



## Lost chance, says Riyad

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Top-order batsman Mahmudullah Riyad has described the Test series ANTIONAL POLYMER Against South Africa as an 'opportunity lost' for the Bangladesh players to test themselves against the best team in the world.

The last two days of the first Test in Chittagong were washed out after Bangladesh managed to take a 78-run lead. So far, the second Test in Mirpur has witnessed just 88 overs, courtesy of the three-day washout due to consistent rain.

While a series draw will help Bangladesh earn some valuable Test ranking points, Riyad reckoned that the team would have preferred playing five days of cricket instead.

"This is definitely an opportunity lost for us. It's very frustrating because we have come here to play. It doesn't matter whether you win or lose. It would have been good for



us to play against the best team in the world. We could have further tested our skills," said Riyad at the post-day press conference yesterday in Mirpur.

"I think we would have taken the match-time over points any day. But then again nobody has control over the weather. Let's see what happens tomorrow, " he added.

Due to the inclement weather and uncertainty of the schedule, the teams have had to go through uncomfortable scenarios in the last few days. In the last two days for instance, they were instructed to come to the field in the afternoon after the skies had cleared momentarily.

However, just as hopes of play would rise, another bout of rain would splash in to break them. It was something that left the players, especially Nasir Hossain, a bit jittery, according to Riyad.

"He [Nasir] was telling me in the morning that he wasn't feeling too good. The fact that he has been not out for two days hasn't gone on too well with him.

"I think it's a tough situation because you mentally prepare yourselves to play for five days and then it becomes frustrating when three days are washed out. What's important is to keep the focus and switch yourselves on again when you're on the field," said Riyad.

Riyad also reflected on the way Bangladesh's batsmen lost their wickets after getting good starts. There were a number of half-centurions for the hosts, however, none of them managed to score a big one.

It was an aspect that, according to Riyad, the players would have to talk about in order to find out the problem.





RAIN, BLOODY RAIN: Soaking in the rain, Bangladesh ace Shakib Al Hasan glares defiantly at the rain gods as they wash out the fourth day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The rain had also denied the Tigers a chance to chase a win in the first Test in Chittagong.

PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED** 



## BCL next month?

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The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is currently in the process of bringing forward

the dates of the fourth edition of its four-day domestic competition, the Bangladesh Cricket League, from February 2016 to September this year.

The reason behind that is to provide the players with ample amount of match practice prior to the two-match Test series against Australia in October. After the South Africa series, the players are not scheduled to be involved in any international or domestic assignments in between. As a result, the BCB is thinking about tinkering with the schedule.

BCL's longer version from

September 15 as Australia are scheduled to arrive on September 28. So I think the players might get the opportunity to play the first two rounds. Even if they don't, then we will ensure that batsman Mahmudullah Riyad they play at least one round of the yesterday afternoon described BCL," said Akram Khan, a BCB the move as one that would help director and the chairman of tournament committee.

The top performers from Bangladesh's National Cricket League, where players play fourday cricket for their respective divisions, are selected to take part in the BCL. The BCL is played between four teams, three of which are owned by franchisees.

Akram said that he would have a meeting with them in the next few days in order to confirm the change in the schedule.

"The franchisees have always stood beside us and they have "We are hoping to start the always supported us. We did get positive outcomes from them

before. And I hope that the franchisees will come forward and give priority for the national issue," added Akram.

Bangladesh's top order the players. "I heard about such a possibil-

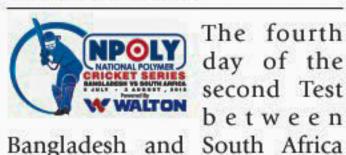
ity in the morning. I feel that it will be great for us if we can play the league before the two Tests against Australia. We didn't have much cricket against South Africa due to the rain and this tournament can give us good practice ahead of this series.

"If this does take place then we can take a break for two weeks after this series and then return to prepare for the tournament," said Riyad at the post-day press conference yesterday.

The previous edition of the BCL had taken place in May this year.

## No let-up in rain

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out those plans.

The rain had stopped at

around 10 o'clock yesterday

morning and that encouraged the

curator at the Sher-e-Bangla

National Stadium to direct the

groundsmen to remove the

covers from the wicket and the

umpires were waiting for the

field to dry and had scheduled

an inspection at 1:00 pm.

Meanwhile, the players of both

Like on the third day, the

and were warming up. The fourth Bangladesh's players as usual day of the played a game of football, while second Test South Africa's were busy doing between stretching.

Ten minutes before the was washed out yesterday. While scheduled inspection though, there was some hope for play the clouds let out again and that to resume in the morning after eventually compelled the the skies had cleared, another officials to call off the day at bout of shower in the around the time of inspection. afternoon though cancelled

sides had arrived in the stadium

With just one more day to go in the Test, the match, in all likelihood, is going to end in a draw. Showers are expected today as well, and it's still uncertain if play can take place today at all.

If the series does end as a draw, Bangladesh will receive six rating points and will take their overall collection to 47. This will also be the first time that they will end a series against South Africa without losing it. The Tigers are scheduled to play

### Action to be taken against those players

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The Bangladesh Cricket Board has noticed that some players under the BCB have decided to participate in a local league in the United States without obtaining a no objection certificate from the board.

