

# SPORT

## 'We'll approach the second Test like the first'

AL-AMIN from Christchurch

Bangladesh will go into their second and final Test against New Zealand at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Friday and ahead of the last game of the tour, coach Chandika Hathurusingha said his team was ready to show the mental toughness to come back from that disappointing defeat in the opening Test at Wellington.

Asked if it is possible for his team to come back the way they did at home against England, the coach said: "That gives us hope. It's not impossible to come back. Whether we can do it, time will tell, but all the effort and all the planning is there to do that."

He also said that they can still take a lot of positives from the first Test that his side relinquished after dominating for almost four days at the Basin Reserve earlier this week.

"We can take a lot of positives out of the last game. We were ahead of the game into the fourth day until one and a half hours before the close. We will approach the second Test the way we approached the first Test."

"I think as a batting group we really batted well in the first innings. We will do the same things that we have done in our first innings if we are batting first and will expect to finish the game better than the last game," said the Sri Lankan, adding that they were expecting a similarly bouncy pitch in Christchurch and they are prepared for that.

"If you see the way we batted in the first innings we were prepared for that. And credit to this team, we showed that we can bat on a turning wicket at home against England and we also showed that we can compete in conditions like these. It is a big ask for any team to do that kind of thing. For me it has nothing to do with skills and nothing to do with the condition," he went on.

He was also impressed with his rookie pace attack, which he termed as 'green'.

"I can't speak for a long period of time. But what we had in the last game was that it was a very green pace attack -- the combined Test experience of the three was two [Tests]. We have one [Taskin Ahmed] who has not played first-class for three years. I think they really bowled well in the first innings -- they bowled 140 odd overs. They created chances and the captain acknowledged that as well. So, what happened in the second innings was nothing to do with them. The match was lost because of batting," Hathurusingha said while appreciating the effort of his inexperienced pace attack.

He said that different conditions cannot be an excuse for any team coming from the subcontinent because it is always the other way around when other teams travel to the subcontinent.

"Definitely it will be felt, it is cold. It will [have an] effect. I mean, when the other teams that do not like the subcontinent come to the subcontinent they feel the heat and when a subcontinent team comes here they feel the heat, like some of you guys who are covering their heads when the temperature is 26," he said with a smile on his face.

When asked if so many injuries in the team had anything to do with the stress factor of a long tour, Hathurusingha ruled it out.

"It's a concern but those are accidental injuries. It's not overworking or stress injuries and part and parcel of playing international cricket for a long time," he said, adding that he was enjoying all the bouncy stuff.

"There is nothing excessive for me; I think we also did the same thing and we also bowled aggressively. That's Test cricket, proper Test cricket. I liked the contest and we need to stand up. We were beaten by the better side."



Although Mushfiqur Rahim was in deep conversation with coach Chandika Hathurusingha about the pitch and game plan, it is uncertain how much of a role, if any, he will play in the second Test against New Zealand. Meanwhile, Soumya Sarkar (R) has a chance to return to the team in place of the injured Imrul Kayes in Christchurch.



PHOTOS: BCB

## India aim to clinch series

### Take on England in second ODI today

IANS, Cuttack



After guiding India to a thrilling three-wicket win against England in his maiden ODI as full-time skipper, Virat Kohli will be aiming to clinch the three-match series by grabbing the second ODI in Cuttack on Thursday.

Kohli and wicketkeeper-batsman Kedar Jadhav smashed brilliant centuries to forge a 200-run fifth-wicket stand that helped the hosts chase down the stiff 351-run target with 11 balls to spare in the first match in Pune on Sunday.

Going by the last Ranji Trophy match between Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir on the same strip at the Barabati Stadium, where Haryana scored 502 in their first innings, the India-England tie promises to be another run-fest.

The toss could also be a crucial factor in

deciding the outcome of the match given the dew factor at this time of the year and both the captains will be looking to bat second.

Though India got over the line in the first ODI despite being 63 for 4 at one stage thanks to Kohli and Jadhav's heroics, the men-in-blue will be hoping to get a good start from their opening duo of Shikhar Dhawan and Lokesh Rahul.

Comeback man Yuvraj Singh and former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni will also need to step up and give Kohli company in the middle order while Jadhav and all-rounder Hardik Pandya are already in good nick.

In the bowling department, India will be hoping for an improved performance from premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who went wicketless and leaked 63 runs from his 8 overs in the match.

Pacers Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and Pandya have put in decent shifts while left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja was also amongst the wicket-takers in the first game.

On the other hand, all the English batsman managed to get starts in the first game, with opener Jason Roy (73), Joe Root (78) and Ben Stokes (62) getting to their respective half-centuries.

Barring Root, who consumed 95 deliveries, all the others scored at run-a-ball less for their scores and the number batsman will now need to live up to the intensity of the format.

Their bowling department has once again been at the receiving end of Kohli's batting prowess, and as pacer Jake Ball suggested, England will be aiming to pitch more short stuff to the Indian captain.

While England bowlers will be targeting Kohli, dark horses like Jadhav can still take the game away from their grasp if they continue to focus on individuals and not the top six Indian batsmen.

After Cuttack, both the teams will be heading to Kolkata for the final ODI, which will be played at the Eden Gardens on January 22.

## V-Day tennis finals today

SPORTS REPORTER

Alamgir Hossain of Nordic Club and Mamun Bepari of Shamson H Chowdhury Tennis Club will compete in the men's single final of the Victory Day Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Complex today.

Alamgir beat Milon Hossain of American Club 6-2, 6-0 while Mamun toiled hard to beat teammate Anwar Hossain 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

In women's single semi-finals, BKSP's Afsana Islam and Eshita Afroz moved into the final beating their respective opponents.

