



New Zealand needed just two bowlers to take 10 England wickets as Trent Boult (R) bagged six and Tim Southee (C) took four to bundle the tourists out for 58 on the opening day of the day-night Test at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## T&T demolish England

AFP, Auckland

A humiliated England faced scathing criticism from 'embarrassed' coach Trevor Bayliss while New Zealand celebrated a performance 'beyond our wildest dreams' on the opening day of the first Test in Auckland on Thursday.

Bayliss said he was hurt by a scoreboard showing England all out for 58, inside the first session, and New Zealand 175 for three at stumps, ahead by 117 and with Kane Williamson not out 91.

"It was a very poor effort today, it just simply wasn't good enough," Bayliss said after England slumped to their sixth worst Test innings ever.

At one stage they threatened New Zealand's unwanted world Test record low of 26 before an unbeaten 33 by Craig Overton more than doubled their score in a last wicket stand with James Anderson.

"Embarrassed? Certainly, and I probably wasn't the only one in our change room. It's certainly not good enough."

New Zealand only needed two bowlers, Trent Boult who took six for 32, and Tim Southee, who took four for 25, in an innings that lasted just 20.4 overs.

"It was very enjoyable to get out there to get the ball swinging around," said Boult who finished with career-best figures.

### TRIVIA

**58** Sixth-lowest score for England in Tests - their lowest against New Zealand.

**20.4** This is the third-least overs England have batted in Tests since 1900 and is also the eighth-least number of overs that a team has faced since 1950.

**5** Players dismissed for a duck in the England innings - their joint-highest in Tests.

**15** Occasions in Tests in which a team required just two bowlers - Boult and Southee - to dismiss the opposition. The last time Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis dismissed Sri Lanka for 71 in 1994.

**4** Instances in which the tenth-wicket stand added more runs than all the other nine wickets put together. Craig Overton and James Anderson added 31 runs for the tenth wicket while the other nine aggregated 27.

ished with career-best figures.

"Probably not in our wildest dreams did we think we would win the toss and get them out in the first session.

"The main thing was trying to pitch the ball up, trying to get the ball moving as much as we could and giving it the best chance to swing.

"I don't think it swung that much. The cliché of it just doing enough is pretty much what happened."

Apart from Stuart Broad taking his 400th Test wicket it was a bleak day for the tourists, with Bayliss blaming their batting woes on "mistakes with our footwork".

But for New Zealand, Williamson commanded the Test from the moment he won the toss and opted to bowl.

He featured in the field with a superb diving catch in the gully to remove Broad, and ended the day closing in on a new record for New Zealand Test centuries. He currently shares the record of 17 centuries with Ross Taylor and the late Martin Crowe.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

**ENGLAND:** First innings 58 all out (Stoneman 11, Overton 33 not out; Boult 6-32, Southee 4-25)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 175 for 3 (Latham 26, Williamson 91 not out, Taylor 20, Nicholls 24 not out; Anderson 2-32)

## 'Ash should've been top of the charts'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board director and Abahani coach Khaled Mahmud was not overly impressed with disgraced former national captain Mohammad Ashraful's performance in the Dhaka Premier League this season. The Kalabagan Krira Chakra skipper, who returned to domestic cricket in late 2016 after serving out a ban for match-fixing in the Bangladesh Premier League, hit three centuries this season but could not save Kalabagan from the relegation playoffs.

"He is doubtless a very big player and Bangladesh's first superstar," Mahmud said during Abahani's practice session at the Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

"But even though he scored three centuries, he was not consistent.

"He should have been the top run-scorer in the league after three centuries, but that did not happen. Instead he is in 11th or 12th [11th] position. But even then, it is important that he is scoring runs after returning to the game after a long time."

Mahmud does have a point. 333 of Ashraful's 460 runs in the first phase came from his three century-plus innings. While his average after 11 games is a more than respectable 46, if his centuries are taken out of the equation his average comes down to 15.83 in the other eight games.

