

Star SPORT

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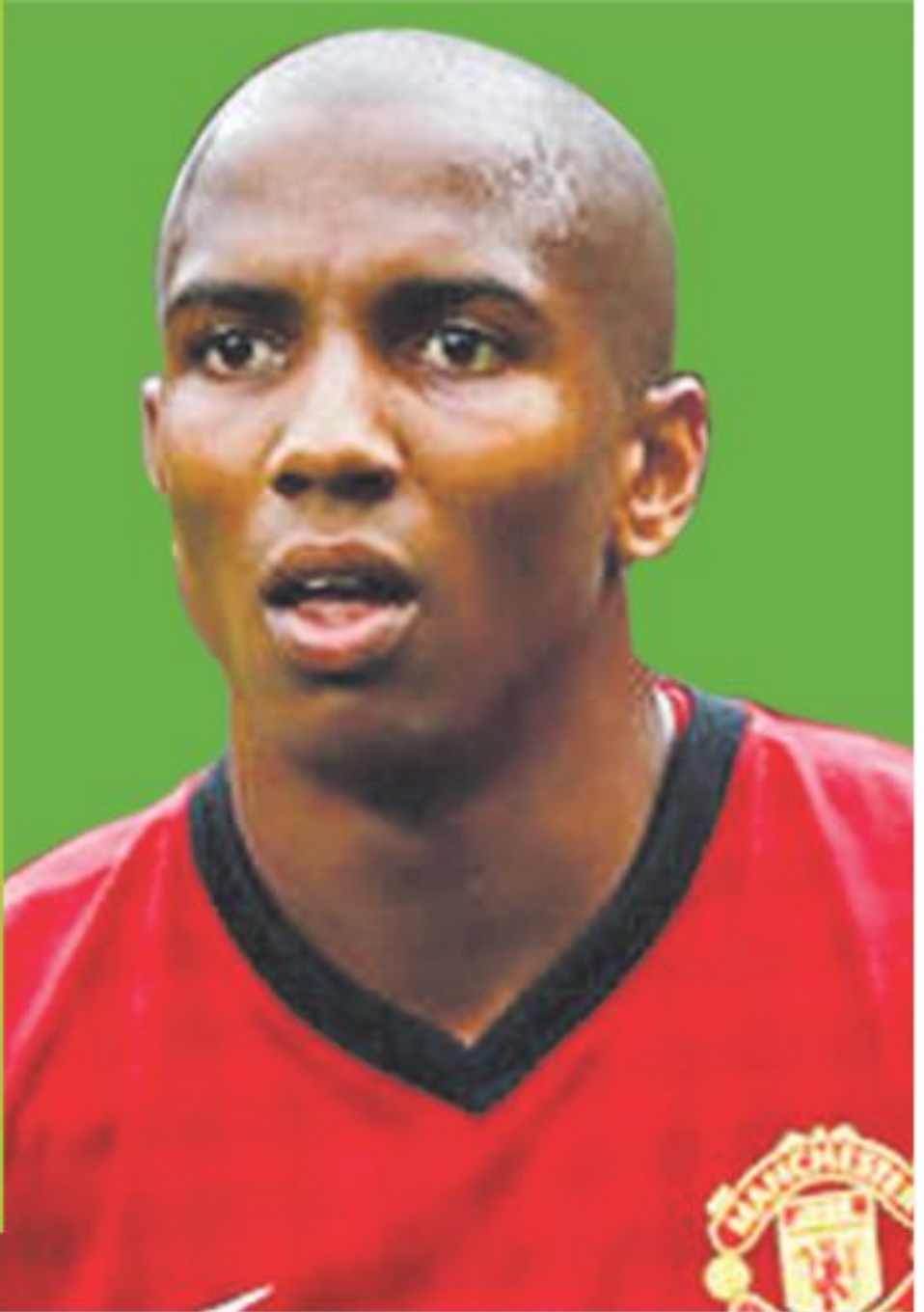
Young out for rest of season

Manchester United winger Ashley Young will miss the rest of the season with an ankle injury, manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

The England international picked up the problem in this month's 2-1 defeat by Manchester City and attended Wednesday's 2-2 draw at West Ham United on crutches.

"Ashley is out for the season," Ferguson, whose side can secure the Premier League title on Monday if they beat Aston Villa and second-placed Manchester City lose at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, told MUTV.

