

# SPORT



The world's best ODI batsman, South Africa's AB de Villiers, warmed up for his side's series against Bangladesh with a 25-run knock for South Africans against BCB XI at Fatullah yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Frenzy at Fatullah

SPORTS REPORTER

Three children were seriously injured, while ten others were hurt, at the Khan Saheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, as spectators rushed in to watch the practice match between the BCB XI and South Africans yesterday. The Bangladesh Cricket Board's free entry policy attracted thousands of fans for the practice match and almost all the gates of the stadium were crowded. According to the venue manager, the injuries occurred while the spectators were running in through the gates. A couple of them fell on the ground, while others were hurt while attempting to climb the barricades within the stadium. Spectators ahead of the match broke some of the barricades down. "There wasn't any problem with the security. There were around 250 officials for this match. It was just the sudden rush of spectators since there were no tickets. As they were all excited and running in to the stands, some of them got hurt," said venue manager Babul Miah.

## Flawless victory for SA

SPORTS REPORTER



Stadium in Fatullah filled up ahead of the clash between the BCB XI and South Africans yesterday.

Nearly three quarters of the stadium were full by the time Imrul Kayes had won the toss and opted to bat. The free entry policy did cause some tension at the start, with the incoming crowd breaking a few barricades within the stadium.

However, if those present at the stadium were hoping for a repeat of the spectacular result that a BCB side had managed in a practice match against Pakistan in April at the same venue -- a one wicket win -- then they were in for a wild shock.

A struggling BCB XI, which included two players from Bangladesh's T20I squad for the South Africa series, were brushed aside by the South Africans' young bowling attack, being bundled out for just 99 runs in 18 overs.

In reply, the visitors romped to a flawless ten-wicket win with eight overs to spare and in a way indicated to the hosts that this series could well be Bangladesh's most difficult of the year.

The visitors' dominance was evident from the fact that their openers Quinton de Kock and AB de Villiers were asked to retire in the seventh over, after putting on 64 runs. The pair smacked ten boundaries.

JP Duminy and David Miller, who came in next, ambled through to the target and barely broke a sweat.

The game ended in style as Miller hammered Razzak straight down the

ground for a huge six.

Earlier, the hosts were under pressure from the world go as pacer Kyle Abbot removed both Anamul Haque and Rony Talukdar in the third over. The batsmen were beaten by pace as the bowler managed to go past both their defences.

Captain Imrul was the only Bangladeshi batsman who looked a bit threatening. He hit three fours in his 24-ball 29 and was the only player who looked capable of going against South Africans' attack. However, once he perished in the eleventh over, the middle order collapsed.

He was dismissed courtesy of a brilliant catch. Imrul had launched David Weise towards long-on. The fielder, running back, managed to catch the ball on the edge of the boundary, but was in danger of falling on the boundary rope. That's when he threw the ball up in the air for the deep mid-wicket fielder, who had by then run in to support the fielder at long on.

Skipper Faf du Plessis used nine bowlers in the match and it was a move that shed light on some of the newer players the visitors have in store.

Leg-spinner Eddie Leie, who flummoxed Mosaddek Hossain with a googly, was one of them. 30-year-old pacer David Wiese, who featured against Australia last year, was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3 for 13 in three overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BCB XI:** 99 all out in 18 overs (Imrul 29; Wiese 3-13, Abbott 2-2)  
**SOUTH AFRICANS:** 101 for no loss in 12 overs (de Kock 35 retired, de Villiers 25 retired)  
**Result:** South Africans won by ten wickets.



Bangladesh players seemed to be in good spirits during training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, ahead of their two-match T20I series which begins tomorrow. PHOTO: STAR

## Batting lets Kayes down

SPORTS REPORTER



BCB-XI skipper Imrul Kayes expressed his disappointment with the way his side batted against South Africans in the T20 practice match at Fatullah yesterday, as his charges scored just 99 before being bowled out. "Actually we were in a bit of a hurry. We batted without a plan. Had our top order given us a good start, we could have scored 140 and done better.

"The wicket was a bit two-paced. There was no other problem with it. That should not be a big deal for anyone in international cricket," Imrul told reporters after the match yesterday.

After the thumping defeat yesterday, talks regarding how the South Africa

series could possibly be more difficult in comparison to the ones against Pakistan and India dominated Bangladesh's cricket forums online.

Imrul however, refused to be drawn into that debate.

"International cricket doesn't work that way. It's not about wondering which side is better than the other. You have to have the belief that you can beat any side, no matter what," said Imrul.

On the other hand, South African slow left-armer Aaron Phangiso was extremely happy with the way the visitors began the tour.

"Bangladesh is not an easy tour and to win like this is satisfying because the guys have been working hard under hot conditions," said Phangiso.

However, the spinner wasn't pleased with the wicket and hoped that the

groundsmen could produce more turning tracks in the coming days.

"I think this wicket was tough to bowl on because there was no turn. So you had to bowl it a little bit quicker.

"As a spinner you had to think on your feet. When you come to Bangladesh, you expect the wicket to turn a little bit, but we didn't get anything today, let's hope the groundsmen do something different," said Phangiso.

The visitors used a three-man spin attack yesterday with Phangiso, JP Duminy and youngster Eddie Leie. Leie, the uncapped leg-spinner, was particularly impressive.

"He is a quality bowler. We played in the same franchise back home for the Lions. He was the leading wicket-taker for the T20s in a league in South Africa, so he deserves to be here," said Phangiso.

