

# SPORT



Rangpur Riders captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and coach Tom Moody have reason to be in high spirits as the side currently sit on top of the BPL table with the tournament entering its last stages at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today. PHOTO: STAR

## Dhaka's penultimate chance

SPORTS REPORTER



The cricket carnival known as the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) will swing into its final stretch today with all eyes on pre-tournament favourites Dhaka Dynamites, who take on Comilla Victorians in their bid to overtake Rajshahi Kings and snatch the last available playoff place. Some eyes will also be on the wicket at the centre of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur as the sixth edition of the BPL is coming off its most exciting leg in Chattogram where high totals became a matter of course.

The day's second match will see Chittagong Vikings -- who have already qualified along with Comilla and top-placed Rangpur Riders -- taking on Sylhet Sixers, whose loss against Rajshahi in the last match in Chattogram on Wednesday meant

Team	M	W	L	PT	NRR
Rangpur Riders	11	7	4	14	0.69
Comilla Victorians	10	7	3	14	0.495
Chittagong Vikings	11	7	4	14	-0.187
Rajshahi Kings	12	6	6	12	-0.518
Dhaka Dynamites	10	5	5	10	0.958
Sylhet Sixers	11	4	7	8	-0.067
Khulna Titans	11	2	9	4	-1.165

that they were booted from the play-off race. Mushfiqur Rahim's Vikings -- two points behind Comilla and Rangpur -- will be looking to win their last group game and possibly qualify as one of the top two teams, which present the opportunity to reach the final after winning just one playoff game.

Dhaka have two games left and are still two points behind Rajshahi, who are done with their group games. With a markedly superior run rate, just the one win may see Dhaka go through and skipper Shakib Al Hasan may be banking on the Mirpur sur-

face's sluggish nature to give minimal fuel to Comilla's batting mainstays like Evin Lewis, Tamim Iqbal and Thisara Perera. Shakib's left-arm spin will be crucial in that regard and he will also be counting on openers Hazratullah Zazai and Sunil Narine to punish the new ball, before the West Indian pair of Andre Russell and Kieron Pollard do what they do best lower down the order.

He [Hales] hurt his left shoulder in the last game while batting. Unfortunately, that's the end of his tournament with us. He's had a significant impact but we have the resources to make the necessary adjustments.

**TOM MOODY**  
RANGPUR RIDERS COACH

With the tournament nearing its climax, it is somewhat anticlimactic that some of its brightest stars will be leaving, with leaders Rangpur being the main losers. Alex Hales hit a century in Chattogram, but he ended that leg by sustaining an injury while batting against Rajshahi on Tuesday and will fly back to England tonight. South African legend AB de Villiers will also be leaving after tomorrow's match against Comilla, having fulfilled his six-match commitment.

"He [Hales] hurt his left shoulder in the last game while batting and the English board have requested that he return to get some further advice from specialists in London and get an MRI scan. Unfortunately, that's the end of his tournament with us. He's had a significant impact but we have the resources within the squad to make the necessary adjustments in the top order," Rangpur coach Tom Moody told reporters during practice in Mirpur yesterday.

## Tanzid fires young Tigers to series win

SPORTS REPORTER



Opener Tanzid Hasan played a blistering 46-ball 70 knock as Bangladesh Under-19s continued their impressive run against their English counterparts by clinching the one-day series with one match in hand at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The left-hander bagged the player-of-the-match award for his stroke-filled innings that contained 12 fours and a six but the home side orchestrated a brilliant team effort to win the second one-day by five wickets.

The young Tigers, who started the series by winning the lone T20 match against the same opposition on January 27, also won the first game by the same margin, chasing down a modest total of 209, but in the second game the visitors set a challenging target for the home team when they made 256 for seven despite pacer Mritunjoy Chowdhury's four-wicket haul.

