

# SPORT



Bangladesh opener Soumya Sarkar (L) starred with the bat, scoring 87 not out of 68 deliveries, after a fine bowling and fielding display -- the highlight of which was Mosaddek Hossain's diving catch -- to set up an easy win for the Tigers against Ireland in Malahide yesterday.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## Fizz building up steam

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh bowled well as a unit and wrapped up Ireland for only 181 runs in their third match of the tri-series at Malahide in Dublin yesterday. It was nice to see Mashrafe Bin Mortaza regain his bowling rhythm after a forlorn performance against New Zealand in the previous game, but the captain would be even happier with the performance of Mustafizur Rahman, who finished with figures of 9-2-23-4. The Tigers were disappointing against New Zealand in the previous game but Mashrafe singled out Mustafizur's bowling in that match as a positive. Few things would have been better for the Tigers' skipper than to see the talented Mustafizur recapturing his old form ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy campaign.

Since returning from shoulder surgery, Mustafizur had some notable contributions for his team during the last Sri Lanka tour but everyone still looked forward to watching the crafty Fizz, especially after an IPL stint where he had to sit in the dugout most of the time.

His performances in the last two games must have given some relief to the team think-tank ahead of the tough challenge in England, where they will face teams like Australia, England and New Zealand in the group encounters, as Fizz was looking at his wildest, if not his very best.

Mustafizur gave the first breakthrough in yesterday's match in the second over when the dangerous Paul Stirling edged a ball wide outside off stump to short third man

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## Mash pleased

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza expressed his satisfaction over the bowling and batting performance in the tri-series match against Ireland yesterday that Bangladesh comprehensively won by eight wickets.

"The winning side is always happy and I think the way the boys are playing is the most satisfying thing for us. I'm happy with both [batting and bowling]," Mashrafe said after the match.

"We got early wickets, something which was important and something we missed in the previous matches. Batting wise our openers did really well and the good thing is that they didn't give up, they finished the job," he continued.

He singled out Soumya Sarkar, Mustafizur Rahman and Tamim Iqbal for praise. Soumya shared a 95-run opening partnership with Tamim, who scored 47, and finished the match with a 68-ball 87 after Mustafizur Rahman set the platform by taking a four-wicket haul.

"Soumya [Sarkar] batted really well and Tamim [Iqbal] as well. I already spoke about Soumya, but Mustafizur [Rahman] has been really good; not only today, but for the past two-and-a-half-years. He has been doing a really good job for us and I hope he will continue to perform."



## Three-way battle for remaining two spots

Sports Reporter



With Gazi Group Cricketers, Abahani, Prime Doleshwar and Prime Bank having already confirmed their

Super League berths in the Dhaka Premier League, the two remaining spots will be decided after the final round of the first phase, which begin today across three different venues.

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Mohammedan and Legends of Rugganj will be fighting it out for the two remaining spots. Rugganj will desperately be looking to win today's eleventh round match against Partex Sporting Club to keep their hopes of advancement alive, but if they lose then the result of the clash between Sheikh Jamal and Mohammedan will not matter.

Sheikh Jamal and Mohammedan have twelve points each and the winner of their match tomorrow will advance to the Super League, while the losers will have to battle Rugganj on run-rate if they win their last match.

Teams	Mat	W	L	Pts	Net RR
Gazi Group	10	9	1	18	+0.495
Abahani	10	8	2	16	+1.162
Prime Doleshwar	10	7	3	14	+0.611
Prime Bank	10	7	3	14	+0.544
Sheikh Jamal	10	6	4	12	+0.041
Mohammedan	10	6	4	12	-0.127
Legends of Rugganj	10	5	5	10	-0.230
Brothers Union	10	4	6	8	+0.469
Kalabagan KC	10	3	7	6	-0.170
Khelaghar SKS	10	3	7	6	-0.351
Partex SC	10	1	9	2	-0.878
Victoria Sporting	10	1	9	2	-1.448

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Gazi Group confirmed their spot in the Super League, but they will definitely try to bounce back from their shocking first defeat against Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the last round when they face off against fourth-placed Prime Bank Sporting Club, while second-placed Abahani will try to go into the Super League with a mental boost when they meet third-placed Prime Doleshwar.

