

# SPORT



Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman does a few one-legged squats on one of the sand squares at the BCB's National Cricket Academy yesterday. The pacer bowled five overs as part of his rehabilitation from shoulder surgery and will undergo a test this week to determine his progress.

## Fizz's return on track

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will have a better idea regarding Mustafizur Rahman's recovery by the end of this week. The pacer, who had undergone a shoulder surgery in August this year and is expected to be fit in time for the New Zealand series in December, will take a bowling test this week that will help determine exactly how much he has progressed. Speaking to reporters regarding the left-armer's progress, Bangladesh bowling coach Courtney Walsh said: "So far, he is progressing okay. There is a slight stiffness in his shoulder, but that's nothing major. At the moment we are just trying to get him back into action by changing his intensity levels. He has been performing at different intensity levels and the highest he has gone so far is 60 [per cent].

"So, tomorrow [Monday] will be a good day to see where he is at. This will be the first time, if he bowls tomorrow, that he will bowl two days straight. But we won't be doing too much bowling tomorrow. And then, I am looking at the 9th or the 11th to have a good test and know exactly where he is at," added the West Indian.

At the moment, Mustafizur is in the third stage of his rehabilitation process. According to BCB's sports physician Debashish Chowdhury, this is the stage where he will start working on 'functional movement' and begin to work on his bowling skills.

"He has no pain right now and after analysing his status we provided the green signal for him to start working on his skills. The third stage generally takes one month. So from that aspect, we expect him to be ready for

the New Zealand series. In terms of recovery, he is slightly ahead of schedule actually," Debashish told The Daily Star yesterday.

Despite the positive news, the team management will not take any chances. That's one thing that Walsh repeatedly emphasised while speaking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"You don't want to rush him back to competitive cricket if he is not going to be fully fit. I mean he is too good an asset [for us] to take any chance or risk. I am hoping that on the 11th or the 13th we will have a proper assessment, but he seems to be doing good."

"He is going to feel a bit of discomfort or shock from time to time until the shoulder gets accustomed to what it used to do before. We have to make sure that he is looked after well," explained Walsh.

"He is a very crucial member of the setup and he is a very special bowler from what I have seen. So he is someone who you want to play as soon as possible but we don't want to rush him back if he is not fully fit. Once he gets fit, we can start doing some work with him. The physios are doing their work, to get him into bowling and let the muscles get accustomed to bowling again. That's what we are working on," he added.

While Walsh didn't seem to have a lot to do during England's tour of Bangladesh, mainly because Bangladesh depended a lot on their spinners, he knows that it will be a completely different scenario in New Zealand.

"When we go to New Zealand we will get a good test. We will have the full quartet [of pace bowlers] to look at and to work with and I am excited. I am planning for that series. Hopefully it will go well," said Walsh.

## Rain-marred BPL set for restart

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday confirmed that all the matches of the Bangladesh Premier League would in fact be replayed by announcing the new itinerary of the competition.

The BPL will restart with reigning champions Comilla taking on Chittagong tomorrow afternoon, while Dhaka Dynamites will play Barisal Bulls in the evening.

While there were not any doubts regarding the fate of the matches that were scheduled to take place from November 5 onwards -- the BPL technical committee had decided to reschedule the games on November 5 and 6 before those matches had begun -- there was a bit of confusion regarding the outcome of the matches that were scheduled to be played on November 4.

Comilla Victorians were supposed to play Rajshahi Kings in the afternoon, while Rangpur Riders were scheduled to take on the Khulna Titans in the evening on November 4. However, both those matches were abandoned due to the incessant rain and each of the teams were given a point each.

For those matches to be replayed, all the franchises in the competition needed to provide their consent. Until Saturday, Comilla were not willing to replay the game. However today, the BPL's governing council received Comilla's consent and all the matches will now be replayed.

