

Nutrition  
on The Go

## Eng in selection dilemma

REUTERS, Johannesburg

England face a selection dilemma as they look to beat South Africa in the fourth and final Test to complete a 3-1 series win at The Wanderers.

After losing the opening Test, England have turned around their fortunes with back-to-back victories in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

Coach Chris Silverwood and captain Joe Root must make tough choices in the bowling department before Friday's start with Jofra Archer and Chris Woakes knocking to get into the side.

If Archer proves his fitness, England will have to decide whether to use him on a fast wicket in the rarefied air of the high altitude venue or stick with off-spinner Dom Bess, who claimed a five-wicket haul in the first innings in Port Elizabeth.

Archer's pace will be valuable but does

come at the expense of runs.

England have ensured success against South Africa by being miserly with the runs, which flustered the hosts.

Mark Wood made an impressive comeback in the last game with genuine pace to rattle the home batsmen, who fell like nine pins in an innings and 53-run defeat. It would be hard to leave him out.

Silverwood also said Woakes had been impressive in the nets. "We've got options available to us again, so that's superb," he told reporters.

In contrast, the home side look rather lightweight as top bowler Kagiso Rabada is banned.

His over-the-top celebration after picking up Root's wicket last week earned him a demerit point and triggered a one-match suspension as he had accumulated four demerit points over a 24-month

## Sri Lanka surge ahead

AFP, Harare

Angelo Mathews struck his highest Test score with an unbeaten 176 as Sri Lanka built a sizeable lead over Zimbabwe on the fourth day of the series opener at Harare on Wednesday.

Former skipper Mathews eclipsed his previous Test best of 160 against England in 2014 with a marathon knock spanning 427 balls, featuring 15 fours and two sixes.

Sri Lanka reached tea on 466 for six to take a lead of 108 runs over Zimbabwe's first innings total of 358.

The 32-year-old Mathews brought up his 10th Test century, his first since December 2018, with a single tucked towards square leg off Kyle Jarvis in the morning session.

He received considerable support from Dhananjaya de Silva, who made 63 before he was caught at mid-on after mistiming a lofted drive off Victor Nyauchi.

Regis Chakabva put down a difficult chance offered by Mathews shortly after he reached his century, the Zimbabwe wicketkeeper unable to hold an edge off left-arm spinner Ainsley Ndlovu.

Niroshan Dickwella, who was dropped by Craig Ervine on 45, added 63 before he fell lbw to Sikandar Raza just before tea to break a partnership worth 136 runs.

Zimbabwe opening batsman Kevin Kasuza was ruled out of the rest of the match due to concussion after he was

### SHORT CORNER

#### 'Called some rowdy Pak fans animals'

Former South Africa batsman Herschelle Gibbs recalled the series against Pakistan back in 2007 when he was handed a two-Test ban for using a racial slur against a section of Pakistani spectators in a home Test series.

Asked by one of his Twitter followers about the comments he made at those fans, Gibbs wrote: "Called some rowdy Pakistan supporters animals. They forced my son and his mother out of their seats

in front of the players viewing area".

Following this episode, the ICC had banned Gibbs for two Tests for making racist remarks during the first Test of the series at Centurion. Gibbs had then appealed against the ban but the ICC rejected it. The stump microphone caught Gibbs saying that Pakistani supporters were behaving "like bloody animals".

The flamboyant opener played 90 Tests and 248 ODIs for South Africa, score 6167 and 8094 runs respectively. He also featured in 23 T20 Internationals.

-- AGENCIES



#### HEADING HEAD

BISHWAJIT ROY

CAN THE 'ACCIDENTAL CAPTAIN' CREATE A GOOD IMPRESSION WHEN HE LEADS HIS SIDE IN THE SECOND TEST AGAINST SRI LANKA WITH THE AIM OF WINNING THE SERIES? IF MIRPUR REALLY DOES OFFER JOY FOR THE BOWLERS, STAND-IN SKIPPER MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD WILL NEED TO BE IMAGINATIVE AND PROACTIVE, UNLIKE HIS FIRST SHOT AT THE CHERRY IN CHITTAGONG, ESPECIALLY AS THE TEAM'S MAIN WEAPON IN ACE ALL-ROUNDER SHAKIB AL HASAN WILL NOT BE THERE TO DEAL THE BODY BLOWS THAT WERE INTEGRAL IN FAMOUS WINS AGAINST ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA AT THE SAME VENUE.

THERE IS REASON TO QUESTION WHY SPINNER MEHEDI HASAN MIRAZ WAS REMOVED FROM THE ATTACK IMMEDIATELY AFTER PROVIDING THE EARLY BREAKTHROUGH AND KEPT AWAY FROM BOWLING FOR A LONG PERIOD ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE FIRST TEST, WHICH HINTED AT THE CONVENTIONAL PRACTICE OF BOWLING LEFT-ARM BOWLERS TO RIGHT-HANDED BATSMEN. HOWEVER, ONE CANNOT BLAME MAHMUDULLAH MUCH FOR HIS CAPTAINCY IN THE FIRST TEST AS THE PITCH HAD OFFERED NOTHING TO THE BOWLERS AND IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT A CAPTAIN TEMPORARILY IN CHARGE MAY BE SHY ABOUT MAKING BOLD DECISIONS. HE WAS IMPRESSIVE IN FIELD SETTINGS BUT MAHMUDULLAH SHOULD SHOW GREATER INTENT IN THE SECOND TEST, WHICH THEY WANT TO WIN. WHEN HE SAID IN THE PRE-MATCH PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THEY WILL PLAY WITH POSITIVE INTENT LIKE IN THE CHITTAGONG TEST, IT SOUNDED GOOD BUT HE NEEDS TO EXECUTE THAT THOUGHT IN HIS LEADERSHIP FIRST.

THE TEAM WILL ALSO NEED THE RESPONSIBLE BATTING APPROACH HE DISPLAYED IN THE FIRST TEST IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE OF A SRI LANKAN ATTACK LED BY ACE SPINNER RANGANA HEARTH. HOWEVER, MAHMUDULLAH'S CONFIDENCE DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ENCOURAGING. "I ALWAYS LIKE THE CHALLENGE OF LEADING THIS SIDE. I TRY TO LEAD BY PERFORMANCE, SO THAT IT ALSO INSPIRES THE REST OF THE TEAM. WE HAVE SOME KEY PLAYERS WHO ARE HELPING WITH THE NEW ROLE."

MAHMUDULLAH ALSO HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIS BATTING DEPARTMENT. "THE PITCH IS RESULT-ORIENTED AND THERE