

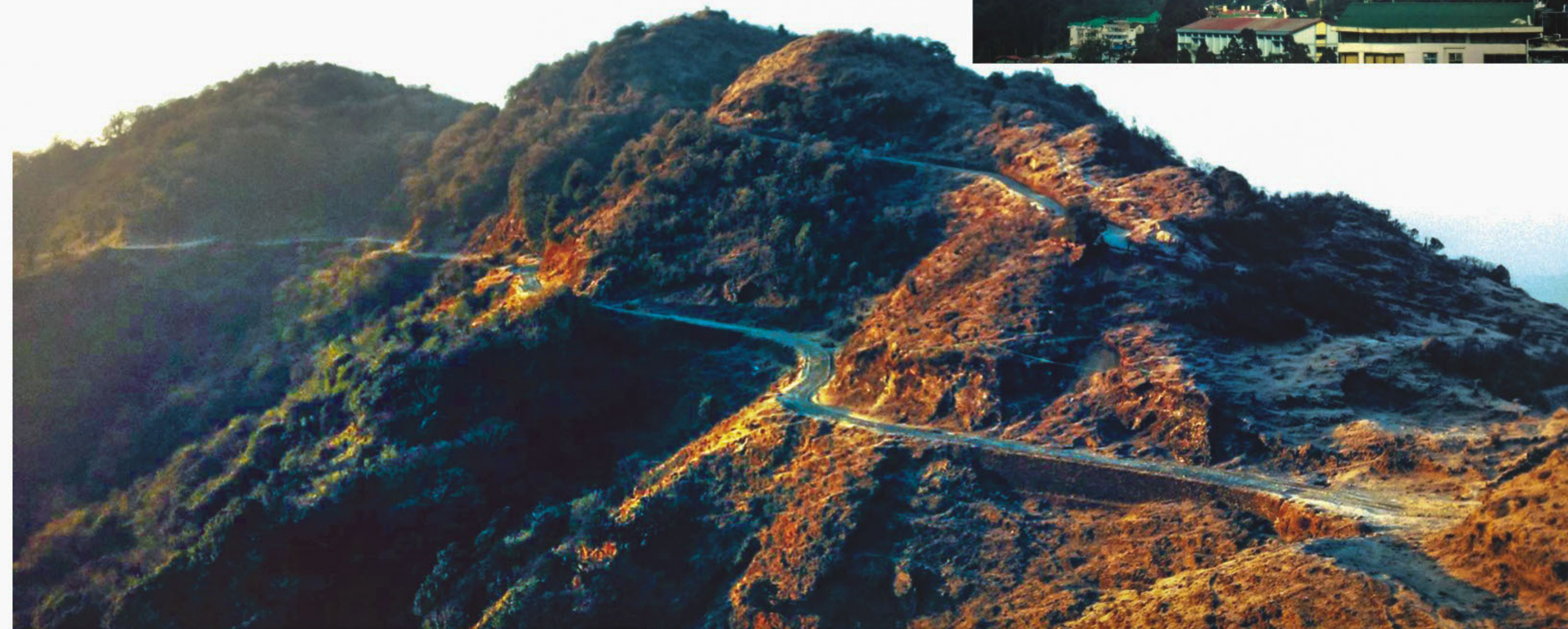
SHUTTERSTORIES



A PIECE OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

PHOTOS : ORCHID CHAKMA
TEXT: ELITA KARIM

Mountains, clouds and ancient temples – Darjeeling is sometimes described as a piece of heaven on earth by many a tourist and traveler. The skies are as blue as ever, not to mention the sunsets and serene sunrises. A land filled with heritage, the history of this Indian state of West Bengal is uniquely entwined with that of Sikkim, Nepal, British India and Bhutan. All in all, Darjeeling is perfect for a get away, whether quick or lengthy.

