

# SPORT



Ground staff try to cover the pitch as incessant rain washed out the entire third day's play of the second Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh at the Hagley Park Oval in Christchurch yesterday.

## All to do for Tigers after rain

AL-AMIN from Christchurch



Bangladesh will go into the fourth day of the second Test against New Zealand today

keeping in mind that they cannot repeat the same mistake they committed in the first Test which they surrendered spectacularly after dominating for four days.

Bangladesh will take the field with an expressed intention of mopping up the Black Caps tail as quickly as possible. The home side on the other hand will resume on 260 for seven and will try to overtake Bangladesh's first-innings total of 289. If they can take a considerable lead, they will be in a better position to pounce on the Tigers.

However, after a no-show on the third day, which was washed out without a single ball being bowled due to rain, the onus will be on the Tigers to apply themselves on what would be a slightly disconcerting wicket on a damp Hagley Oval ground. It is understood that Bangladesh will have to bat for most part of the day. And if they can correct the mistakes they committed in their second innings of the first Test when they were bowled out for 160 after scoring a massive 595 in their first essay, they will be able to put the pressure back on the

home team. In that event the first two sessions will be extremely crucial. The winners of the two sessions will decide which way the game will be heading on the fifth and final day.

Bangladesh as a bowling unit did a commanding job on the second day. But it is the batting that has not been consistent and more importantly some key players like opener Tamim Iqbal and middle-order batsman Mahmudullah Riyad have not been among the runs. The absence of injured captain Mushfiqur Rahim was felt keenly throughout the limited-overs series and will doubtless be felt here.

But the most heartening aspect in the second Test so far is that the Tigers have produced their best in extreme adversity and fought well without their three key batsmen -- opener Imrul Kayes, one-down Mominul Haque and Mushfiqur all missed the game due to injury. The inexperienced pace attack performed beyond expectation.

Bangladesh might have suffered six straight defeats in the limited-overs series, they lost the opening Test by seven wickets at Wellington in an inexplicable way. But they are still possibly two days away to turn a tour of missed opportunities into an unforgettable end. And if they can show that resolve in batting they will surely be in a position to leave down under with a big smile on their face.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rain a bane for all concerned

AL-AMIN from Christchurch



"It is the worst summer we are experiencing this year," a lady in her 40s grunted while having a chat with this reporter. Like many New Zealanders, she has little knowledge about

Bangladesh. She however appeared very sharp about the geography and questioned: "Is it the country through which the River Ganga flows?"

She was however more disturbed with the rain that poured in Christchurch the whole day on Sunday.

"We are supposed to have brilliant sunshine here now. It's raining. There are places in Europe where it's snowing like anything. We are killing ourselves," the lady said philosophically.

Asked why in this part of the world people do not use umbrellas when it rains. She said it normally drizzles here and does not pour. It was very interesting to see most of the people walking in the rain without a 'brolly' yesterday. They preferred a windbreaker. At the Hagley Oval most of the security guards stood in the rain wearing that yellow-green dress.

A few of them were seen protecting their heads with half-broken umbrellas perhaps not used for a long time. They were actually not expecting such a downpour, much like the Bangladesh cricket team, for whom it was more painful. They were literally confined to a glass cubical for seven hours.

## 'Will be a test of character for NZ'

SPORTS REPORTER



A washout on the third day of the second Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand in Christchurch suppressed, to a certain extent, the excitement that was created after Shakib Al Hasan took three quick wickets late on Day Two and evened out the game.

However, with the wicket behaving as it is, both teams reckon that there is a good chance of a result if the rains do not interrupt the Test further. The first two days of the Test saw 17 wickets fall and with the wicket expected to keep offering help to the bowlers, it seems the game will tilt towards the side that can put in a better batting performance towards the end.

With the rain lashing onto the covers at the Hagley Oval almost throughout the day yesterday, it could mean that the Bangladesh batsmen might have to face a more difficult time once they manage to grab the last three wickets and go to bat.