The players will also be playing in a team alongside banned cricketer Mohammad Ashraful. Certain first-class players will be representing a team named Bangladesh Tigers in the competition titled Diversity Cup, taking place in Michigan. Their first match took place

yesterday. BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said that appropriate action, as per the board's rules, will be taken against the players.

"The players on our first-class contract who have participated in the unauthorised event without the board's permission or NOC, will be addressed in accordance with the board's rules," he said.

With regards to Ashraful's participation in the league he said, "The ban on Ashraful is within the jurisdiction of the BCB. The tournament or match is outside our jurisdiction."

In recent times, a number of cricketers under the BCB were spotted playing for various leagues that were outside the jurisdiction of the BCB. The BCB CEO said that the board would take measures to monitor these happenings very closely.

## Aussies arrive on Sept 28

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The Australian national cricket team will arrive in Bangladesh on September 28 to play two Tests in Chittagong and Dhaka. The

announced the itinerary for the tour yesterday and thereby ended speculation of an additional ODI

series in the tour. A few days ago, BCB president Nazmul Hassan

Papon had said that he would talk to his Australian counterpart at their next encoun- Jason Gillespie scored an ter in a bid to add a few ODI unbeaten double century to

matches along with the Test series embarrass the hosts. in October.

of the schedule has confirmed that the tour will go on as originally planned.

will play a three-day warm-up match in Fatullah from October 3 to 5. The first Test will take place at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong and will begin on October 9. The second Test will

ITINERARY

Sep 28: Australia arrive Oct 3-5: Warm Up match v BCB XI, Fatullah Oct 6: Travel to Chittagong Oct 9-13: First Test, ZACS, Chittagong Oct 14: Travel to Dhaka Oct 17-21: Second Test, SBNCS, Dhaka Oct 22: Australia depart

# Upon their arrival, the Aussies

be hosted at the Sher-e-Bangla Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) National Stadium in Dhaka and will begin on October 17.

> The last time Australia played a Test series in Bangladesh was back in 2006. Bangladesh almost pulled off an upset victory in the Test at Fatullah

that year. However, in the following Test,

The last time Bangladesh faced However, the announcement Australia at home was during the World T20. The series against Australia is Bangladesh's last international fixture this year.

#### SRK's ban AGENCIES, Mumbai

MCA lifts

Mumbai Cricket Association on Sunday lifted the five-year ban on Shah Rukh Khan to enter Wankhede Stadium.

Shah Rukh was banned from entering the Wankhede in May 2012 after a scuffle and heated altercation with a security guard and MCA officials following an IPL game in which Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) beat the Mumbai Indians.

Consequently, a police complaint was registered against the Bollywood superstar. However, since it was a non-cognizable offence, SRK wasn't arrested.

Shah Rukh Khan though, said that he was provoked after security guards touched a group of children he was accompanying, which included his daughter.

The Knight Riders' owner did not attend the match but arrived late at the stadium to pick up his children and their friends.

Since then, Shah Rukh Khan has not attended any games at the Wankhede Stadium.

## Mixed bag for Vilas

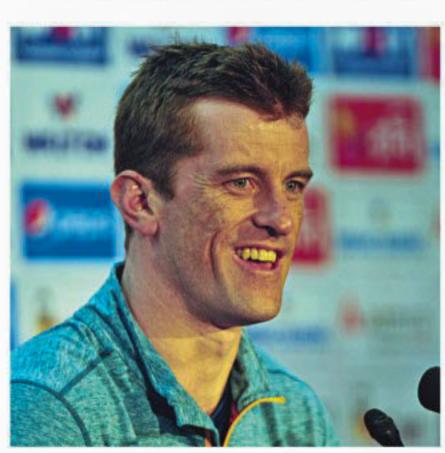
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Day One of the second Test between Bangladesh and South W WALTON Africa was an

extremely proud one for wicketkeeperbatsman Dane Vilas. It was the 30-yearold's first Test match and it took him nine years to reach this mark.

He replaced an out-of-form Quinton



de Kock who struggled throughout the

Hampered by consistent rain, this wasn't however the exact start that Vilas would have dreamt of. Still, he was glad to have completed his first Test catch behind the wickets. In fact he got two. The first

was a brilliant take off the bat of Mominul Haque, who was trying to cut a JP Duminy delivery.

The second was the prized scalp of skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, who edged a turner from slow-left armer Dean Elgar.

"Obviously it was exciting. A bowler tends to look for his first wicket, a batsman for his first runs. As a wicketkeeper you want to get that first catch... waiting for that is actually difficult. Luckily I got one and then got another, thanks to Dean and JP," said Vilas at the post-day press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

With three days washed out, the match is headed for a draw. The players had to visit the ground in the afternoon yesterday as the clear signs provided some chances for play to resume.

However, all that the players could do was some stretching before rain compelled the umpires to call off the day. Vilas though was surprised with how dry the stadium was despite the continuous rainfall.

"We had been down here preparing to get on the park. The field has been unbelievable. We were really surprised how well the drainage works here. So it's been both sides really. Excited because of my debut and disappointed with the rain obviously," said Vilas, adding that it was his dream to represent South Africa.