



Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza leads his troop to the presentation party after a 58-run victory over Zimbabwe, which confirmed a 2-0 winning lead in the three-match ODI series, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Tigers seal fifth series on the trot

NAIMUL KARIM

A confident 76 from Imrul Kayes, which sent a warning to Bangladesh's top order batsman who are yet to click in this series and some aggressive captaincy from Mashrafe Bin Mortaza led Bangladesh to their fifth consecutive home series victory.

The hosts might have ended up winning by a comfortable 58 runs in Mirpur yesterday, however, the story could have been different had Imrul, who had made a late entry into the squad after Soumya Sarkar's injury, not played his boundary-filled knock.

After being put into bat for the second consecutive time in the series, Bangladesh's batsmen struggled to score and slumped to 79 for 3 in 18 overs.

Imrul's 76 managed to take the hosts past the 150-mark. But after his fall, the hosts seemed to be looking down the barrel at 151 for 5 after 32 overs.

However, Sabbir, who scored a 40-ball 33 and Nasir who stroked a cautious 41 off 53 balls helped the hosts post a defensible 241.

For the visitors, pacer Tinashe Panyangara was the standout performer, finishing with figures of 3 for 41 in ten overs.

The one thing that was certain after the exchange was that for Bangladesh to win, they needed early wickets and that seemed to be Mashrafe's sole aim.

He constantly kept the changes coming and by the 12th over had already employed all his five bowlers.

The play seemed to work well as the hosts scalped three early wickets. By the end of the ninth over, Zimbabwe were 45 for 3.

Craig Ervine and Elton Chigumbura tried to stitch a partnership, but failed after a 28-run stand as Ervine was brilliantly run-out by Liton Das.

At 78 for 4, many would have thought that the end was near for the visitors, but that of course wasn't true. Sikandar Raza came in to join his skipper and together the pair began taking the attack to the Bangladeshi bowlers.

Both Raza and Chigumbura used their feet well and ensured to punish the deliveries that were in their range.

At the end of 33 overs, there was a bit of a tension that gripped the stadium as the Zimbabweans had managed to climb out of the hole that they were in and were poised at 149 for 4. At that point they required just 93 runs from 17 overs and both of them looked set.

The very next over, Mashrafe introduced Al-Amin Hossain and brought the fielders down the ground inside the circle with an intention to attack the batsmen with bouncers; and the play worked. The first bouncer got Raza's edge while the second forced Chigumbura to scoop one down the throat of Imrul at the third-man area.

The rest was left to Bangladesh's star pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who along with Nasir Hossain, cleaned up the tail and helped bundle Zimbabwe out for just 183 in 43.2 overs.

# 'Boss told me to play freely' Elton disappointed

SPORTS REPORTER

Imrul Kayes might not have scored a century, but his cautious 76 reflects a success story. Here's a man who hasn't traditionally been favoured but has constantly tried hard at every little opportunity he received.

The results are already obvious in the Test arena, with Imrul having become a regular member of the longer version team. And with the way he batted yesterday, who knows what's in store for him in the future? It won't be a surprise if he manages to claw his way back into the ODI eleven.

Having come into the game with seven consecutive single digit scores, Imrul admitted that he was under pressure and he thanked his skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for helping him calm down.

"There was a bit of pressure on me and later my boss [Mashrafe] told me a number of things that really inspired me.

"He asked me to take this match easily and not to worry too much. He said 'you aren't going to die if you score

a zero and even if you do, it doesn't matter.' I just think those words helped my mood a lot," said Imrul, during the post-match press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

Describing his innings, Imrul said that he was a bit nervous at the start but once he got past the 30-run mark, he began playing like he normally does in domestic cricket.

Imrul, who got this opportunity due to injury to Soumya Sarkar and the absence of Shakib Al Hasan, considered himself extremely lucky.

"I think every comeback is important for me. I knew I was really fortunate to get this chance and I wanted to make the most of it. However, I did get out at a bad time when there was pressure on the team. Next time I'll try to correct that," explained Imrul.

The other game-changer was Al-Amin Hossain, who put in his best performance in international circuit since his return to the team, and Mashrafe praised the bowler's confidence level.

"Before the chucking allegations against Al-Amin, he was Bangladesh's

best bowler. He got a break in his life and that can happen to anyone. There's a lot of mental stress at that point of time and I think he has come back well.

"He was mature on the field. The two bouncers that he bowled to remove the two batsmen [Sikandar Raza and Elton Chigumbura] were crucial and the idea came from him. The field was set well for him and he bowled accurately," said Mashrafe.

