

# SPORT



South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada sent Australia opener David Warner's off-stump cart-wheeling, ending an exciting duel between the star performers on the second day of the third Test in Newlands yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Morkel, Rabada hound Australia

AFP, Cape Town

Fast bowler Morne Morkel took his 300th Test wicket as South Africa bowled themselves into a strong position on the second day of the third Test against Australia at Newlands on Friday. Australia were 245 for nine when bad light ended play, 66 runs behind South Africa's first innings total of 311. Australia were in deep trouble at 175 for eight before Nathan Lyon hit a Test-best 47 in a ninth wicket partnership of 66 with Tim Paine, who was unbeaten on 33.

Morkel, who will retire from international cricket after the series, took three of the first four Australian wickets to fall and became the fifth South African to join the 300 club. He dismissed Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith in his first spell, then came back to break a 78-run fourth wicket stand between Cameron Bancroft and Shaun Marsh when Marsh flashed at a wide ball and was caught behind.

Morkel, 33, playing in his 85th Test, took a fourth wicket when Lyon's adventurous 38-ball innings was ended by a catch by Dean Elgar running back from point.

Earlier, Kagiso Rabada was hit for five boundaries in a row by David Warner but won a duel with the Australian opening batsman when he sent Warner's off stump cartwheeling.

Warner was bowled for 30. He hit three fours off the last three balls of Rabada's second over, then hooked the first ball of Rabada's next over for six.

He sliced a no-ball for four, then was bowled by a ball which went between bat and pad with Warner stuck on his crease.

Rabada, who had a two-match ban for making contact with Australian captain Steve Smith overturned before the Test, ran down the wicket to celebrate but did not go near the batsman.

**AUSTRALIA LODGE OFFICIAL COMPLAINT AGAINST FANS**  
Australia laid an official complaint over what

coach Darren Lehmann labelled "disgraceful" behaviour by spectators.

"You are talking about abuse of various players and their families and personal abuse," said Lehmann.

The principal target was Australian batsmen David Warner, who was approached by a spectator in the members' stand after he was dismissed, causing Warner to stop and turn as he climbed the steps to the dressing room.

The pair appeared to exchange heated words with unconfirmed reports saying the spectator was evicted from the ground.

Lehmann said Warner was not the only Australian player to face personal abuse.

"There have been various incidents throughout the Test series but this one has taken the cake," he said. "We have lodged an official complaint with South African cricket and we will see what happens."

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 311 (Elgar 141 not out, Amla 31, De Villiers 64, Rabada 22; Hazlewood 2-59, Lyon 2-43, Cummins 4-78)  
**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 245 for 9 (Bancroft 77, Warner 30; M Morkel 4-87, Rabada 3-81)



DESMOND HAYNES DEAN ELGAR

## Elgar equals world record

AFP, Cape Town

South African opening batsman Dean Elgar equalled a world record when he carried his bat through a completed innings for the third time as his team were bowled out for 311 on the second day of the third Test against Australia on Friday.

Elgar finished unbeaten on 141 -- only Desmond Haynes of the West Indies had previously batted unbeaten through a Test innings on three occasions.

Australian captain Steve Smith also equalled a world record when he caught South Africa's last two batsmen for a total of five catches in the innings, the joint most by a fielder.

Although ten other fielders shared the record, Smith was only the second Australian to achieve the feat after Vic Richardson in 1935/36.

Elgar batted for 434 minutes, faced 284 balls and hit 20 fours and a six.

A CLUB OF TWO					
The only two Test players to carry their bats thrice					
Desmond Haynes (WI)					
Score	Opp	Total	Venue	Date	
88*	Pak	211	Karachi	Nov 1986	
75*	Eng	176	The Oval	Aug 1991	
143*	Pak	382	Port of Spain	Apr 1993	
Dean Elgar (SA)					
Score	Opp	Total	Venue	Date	
118*	Eng	214	Durban	Dec 2015	
86*	Ind	177	Johannesburg	Jan 2018	
141*	Aus	311	Cape Town	Mar 2018	

### QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

**Suarez downs Czech Republic**  
Luis Suarez scored his 50th international goal as Uruguay cruised past the Czech Republic 2-0 on Friday to reach the final of the China Cup.