Tanzid and Prantik Nawrose gave the hosts a solid start with 88 runs before the later was bowled for 31 runs. Parvez Hossain and Tanzid's dismissals within two overs saw the young Tigers lose three wickets for 119 runs. Mahmudul Hasan and captain Akbar Ali however made sure that they would not spoil Tanzid's scintillating effort

SCORES IN BRIEF

**ENGLAND U-19S:** 256 for 7 in 50 overs (Charlesworth 39, Smeed 43, Smith 48, Goldsworthy 73, Balderson 29 not out, Tanzim 1-51, Mritunjoy 4-50, Ashraf 1-41, Rishad 1-36)

**BANGLADESH U-19S:** 258 for 5 in 47.5 overs (Tanzid 70, Prantik 31, Mahmudul 58 not out, Akbar 57; Balderson 1-49, Hill 1-40, Qadri 3-48)

**Result:** Bangladesh Under-19s won by five wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Tanzid Hasan.

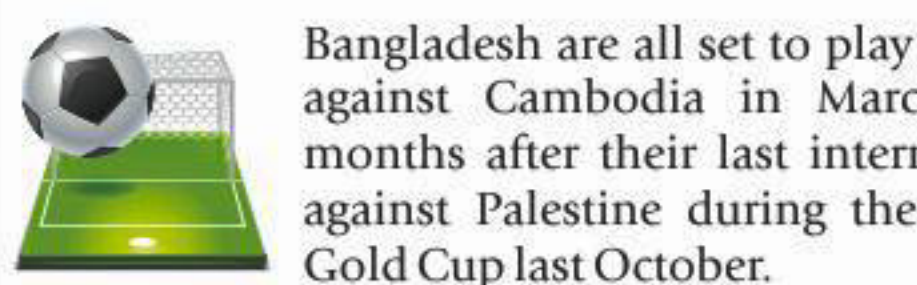
and reached the target with 13 balls remaining. Akbar hit a 75-ball 57 that included three fours and a six while Mahmudul finished the chase with an unbeaten 58 off 92 deliveries, laced with five boundaries.

"The boys really showed character in the match. Bowlers did a good job to comeback from a poor start as they initially struggled with their line and length while it was a really sensible batting effort. They showed signs of maturity in chase of a challenging target. Tanzid was fantastic and he has the potential to represent the national side and what was most encouraging is that all three batsmen played according to the merit of the ball," informed former national pacer turned junior team selector Hasibul Hossain.

The third and final one-day match will take place at the same venue tomorrow.

## Booters to take on Cambodia on March 9

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh are all set to play a FIFA friendly against Cambodia in March, nearly five months after their last international match against Palestine during the Bangabandhu Gold Cup last October.

The men in red and green will depart for Cambodia on March 5 ahead of the match, which is scheduled to be held on March 9, national coach Jamie Day confirmed yesterday.

The ongoing Bangladesh Premier League will remain suspended for one month from March 6 to April 5 after the completion of its 10th round due to the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers, FIFA friendly window and the away fixture of the AFC Cup.

## Tigers to face India, Pak in WC warm-ups

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on neighbours Pakistan and India in warm-up matches in late May ahead of their 2019 World Cup campaign which begins with a game against South Africa at The Oval in London on June 2.

The Tigers first face Pakistan in a 50-over affair on May 26 at the Cardiff Wales Stadium before facing India on May 28 at the same venue.

All the warm-up fixtures will be 50-overs-a-side and will not carry official ODI status, with participating teams being allowed to field all members of their 15-man squad during matches.



## Taizul... 8 for 23 Miraz, Taizul hog spotlight

SPORTS REPORTER

Miraz Hawlader of Khulna National High School and Taizul Islam of Bangladesh Railway Government High School hogged the spotlight in the Prime Bank School Cricket tournament at different venues yesterday.

Miraz hit 114 and captured eight wickets as his side defeated Bangabashi Madhamik School by 118 runs.

Left-arm spinner Taizul claimed eight wickets in Lalmonirhat but his outstanding individual success was not good enough for his side to win the match as BGB snatched a one-wicket victory, riding on Amit Hasan's unbeaten 26.

Taizul and Co. were all out on 159 runs in 46 overs, where Sidi Rahman struck a 151-ball 56 while the same number of runs came from extras.

In reply, BGB reached the target with 12 overs and one wicket remaining, despite Taizul's magical bowling figures of 10-2-23-8. BGB's scored the most, 36 runs, from extras while opener Fazle Rabby added 27 runs.