## 'I don't believe in history'

Chandika Hathurusingha has been spending a wonderful time as the head coach of the Tigers, with his charges achieving two major ODI series victories at home against two South-Asian superpowers -- Pakistan and India. Under his tutelage the Tigers have been playing a good brand of cricket since the World Cup. Now the Sri Lankan stands before another challenge as formidable South Africa are in the country to play a full series. The Bangladesh coach yesterday talked to the media for the first time since his side's magnificent 2-1 series victory against India. The following is an extract from the press conference at Mirpur.

**Question (Q):** Are the T20s versus SA part of preparations for 2016 World Twenty20?

**Chandika Hathurusingha (CH):** It has a lot to do with the World Cup in mind. We are thinking about our combination and game plan, what's going to be effective for us. This will be our focus for this series.

**(Q):** Are you excited by the last two series wins?

**(CH):** I think it is an exciting time for Bangladesh. I mean it is always good to win, but the way we are playing and winning is more exciting.

**(Q):** The youngsters are performing well. Do you take it upon yourself to keep them in check?

**(CH):** I haven't seen anything distracting coming in the camp. They are keeping their feet on the ground. They need to enjoy their successes. Some of the guys have done things that people have never done before so these are unprecedented successes. They have the right to enjoy what they are doing and be confident about it.

**(Q):** What are Mushfiqur Rahim's chances of donning the gloves in the upcoming series?

**(CH):** As soon as Mushfiqur is confident enough to keep, he will give us lot of options for our team combinations. Whenever he is confident about his finger, we are looking forward to giving him the opportunity to keep. He has started to keep in last few training sessions. We also have Litton (Das) in the squad. It is completely up to Mushfiq's finger. It is looking good, the physio is happy. It is healing quickly.

**(Q):** How do you feel about taking on South Africa?

**(CH):** South Africa has been a really, really good side for a long period of time in all formats of cricket. They have been a consistent side for several years. I think they are favourites. I haven't said this before. They are a very strong team.

**(Q):** Are you concerned about South Africa's pace?

**(CH):** We can't control how quickly they are going to bowl, isn't it? We are

preparing like we prepared for the other series'. It was our challenge to get used to the conditions in the World Cup where there were quick pitches. Training hasn't changed much, as it is working for us.

**(Q):** Bangladesh's pacers performed well against India. Should we expect you to follow the same strategy, or will the focus be more on spin?

**(CH):** Lately we have been balanced in spin and pace. Traditionally Bangladesh is known to have lot of good spinners. It is not different now. We don't have a lot of fast bowlers, but the ones we have can bring a different quality to the team. Some are tall,



some have variation, some can swing the ball. This is our advantage; we can go either way.

South Africa have good quick bowlers, a good batting side and lately they play spin well too. They are a very competent side. We can't find any major weakness in their armoury so we have to play consistent cricket and make good decisions in the middle.

**(Q):** Bangladesh has a poor record against South Africa. How do you look at the past records?

**(CH):** If I believed in history, I wouldn't be here today. I don't believe in history. It is there to change. It is how we go about doing it that is key. We are

not a part of history. We are part of present and what we do now.

I can't do much about what players read or write. I can only tell the players what we can do now and what our strengths are. I constantly tell them how good they are and what they can do.

**(Q):** How do you plan to stop a batsman like AB de Villiers?

**(CH):** For AB, the plan is to bowl and pray that he gets out. He is arguably one of the best players in the world. You can't plan much. We have to execute our best ball and control his damage. He is a human as well.

**(Q):** Across the 3 formats, where do you think you have the best chance to stop South Africa?

**(CH):** They have been a very strong side in all formats for a long time. I don't see that we have an advantage in any version. We can't pinpoint anything. We are confident with the way we play ODI cricket at this stage. We are really doing well. I still think that we will give them a good run. We are a very strong side.

**(Q):** Is there any new surprise in store?

**(CH):** (Smiles) Do I have to find a new surprise every series? Again, we probably play to our strengths in this series. Until I find someone in Khulna or somewhere else, we will stick to our strengths.

**(Q):** What are your plans for the Tests?

**(CH):** We probably have a lot more freedom because we are playing the Tests after the One Day Internationals and we are heading into another Test series, against Australia, as well. Depending on the available players, we will have a formula going forward.

**(Q):** How do you view the return of Shohag Gazi?

**(CH):** He has been bowling with his new action for so many months now. The selectors have seen him bowling in matches so we are banking on his new action being as good as the previous one. He is going to give us another attacking option.

## Karunaratne, Yasir light up final Test

AFP, Pallekele

Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne hit a century amid another rich haul by Pakistani leg-spinner Yasir Shah as the decisive third and final Test began on a rousing note in Pallekele on Friday.

The hosts, sent in to bat after Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq won the toss for the third time in a row, stuttered to 272-8 in their first innings by stumps on the opening day.

Left-handed Karunaratne anchored the innings with a dogged 130, his second Test century following the 152 against New Zealand in Christchurch last December.

Yasir ended the day with four for 77, taking his tally in the series to 21 wickets, the most by a Pakistani bowler in a three-Test rubber in Sri Lanka.

The series is locked 1-1 after Pakistan won the first Test by 10 wickets and Sri Lanka responded with a seven-wicket victory in the second match.

Azhar Ali, who had taken two wickets with his part-time spin bowling in 43 previous Tests, doubled his tally with the wickets of Karunaratne and Dhammika Prasad off successive balls.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 272 for 8 (Karunaratne 130, Tharanga 46, Mubarak 25, Chandimal 24, Kaushal 17 not out; Rahat 2-74, Yasir 4-77, Azhar 2-35)  
**PAKISTAN:** Misbah (capt), Azhar, Shehzad, Masood, Younis, Shafiq, Sarfraz, Yasir, Imran, Adil, Rahat..

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