## Hockey team content with European tour

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh is seemingly taking this month's 5th Men's AHF Cup in Hong Kong as preparation for the World Hockey League Round-2, which will be held in Dhaka in March next year.

Bangladesh hockey team, which recently underwent a two-week conditioning camp in Poland and Austria playing eight warm-up matches, started their training camp yesterday after a four-day break since returning to Dhaka on November 1. The team will fly out for Hong Kong on November 17 to take part in the nine-nation tournament beginning from November 19.

Local coach Mahbub Harun and senior player Rasel Mahmud Jimmy identified a lot of improvements during their Euro tour even though they could not win a single match they played against Poland's senior side, Poland under-21 side and Austria under-21 side.

"Hopefully we will do well. Considering the training of the foreign coaching staff, practice matches and video analysis after each of the match, I don't think there will be any problem unless any disastrous result happens," said Harun, who believes the AHF Cup would be a preparatory

tournament for World Hockey League.

"The area of focus in training was not to concede penalty corners and building attacks together as well as defend collectively. There was a clear impact of the training from the third match against the senior national team of Poland. Though we failed to beat any age-level team, we dominated the games and surrendered leads at last moments," said Harun.

Jimmy, however, said they are keeping their sights on the AHF Cup to qualify for the Asian Cup even though their ultimate target is to perform well in the World Hockey League.

"The training camp in Europe was a really good one as we enjoyed better training facilities and rectified our mistakes, which was shown by video footages, in the practice sessions instead of seeing those on the board. The fitness of the players has also improved," said Jimmy adding that they are keen to do well in the World Hockey League.

### AHF CUP GROUPS

Pool A: Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Macau and Indonesia.

Pool B: Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

## Shahadat and wife acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former national cricketer Shahadat Hossain and his wife Jesmine Jahan Nrittya were acquitted yesterday in a case filed over torturing their 11-year-old domestic help in September last year.

Judge Tanjina Ismail of the Fifth Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression of Dhaka acquitted the couple as the prosecution failed to prove the charges against them, the judge said.

The judge pronounced the verdict at a packed courtroom in the presence of the two defendants.

In her judgment, the judge said six prosecution witnesses, including the complainant and the victim's father, gave their statements before the court during the trial proceedings. They however failed to bring any allegations against the couple of torturing the victim.

Moreover, the domestic help, Mahfuza Akhtar Happy, in her August 24 statement, said Shahadat and his wife Nrittya did not torture her. Nrittya sometimes rebuked her as she did not want to work or could not work properly, she said in her testimony at a Dhaka court on that day.

Soon after the judgment, Shahadat said he was innocent and hence he was acquitted. He also said he would try to come back to cricket within a short time.

## India's DRS apathy ends on Friday

AFP, New Delhi



India will become the last Test nation to embrace cricket's decision review system (DRS) this week when they take the field against England for the first Test on Friday, ending their resistance to on-field technology at a time of growing debate about its impact on the game.

While the recent series between England and Bangladesh fuelled criticism that the constant resort to TV replays has undermined umpires' confidence, DRS supporters say the technology is rapidly improving.

While the other nine teams have been using DRS for years, the world's number one Test side had resisted over doubts about its reliability, sparked by a frustrating trial run in 2008.

India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar was long rumoured to be at the forefront of the opposition in the dressing room and World Cup winning skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was also a sceptic.

But opposition has faded since Tendulkar retired and Dhoni stepped down as Test skipper (he remains ODI captain).

India's agreement to employ DRS for the five-Test series against England that begins this week came after an International Cricket Council (ICC) presentation last month on upgrades in technology.

Announcing the U-turn, the country's cricket board president Anurag Thakur said India "recognise the enhanced role of technology in sport" and would deploy all the DRS tools in the England series.

DRS comprises three main elements: ball-tracking technology known as 'Hawkeye'; a high-audio microphone known as 'snicko' which detects the sound of a ball grazing the bat or gloves; and 'hotspot' thermal imaging which can also determine where a ball makes contact.

