

They took advantage off a wayward Pakistan attack with Shoaib Akhtar, Sohail Tanvir and Umar Gul being hit to all parts of the ground in front of 9,000 fans at King City.

Jayasuriya was particularly harsh on Akhtar, flicking the recalled quick for four in his first over and then pulling him for consecutive sixes over midwicket.

Desperate Pakistan, who had won the group match between the two sides by three wickets on Saturday,



PHOTO: AFP  
Sri Lanka veteran Sanath Jayasuriya pulls out a trademark hook shot during the final of the four nation Twenty20 tournament against Pakistan in Toronto on Tuesday.

## I am sorry: Ashraful

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful apologised for playing an ill-timed scoop shot which he believed turned the tide away from

the home side and ultimately cost them the three-match one-day series against New Zealand at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Both the Tigers skipper and coach Jamie Siddons didn't mince their words when they pointed out 'poor batting' as the main reason behind the 79-run defeat in the series deciding match in the port city.

After a brilliant seven-wicket victory in the first game, Bangladesh batsmen's pathetic show squandered an opportunity to win a memorable series as New Zealand clinched it 2-1.

"Yes you can raise question about my responsibility because I played a bad shot at the wrong time. I love to play this shot (scoop) but I could have played it later in my innings. I am really sorry for

playing a bad shot," said Ashraful, who picked a good length Jacob Oram ball only to see his stumps dislodged and put his team in real trouble with the scoreboard reading 57 for four.

For another occasion the bowlers created a chance for the batters to make history of registering a series victory against a top Test-playing nation other than Zimbabwe as both captain and coach admitted that 250 runs, despite a brilliant century by Ross Taylor who made 103 off 119 balls that featured five fours and four sixes, was an achievable target for them considering the fact that the wicket was much better than Mirpur.

"It was a good toss to lose and once again our bowlers did a tremendous job to restrict New Zealand for 249 runs. I think we have had a great chance to win the match after yet another impressive bowling and fielding in this kind of pitch and outfield but our other department (batting) continued their poor showing to let themselves down," said Ashraful, who made eight runs after hitting an unbeaten half-century and 40 in the first two games.

"I think the dismissals of Shakib (Al Hasan) and me were the turning point of the match because we couldn't capitalise on a good start," said a disappointed Bangladesh skipper.

Siddons seemed to be more frustrated with the lost opportunities and it had hardly seen before the way Bangladesh coach expressed his disappointment during the post-match briefing.

"We lost two opportunities. It's really very disappointing the way we let down the chances. The batting was disciplined in the first 10 overs but consistency is still a far cry for us and we should have found the solution," said the frustrated Australian.

It was a lucky start for the Tigers as local boy Tamim Iqbal survived in the very first ball of the innings when match hero Taylor spilled a catch at slip and the dashing left-hander looked to capitalise on his luck but spinner Jeetan Patel stopped him for 35 runs which came from 39 deliveries with the help of five boundaries.

After Tamim's dismissal, Bangladesh lost five wickets for 49

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## Vettori pleased with series win

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Although they wanted to become the second best one-day outfit in the world by beating Bangladesh 3-0, New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori was relieved that his side got out with a 2-1 result.

"It is very pleasing that we won two matches to win the series after going down in the first match. I am happy because of our team's gradual improvement," said the bespectacled skipper.

"We all know that it is difficult to adjust with the sub-continental conditions and whatever happened in the first match, it is a part of cricket," added Vettori.

The left-arm spinner was impressed with his bowlers' showing in the defence of 250 runs, which he called 'a decent total'.

Vettori was pleased with man-of-the-series Jacob Oram's overall contribution. The big all-rounder contributed in each of the three matches, either with bat or ball and his most influential effort was the vital half-century he struck in the second ODI in Dhaka.

"Jacob's performance was very pleasing. The way he performed really helped us win the series,"

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## C'WEALTH YOUTH GAMES Bronze for Fayema

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh weightlifter Fayema Akhter won bronze in the 53kg weight category in the 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games at Pune, India yesterday.

She scored 143 points (63 snatch and 80 clean and jerk).

The gold went to England's Joe Smith (159 points) while N Laxmi of India (149) bagged silver.

Bangladesh are taking part in four disciplines -- swimming, weightlifting, shooting and boxing.

## VB referees' course begins

SPORTS REPORTER

A referees' refreshers course under Asian Football Confederation's Vision Bangladesh (VB) project began in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin inaugurated the six-day event at the BFF Bhaban.

