



Tamim Iqbal's patient 57 off 129 balls and his 89-run partnership with Mahmudullah Riyad provided a solid platform for Bangladesh to build on, as the Tigers seized the initiative on the second day of the first Test against South Africa in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



## 'Advantage Bangladesh'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

On a day which witnessed a seesaw battle between Bangladesh's batsmen and South Africa's pacemen, the hosts eventually came out on top on the second day of the first Test at Chittagong. Although South Africa's pacers didn't run through Bangladesh's batting order, they did force the likes of Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad to bat as cautiously as possible.

And while South Africa's bowling coach Charl Langeveldt was happy with his pacers, he also praised Bangladesh's batsmen for their determined effort.

"I think it was a really tough day. Bangladesh really battled well. They were patient, but I think our guys also bowled really well," said Langeveldt at the post-day press conference yesterday.

"Any bowling coach would always want more, but we will take that. Tomorrow we could take two wickets up front. Both their best batsmen are in now. Mahmudullah played unbelievably and Tamim also batted well, but tomorrow could be a different story. It could be overcast and the second new ball is due," he added.

Though he currently tips the match in favour of the hosts, he hopes his bowlers can get the remaining Bangladesh wickets as early as possible.

"I think it is 60-40 [per cent] in their favour.

The game is fairly even. If they get a 100-run lead against us, we will struggle. At the moment, it is fairly even," said the former paceman.

Langeveldt also believed that the visitors were a touch unlucky not to get the nicks at various moments of the game.

"I am very happy with them [Steyn and Philander]. They are world-class bowlers. They put in the hard yards. They were a bit unlucky today, beating the bat a lot,

especially with the new ball.

"It went past the bat of Tamim. It was one of those days. It could go your way. You could be bowling gun and get no wickets," said the coach.

"I think [Morne] Morkel was the most aggressive bowler. We were aggressive. The SG ball does get soft quickly so you need to be aggressive in your lines and lengths and attack the stumps more," he added.

The pacers didn't get wickets, but they built up the pressure and that gave the part-timers -- the likes of Stiaan van Zyl and Dean Elgar -- to inscribe their names on the wickets column.

"Stiaan and Dean are part-timers so it is rewarding. But it was the pressure from the other guys, the main bowlers, that put batsmen under pressure," opined Langevel

SOUTH AFRICA SCOREBOARD				
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 248 (Elgar 47, Van Zyl 34, Du Plessis 48, Bavuma 54, Philander 24; Mustafizur 4-37, Jubair 3-53)				
BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 7-0)				
Tamim b Elgar	57			
Imrul st De Kock b Van Zyl	26			
Mominul v Harmer	6			
Mahmudullah lbw b Philander	67			
Mushfiqur not out	16			
Shakib not out	1			
Extras: (lb-5, nb-1)	6			
Total: (For 4 wkts in 67 overs)	179			
To bat: Litton, Jubair, Shahid, Taijul, Mustafizur.				
Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-55, 3-144, 4-178.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	13	3	46	0
Philander	12	1	22	1
Morkel	11	2	28	0
Harmer	19	3	59	1
Van Zyl	9	2	13	1
Elgar	3	0	6	1



Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim will lead the attack against South Africa alongside Shakib Al Hasan on the third day of the first Test today, resuming from an unbeaten 16.

PHOTO: STAR

## Abusive spectators removed from venue

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Some unruly spectators have put the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in a spot of bother when they racially abused few members of the touring South Africa team during the second day's play in the first Test in Chittagong yesterday.

In the follow-up, the BCB's security team removed those spectators from the eastern stands of Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium when the incident took place in the afternoon. While BCB officials were tight-lipped regarding the issue, sources revealed that the remarks were heard from the adjoining stands.

Upon being subjected to the remarks, the players brought it to the notice of the umpires, who later informed the match referee. The match referee in turn informed the BCB security team's chief regarding the issue after which those spectators were removed from the stadium.

Following the incident, several announcements were made in the stadium courtesy of the venue

manager through the PA system, cautioning spectators against making comments that may hurt the sentiments of the players.

Such announcements aren't commonly heard in the stadiums and as a result, the repetitive cautionary messages raised quite a few eyebrows.

Security measures are likely to be increased for the rest of the Test match.

Ever since the arrival of the South African team in Dhaka, this was the second unfortunate off-field event that received publicity. Earlier, South African player Wayne Parnell had reported a phone call that was allegedly of a threatening nature.

The unfortunate event yesterday was a shameful act and was in complete contrast to the celebratory environment that Bangladesh's good run in the current series has created. Such incidents are intolerable and should be dealt with a firm hand.

One would hope that such incidents wouldn't tarnish the value of the series that has so far been played in a sporting atmosphere.

## Yasir picked for SL T20Is

AFP, Karachi

Fast-rising spinner Yasir Shah is set to make his Twenty20 comeback in Pakistan's upcoming series against Sri Lanka while injured pacer Wahab Riaz could also make a return subject to fitness, chief selector Haroon Rasheed said Wednesday.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi will lead the squad for the two matches to be played in Colombo on July 30 and August 1.