BD-IRELAND SCOREBOARD				
IRELAND	R/B	4s/6s		
Joyce c Tamim b Sunzamul	46/74	3/0		
Stirling c Sabbir b Mustafizur	0/3	0/0		
Porterfield c & b Mosaddek	22/25	3/1		
Balbirnie b Shakib	12/24	0/1		
N O'Brien c Tamim b Mustafizur	30/42	1/1		
K O'Brien c Mosaddek b Mustafizur	10/11	1/0		
Wilson c Mushfiqur b Mustafizur	6/17	0/0		
Dockrell c & b Mosaddek	25/50	1/0		
McCarthy lbw b Sunzamul	12/23	1/0		
Murtagh not out	5/9	0/0		
Chase c Mushfiqur b Mashrafe	0/1	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-8)	13			
Total: (all out in 46.3 overs)	181			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-37, 3-61, 4-116, 5-126, 6-134, 7-136, 8-171, 9-180, 10-181				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rubel	8	1	41	0
Mustafizur	9	2	23	4
Mashrafe	6.3	1	18	2
Mosaddek	6	0	21	1
Shakib	9	0	38	1
Mahmudullah	3	0	13	0
Sunzamul	5	0	22	2
BANGLADESH:	R/B	4s/6s		
Tamim c N O'Brien b K O'Brien	47/54	6/0		
Soumya not out	87/68	11/2		
Sabbir c Dockrell b McCarthy	35/34	3/1		
Mushfiqur not out	3/7	0/0		
Extras: (lb-3, w-7)	10			
Total: (For 2 wks in 27.1 overs)	182			
Did not bat: Shakib, Mahmudullah, Sunzamul, Mosaddek, Rubel, Mashrafe, Mustafizur.				
Fall of wickets: 1-95, 2-171				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Chase	7	0	55	0
Murtagh	5	0	26	0
McCarthy	4	0	42	1
Stirling	2	0	14	0
K O'Brien	5.1	0	22	1
Dockrell	4	0	20	0
Result: Bangladesh win by 8 wickets.				
Player-of-the-match: Mustafizur Rahman				

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where Sabbir Rahman made no mistake. Again, there was a wide-off-stump delivery and Niall O'Brien threw the bat at the ball to send it in the air straight to Tamim Iqbal at third man for a simple catch.

Kevin O'Brien was Mustafizur's third victim but the bowler must thank Mosaddek Hossain for taking a brilliant catch. Kevin hit high in the air towards the cover boundary and Mosaddek came charging off the cover boundary and dived full length to take the catch.

A short ball down the leg side brought his fourth wicket. Gary Wilson looked to hook the ball but only got the edge to place it at the hands of Mushfiqur Rahim behind the stumps.

Taking wickets will have always boosted his confidence, but the most important thing was that Mustafizur swung the ball -- there were encouraging inswingers which he has been trying to develop for some time, along with his usual cutters. While it is true that facing a bowler like Mustafizur in an ODI for the first time is hard for any team, but it was still nice to see that confidence grow within Mustafizur.



Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman showed signs of his old self as he scalped four wickets against Ireland yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Players won't face pay dispute: Woakes

Ians, London



England all-rounder Chris Woakes on Thursday said they are paid very well and that he does not foresee English cricket being hit by the kind of pay dispute threatening this year's Ashes series.

Australia's vice-captain David Warner this week warned that Cricket Australia "might not have a team for the Ashes" unless they back down on implementing a new pay structure for contracted players.

The Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper in the

Indian Premier League also suggested there are plenty of lucrative opportunities elsewhere given the rise of domestic Twenty20 tournaments around the globe.

"It's not on our radar - we are paid very well and looked after by the ECB and the PCA. What lies ahead lies ahead, and we'll cross that bridge when we get to it," Woakes, who played for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL and is due to join England's training camp in Spain, was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

Woakes is expected to take part in a one-day international series against South Africa followed by the ICC Champions Trophy.

## Karthik recalled for CT

Afp, New Delhi



Wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik has earned a recall to India's one-day international squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy, replacing injured

Manish Pandey, the country's cricket board said.