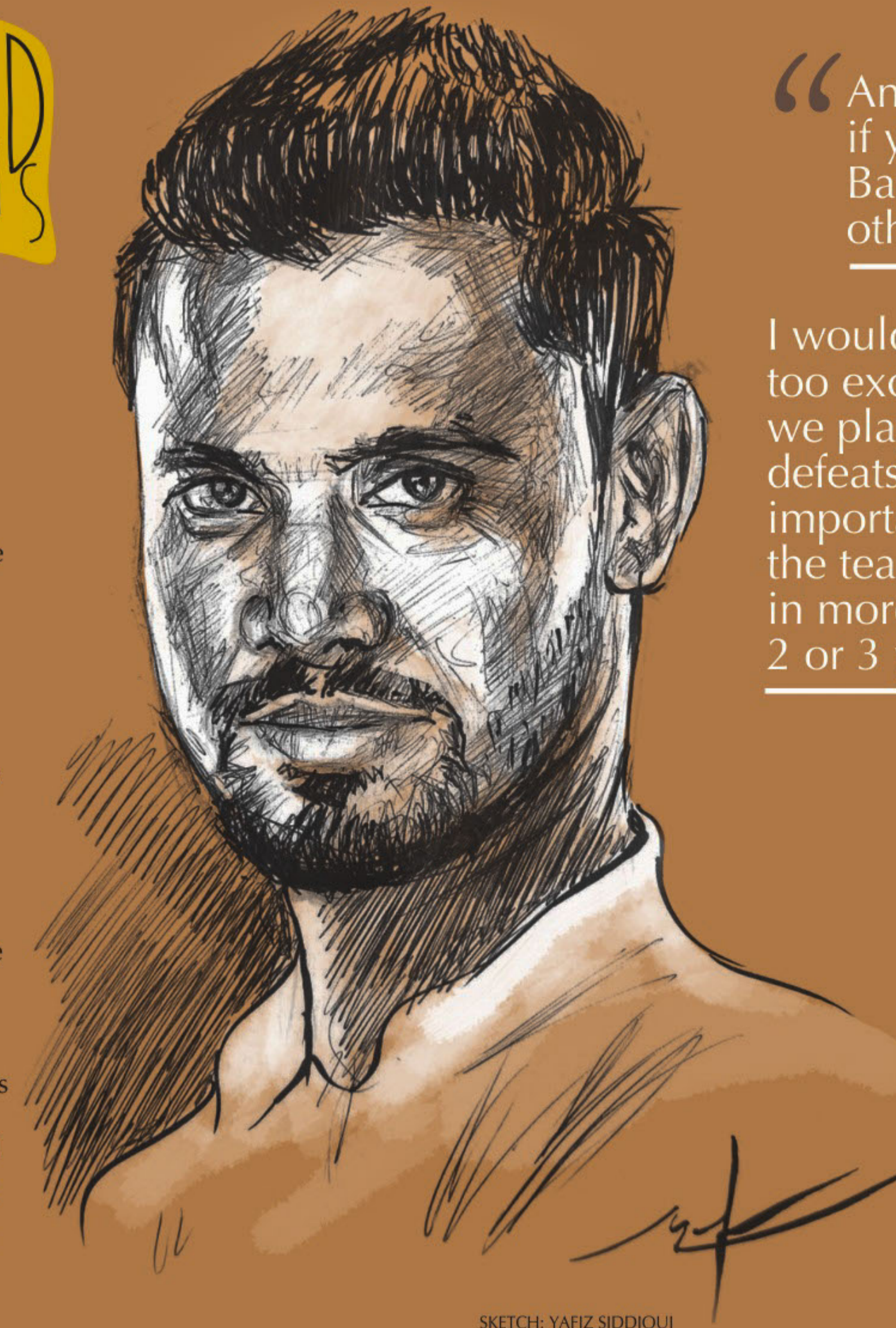


MAD GENIUS

MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA

(born 5 October 1983)

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, the current captain of the One Day and Twenty20 international for Bangladesh national cricket team, does not need any introduction. Mashrafe, or as his fans lovingly call him “Mash” and Narail Express, is arguably the most beloved cricketer of the country. Be it our consecutive win in home series under his captaincy, his series of comebacks from severe injuries or off the field his genuine simplicity and honesty- this 32 year old pace bowler’s cricketing journey has made a special place in his fans’ hearts.



SKETCH: YAFIZ SIDDIQUI

“Any player can be a match-winner... if you want the world to notice Bangladesh then you have meet the other players eye-to-eye,

I would like to urge everyone not to get too excited. We should respect all teams we play. On the flipside don't treat our defeats too harshly. Patience is very important in every aspect of life. I think the team that is developing now can put in more professional performances after 2 or 3 years.

Let me shatter some illusions today. We are entertainers. We are not heroes. The heroes are our freedom fighters. We don't sacrifice anything for the cause of the nation. The freedom fighters did. Don't misunderstand me, cricket is not everything. What we try to do is to bring happiness to our nation.”

THE QUOTES ARE TAKEN FROM MASHRAFE'S INTERVIEW WITH THE DAILY STAR.

STAR DIARY

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THE MAGIC OF KINDNESS



PHOTO: KAZI TAHASIN AGAZ APURBO

Today, I had to bury the kitten of the darling cat who lives in my garage. The kitten was the victim of an accident when a car ran over her. Her mother had to suffer many a loss like this due to the carelessness of some humans. I didn't know how I would do it. I didn't know if I could. While my friend, Apurbo carried the body, I looked here and there, lost, heartbroken and with tears at the brink, thinking about how in the world I would get through this. Just then, a group of young boys were passing by when Apurbo suggested that maybe we can pay them and take their help, ask them to dig up some Earth. I turned to them and they told me that they do this on a regular basis- give proper burials to animals that die on the streets. I was suspicious. I was just waiting for them to ask for the money. I decided to wait and watch. Divine intervention cannot be this obvious, can it? They lead me to the other side of the lake in front my house where they found some soft Earth. I watched them find things from here and there to dig up soil, while one of them collected twigs. They placed a white cloth they found nearby at the base of the grave. They took the kitten carefully into their arms and placed her softly inside. They placed the twigs on top and put another cloth on top. The eldest of them, Ratul, said to the others, 'remember, one fistful of soil each' and called out to me, 'apu, wont you

put soil on your kitten and pray for her soul?' I went. In awe of what was happening. Confused. Anxious. We all put soil on her grave. Ratul then asked, 'Bhaiya which way is poshchim, the kiblah?' Apurbo showed them. Ratul then assembled all of us in a line while he said the few lines of the Surahs he knew. With Ratul still leading with the words, we all then held our hands in the sky, and prayed to God to bless the little animal's soul and to bless us all. Still shocked. What was happening? They didn't ask for any money yet. I handed it to them anyway. They all refused. They said, "Just pray for us. We do this to make God happy. These animals don't get proper burials. They deserve it." Just today, when I was lost, heartbroken and with tears at the brink, not knowing how to get through burying a kitten, I found Ratul and his friends- these little boys who I believe God sent my way when I needed them the most, to help me do exactly that. I have told Ratul and his friends to come meet me whenever they want. They suggested every Friday. I promised to teach them as many Surahs as I know. And yes, I learned today that divine intervention can be exactly this obvious. Naziba Basher Dhanmondi, Dhaka