

# SPORT



## DOMINANCE VS RECOVERY



### TIGERS' FEAT IN STATS

The 3-0 series sweep against Zimbabwe should earn Bangladesh one rating point, lifting them to **97** points in the ICC ODI rankings. However, Bangladesh will still remain in seventh position, three points behind England.

Bangladesh managed 13 wins in **18** ODIs (**72.2%**) this year, making them the second-best performing side, only behind Australia with 15 wins in 19 matches (78.9%).

This was the **5th** consecutive bilateral series victory including three white-washes since Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was re-appointed as captain before the series against Zimbabwe in November last year.

This was the **20th** bilateral ODI series victory for Bangladesh, 10 of which have been clean sweeps.

Mushfiqur Rahim has been the best ODI batsman for the Tigers this year, scoring **767** runs in 18 matches at an average of 51.13 and strike rate of 101.58.

The best bowler has been Mustafizur Rahman, who took **26** wickets in nine games at an average of 12.34 and an economy of 4.26.

## Winning the Aussie way

ATTIQUE ANAM



When Mashrafe Bin Mortaza brought eight fielders to the wider slip cordon after the fall of the ninth Zimbabwe wicket, a few eyebrows must have been raised because it was something which had never been witnessed before. The enormity of the occasion -- capping off a memorable year with a fourth consecutive series win and second clean sweep at that -- must have gotten to the Bangladesh skipper and his teammates at that moment. Mashrafe said it was nothing pre-planned or anticipated, rather it came to him on the spur of the moment.

"Nasir [Hossain] was shouting, 'hey everyone come to the slip', and that's when I thought that everyone should come to slips like Australia once did," said the Bangladesh skipper while explaining the move, referencing the usual Australian way of a heavily-cordoned slip region in Test matches, during the post-match press conference.

But having beaten the same opposition 5-0 only a year ago and a number of times over the last few years, one would have thought that the style of preparing for the celebrations was a little over-the-top. Opener Tamim Iqbal, who had earlier played a composed knock of 73 to set up a challenging total, thought it was very much in-sync with the rivalry as he felt that Bangladesh still feel tension and excitement whenever they play against Zimbabwe.

"Personally, I think the kind of pressure we fall under [when we play] against Zimbabwe, we don't face [when playing against any other team]," the dashing opener said.

"Against Zimbabwe we feel that we have to win and I don't think this will ever end. When we play against Australia, they get scared because they can't lose to us at all," added Tamim, who won the man-of-the-match award.

It was not a Test match played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. But Tigers skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza tried to create that kind of atmosphere by putting eight men (below) behind the wicket in a desperate effort for Mustafizur Rahman (top) in his delivery stride to claim his best ODI bowling figures. Mustafizur, a sensational discovery for Bangladesh, was denied a sixth wicket in the third and final one-day international against Zimbabwe. But the left-arter, who has already earned a niche in world cricket with his famous cutters, finished the game with 5-34, his third five-wicket haul in nine one-day appearances.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

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### BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH		R/B	A/6		
Tamim st Chakabva b Cremer	73/98	7/1			
Imrul st Chakabva b Raza	73/95	6/4			
Mushfiqur st Chakabva b Waller	28/25	3/0			
Liton c sub (Masakadza) b Cremer	17/22	1/0			
Mahmudullah run out	52/40	5/1			
Sabbir c Cremer b Jongwe	1/3	0/0			
Nasir c Cremer b Jongwe	0/2	0/0			
Mashrafe b Panyangara	16/11	3/0			
Arafat not out	3/5	0/0			
Mustafizur run out	1/1	0/0			
Extras: (lb-2, w-8, nb-2)	12				
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	276				
Fall of wickets: 1-147, 2-173, 3-190, 4-222, 5-226, 6-226, 7-263, 8-275, 9-276					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Panyangara	10	1	49	1	
Muzarabani	4	1	21	0	
Jongwe	9	0	50	2	
Chigumbura	6	0	29	0	
Raza	8	1	48	1	
Cremer	10	0	53	2	
Waller	3	0	24	1	
ZIMBABWE		R/B	A/6		
Chibhabha b Mustafizur	4/2	1/0			
Chakabva c Nasir b Mustafizur	17/20	2/0			
Ervine lbw b Nasir	21/25	4/0			
Williams c Sabbir b Mashrafe	64/84	5/0			
Chigumbura b Sabbir	45/47	6/0			
Waller c Nasir b Al-Amin	32/40	4/0			
Raza c Sabbir b Mustafizur	9/12	1/0			
Jongwe c Sabbir b Mustafizur	11/13	0/1			
Cremer not out	5/8	0/0			
Panyangara c & b Mustafizur	3/5	0/0			
Muzarabani c & b Arafat	0/5	0/0			
Extras: (lb-2, w-2)	4				
Total: (All out in 43.3 overs)	215				
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-43, 3-47, 4-127, 5-186, 6-188, 7-207, 8-207, 9-214					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Mustafizur	8	0	34	5	
Mashrafe	9	0	40	1	
Nasir	7	0	36	1	
Al-Amin	8	0	44	1	
Arafat	9.3	0	47	1	
Sabbir	2	0	12	1	
Result: Bangladesh won by 61 runs and clinched 3-match series 3-0.					
Player-of-the-match: Tamim Iqbal.					
Player-of-the-series: Mushfiqur Rahim.					