Meanwhile Popi Akter and Eshita Afroz pair of BKSP became champion in women's doubles beating Afsana Islam and Joli Akter pair.

## BKSP blank Ctg Division

SPORTS REPORTER

Sohanur Rahman and Arshad Hossain shared seven goals among them as holders BKPS handed a massive 12-0 defeat to Chittagong Division in the 26th Agrani Bank National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sohanur and Arshad struck four and three goals respectively in the one-sided affair in which Razib Das scored twice while Mohammad Mohsin, Khalilur Rahman and Rakibul Hasan netted one goal apiece.

In the day's other match, Joypurhat defeated Comilla 4-1 with Masum Reza scoring twice and Rasel and Manikuddin scoring one goal each for Joypurhat.



The South Africa women's team converge on pace bowler Marizanne Kapp after she dismissed Bangladesh opener Sharmin Sultana as the visitors clinched the five-match series 3-1 with a 94-run victory in the fourth ODI at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## SA romp to series win

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national women's team's chances of going level with their South African counterparts and staying alive in the series were dismissed yesterday as the visitors romped to a 94-run victory at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Batting first, South Africa rode on their former captain Mignon Du Preez's cautious 79 to post a powerful 251. While the visitors were in a bit of a pickle when they were reduced to 46 for two inside the first seven overs, a 74-run stand between Du Preez and

Chloe Tryon, who scored 47, helped the South Africans cross the 250-run mark.

After Rumana Ahmed trapped Tryon in front in the 23rd over, South Africa's middle order and tail played some quick-fire knocks to support Du Preez.

Traditionally a weak batting outfit, Bangladesh do not often cross the 200-run mark and as a result the target was always going to be a difficult one to overcome.

In addition to that, there was the pressure of being behind in the series. The visitors were leading the five-match series 2-1. The pressure was a bit too much to take and the hosts crumbled to 157 all out. Fargana Haque did score a half-

century, but she took too much time. Her 67 came off 144 balls. She was supported by former Bangladesh captain Salma Khatun, who scored 30 off 64, but the rest of the batting order crumbled.

The last game, scheduled to take place tomorrow will be a dead rubber, considering that South Africa have already taken an unassailable 3-1 lead in the series.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 251 for 7 (Du Preez 79, Tryon 47; Kubra 3-48, Rumana 2-30)

BANGLADESH: 157 all out in 50 overs (Fargana 67, Salma 30; Khaka 3-34, Daniels 2-21, Letsoalo 2-39)

Result: South Africa Women won by 94 runs.

## Handscomb set to debut

### Third ODI against Pakistan today

AFP, Sydney



Middle-order batsman Peter Handscomb will make his limited overs debut for Australia against Pakistan in the third one-day international in Perth on Thursday.

Handscomb replaces the injured Mitchell Marsh after a highly successful introduction to Test cricket in which the 25-year-old scored two centuries and two fifties in his first four appearances in the recent series against South Africa and Pakistan.

"He's done really well, he's been outstanding. So good reward for a good summer," Australian coach Darren Lehmann told reporters Wednesday.

"Obviously we want four quality batters going at the top so he'll get his chance there."

"He played a one-day style innings for us in the Sydney Test, so he's got all the shots and he's quite innovative," Lehmann said.

Fast bowler Billy Stanlake comes in for Mitchell Starc, who is being rested.

Meanwhile, batsman Chris Lynn has been told to rest for several weeks due to a persistent neck injury and was ruled out of the squad for the rest of this series and the Chappell-Hadlee series against New Zealand.

The 26-year-old has been troubled by a bulging disc in his neck for some time and was using medication to control the pain.

He made his one-day international debut in the first game of the series against Pakistan before being released to visit a specialist in Brisbane on Tuesday, where he was advised to rest for several weeks, Australian coach Darren Lehmann said.

"He's been playing through a lot of pain even during the [Big Bash] and he's got to the stage where he can't function anymore," Lehmann told reporters in Perth ahead of their third ODI against Pakistan.

"He'll have a couple of weeks of no cricket ... he's got to calm down the neck because it's quite aggravated."

## Elgar turns down Kolpak

CRICINFO

Dean Elgar has resisted the temptation to join the exodus from South African cricket with a Kolpak deal and has agreed instead to rejoin Somerset as an overseas player.

Elgar, an opening batsman in the South Africa Test side, is understood to have rejected the opportunity to join other counties as a Kolpak registration and will return to the team he represented in 2013. That means he has committed his future to South Africa as a Test player.

## Long break from Tests

### AB to sit out Eng Tests; may miss BD Tests

AGENCIES, Johannesburg



AB de Villiers still has many goals he wants to achieve in Test cricket but none of those will be realised on the fields around England this winter.

After saying Tuesday that he had withdrawn from the three-match Test series in New Zealand which will be played in March, De Villiers confirmed Wednesday that he would not play in the four Tests against England in July and August this year either.

Cricket South Africa had hoped that De Villiers would make himself available for that

series, but De Villiers said that he simply was not ready. He also does not want to play the two Tests against Bangladesh in September.

"It was not an easy decision," De Villiers said about withdrawing from the England Test series. "I'm just not ready. My priorities have changed over the years, I've played for 12-odd years, family has changed, my roles in the teams have changed over the years. A lot of things played a role in this decision. I wouldn't like to think it's the end, I still want to finish on a high."

De Villiers added that he was not focused on anything before the Test series against Australia next year, meaning he may sit out the Bangladesh series in September this year.



AB de VILLIERS