

# India's first Day/Night Test set to roll out at Eden

BCB has confirmed and we are having a pink-ball game; it's a good development: Ganguly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA/DHAKA

The Indian cricket team will play its first-ever Day/Night Test match here against Bangladesh next month, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly told PTI on Tuesday, taking a path-breaking decision within a week into his nine-month tenure.

The Test is scheduled to be held at the Eden Gardens from November 22-26 and will be the second game of a two-match series.

**Speculation ends**

The development ended days of speculation after Ganguly first proposed the idea to the Bangladesh Cricket Board, which faced resistance from its players and sat for multiple meetings to convince them.

"The BCB has confirmed and we are having a pink-ball Test. It's a good development. Test cricket needs this push. Me and my team were bent on it and thanks to Virat (Kohli) also, he agreed," Ganguly said.

"It's just my job, that's what I'm here for... Because I've played this game for so long. It's great. I think common sense is important. And I think it's a great move for



**History beckons:** Come November 22, Eden Gardens will add a fresh chapter to the annals of Indian cricket. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Test cricket and hopefully it will bring back crowds to the ground," Ganguly said just after the landmark development.

**Exploring new avenues**

Bangladesh's South African coach Russell Domingo conceded in Dhaka that there are concerns about how the

match will pan out but the team has decided to accept the change and explore new avenues. The match will start at 2 p.m. (IST) and will comprise a tea and dinner break.

"We think it's a great opportunity. I don't think India has played a pink-ball Test before. It's a massive occasion at the Eden Gardens against

one of the best teams in the world," Domingo said.

**Same for both teams**

"We are looking forward to that challenge. There are some challenges as we will not have a lot of time to prepare but it's same for India. I don't think they have had a day/night Test match. So it

will be same for both teams," he added.

It was Ganguly who was instrumental in organising the first-ever pink-ball match in India although it was a Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Super League final between Mohun Bagan and Bhowanipore under lights in June, 2016. Ganguly headed

the CAB at the time.

Two players, who played that match – Wriddhiman Saha and Mohammed Shami – are expected to play the Test.

The BCCI had introduced the pink ball in Duleep Trophy that same year and it continued for three seasons before the Board scrapped it this year due to lack of broadcast coverage.

Mayank Agarwal, R. Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav and Ishant Sharma have also played pink-ball Duleep games among the current India players.

The spinners have expressed concerns about the dew factor which, they believe, puts them out of equation.

**Ganguly's assurance**

Ganguly, however, assured that conditions won't be a problem. "We will sort this out and there would be no dew. We have day/night one-dayers after all and dew spray is used," he said.

There are plans to invite India's legendary Olympians like Abhinav Bindra, M.C. Mary Kom and P.V. Sindhu and felicitate them for their contribution to the country's Olympic movement during the match.

## Hasina accepts invitation to watch Kolkata Test

SUVOJIT BAGCHI  
KOLKATA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the Test match between Bangladesh and India in Kolkata's Eden Gardens. Hasina confirmed in Dhaka in a press interaction on Tuesday that she has received the invitation from Sourav Ganguly and will reach Kolkata to watch the match. The second Test between the two countries will commence on November 22.

"Sourav has invited me. [He] Called me after he became the board president... a Bengali and was once a famous cricketer, so I told him I will go to Kolkata to watch the match," she said in Dhaka on Tuesday. She indicated that her visit has nothing to do with politics.

According to the CAB sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not expected to visit Kolkata to watch the match. However, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has also invited



Sheikh Hasina. ■ PTI

Modi.

**First time**

"The Prime Minister will take a 7 a.m. flight to Kolkata, inaugurate the match and return to Dhaka on the same evening," said Ihsanul Karim, press secretary to the Prime Minister. Karim said that this is for the first time that Hasina will watch a match at Eden Gardens.

"She likes Sourav a lot and as the invite came from him, the Prime Minister decided to inaugurate the match," Karim told *The Hindu*.

The CAB has also invited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

## Netherlands secures T20 WC spot

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

The Netherlands became the third team, after Papua New Guinea and Ireland, to book a place at next year's T20 World Cup after thrashing the United Arab Emirates in Dubai on Tuesday.

The Netherlands, which faces Ireland in the semi-finals, won by eight wickets to progress to the eight-team first round of the World Cup to be held in Australia in October 2020.

## Struff stuns Khachanov



Jan-Lennard Struff. ■ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

Karen Khachanov's Paris Masters title defence ended at the first hurdle on Tuesday as the Russian fell 7-6(5), 3-6, 7-5 to German Jan-Lennard Struff.

Khachanov beat four top-10 players, including Novak Djokovic in the final, to win the 2018 tournament, but was knocked out after an indifferent second-round display this time around.

The loss ends the World No. 8's slim hopes of qualifying for next month's ATP Tour Finals in London.