## Another clean sweep

NAIMUL KARIM

From a brilliant century stand and a run-out controversy to Mashrafe Bin Mortaza introducing a seven-man slip cordon and Mustafizur Rahman's third five-wicket haul, the 3-0 series sweep of Zimbabwe was completed in emphatic fashion by the Tigers yesterday.

After winning the toss for the first time in the series, Mashrafe had little hesitation in opting to bat and the openers vindicated his decision by forging a 147-run stand before the innings lost its way and the hosts huffed and puffed their way to 276 for nine. Zimbabwe, despite showing some resilience during the chase, had little answer to Mustafizur's panache and eventually folded for 215 in the 44th over, handing the hosts a 61-run victory.

Openers Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes had a dominant stand -- the pair's first ever century stand in ODIs -- as Imrul's initial aggression was complemented by a controlled knock from Tamim. While Imrul smacked four sixes in his 95-ball 73, his partner hit seven boundaries for the same score. But both batsmen were sent back to the pavilion after getting stumped within the 35th over.

Mushfiqur Rahim, sent in at number three to accelerate the scoring, hit three well-timed boundaries before he too got stumped in the 38th over. It was the first time in ODI history that the top three batters of any team got stumped.

However, the innings suddenly took a turn for the worse as 222 for three soon became 226 for six. The hosts would have been in further

trouble had Zimbabwe's stand-in wicket-keeper Regis Chakabva not taken the bails off before Sikandar Raza's throw hit the stumps while Mahmudullah was left stranded mid-pitch during the 45th over.

Mahmudullah, having pushed the ball to the cover region, had advanced half-way down when his skipper sent him back. The on-field umpire raised his index finger, only for the TV umpire to negate the decision after a long and hard look.

The veteran all-rounder made the most of the reprieve, scoring a 40-ball 52 as Bangladesh managed to post their highest score of the series.

After the exchange, it was a Mustafizur show, supported by a disciplined performance from the rest of the crew, as the youngster removed the openers early before mopping up the tail. The left-arter removed Chamu Chibhabha with a brilliant in-swinging off the second delivery of the innings before ending Chakabva's stay with a well-disguised slower delivery some five overs later.

After Nasir Hossain trapped Craig Ervine in front in the ninth over, Zimbabwe were struggling at 47 for three before skipper Elton Chigumbura and Sean Williams revived the visitors with an 80-run stand, taking them to 127 for 3 by the 23rd over.

But then came Sabbir Rahman with a slider in the final delivery of the 23rd over, ending Chigumbura's 45-run knock while Al-Amin Hossain sent back Malcolm Waller for 32. Williams, too, was dismissed for 64 soon as Mustafizur was left with clearing the rest of the tail.

## The run-out fiasco

SPORTS REPORTER

In the 45th over of the Bangladesh innings yesterday, Mahmudullah had pushed the ball to cover and, as per Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's call, attempted to take a single.

However, after he had taken quite a few steps forward, Mashrafe decided to send him back.

Sikandar Raza collected the ball and hit stumps. At first glance, it seemed like Mahmudullah was out by a long margin and according to Zimbabwe skipper Elton Chigumbura, square-leg umpire Aleem Dar had even raised his finger as the batsman started walking.

However, a replay showed that Zimbabwe keeper Regis Chakabva had taken the bails off the stumps before Raza's throw had hit the stumps.

In order to rectify his mistake, Chakabva asked for the ball and picked up a stump with the ball in hand a while later, to make sure the run-out was completed on the second attempt.

However, the third umpire, after a hard and long look, negated the on-field umpire's decision since the ball was 'legally dead' as soon as the umpire had raised his finger. Chakabva's move to pick up the stumps, as per the laws of the game, did not come into consideration.

Drama unfolded as Zimbabwe players formed a huddle in the middle for a brief period, only to be quieted after a talk with the umpire.

While the entire saga caused a lot of confusion and took off some precious time, the correct law of the game prevailed and the on-field umpire was spared blushes.