- REUTERS



Mahmudullah Riyad finds his castle uprooted as he hung his bat lazily at a delivery from Keegan Meth during the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Zimbabwe in charge as wickets tumble



SAKEB SUBHAN *from Harare*

After two days of sedate cricket, the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club was as high-octane as it gets. 16 wickets fell for 226 runs as Bangladesh collapsed appallingly from an overnight score of 95 for one to 134 all out, before Robiul Islam did his brilliant best to cover up for his batting colleagues' failings taking six wickets in Zimbabwe's second innings of 187 for seven.

Zimbabwe now lead by 442 runs with skipper and first innings centurion Brendan Taylor still at the crease on a dazzling 81.

With a huge first innings lead of 255, Taylor decided against enforcing the follow-on. It was a decision of questionable wisdom as his bowlers, after just a session of bowling, were still fresh and also had all the momentum as the last five Bangladesh wickets fell without any addition to the

score. Instead, he invited Bangladesh to bowl with their fast bowlers' tails up and a charged up fielding outfit after an embarrassing batting debacle.

The result was Robiul, in a seminal opening spell that combined seam and swing movement with pinpoint accuracy, running amok as he snared the first six wickets to fall to leave Zimbabwe teetering at 84 for six. Robiul finished the day with six for 55, the best innings figures by a Bangladesh bowler in Zimbabwe, and nine for 139 in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Robiul Islam is the first Bangladeshi to take the first six wickets in an innings for Bangladesh. No one else had taken the first five before.

Bangladesh are the fourth team to lose five wickets on the same total in Tests.

Bangladesh's 134 is their lowest Test score in Zimbabwe.

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BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First innings 389 all out (Taylor 171, Waller 55, Cremer 42; Robiul 3-84, Enamul 3-133).
BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 95 for 1)
Jahurul lbw b Meth 43
Nafees c Maruma b Jarvis 29
Ashraful c Waller b Masakadza 38
Mahmudullah b Meth 3
Shakib c Sibanda b Masakadza 5
Mushfiqur lbw b Masakadza 3
Nasir c Mutumbami b Jarvis 7
Shohag c Waller b Masakadza 0
Enamul b Jarvis 0
Rubel b Jarvis 0
Robiul not out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, wd-1) 6
Total: (All out in 54.1 overs) 134
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-102, 3-112, 4-123, 5-124, 6-134, 7-134, 8-134, 9-134.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jarvis	16	8	40	4
Meth	20	6	41	2
Masakadza	14.1	4	32	4
Chigumbura	3	0	16	0
Cremer	1	1	0	0

ZIMBABWE: Second innings
Maruma lbw b Robiul 10
Sibanda b Robiul 4
Masakadza c & b Robiul 0
Taylor not out 81
Waller c Nasir b Robiul 4
Chigumbura c Nasir b Robiul 27
Mutumbami lbw b Robiul 0
Cremer run out 43
Meth not out 13
Extras: (lb-2, w-2, nb-1) 5
Total: (For 7 wks in 56 overs) 187
To bat: Masakadza, Jarvis.
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-9, 3-16, 4-27, 5-84, 6-84, 7-163.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Robiul	17	1	55	6
Rubel	6	0	31	0
Shakib	9	2	22	0
Enamul	11	2	34	0
Shohag	9	0	24	0
Mahmudullah	4	2	19	0

Nine for 39



SAKEB SUBHAN *from Harare*

Nine wickets for 39 runs; the last five for 0. No matter how one may choose to elaborate on that bare statistic, the numbers tell the story in its fullness. Were there any redeeming factors, any gross umpiring injustices that could reduce the batsmen's culpability on the third day? Well, skipper Mushfiqur Rahim may feel aggrieved with his leg-before decision, but he was still beaten by movement and one umpiring error out of ten is not far short of par for the course.

Did the pitch sprout spitting cobras overnight? It did not seem much different from the evening before when the Tigers scored 95 for one in 25 overs. The only visible difference was that the four-pronged Zimbabwe pace attack, unlike on the previous evening, put their best foot forward on the third morning. The procession of Bangladesh batsmen was down to a combination of nothing more than disciplined bowling, the Tigers' technical deficiency against the moving, bouncing ball and an unwillingness to adapt to the changing match situation.