## Cummins stars after Elgar ton

AFP, Cape Town

Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins transformed the first day of the third Test against South Africa with a devastating four-wicket spell at Newlands on Thursday.

Despite an unbeaten 121 from Dean Elgar, South Africa were on a shaky 266 for eight at the close in a pivotal match in the bad-tempered four-Test series. The teams are locked at 1-1.

The hosts looked in command when they reached 220 for two,

with Elgar and AB de Villiers scoring at better than four runs an over in a third wicket stand of 128.

It all changed when Cummins came back into the attack in the 63rd over and with his fifth delivery induced a false shot from De Villiers, who drove him to mid-off after scoring 64.

It was the start of a superb spell in which Cummins took four wickets for 12 runs in eight overs to finish the day with four for 64.

Mitchell Marsh and Mitchell Starc followed up with two late wickets. When Keshav Maharaj drove Starc to cover, South Africa had lost six wickets for 37 runs - and lost control of the match on the best batting pitch of any

of the Tests South Africa have hosted against India and Australia this season.

Opening batsman Elgar had scored 106 when De Villiers was dismissed and batted with more fluency than usual.

He reached his century off 178 balls with 16 fours and a six but opted to go back on the defensive as wickets fell around him. By the close he had faced another 75 balls after reaching his hundred and only added one more boundary.

It was Elgar's 11th Test century and his second against Australia. On 61 he reached 3,000 runs in Tests.

Elgar and Hashim Amla (31) stabilised the innings with a second wicket partnership of 86 off 174 balls after Josh Hazlewood had Aiden Markram caught at second slip by Australian captain Steve Smith for nought.

Hazlewood struck again when Amla was caught at fine leg soon after lunch. He also had Elgar dropped at backward point by Nathan Lyon when the batsman was on 53 and four runs later hit Elgar on the helmet during a sustained spell of fast, short-pitched bowling.

De Villiers, the leading batsman in the series, looked comfortable from the start and made his 64 runs off 95 balls with ten fours.

Cummins then had both Faf du Plessis and Temba Bavuma caught at second slip by Smith for five and one respectively before Quinton de Kock got a bottom edge to an attempted pull and was caught behind for three.

Vernon Philander was caught behind off Mitchell Marsh before Maharaj fell to Starc.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 266 for 8 (Elgar 121 not out, Amla 31, De Villiers 64; Hazlewood 2-37, Cummins 4-64)



South African opener Dean Elgar celebrates his 11th century on the first day of the third Test against Australia at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'Youngsters' lack of consistency a concern'

SPORTS REPORTER



After their run to the T20I tri-nation Nidahas Trophy final in Sri Lanka this month, there is a feel-good factor surrounding the Bangladesh team that has not been there since the drawn Test series against Australia at home last September. However, with a cricket-packed lead-up to the 2019 World Cup after the current international break, Khaled Mahmud - the team manager in Sri Lanka - identified the inconsistency of the youngsters as a key area to improve upon for Bangladesh.

Their next assignment is a three-ODI series against Afghanistan in June, tentatively scheduled to take place in India. Mahmud, who is also a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director and head of the BCB's development committee, was asked if any new players may come in for the upcoming series.

"We haven't sat down and talked about the Afghanistan series," said Mahmud at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur where he was overseeing Dhaka Premier League side Abahani's training session in his capacity as coach. "Every series is going to be very challenging and teams will be formed keeping the 2019 World Cup in mind. It's not certain whether there will be any new faces. The team has done well in Sri Lanka, so those players will be there. If needed one or two players may come in."

Over the past two years, despite the emergence of players like Soumya Sarkar, Sabbir Rahman and Mustafizur Rahman, it is the big five of Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur

Rahim, Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad and ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who continue to be the major performers.