**Dybala, Icardi to be left out of WC squad?**  
The shining stars at two of Italy's biggest clubs, Inter Milan captain Mauro Icardi and Juventus star Paulo Dybala may not get a chance to represent Argentina at the World Cup, says coach Jorge Sampaoli.

**Son's hot-streak boosts case to be Asia's all-time best**  
South Korea's Son Heung-min is already staking a claim to be considered the greatest player Asia has ever produced.

**Hewitt slams Davis Cup shake-up as a 'money grab'**  
Australian Davis Cup captain Lleyton Hewitt slammed a proposed shake-up of the competition as a "money-grabbing" exercise.

## Williamson shines on rain-hit day

AFP, Auckland

Kane Williamson insisted that the late Martin Crowe remained New Zealand's best batsman of all time as he grabbed a national-record 18th Test century on a rain-hit day two against England on Friday.

Williamson's 102 provided the backbone of New Zealand's 229 for four at stumps which left England on the ropes on a wet and gloomy day when rain restricted play to 23.1 overs and only 54 runs were scored.

"I'd still rather be out there," Williamson said, when asked how he felt breaking the previous New Zealand record of 17 centuries which he shared with Ross Taylor and Crowe.

"I've never focussed too much on stats, it's always been about trying to do my best for the team. That's why today it was frustrating to not still be out there."

But the 27-year-old did take satisfaction from having New Zealand "in a fairly strong position" with a lead of 171 over England and six wickets in hand.

Williamson refused to accept comparisons between himself and Crowe, whom he rated as New Zealand's "best player, batsman certainly, of all time".

Williamson reached his milestone century with a deft single through the gully off James Anderson, the most successful of the England bowlers with three of the four wickets to fall.

After England's collapse to be all out for 58, Anderson said there was no post mortem, rather the focus switched to limiting the damage in the field.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**ENGLAND:** First innings 58  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 229 for 4 (Latham 26, Williamson 102, Taylor 20, Nicholls 49 not out; Anderson 3-53)



WILLIAMSON... 102

## 'More T20s will help us'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh T20I and Test captain Shakib Al Hasan has urged for more domestic T20 tournaments to improve skills for the shortest format of the game yesterday.

"Previously I heard that there will be a T20 tournament beside the Bangladesh Premier League comprising six clubs of the Dhaka leagues. If it happens I think it will help Bangladesh cricket improve in the shortest format of the game," Shakib, who will turn 31 today, told reporters on his pre-birthday celebration at his restaurant, Shakib's 75 Convention Centre, yesterday.

Shakib was unable to play a single game in the Dhaka Premier League as his side Mohammedan could not make it to the Super League.

In light of their heart-breaking last-ball defeat to India in the Nidahas Trophy final

on March 18 in Colombo, Shakib yesterday said that Bangladesh have improved a lot as a unit in the shortest format.

"We have proved after reaching the final of the Nidahas Trophy that Bangladesh can play in this format [T20I] as well and it's important for us to continue," he added.

**Tamim likely out of PSL and DPL**  
Meanwhile, Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal is suffering from knee pain and is now in Bangkok to consult with a specialist. He is expected to return to Bangladesh by the end of this month. Tamim did not come out to field during the final of the Nidahas Trophy, but the left-hander played a Pakistan Super League match for Peshawar Zalmi -- he did not field in that match -- before going to Bangkok. It is very unlikely that Tamim will participate in the final of the tournament scheduled on March 25 or take further part for Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the DPL.



Test and T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan walks off the field after training at the BCB Academy ground yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Afghanistan steal final WC spot

AFP, Harare

Skipper Asghar Stanikzai put a bout of appendicitis behind him to guide Afghanistan to a five-wicket victory over Ireland on Friday to qualify for next year's Cricket World Cup.

Afghanistan, after losing their opening three qualifying games, suffered a middle-order wobble that looked to have handed Ireland the advantage.

But Stanikzai, who received on-field treatment for dressings around his abdomen, hit an invaluable 39 not out off 29 balls to guide the Afghans to 213 for five in reply to Ireland's 209-7.

"I am in too much pain, but I was playing for the country," said Stanikzai. "It is our dream to qualify for the World Cup."