FIFA instructor Ishiyama Noboru will conduct the course with assistance from Monirul Islam, ex-FIFA referee and deputy chairman of BFF referees committee who is also the coordinator.

A total of 46 referees including top officials who conduct B. League matches and eight instructors are taking part in the course to hone their skill.

BFF vice-president Manzoor Hossain Malu and member Sirajul Islam Banichu were also present at the inaugural ceremony.



### Did U Know?

Australia captain Ricky Ponting scored his thirty sixth century during the first Test against India and first in India.



### What to WATCH

**STAR Sports**  
FIFA WC Qualifiers  
Australia v Qatar  
Live from 3:25pm

**TEN Sports**  
ICL Twenty20  
Dhaka Warriors v Hyderabad  
Live from 8:00pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm



Citycell B. League  
Sheikh Russel v Arambagh  
Time: 5:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



### TALK TURKEY



**Anil Kumble**  
(Indian Test captain)  
"I think it was fantastic on our part to come back so well after that. We had a great chance to keep the Aussies down but I have no complaints."  
After drawing the first Test against Australia on Monday.

## CHITS FROM CHITTAGONG

SHAHIDUL ISLAM from Chittagong

### IMPRESSIVE FIELDING

One of the major positives that can be picked from the third ODI of the Brac Bank Series yesterday was definitely the Tigers' fielding. It was highly impressive, thanks to the timely reflex of the Bangladeshi fielders and their accurate throwing to the stumps. The fielders particularly excelled as far as the 'direct throw' was concerned, for which the Kiwis were forced to stumble to the crease on several occasions to stop themselves from being run-out. The Tigers' commitment in the fielding was quite evident there.

The throwing of the Bangladeshi fielders was so perfect that they managed to hit directly,

albeit fruitlessly, the stumps on at least on five occasions, providing some displeasing moments for the Kiwis. The fielders also didn't repeat the 'shyness' or 'blunder' yesterday like they did in the second ODI when the Kiwis were 168 for 9 when the lack of an appeal stopped the New Zealand innings from ending. Probably they took a lesson from that big 'mistake' and were found quite responsive yesterday to lodging appeals in every available chance, let alone the five direct hits.

**TAMIM ESCAPES INJURY**  
Apart from his fluent batting, local boy Tamim Iqbal's fielding was also good yesterday. Like Mashrafe Mortaza in Dhaka, Tamim also narrowly escaped injury while fielding in the morning. It was an

incident in the 20th over of the visitors' batting. And, the incident might not be able to draw attention of many, barring the TV camera that repeated the clippings thrice.

To save a boundary, Tamim threw his body on the green field near the rope. The pace of his body was so fast that he crossed the rope first and then his head and neck slightly hit one of the plastic chairs where some substitute Kiwi players were sitting. One of the Kiwis contingent was seen checking Tamim's head and neck for any visible signs of injury. Fortunately, the dashing Bangladeshi opener got up quickly.

After the prize-giving ceremony in the afternoon, Tamim told a Chittagong-based reporter that he received a little injury in neck and

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## Idris inspires Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by Ugandan import Idris Kasirye propelled Rahmatganj to come from a goal down and comprehensively beat visiting Khulna Abahani 3-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in yesterday's Citycell B. League match.

For Rahmatganj, who had lost successive matches after launching their league campaign with a stunning 2-1 defeat of defending champions Abahani, it was the second win in four outings.

Khulna Abahani, who remained second from bottom with three points that came off their away victory against Muktiyoddha, went ahead five minutes from halftime after some good work at the flank.

Hadiuzzaman released a centre from the right and Rahmatganj's diminutive goalkeeper Mohammed Ali missed the flight completely for Mehdi Hassan Pashon to help on the ball to Tariqul who slotted home from close range.

The Khulna outfit held on to the slim lead and looked least interested to go for a second goal. However, their play backfired as they lost possession too often.

Idris finally levelled the scores in the 74th minute when the Ugandan forward controlled a right-side cross by overlapping defender Jahangir Patwary with his chest before slamming the ball into the back of the net.

Idris got his second seven minutes later with a fine header on Hirok Joarder's chip from the left wing.

With four goals to his name in the league so far, Idris then assisted in the third goal to seal three points for his team to move to fifth place with six points.

Idris did the spadework at right to find Zakir, whose backpass inside the box went towards the path of Kabir who had no difficulty to score in the 87th minute.

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