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman, Nurul Hasan has said that Bangladesh will first be looking to confirm a draw before thinking about a win.

"It's difficult to say what will happen. A lot will depend on the start of the game tomorrow. But no matter what happens, we have to stay



SHANE JURGENSEN

positive. We have to think about confirming a draw first and then if there is a chance, we will try to take that chance and win as well," explained Nurul.

"There are still two more days and who knows, anything is possible, anything can happen," he added.

Former Bangladesh national coach and current bowling coach of New Zealand, Shane Jurgensen, echoed the sentiment and reckons that a result was very much possible in the two 'long days' that are remaining.

"I think there is still a lot of time left in the game.

I suppose we just need a few good partnerships and once the sun comes out tomorrow we can set up. We have two long days to go," said Jurgensen.

"I think it [the wicket] will certainly offer a little bit [because of the rain] when the sun comes out tomorrow. It has been a good wicket throughout the summer, but it may offer something initially. Can't really predict too much," Jurgensen, adding that spin might come into play at Christchurch towards the latter stages of the game.

While New Zealand dominated most of the second day, they lost three wickets to Shakib shortly before play was called off because of a drizzle making the turf slippery and gave up the advantage. It was something that Jurgensen was disappointed about.

"I think we certainly didn't execute our plans. Bangladesh are a very positive team. I have been there myself. When you don't get something right, they will be positive and go against you," said Jurgensen.

Furthermore, Jurgensen urged his batsmen to be wary of Shakib on Day Four and advised them to tuck him around for singles rather than looking to hit him for boundaries.

"I think it's going to be a real test of character for the team to try and get as many runs as we can and set up and see how the game pans out," said Jurgensen.

## Aussie 1987 WC heroes awarded

AFP, Sydney

The first Australia squad to win the World Cup in 1987 were presented with medals during the innings break at the fourth one-day international against Pakistan in Sydney on Sunday.

The side, captained by Allan Border and coached by Bob Simpson, beat England by seven runs in a tense final in Kolkata. Australia have since won four more World Cups.

The International Cricket Council last year decided to award medals to players and support staff of all World Cup-winning squads who did not receive them at the time of their successes.

The West Indies team from 1975 and Sri Lanka from 1996 will also receive medals.

## Australia seal series

AFP, Sydney



Australia secured the one-day series against Pakistan with a commanding 86-run win at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday, taking a 3-1 lead in the five match series.

Set an imposing 354 to win, Pakistan were never really in the hunt.

After Australia made 353 for six on the back of a David Warner century that was aided by appalling fielding from the tourists, Pakistan replied with 267 from 43.5 overs.

Opener Sharjeel Khan whacked out 74 from just 47 balls, but once he fell to recalled leg-spinner Adam Zampa Pakistan's fate was all but sealed.

Warner backed his form with the bat by doing what the Pakistanis couldn't and hanging onto two excellent catches.

After Australian captain Steve Smith won the toss, the home side took advantage of a placid wicket and the hapless Pakistan fielding.

Warner led the way but Pakistan did not help themselves, conceding a number of overthrows and dropped catches at crucial times.

He made 130, finishing with 11 fours and two sixes.

The left-hander was dropped on 113 when Hasan Ali grassed a simple chance at mid-off from spinner Imad Wasim.

Smith scored 49 off 48 balls but was let off when he had made just 10 when Sharjeel made a lazy one-handed attempt at gully from Junaid Khan's bowling.

Sharjeel also dropped Travis Head when he was on 28, again to the chagrin of the luckless Junaid. Head went on to make 58 off 36 balls.

And Hasan put down a difficult chance off Glenn Maxwell when he was on eight and the Australian went on to score 78.

Despite his two dropped catches Hasan

at least redeemed himself by taking five for 52, easily the best of the Pakistan bowlers.