The skipper further admitted that it was a bit of a challenge for the team management to form an eleven without Shakib.

"The way he [Shakib] bats and bowls unbelievably well, it becomes difficult to balance the team [without him]. And since he has played most of the matches for Bangladesh, thinking of a team without him is a bit of a new idea," said Mashrafe.

While the skipper was happy to ace the series, he was a bit disappointed with the way the batters performed. Bangladesh lost early wickets in both the ODIs and it's not something that impressed the skipper.

SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe skipper Elton Chigumbura was once again disappointed with the way his top order performed. Having restricted the hosts for 241, the skipper reckoned that the total was very much within their capabilities.

"Obviously [it's disappointing] not being able to chase down 240. I think it was something we could have chased. We lost three wickets within ten overs and that was the problem.

"[Sikandar] Raza and I consolidated well but unfortunately we both got out. That partnership was the most important one to take the team home. But the batsmen including me gave it away," said Chigumbura during the post-match press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

"I think if Raza and I could have batted for five more overs, things would have been a lot different," he added.

While Chigumbura and Raza spent time at the crease and stitched a half-century stand, his top-order teammates though failed to follow suit. As a result, Chigumbura urged his batters to spend

some more time at the crease.

Despite having lost the series already, Chigumbura believes that his side will be quite motivated to turn up for the third and final ODI tomorrow.

"We just have to make sure we learn from this and come day after tomorrow and do better than we did today with the bat," the skipper said.

"I think you need to spend time at the middle and adjust to the wicket so obviously you need to make sure to stay out there and no need to get bogged down. Just have to make sure that you get past that nery period because it becomes easier after that.

"There's definitely hope in the last match. You can't lose hope. You have to comeback and play hard and make sure that you polish those mistakes from today's game and win the game," he added.

When asked if the absence of Shakib boosted their confidence ahead of the second ODI, Chigumbura said, "Obviously, Shakib is a world-class player but we were getting ready here to play the whole Bangladesh team and not just Shakib. Keeping aside the Shakib issue, I think the way we went out there and bowled today we had a big chance to win."

## ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH	R/B	A/G		
Tamim c Chakabva b Panyangara	19/25	3/0		
Imrul c Cremer b Williams	76/89	6/4		
Liton c Chakabva b Panyangara	7/16	0/1		
Mahmudullah c Chakabva				
b Cremer	4/20	0/0		
Mushfiqur c Jongwe b Cremer	21/28	3/0		
Sabbir c Chakabva b Jongwe	33/40	4/0		
Nasir c Ervine b Panyangara	41/53	3/0		
Mashrafe c Chibhabha				
b Muzarabani	13/14	1/0		
Arafat c Ervine b Muzarabani	3/5	0/0		
Al-Amin not out	1/7	0/0		
Mustafizur not out	5/4	0/0		
Extras: (lb-4, lb-6, w-7, nb-1)	18			
Total: (for 9 wickets in 50 overs)	241			
Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-47, 3-79, 4-127, 5-151, 6-193, 7-231, 8-234, 9-236.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	10	0	41	3
Jongwe	8	0	47	1
Muzarabani	9	0	32	2
Raza	7	0	33	0
Cremer	10	0	41	2
Williams	6	0	37	1
ZIMBABWE	R/B	A/G		
Chibhabha b Mashrafe	14/9	1/1		
Chakabva llw b Arafat	1/19	0/0		
Ervine run out	26/44	3/0		
Williams c Nasir b Mustafizur	14/17	3/0		
Chigumbura c Imrul b Al-Amin	47/77	2/2		
Raza c Imrul b Al-Amin	33/42	2/1		
Waller c Mushfiqur b Nasir	8/22	0/0		
Jongwe b Mustafizur	11/20	1/0		
Cremer st Mushfiqur b Nasir	1/4	0/0		
Panyangara c Mashrafe				
b Mustafizur	4/4	1/0		
Muzarabani not out	1/2	0/0		
Extras: (lb-11, w-12)	23			
Total: (All out in 43.2 overs)	183			
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-23, 3-45, 4-78, 5-151, 6-156, 7-175, 8-177, 9-181.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mustafizur	8	0	33	3
Mashrafe	9	1	47	1
Arafat	9	0	34	1
Al-Amin	8	0	22	2
Nasir	9	2	36	2
Result: Bangladesh won by 58 runs and lead 3-match series 2-0.				
Player-of-the-match: Imrul Kayes.				