"We are very worried about this. [Interim head coach] Courtney Walsh will return in the next three or four days and then maybe we will sit down and chalk out a plan," said Mahmud. "There is no consistency at all among the youngsters. The juniors have not been able to perform the way the likes of Tamim, Mushfiqur and Riyad have been performing in the last few years. You asked about new players - we are not able to take new players. If Liton [Das], Soumya and Sabbir showed that kind of consistency then we could have rested one or two players; there is a lot of cricket ahead and that is a concern."

In that respect, Mahmud said that the two-month break from international cricket is a welcome one for the Tigers as they will have a lot of cricket coming up afterwards. "They will be practising. We want them to rest, but that will be active rest. Some days they will run, on others they will come to the gym."

Another area of concern is that Bangladesh are without a head coach since Chandika Hathurusingha stepped down in November last year. Mahmud could not say one way or another whether BCB president Nazmul Hassan's declaration of a coach by April will come to fruition, but opined that current interim coach Walsh is good enough to do the job full time.

"Courtney is a superb human being and an honest man. He also has 40 years of cricketing experience. He is like a father figure and everyone in the team likes him. Everything considered, he was fantastic in the last series."



Abahani coach Khaled Mahmud talks to his charges during a training session at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## UAE put Zim on the brink of exit

*Afghanistan face Ireland in winner-takes-all game today*

STAR SPORTS DESK



UAE put Zimbabwe on the brink of elimination from the World Cup Qualifiers when they pulled off a sensational three-run (D/L method) win at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

Set a revised target of 230 in 40 overs in the rain-interrupted game, Zimbabwe required 15 runs from the final over, but they could manage just 11 runs, handing UAE their first win in the Super Sixes.

The defeat left today's Afghanistan-Ireland game as a winner-takes-all affair. The winner will join West Indies in next year's World Cup. A tie or no result, which is very unlikely, can only revive Zimbabwe's hopes.

It was fantastic win for the UAE lightweights against the one of the pre-tournament favourites. They posted a fighting 235 for seven in 47.4 overs before rain intervened. Rameed Shazad scored a fine 59 and wicketkeeper-batsman Ghulam Shabbar struck 40 before Mohammed Naveed hit a quick-fire 22 off 10 balls.

The right-arm pace bowler struck early in the Zimbabwe chase, dismissing both the openers cheaply. He then returned in the death over to finish with three for 40. He also bowled the last over to famously win the game for the desert Kingdom.

Sean Williams struck a fabulous 80 but did not find support at the other end. Zimbabwe's hopes of a turnaround were effectively dashed when Rohan Mostafa dismissed both Willimas and Sikandar Raza (34) in quick succession.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

**UAE:** 235 for 7 in 47.5 overs (Mustafa 31, Shabbar 40, Shahzad 59, Shaiman 33, Naveed 22 not out; Chatara 2-49, Raza 3-41)

**ZIMBABWE:** 226 for 7 in 40 overs (Moor 39, Williams 80, Raza 34, Irvine 22 not out; Naveed 3-40, Mustafa 2-56)

**Result:** UAE won by 3 runs (D/L method)

**Player-of-the-match:** Mohammad Naveed.



NAVEED... p-o-m

## No Indian League for Sabina, Rani

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team members Sabina Khatun and Krishna Rani Sarker will be unable to play in the Indian Women's Football League as the Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday refused to provide them with visas due to a shortage of information.

Sethu FC of Tamil Nadu roped in Sabina and Krishna to play for their side in the seven-team Indian Women's League, which is scheduled to get underway from March 25.

"The Indian Embassy in Dhaka expressed their inability to provide visas to Sabina and Krishna citing that the Indian foreign ministry [Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India] did not mention the name of the football tournament in the documents, so they have to act according to regulations," said Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag yesterday.

"We have informed Sethu FC that the papers they gave the BFF were not good enough to get the Indian visas. If the club provides further documents with proper information, then they will try again for visa," said Shohag, adding that there was a slim chance for Sabina and Krishna to participate in the Indian Women's League which will start on March 25.