While Kyle Jarvis is a class act, Shinghai Masakadza, debutant Meth and Elton Chigumbura are honest triers and what the four did yesterday was hit a length and line -- short of length outside off allowing the seam and swing to do the damage -- that saw the Bangladesh batsmen struggling. The whole stadium knew that the Zimbabwe bowlers had hit their stride on the third morning, but the Bangladesh batsmen seemed not to have gotten the memo.

Mahmudullah Riyad's dismissal, after Jahurul's luck ran out with a leg-before decision that could have gone either way, was a legacy of one-day cricket. Meth bowled a short delivery outside off, and as if triggered by muscle memory Riyad hung his bat out. The ball moved away a touch and took the under edge of the vice-captain's bat before cannoning onto the stumps.

In this match, a batting master-class was put on by Brendan Taylor, and his innings was more notable for the amount of balls that he left alone than the flashy shots he played. Shakib Al Hasan seemed to be looking to smother the swing of the medium pacers by skipping down the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Robiul shines on bleak day



SPORTS REPORTER *from Harare*

With Zimbabwe amassing a lead of 442 with three wickets in hand at stumps in the second innings, the third day of the first Test was a dark one for Bangladesh. It is rendered darker still by the fact that the Tigers, on a pitch that hardly warranted a collapse, lost nine wickets for 37 runs on the third morning. But the response to such crippling failure cannot be faulted, and all of the credit goes to Robiul Islam, who finished the day with six for 55 and provided Bangladesh a sliver of hope.

In the process he notched the best innings and match figures (nine for 139)

The man is shy and reserved -- and that he had to come to the post-day press conference as the only Bangladeshi to have escaped the day with flying colours -- seemed to him to be a scarier proposition than the any shot that bogeyman Brendan Taylor could play.

Robiul however expected his five-for in the first innings. "When I bowled in the first innings, I should have gotten five wickets because then the wicket was more helpful. Otherwise, I feel good to have taken my first five-wicket haul," said Robiul.

Any positive feeling must be tempered by the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