Warner and Smith put on 120 for the second wicket to put Australia in a commanding position before Hasan removed both in the space of three balls to give the tourists some renewed hope.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** 353 for 6 in 50 overs (Khawaja 30, Warner 130, Smith 49, Head 51, Maxwell 78; Hasan 5-52)

**PAKISTAN:** 267 all out in 43.5 overs (Sharjeel 74, Babar 31, Hafeez 40, Malik 47, Imad 25; Hazlewood 3-54, Head 2-66, Zampa 3-55)

**Result:** Australia won by 86 runs and lead five-match series 3-1.

**Player-of-the-match:** David Warner.



Australia opener David Warner celebrates his century against Pakistan in the fourth ODI in Sydney yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Mathews powers SL

AFP, Johannesburg

Injured captain Angelo Mathews hit two sixes in the last over to hand Sri Lanka a series-leveling three-wicket win in the second Twenty20 against South Africa on Sunday.

But the win came at a cost. Mathews said at the after-match presentation that he could miss the rest of the tour after twisting his right ankle when he dived to avoid being run out in the penultimate over.

"It's pretty bad, I think I will be out for a couple of weeks," said Mathews, who made 54 not out as Sri Lanka chased down a low South African total of 113 with two balls to spare.

The third and final Twenty20 international will be played in Cape Town on Wednesday, followed by five one-day internationals, finishing on February 10.

On a dry, slow Wanderers pitch, South Africa were bowled out in 19.3 overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 113 all out in 19.3 overs (Kuhn 29, Behardien 27; Udana 3-13, Sandakan 4-23)

**SRI LANKA:** 119 for 7 in 19.4 overs (Chandimal 22, Mathews 54 not out; Ngidi 4-19)

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by 3 wickets and level 3-match series 1-1.

**Player-of-the-match:** Angelo Mathews.

## Sunny placed on remand for online threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh spinner Arafat Sunny was arrested from his Amin Bazar residence yesterday morning. A 23-year-old woman, who claimed to be Sunny's wife, accused the bowler of threatening her online and had filed a case against the bowler under the Information and Communication Act (ICT) earlier this month.

According to the case statement filed by Nasrin Sultana on January 5, 2017 at the Mohammadpur Police Station, Sunny threatened to reveal indecent photos of Nasrin on Facebook. Sunny, while speaking to the police, denied the allegations and said that they were all made up.

In the case statement Nasrin claimed to be in a relationship with Sunny for the last seven years and also said that the couple got married on December 4, 2014. However, according to Nasrin's statement, neither of the families knew about their wedding. Nasrin claimed that despite her repeated requests Sunny refused to take her home.

She also said on that on June 12, 2016, Sunny opened a fake Facebook account using his phone number and sent her indecent photos of herself on Facebook messenger and also threatened to reveal them. He reportedly did the same on November 25, 2016.

Upon primary investigation, police officials have said that they did find some of Nasrin's claims true. They believe that Sunny and Nasrin were in fact in a relationship. The police how-



Cricketer Arafat Sunny was placed on a one-day remand after being produced before the CMM Court yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ever, believe that there is still plenty of investigation to be done and that they would not be able to make any further comments.

Sunny's brother Rana Faysal, while speaking to The Daily Star, dismissed Nasrin's claims.

"She is trying to set him up. She has planned this for a long time," he said. Rana said that Sunny has been married since 2010 and has been living at his home with his wife. "The problem was that this girl [Nasrin] was always after Sunny. She came to the house one day and created a huge ruckus."

Sunny was placed on remand for

one day yesterday. During the remand hearing Nasrin's lawyer produced documents of Sunny and Nasrin's wedding.

This is not the first time that a criminal case has been filed against a Bangladesh cricketer. Right before the World Cup in 2015, Bangladesh pacer Rubel Hossain was accused of rape but was eventually acquitted.

More recently, a case was filed against former Bangladesh Test pacer Shahadat Hossain, who was accused of beating his house help. Shahadat too was found not guilty and was let go after a short period.