Shah, 29, took 24 wickets in Pakistan's 2-1 win in the three-Test series, taking him to third position in the official world bowlers' rankings after just ten matches.

Shah played the last of his two Twenty20 internationals in Zimbabwe in September 2011 but has so far failed to pick up a wicket in the format.

**SQUAD:** Afridi (captain), Shehzad, Anwar, Hafeez, Mukhtar, Akmal, Malik, Rizwan, Sarfraz, Yasir, Tanvir, Wasim, Anwar,

## A boost for WC: Miraz

SPORTS REPORTER



After defeating South Africa Under-19s 5-2 with consummate ease away from home, Bangladesh Under-19 cricketers returned home yesterday morning. While speaking to The Daily Star over phone, captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz said the tour was successful as they executed their plans in the middle with clinical efficiency.

"We were well aware of the conditions and our experience of playing in England and West Indies helped us perform well in South Africa. More importantly, the belief in the team is that we have the ability to beat any team," an excited Miraz said.

"It was a tour to remember not only for our series win, but also for the senior national team's success at home during that time. We watched the matches on TV and we were excited. The opposing team's members were also telling us that Bangladesh were playing good cricket," he continued.

The all-rounder believed their success could help them to do something special in the Youth World Cup, which will take place in Bangladesh in January and February next year.

"So far everything is going well and according to plan. This series success definitely enhanced our confidence of achieving something special in the World Cup. We have got a very good unit and I think we clinched the series in South Africa by playing as a unit. The team has the necessary balance as we have good batsmen, an all-rounder like Mohammad Saifuddin, good spinners as well as the pacers," said a confident Miraz.

He however pointed out some areas where they needed to improve on in the next six months before the World Cup.

"We are not good while chasing. It was nice to see Pinak [Ghosh] play such a wonderful knock [150], but the batsmen need to play big knocks while concentrating on big partnerships. And while our bowling attack is also very good, it could be more disciplined," concluded

## 'It was a test of skills'

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong



Top-order batsman Mahmudullah Riyad has said that the manner in which Bangladesh's batsmen played against the 'best bowling attack' in the world yesterday would give the hosts plenty of confidence.

Riyad, who scored 67 yesterday, was involved in an 89-run stand with Tamim Iqbal for the third wicket, which revived the hosts from a shaky 55 for 2.

"It was a test of skills for us and that honestly felt good. It was a big challenge for us to play against their bowling attack. Dale Steyn, Vernon Philander, Morne Morkel; they are all world-class bowlers.

"They were trying a lot of things to get us out and even bowled cross seam deliveries against us. We now need to utilise this opportunity since we don't get such chances often," said Riyad at the post-day press conference.

"It wasn't just about their pace. Even the Pakistan bowlers were fast. South Africa's bowlers have the ability to move the ball both ways. So if you can do well against them, you can improve your confidence levels a lot," added the top-order batsman.

Explaining the batsmen's plans, Riyad said that he stayed patient and merely waited to dispatch bad deliveries.

"It was because of the wicket that we couldn't play free-flowing shots. We had to bat cautiously because they were bowling in good areas. Tamim and I wanted to play for as



long as possible and forge a big partnership. Unfortunately both of us got out," rued Riyad.

His dismissal yesterday annoyed him more than usual.

"I was quite unhappy because I was batting well. At that point I also had the rains in the back of my mind and I wanted to stay unbeaten throughout the day.

"Initially it was a little tough, but after that I got into a good rhythm. That's when I felt that I had a chance to score a big one today," said Riyad.

The top-order batsman believed that the video sessions that they had observing South Africa's bowlers prior to the Test helped the batsmen quite a bit.

While Bangladesh's batsmen stood firm against the Proteas pacers, they unexpectedly crumbled against their slower bowlers, two of who were part-timers. Tamim was out to Dean Elgar while attempting to sweep a straightforward delivery, while Imrul was stumped off Stiaan van Zyl down the leg-side. Interestingly, it was South Africa's two opening batsmen who got rid of Bangladesh's openers with the ball. And it was an aspect that Riyad lamented.

"I understand that we could have done a lot better had we not lost our wickets to the part-time bowlers, but what is also important is to not get bogged down against their part-time bowlers.

"So I won't say that the shots our batsmen attempted against them were wrong. The intent was right; unfortunately the execution wasn't. I won't say that there was a lapse in concentration," said Riyad.

With six wickets in hand and Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan at the crease, Riyad is confident that the hosts can notch up a score close to 400 -- a first innings total that he reckons will be enough to put pressure on the visitors.

"It depends a lot on the first session tomorrow. If we go wicket-less and forge more partnerships, we can do well.

"It was good to see their spinners getting turn. That should encourage our bowlers in the third innings," opined Riyad.