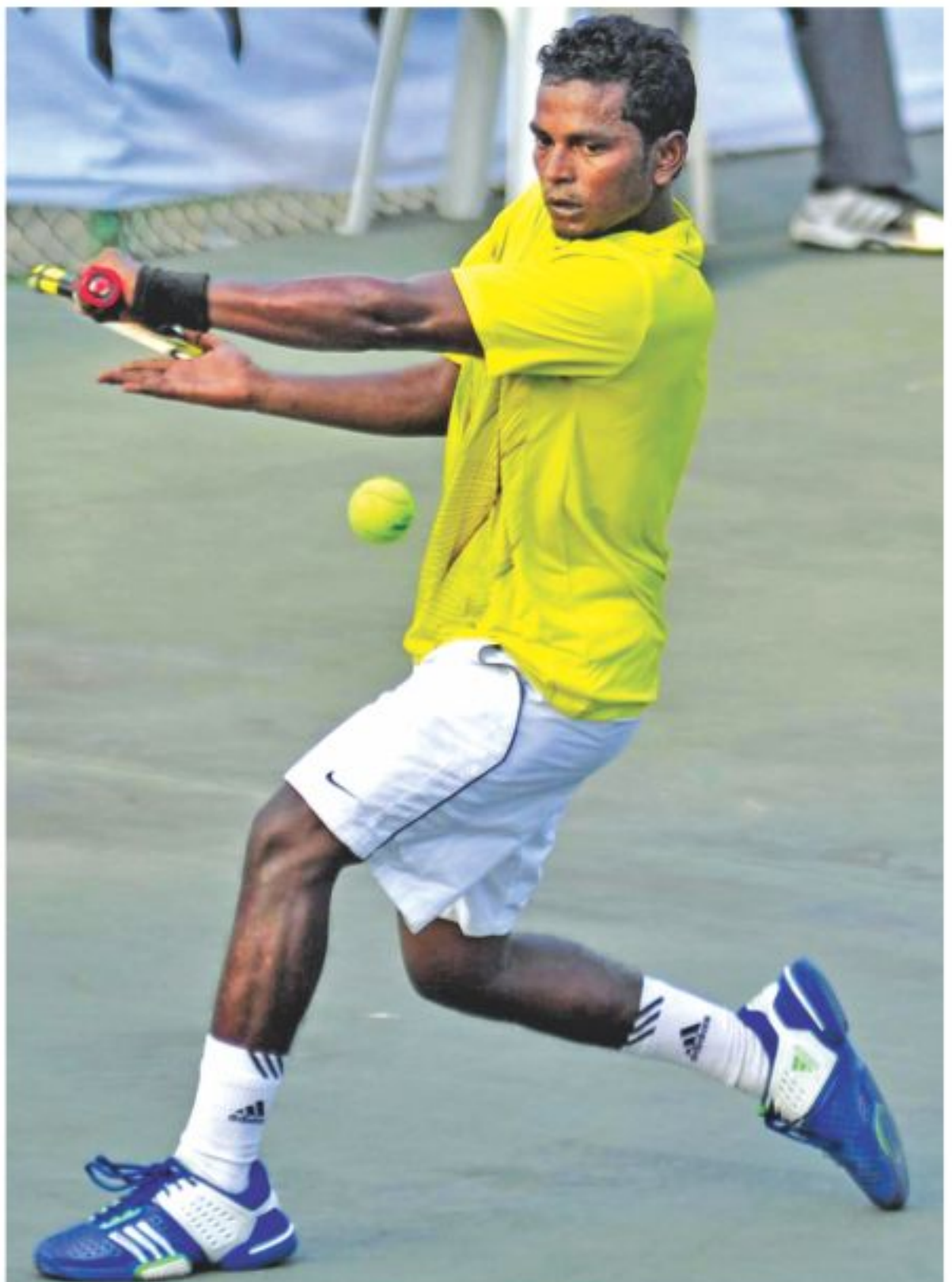


PHOTO: STAR

Amol Roy plays a backhand return during his singles final against Alamgir Hossain at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Amol won the first two gold medals of the Bangladesh Games as he won both the singles and doubles finals.



Former national swimmer Laila Noor (R) receives the Bangladesh Games torch from State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker at the National Martyrs Mausoleum in Savar yesterday. The torch will be relayed to the Bangabandhu National Stadium today for the opening ceremony of the Games.

PHOTO: STAR

It begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The curtain will rise on the 8th Bangladesh Games today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium through a gala opening ceremony where the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will officially declare the Tk 21.72-crore meet open.

Fireworks, a thematic cultural show, the lighting of the torch and march-past of the athletes will be the special features of the Tk 8-crore opening ceremony. Bangladesh Television will telecast the ceremony live from the venue from 4pm.

The eighth edition of the country's biggest sports extravaganza will see seven thousand athletes from 31 disciplines fight for 346 gold, 346 silver and 477 bronze medals at 27 separate venues for nine days.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), the responsible body for holding the Bangladesh Games once in four years, has taken all the steps to make the Games a success as it is being held 11 years after the 7th edition, which was held in 2002.

"From our side, there has been no lack of efforts as all steps have already been taken to make it a success. We are ready to stage our biggest domestic show," said BOA vice president and steering committee chairman Harunur Rashid on the eve of the official inauguration.

The Bangladesh Games started its journey in 1978 and the first two editions were named Olympic Championships before it was renamed as the Bangladesh Games in 1984.

This edition of the Games will feature six new disciplines as cricket, chess, rugby, fencing, archery and wushu have been added to the fray.

Though the new disciplines have been included to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

First gold to Amol, Henry

SPORTS REPORTER

The first gold of the 8th Bangladesh Games went to Amol Roy and Henry Prithul Mandal as the duo emerged champions in the men's doubles of tennis event with a straight 2-0 sets win over the Ranjan Ram and Mizanur Rahman pair in the final at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Amol of Engineers' Recreation Centre, pairing with Henry of Jafar Imam Tennis Complex of Rajshahi, won the match 6-2, 6-1 against Ranjan of National Tennis Complex and Mizanur of Gopalganj Tennis Club.

It was double delight for Amol, who also became the new champion in the men's singles after beating Alamgir Hossain of Nordic Club 6-0 and 6-1 in the final.

Before the start of both finals, Amol received some word of encouragement from his father as

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Tamim's fracture still not healed

SPORTS REPORTER *from Harare*

An ultrasonogram on the injured thumb of Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal, who is sitting out the first Test against Zimbabwe, yesterday revealed that there was still a slight fracture which means that Tamim's participation in the second Test remains uncertain.

The fracture that showed up on the report, according to sources close to the team, is nothing unexpected at this stage of recovery. The next five or

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2