Karthik was included in the 15-man squad Thursday after Pandey sustained a side strain during a practice session with the Kolkata Knight Riders for the ongoing Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament.

The 31-year-old Karthik, who was part of India's title-winning Champions Trophy

campaign in 2013, last played an ODI against Afghanistan during the 2014 Asia Cup.

Karthik was one of the five Indian players kept on standby for the ICC tournament starting June 1 in England and Wales.

Besides a consistent showing in first-class cricket this year, Karthik has been the second-highest scorer (361 runs) for his IPL team Gujarat Lions.

India will go into the tournament as defending champion, and this will also be Virat Kohli's first ICC tournament as captain after taking over the reigns from Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

India begin their Group B campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan in Birmingham on June 4.

## Ntini's son makes U-19s

Agencies, Cape Town

Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Wednesday named the 15-man South Africa Under-19s squad that will take on 2016 ICC Under-19 World Cup winners, the West Indies, in a five-match Youth One-Day International (ODI) series from July 9.

Skipper Raynard van Tonder will have nine new caps to lead, including 16-year-old Thando Ntini, son of former Proteas fast bowler, Makhaya.

A right-arm quick like his father, Thando has been playing in the youth set-up for quite some time.

The remaining six players were part of the team that beat Sri Lanka in an ODI series in January of this year.



Mumbai Indians bowler Karn Sharma took four wickets for 16 runs as his side beat Kolkata Knight Riders by six wickets in the second qualifier of the Indian Premier League in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Mumbai romp into final

Afp, Mumbai



Indian leg-spinner Karn Sharma claimed four wickets to lead Mumbai Indians into the Indian Premier League final after

humbling Kolkata Knight Riders by six wickets in the second qualifier yesterday.

Sharma returned with figures of 4-16 to help bowl out Kolkata for 107, with Mumbai achieving the target in 14.3 overs and setting up a title clash with Rising Pune Supergiant.

Mumbai lost three early wickets in their chase before skipper Rohit Sharma (26) and Krunal Pandya (45 not out) put on 54 runs to take the team to their fourth IPL final.

But it was Sharma's wily wrist spinners that set up the win for Mumbai, who had lost the first qualifier to Pune after ending the league stage as table-toppers.

Sharma, who has played a Test and two one-day internationals for India, rattled the Kolkata top-order with early strikes to reduce the two-time champions to 31-5 in 7 overs.

Sharma, 29, hurt Kolkata in the seventh over of the innings with two wickets on

consecutive deliveries to send skipper Gautam Gambhir (12) and Colin de Grandhomme (0) back to the pavilion.

Suryakumar Yadav (31) and Ishank Jaggi (28) put on 56 runs for the sixth wicket but an inspired Mumbai pace attack did not let the advantage slip away at Bangalore's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah (3-7) and Mitchell Johnson (2-28) shared five wickets between them as the duo combined to wipe off the Kolkata tail.

Kolkata, who had shut out defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad in the eliminator, bowed out with nine wins and seven losses in 16 matches.

While Mumbai chase their third IPL title in season 10 of the cash-rich league, Pune are eyeing their maiden win in Hyderabad on Sunday.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
KOLKATA: 107 in 18.5 overs (Yadav 31, Jaggi 28, Gambhir 12; Sharma 4-16)

MUMBAI: 111 for 4 in 14.3 overs (Pandya 45 not out, Sharma 26, Patel 14; Chawla 2-34)  
Result: Mumbai win by 6 wickets.  
Player-of-the-match: Karn Vinod Sharma

## Anderson concern for England

Agencies, London

England are sweating over the fitness of James Anderson after the veteran seamer pulled up with injury mid-delivery during Lancashire's County Championship clash with Yorkshire.

The 34-year-old was midway through the eleventh over on the first morning, after Yorkshire had won the toss and elected to bat. Anderson pulled up during his approach to the crease and immediately fell to the turf, holding his groin.

While Anderson is no longer part of England's one-day set-up and is not in the squad for either the upcoming series with South Africa or the Champions Trophy, he remains a key cog in the Test team.