THE CRUCIAL PLAY: (Top to bottom) Zimbabwe wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva knocks off the bails before the ball strikes the stumps. Zimbabwe players, led by Malcolm Waller, plea with umpire Sharfudoula to uphold the dismissal. Standing as the square-leg umpire, Aleem Dar was the one who gave the dismissal, and he got an earful from the visitors. PHOTOS: STAR

## GLOBATT

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### PERFORMER OF THE DAY

#### MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN

If Mustafizur Rahman failed to meet the usual high expectations from him during the first two ODIs, the young pacer more than compensated with a rousing performance in the final ODI yesterday. The 20-year-old pacer, who had taken three wickets in the second match after having gone wicketless in the first, returned with figures of 34 for five in eight overs of breathtaking left-arm pace bowling as Zimbabwe crumbled to a 61-run defeat and a 0-3 series defeat against Bangladesh. It was the left-arter's second-best performance in ODIs, having taken five or more wickets twice previously. The youngster from Satkhira struck with the second delivery of the innings before getting rid of the other opener soon. He returned to mop up the tail as the Zimbabwe batsmen hardly had an answer to his guile and variation.

## Younis quits ODI

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan batsman Younis Khan has announced his retirement from one-day cricket, saying the first day-night international against England in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday will be his last match.

The 37-year-old had wanted to leave the format on a high after he was selected in the 16-man squad for the four-match series against England despite patchy recent form.

Wednesday's game will be Younis's 265th one-day international, nearly 16 years after making his debut against Sri Lanka in Karachi in February 2000.

"I am proud to announce that after playing for Pakistan for 15 years I am announcing my retirement. I consulted with my close friends and family members before taking this decision," Younis said in a statement.

"As a batsman I played a positive role in the team's wins in one-day cricket and now I realise that it's time to keep myself away from limited overs cricket.

"I hope that the young player who takes my place will keep the traditions which I have set on never compromising over discipline and fitness. I thank all my team-mates and team management for their cooperation throughout my



### BATTING & FIELDING

Mat	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct
265	7249	144	31.34	7	48	578	56	135

## Hafeez ton seals win

REUTERS, Abu Dhabi

Mohammad Hafeez made a fluent unbeaten 102 to lead Pakistan to a comfortable six-wicket victory over England in the first one-day international in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

England spluttered to 216 all out after winning the toss and the hosts overcame the loss of two early wickets to coast to their target with more than six overs to spare.

Hafeez struck a six and 10 fours in his 11th one-day international century, sharing an unbeaten fifth-wicket partnership of 106 with Babar Azam to guide his side to victory.

Azam finished on 62 not out off 62 balls, reaching his fifty with a huge six off Chris Woakes shortly before the end of the match.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**ENGLAND:** 216 all out in 49.4 overs (Morgan 76, Taylor 60; Irfan 3-35, Ali 2-32)  
**PAKISTAN:** 217 for four in 43.4 over (Hafeez 102 not out, Azam 62 not out; Topley 3-26)

## 'No idea how to play Mustafiz'

NAIMUL KARIM

It was a sight to behold when Mustafizur Rahman bowled an in-swinging delivery first-up and uprooted Chamu Chibhabha's stumps. Yes, the left-arm pacer has been chock-full of surprises ever since his debut, however the delivery he bowled yesterday seemed to be a new addition to his arsenal.

"This is still an early stage for him as he is learning and practising this delivery in the nets. This series was a good opportunity for him to use it. If you notice, he did get hit for a few boundaries while trying it, but that's how he will learn," said Mashrafe Bin Mortaza during the post-match press conference, adding, "I think as it is, he is a difficult bowler to understand with all his variations. He has two kinds of cutters. Even if a batsman plays the first two deliveries and tries to understand him, he can slip in the other [delivery] and get him confused."

"But these cutters can be understood if he is observed for a long time. However, this in-swinging delivery can make him a more difficult bowler to face at any time," Mashrafe added.

Mustafizur took two wickets up front and then came back to finish the tail with three more. His five-wicket haul, like in the past, played a major role in yesterday's win. Such was the intensity that when Mustafizur was bowling his last over the skipper actually kept eight fielders in the slip-cordon, a rare sight in Bangladesh cricket.

"Whenever he [Mustafizur] bowls, we feel as though something is going to happen. We lacked a bowler like him in the past," echoed Tamim Iqbal.

"I think it's impossible for any new batsman to play him. He is a very clever bowler. He doesn't bowl his cutters to me during the net practice, maybe that's because he will be playing against me in the BPL. Currently I have no idea how

## Shahid gives BD A hope

SPORTS REPORTER

On the third day of the four-day match between Bangladesh A and Zimbabwe A at the Harare Sports Club, Bangladesh A's batting collapsed as they were bowled out after being sent into bat during the day. However, the visitors reduced arrears by claiming three quick wickets to stifle Zimbabwe's chase.

Beginning the day on 324 for six, Zimbabwe added just 12 runs before being bowled out. Taijul Islam was the chief destroyer in the first innings, taking four wickets, while Mohammed Shahid and Abu Jayed contributed three wickets each.

Bangladesh's batting was very poor, and if not for a 77-run seventh wicket stand between Nurul Islam and Saqlain Sajid, the hosts would have been in danger of losing the game on the day. However, Nurul's unbeaten 79 powered the hosts to 211.

Zimbabwe's innings was no better, as Shahid took three wickets to reduce them to 21 to turn what seemed