ICC general manager Geoff Allardice said India's change of heart stemmed from improvements which more accurately predict whether the ball would have gone on to hit the stumps after hitting a batsman's pads.

"Our aim for a long time has been to make the DRS technology better with an end goal of getting it used more consistently in international cricket," he said in a conference call from the ICC's Dubai headquarters.

## De Silva ton drives SL

AFP, Harare

Dhananjaya de Silva scored his second Test century to put Sri Lanka in control of the second and final Test against Zimbabwe after the first day at Harare Sports Club on Sunday.

De Silva came to the wicket with Sri Lanka struggling on 112 for four, but showed greater application than Sri Lanka's top order as he put on 143 for the fifth wicket with Upul Tharanga before finishing unbeaten on 100.

The tourists closed the day on 290 for five, and were equally grateful for Tharanga's 79.

Sri Lanka, who won the first Test by 225 runs, lost four wickets inside 28 overs after they lost the toss and were inserted by Zimbabwe, before the partnership between De Silva and Tharanga pulled them back into the match.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 187 for 4 (Karunaratne 26, K Silva 37, Mendis 26, Tharanga 79, De Silva 100 not out; Masakadza 2-18)

ZIMBABWE: Tino Mawoyo, Brian Chari, Hamilton Masakadza, Craig Ervine, Sean Williams, Malcolm Waller, Peter Moor (wk), Graeme Cremer (capt), Donald Tiripano, Carl Mumba, Chris Mpofo.

## Fiery Rabada takes Proteas to the brink

AFP, Perth



Emerging South African pacer Kagiso Rabada claimed three crucial wickets as South Africa closed in on victory against Australia on the fourth day of the opening Test in Perth on Sunday.

Set an intimidating victory target of 539, the home side were wobbling on 169 for four at stumps and facing a potential record defeat against South Africa.

Usman Khawaja was on 58 and Mitchell Marsh on 15, with South Africa's unbeaten record at the ground set to be extended.



Young South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada is overjoyed after dismissing Australia opener Shaun Marsh on the fourth day of the first Test in Perth yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

An extraordinary piece of fielding by the diminutive Temba Bavuma removed the dangerous David Warner for 35 to end an opening stand of 52.

Warner dropped the ball in front of him and set off for a quick single, but Bavuma pounced from cover and unleashed a powerful throw while horizontal and still in mid-air.

It rattled the stumps at the non-striker's end with Warner centimetres out of his ground.

Four balls later, fellow opener Shaun Marsh (15) was caught at second slip by Faf du Plessis off the bowling of Rabada as Australia suddenly slumped to 52-2.

Steven Smith and Khawaja, who was dropped on 41 at first slip, set about rebuilding the Australian innings in search of a draw.

The pair settled in against the part-time bowlers, but when the ball started to reverse Rabada returned to the attack and ended a 92-run third-wicket stand with an impressive spell.

The 21-year-old showed he can become the perfect long-term replacement for Dale Steyn, who went off the field with a shoulder injury on the second day, when he removed Smith (34) and Adam Voges (1) in successive overs.

Smith had looked solid but dove at a ball and got an outside edge to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

Rabada's next over to Voges was outstanding, with a couple of almost unplayable deliveries before he had the new batsman caught behind off a thin outside edge.

South Africa had declared their second innings on 540 for 8 after lunch when Philander was bowled by Smith for 73.

It ended a brisk 72-run stand with Keshav Maharaj (41 not out) as the visitors batted the home side out of the match after resuming on 390 for 6 on Sunday morning.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 242

AUSTRALIA: First innings 244

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 540 for 8 decl (Elgar 127, Duminy 141, Du Plessis 32, De Kock 64, Philander 73, Maharaj 41 not out; Hazlewood 2-107, Sidle 2-62, Marsh 2-77)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 169 for 4 (Warner 35, Khawaja 58 not out, Smith 34; Rabada 3-49)