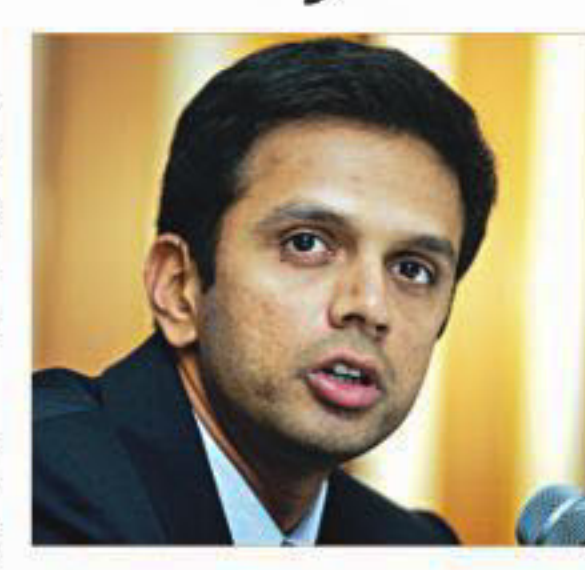
## Dravid bats for young cricketers

AGENCIES, New Delhi

Former India captain Rahul Dravid, who has been in charge of India's U-19 and A' teams for over three years now, is batting for alternate career options for young cricketers with drop-out rates continuing to stay high.

According to a report by Times of India, Dravid emphasised on the need to work on the life skills of budding cricketers at a recent BCCI meeting with board officials. National Cricket Academy (NCA) COO Tufan Ghosh was reported by TOI as saying that they are working towards formulating a structure that provides young cricketers with alternative careers.

"Dravid and the other coaches here had pointed out the need to start such a process. We are working towards formulating a structure before it is sent to the higher authorities in BCCI to get things going," Ghosh said. "Right now, we can't



be teaching them like what happens in NIS, but Dravid has emphasized on life education."

"Most of the cricketers these days are so engrossed in playing the game that they don't look at any other aspect of life," Ghosh said. "It has been observed a lot of these young players quit cricket by 21. Then it's a struggle for them to lead a stable life. We are looking at life coaching, internships with companies and training in other vocational courses and then facilitating jobs for the youngsters."

Ghosh also said that the board is looking to rope in companies to help them with the process. "We will try to align the state bodies and academies. And if the players from various state bodies feel the need to avail this facility then they can do that easily. We are looking at roping in a good number of companies," added Ghosh.

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**TOM MOODY**  
RANGPUR RIDERS COACH

## 5-star Boult destroys India

AGENCIES, Hamilton

New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult wreaked havoc with the new ball to bundle out India for 92 as the hosts cruised to a eight-wicket win in the fourth one-day international on Thursday.

Bowling his 10 overs at a stretch, Boult claimed 5-21 on swing-friendly conditions after captain Kane Williamson won the toss and opted to field at Hamilton's Seddon Park.

"I am a different bowler when it swings," Boult said after demolishing India.

Having clinched the series with a hatrick of victories and rested captain Virat Kohli for the remainder of the tour, India looked to test their bench strength in the build-up to this year's World Cup in England and Wales.

Stand-in captain Rohit Sharma warned against complacency after a resurgent New Zealand inflicted one of his side's heaviest ever one-day defeats.