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## PERFORMER OF THE DAY

**IMRUL KAYES**

Imrul Kayes only got into the squad following a late injury that ruled Soumya Sarkar out of the series against Zimbabwe. Yet the left-handed opener had to sit out the first ODI as Liton Das was selected to open alongside Tamim Iqbal. But thanks to Shakib Al Hasan's withdrawal, Imrul finally got his chance to play in a one-day international, eight months since his last appearance for the Tigers. Having made single digit scores in his last seven innings, Imrul knew he had to make an impact and grab this opportunity to stake a claim to a position, which has seen some stiff competition in recent times. The 28-year-old stylish left-hander did just that, scoring 76 runs off 89 deliveries, with four sixes and six fours, to help the Tigers post a challenging 241.

## Aussies complete crushing win

AFP, Brisbane

Australia crushed New Zealand by 208 runs but the Kiwis were left to curse a disputed decision against skipper Brendon McCullum on the final day of the first Test on Monday.

The Australians claimed the seven remaining wickets on the final morning in Brisbane to go one-up in the three-Test series after dismissing the Black Caps for 295.

New Zealand were chasing a massive 504-run target after two innings declarations from the dominant home side, who easily maintained their 27-year unbeaten streak at the Gabba.

Pugnacious opening batsman David Warner was named man of the match after hitting centuries in both innings as the Australians powered away.

While the Kiwis were well beaten there was controversy over the dismissal of McCullum, who was his team's shining light with a typically free-scoring knock.

McCullum was well set for his first Test century in Australia on 80, when he got a disputed call from English umpire Nigel Llong who gave him out to a catch by Steve Smith at second slip.

McCullum protested, saying he had not hit the ball, but with New Zealand's two referrals already exhausted he trudged from the ground as hopes of staying in the match faded.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
AUSTRALIA: First innings 556-4 decl  
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 317  
AUSTRALIA: Second innings 264 for 4 decl  
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 295 (Latham 29, Guptill 23, Williamson 59, McCullum 80, Craig 26 not out; Starc 2-69, Hazlewood 2-68, Marsh 2-25, Lyon 3-63)  
Result: Australia won by 208 runs.

## 'Good news for cricket'

SPORTS REPORTER

As the process of removing N Srinivasan as the ICC chairman was taking place yesterday afternoon, former ICC president AHM Mustafa Kamal took another swipe at the crest-fallen former BCCI president at an impromptu press briefing during the innings break of the second ODI between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in Mirpur.

"I never thought his way of working was conducive or good enough for the game of cricket. We wanted to work to globalise the game and his targets weren't the same.

"He had even asked me to close down the Bangladesh Premier League saying that it was devaluing the Indian Premier League. I think the arrival of a new chairman will be really good for cricket on the whole," Kamal told reporters without uttering Srinivasan's name.

Kamal's relationship with Srinivasan had hit an all-time low during the World Cup final in Melbourne on March 29 when Srinivasan handed over the World Cup trophy to the winning Australian captain Michael Clarke, denying Kamal his bragging right to do the honour as ICC president. Kamal, a former BCB president, resigned as ICC

## Srini removed from ICC

Manohar to step in as chairman

AFP, Mumbai

Narayanaswami Srinivasan was removed as International Cricket Council chairman on Monday after his home board announced it was withdrawing its support, following corruption scandals embroiling the sport in India.

Srinivasan will be replaced as head of the sport's world governing body by the powerful Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s current president Shashank Manohar.

"The BCCI representative to the ICC will be Shashank Manohar," BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur told reporters after the board's annual general meeting in Mumbai.

"And by virtue of being the board's representative to the ICC he will take over as the ICC chairman."

Srinivasan was appointed ICC chief in June last year after being chosen by the BCCI as India's representative to the top role which rotates every two years among cricketing nations.

But the cement tycoon has been caught up in corruption scandals that have hit the glitzy and lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL).

The 70-year-old agreed to step aside as BCCI chief after a Supreme Court panel found him guilty of a conflict of interest for having commercial dealings in the sport.

ICC rules state that an administrator who is removed by his home board cannot serve in the world governing body,

**N SRINIVASAN**

## Bangladesh A 268 all out

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A wagged a long tail to post 268 in their first innings of the opening four-day match against their Zimbabwe counterparts at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

The home side were 0-1 at stumps, losing opener Brian Chari for a duck, stumped off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, who opened the bowling with fast bowler Mohammad Shahid.

Earlier, Mosaddek Hossain was the only top-order batsman who batted with purpose and scored 66, the only half century in the visitor's innings. Number seven Saqlain Sajib actually took the score past the 250-mark along with number ten Shahid, who scored 31 in the 53-run stand for the ninth wicket.

Saqlain scored an