**The results:**

**Second round:** Jan-Lennard Struff bt Karen Khachanov 7-6(5), 3-6, 7-5; Radu Albot bt Andreas Seppi 7-6(5), 7-6(6).

**First round:** Kyle Edmund bt Ricardas Berankis 6-4, 6-3; Corentin Moutet bt Dusan Lajovic 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Alex de Minaur bt Laslo Djere 6-1, 6-4; Taylor Fritz bt Frances Tiafoe 7-6(6), 3-6, 6-4; Jeremy Chardy bt Sam Querrey 5-7, 6-3, 7-5; Cristian Garin bt Pablo Cuevas 6-4, 6-3.

Milos Raonic bt Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-2; Fernando Verdasco bt Borna Coric 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Benoit Paire bt Damir Dzumhur 7-5, 6-4; Albot bt Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 6-2; Struff bt Yoshihito Nishikita 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; Jo-Wilfried Tsonga bt Andrey Rublev 4-6, 7-5, 6-4; Marin Cilic bt Hubert Hurkacz 7-6(5), 6-4; Adrian Mannarino bt Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-2.

## ICC suspends Shakib for two years

Sanctioned for failing to report approaches by a bookie



Shakib Al Hasan...in the dock ■ REUTERS

■ Twelve months of that ban is a suspended sentence which will come into effect if Shakib fails to comply with the anti-corruption code of the world body

**I am obviously extremely sad to have been banned from the game I love, but I completely accept my sanction for not reporting the approaches**

Shakib Al Hasan in numbers										Shakib, who escaped the maximum punishment of five years for the offence, will not have the right to appeal as he accepted the ICC's investigation and charges
BATTING	Mat	I	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	S/R	100/50		
Tests	56	105	7	3,862	217	39.40	62.05	5/24		
ODIs	206	194	27	6,323	134*	37.86	82.75	9/47		
T20Is	76	76	10	1,567	84	23.74	123.77	0/9		
BOWLING	Mat	I	Runs	W	BB	Avg	Econ.	5w		
Tests	56	95	6,537	210	7/36	31.12	3.01	18		
ODIs	206	203	7,857	260	5/29	30.21	4.48	2		
T20Is	76	75	1,894	92	5/20	20.58	6.81	1		

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA

Bangladesh captain and star allrounder Shakib Al Hasan was on Tuesday handed a two-year suspension by the ICC for failing to report three corrupt approaches, including one at the IPL, by a suspected Indian bookie, ousting him from the upcoming tour of India.

Twelve months of that ban is a suspended sentence which will come into effect if Shakib fails to comply with the anti-corruption code of the world body.

The one-year ban that he has to serve will keep him out of next year's Indian Premier League (IPL) and also the World T20 to be held in Australia from October 18 to November 15 the same year.

**Regret**

"I am obviously extremely sad to have been banned

from the game I love, but I completely accept my sanction for not reporting the approaches. The ICC ACU is reliant on players to play a central part in the fight against corruption and I didn't do my duty in this instance," Shakib said in a media release given by the ICC.

**Mominul to lead in Tests**

In his absence, Mominul Haque will lead the team in Tests, while Mahmudullah will be the skipper in the three T20 Internationals.

Shakib was spoken to by the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit in January and August this year and he failed to report the approaches made to him by "an individual known to the ACU and suspected of involvement in corruption in cricket, Deepak Aggarwal."

Shakib recently spearheaded a players' strike be-

fore calling it off after the BCB assured that their demands, will be fulfilled. The ICC said while Shakib's voluntary admission, cooperation during interviews worked in his favour, the fact that he failed to report advances made over months was an "aggravating" factor.

**The squads:**

**T20Is:** Mahmudullah (Capt.), Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Mohammad Naim, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Aminul Islam, Arafat Sunny, Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shafuul Islam, Mohammad Mithun, Tajjul Islam and Abu Hider.

**Tests:** Shadman Islam, Imrul Kayes, Saif Hassan, Mominul Haque (Capt.), Liton Das, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah, Mohammad Mithun, Mosaddek Hossain, Mehidy Hasan, Tajjul Islam, Nayem Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Al-Amin Hossain, Abu Jayed and Ebadat Hossain.

## NCA needs a shake-up, and the two old friends can give it one



**BETWEEN WICKETS**  
SURESH MENON

If India's National Cricket Academy could talk, it would have said in the year 2000 when it was set up, "When I grow up I want to become like the Australian Cricket Academy." That was the plan of the Board of Control for Cricket in India – a finishing school for young cricketers and a refresher for mature players who find technical snags creeping into their game.

**Running joke**

The ACA was later renamed the Centre of Excellence, and the NCA a hospice for injured players. The former was an official change of name, the latter merely a running joke among some players. In recent years, rehabilitation was much criticised, as in the case of wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha who missed tours either because he had a thumb injury or a shoulder injury – clarity was not an NCA speciality.