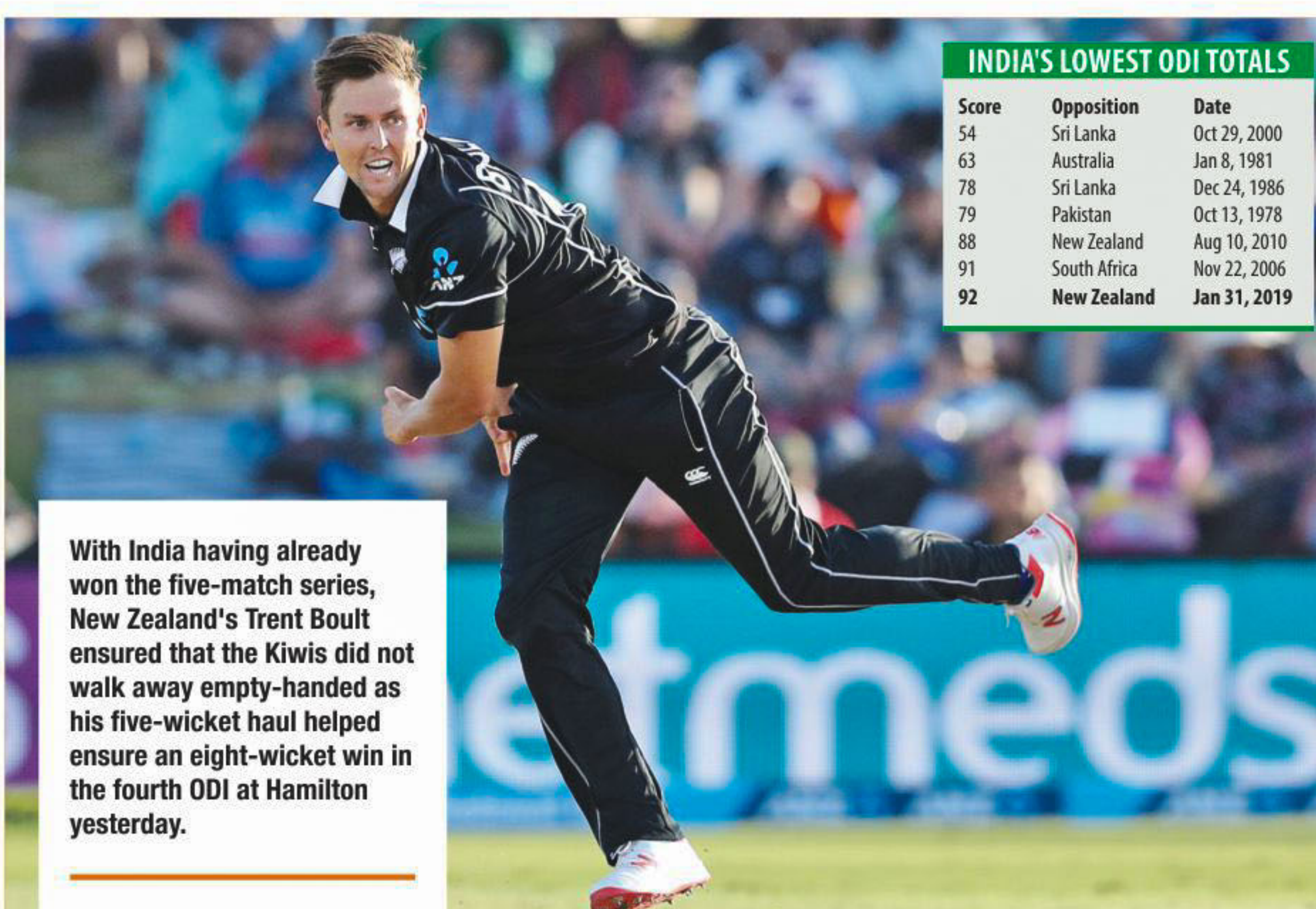
"One of our worst performances with the bat in a long, long time," Sharma said after India's biggest ODI defeat in terms of balls left.

He warned such an attitude could cost the second-ranked ODI team dearly at the World Cup starting in England in May.

"Just because we've won the series doesn't mean we can relax," he said. "We've got this big prize ahead of us and we've got to keep ticking the boxes. The good teams do that."

"At times you need to grind it out and absorb the pressure but we failed to do that today and we've only got ourselves to blame."

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**INDIA:** 92 all out in 30.5 overs (Pandya 16, Yadav 15, Chahal 18 not out 18; Boult 5-21, de Grandhomme 3-26)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** 93 for 2 in 14.4 overs (Nicholls 30 not out, Taylor 37 not out; Kumar 2-25)  
**Result:** New Zealand won by 8 wickets and India led the 5-match series 3-1  
**Player-of-the-match:** Trent Boult.



With India having already won the five-match series, New Zealand's Trent Boult ensured that the Kiwis did not walk away empty-handed as his five-wicket haul helped ensure an eight-wicket win in the fourth ODI at Hamilton yesterday.

Score	Opposition	Date
54	Sri Lanka	Oct 29, 2000
63	Australia	Jan 8, 1981
78	Sri Lanka	Dec 24, 1986
79	Pakistan	Oct 13, 1978
88	New Zealand	Aug 10, 2010
91	South Africa	Nov 22, 2006
92	New Zealand	Jan 31, 2019

PHOTO: COLLECTED