Afghanistan will join fellow qualifiers West Indies in the 10-team World Cup to be staged in England and Wales from May 30 to July 14, 2019, alongside defending champions Australia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, England, South Africa and New Zealand.

After Scotland and Zimbabwe had both suffered defeats in their concluding Super Six matches earlier in the week, Friday's game at the Harare Sports Club suddenly became a winner-takes-all clash.

Ireland won the toss and elected to bat with opener Paul Stirling making a top score of 55 and Kevin O'Brien hitting 41 in a modest total of 209-7 off their 50 overs.

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan finished with 3-40 to take his career tally to 99 ODI wickets.

In reply, burly opener Mohammad Shahzad clobbered 54 off 50 balls in an opening stand of 86 with Gulbadin Naib.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**IRELAND:** 209 for 7 in 50 overs (Porterfield 20, Stirling 55, N O'Brien 36, K O'Brien 41; Dawlat 2-54, Rashid 3-40)  
**AFGHANISTAN:** 213 for 5 in 49.1 overs (Shahzad 54, Naib 45, Shenwar 27, Stanikzai 39 not out; Simi 3-30)  
**Result:** Afghanistan won by 5 wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Mohammad Shahzad.



STANIKZAI... 39 n o

## Cream of the crop set for battle

SPORTS REPORTER



The excitement of the Dhaka Premier League will be ramped up as the top six clubs, with very little separating them in the points table, resume battle as the Super League gets underway from today.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur, table-toppers Abahani Limited have been clinical in the 12-team first and will hope to continue in that vein when they take on defending champions Gazi Group Cricketers, who scraped through to the Super League at the last moment after a disappointing start to the tournament.

Bangladesh ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has been instrumental behind Abahani's success during the league phase as the right-arm pacer sits top of the wicket-takers' list with 30 wickets in 11 games at a spectacular average of 13.26 and economy rate of 4.38.

His best figures of six for 44 came against Agrani Bank on March 6, when he bagged four wickets in four consecutive deliveries in the over of the tournament with the batting side required 13 runs off six balls.

Abahani's Nazmul Hossain struck a magnificent unbeaten 150 off just 120 balls in the last group stage game against Shinepukur Cricket Club to post a huge total of 335 for four and the left-hander will be oozing confidence alongside in-form openers Anamul Haque and Saif Hasan, while skipper Nasir Hossain also had some good outings with the bat.

"In the Super League stage each team will have to play five games where we are leading at the moment and we have to at least win four of those. I believe even if we are able to execute 80 per cent of our full effort we will be able to become champions," Abahani pacer Taskin Ahmed told reporters at the

Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

With eight wins in 11 games Abahani lead the table with 14 points while Gazi, with six wins, have 12 points.

Gazi will look to continue the momentum gained from the latter stage of the league after a disappointing start and Mominul Haque, who has just one fifty from 11 games, will have to step up. Young off-spinner Nayeem Hassan, on the other hand, has bowled well to pick up 20 wickets at an economy rate of 4.07 and will be a crucial weapon.

At the BKSP in Savar, Legends of Rugganj -- in second place with 14 points -- will take on fifth-placed Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club who have 12 points.

Rugganj's batsmen are in terrific form. Opener Abdul Mazid is the top scorer among Bangladeshi players with 536 runs in 11 games at an average of 53.60, a tally exceeded only by Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity's Indian recruit Ashok Menaria, who has 570 runs.

Rugganj skipper, the experienced Nayeem Islam, stands in third position with 529 runs. Tigers' wicket-keeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim's inclusion will also help Rugganj's fight for the championship.

Sheikh Jamal will bank on the experienced spin bowling department with the likes of Tanbir Hayder, Elias Sunny, Sohag Gazi and Nazmul Islam expected to play a crucial role. Opener Shykat Ali and skipper Nurul Hasan will have to take responsibility with the bat.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, the surprise package of the ongoing DPL -- Khelaghar on 14 points -- will once more look to surprise. They will look to their in-form Indian recruit Menaria, as well as opener Robiul Islam, against Forhad Reza's Prime Dowleshwar Sporting Club, who are a point behind on 13.



Abahani pacers Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) and Taskin Ahmed prepare for practice at the BCB Academy ground yesterday ahead of today's DPL Super League fixture against Gazi Group Cricketers.

PHOTO: STAR