This lack of clarity has been a part of the NCA's mission too – despite some top players having been either chairmen or directors – and is what Rahul Dravid inherited when he took over a few months ago. The NCA had produced, or put the finishing touches to some fine India players, but it has failed to live down its botched injury-management system. The NCA deserves better, and the BCCI's renewed interest in its future is welcome.

On Wednesday, when the BCCI team arrives in Bengaluru to speak to Dravid (why the entire team is not relevant here), it will be, in reality, a meeting between two old friends who made their Test debut together. Sourav Ganguly and Dravid will discuss the future of the NCA, and by extension, Indian cricket. And hopefully set in motion the rehabilitation of the rehabilitation centre. Even if no major announcements are made, a statement of intent would be a good start.



**Joining hands:** Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly teaming up again augurs well for cricket in the country. ■ FILE PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIAM

The NCA, like the BCCI itself, has needed a shake-up, and in the two leading cricketers of the golden era of Indian cricket, when they first became the No. 1 team in the world, won the World Cup in two formats, and produced some of the finest players, India seem to have the right men for the job.

This is a young administration, and if the Ganguly-Dravid meeting is a harbinger, then it is possible their colleagues of that era, will have another opportunity to do off the field what they did so well on it. A coming together of Anil Kumble, V.V.S. Laxman, Jagavallabhi Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Venkatesh Prasad, Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, and M.S. Dhoni (when he officially retires) is a mouth-watering prospect. These are men of spirit and experience who have other career choices right now, but could be persuaded to join Ganguly and Dravid in their mission. Some have administrative experience already, others are fine coaches, and all have credibility. Cricketers who have the good of the game at heart can upset the best-laid plans of politicians.

The NCA is set to shift from the Chinnaswamy Stadium to its new home some 20 minutes from the airport. Forty acres of land have been acquired and if the BCCI's recent lethargy is replaced by the necessary bustle, we should soon have a modern training facility with accommodation areas, indoor nets, range of wickets and a technological marvel.

The cricketer largely responsible for

the acquisition, former KSCA president Sanjay Desai knows his cricket and his administration, and would be the ideal man to handle the project during his cooling-off period. Indian cricket needs to make use of the varying skills of its own.

Ganguly has less than a year to set things in motion in the areas he wants to focus on. Having the right men in the right place is the essence of management, and Ganguly has a good set to pick from.

When Kumble quit after a brief run as NCA chairman some years ago, he said, "I had a three-year plan in place, but my ideas did not align with the rest of the NCA committee. I didn't want to be a figurehead." If the NCA needs a revamping, then Dravid and Ganguly have the power and the responsibility, apart from the ability to do it.

**Importance of logic**

Committees must necessarily have dissenting voices, but an opposing point of view must be presented with logic and come from a place of understanding. This has not always been the case, and has led to many projects being still-born.

Not wanting to be a figurehead is an important quality. Ganguly does not want to be one, nor does Dravid. This is the essential difference between those who put their hands up to do a job and those who are in it for the wrong reasons.

## Jamshedpur FC continues its winning run on home turf



**Off the mark:** Jamshedpur players celebrate after the opening goal against Hyderabad. ■ PTI

**ISL**  
AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
JAMSHEDPUR

Jamshedpur FC kept its winning momentum at home intact when it downed Hyderabad FC 3-1 at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Tuesday. Farukh Choudhary, Aniket Jadhav and Sergio Castel found the target for the host while Marcelinho scored the lone goal for the visitors.

The first half ended with honours even as the host conceded an equaliser in the last minute. Jamshedpur took control of the action early in the match with its

Spanish trio of Aitor Monroy, Francisco Medina (Piti) and Castel showing good coordination in the zone.

**First opening**

The host found the first opening in the 10th minute when Mobashir Rehman set a long through-pass to find Farukh Choudhary. But the latter failed to convert the opportunity on an one-on-one situation with Hyderabad goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh, who blocked Choudhary's attempt.

With the Jamshedpur midfield keeping goal-bound supplies at regular intervals, the Indian striker showed

that he is a quick learner when he found the net off the third chance in the 34th minute.

Castel created the move after making a nice interception and released Piti on top of the box. The latter's attempt was saved by Kamaljeet. However, Farukh was in the right position to avail the clearance and quickly sent the ball past the goalkeeper.

Hyderabad found the equaliser at the stroke of half-time when its Brazilian striker Marcelinho came up with a solo effort.

Jamshedpur returned with a greater resolve after the break and regained the

lead through young Aniket Jadhav in the 62nd minute. Coming in as substitute in the 58th minute, the under-17 World Cup campaigner for India finished with a sharp left-footer, on a Farukh assist, to score his first ISL goal.

Keeping up the tempo, Castel got one in his own name in the 75th minute to complete an impressive scoreline for Jamshedpur, which won its second successive match at home.

**The result:** Jamshedpur FC 3 (Farukh Choudhary 34, Aniket Jadhav 62, Sergio Castel 75) bt Hyderabad FC 1 (Marcelinho 45).