







Sri Lanka have not only batted Bangladesh out in the opening Test at Chittagong, their ground fielding was also very sharp. Here Kusal Mendis clings on to a tumbling catch at silly point to dismiss Mushfiqur Rahim (R) in the final over of the fourth day yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Lanka hum a winning tune

SPORTS REPORTER



Sri Lanka finished the fourth day's play in Chittagong in a position from which they have every right to sing a 'winning' song in the first Test. And Sri Lanka wicketkeeper-batsman Niroshan Dickwella hummed that tune as he was expressing the visitors' views to the media after the end of the fourth day's play, having seen his side reach an excellent position by taking three wickets in the second innings.

"We have a pretty good chance to win the Test. It is a pretty good wicket. It is all turning from the rough and outside the stumps. We are hoping to start the fifth day well. We are bowling in good areas, line and length," Dickwella reflected on the possible outcome on the fifth day.

He also gave some notes on the Bangladesh batsmen's wrong approach.

"They [the Bangladesh batsmen] went into a negative position to save their wickets and defended the balls. I don't think that is the way to bat on this wicket. The ball is turning from the rough. I think a positive approach is the best way to play on this wicket," said the left-hander, who first enlivened the fourth afternoon with his aggression during a 61-ball 62 before the bowlers stole the show for visitors.

His sweeps were a delight to watch during the knock and perhaps the batsman thought so too, saying: "I have been playing to my strengths which were sweeps and reverse sweeps."

However, Dickwella most enjoyed the batting of his teammates like Kusal Mendis (196) and Dhananjaya de Silva (173) from the dressing room.

"We would like to stay in the dressing room and watch our teammates bat for two days. It has been a great two days for us. We enjoyed watching our friends batting. I am glad to have made some runs at the end of the innings. Especially, Kusal Mendis and Dhananjaya had an amazing approach," said Dickwella.

He also praised the other centurion, Roshan Silva (109).

"He is an experienced player. He has plenty of runs back in Sri Lanka. He has played for the A team, and some county cricket as well. He is very good for the country."



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BD-SL SCOREBOARD					
Bangladesh: First innings 513 (Mominul 176, Mushfiqur 92, Mahmudullah 83 not out; Lakmal 3-68, Herath 3-150)					
Sri Lanka: First innings (overnight 504-3)					
Karunaratne c Kayes b Mehedi					0
Mendis c Mushfiqur b Taijul					196
De Silva c Liton b Mustafizur					173
Silva c Liton b Mehedi					109
Chandimal b Taijul					87
Dickwella c Liton b Mehedi					62
Perera lbw b Sunzamul					32
Herath lbw b Taijul					24
Lakmal b Taijul					9
Kumara not out					2
Extras: (b-11, lb-6, w-2)					19
Total: (For 9 wickets in 199.3 overs)					713
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-308, 3-415, 4-550, 5-613, 6-663, 7-687, 8-706, 9-713					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Mustafizur	32	6	113	1	
Sunzamul	45	2	153	1	
Mehedi	49	4	174	3	
Taijul	67.3	13	219	4	
Mosaddek	3	0	24	0	
Mominul	2	0	6	0	
Mahmudullah	1	0	7	0	
Bangladesh: Second innings					
Tamim c Dickwella b Sandakan					41
Imrul Kayes c Chandimal b Perera					19
Mominul not out					18
Mushfiqur c Mendis b Herath					2
Extras: (nb-1)					1
Total: (For 3 wickets in 26.5 over)					81
Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-76, 3-81					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Herath	6.5	0	22	1	
Lakmal	4	0	16	0	
De Silva	6	0	20	0	
Perera	7	1	20	1	
Sandakan	3	1	3	1	

'Have to save the game'

SPORTS REPORTER



There were not many twists and turns in the ongoing Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong until late drama unfolded with the fall of three Bangladesh wickets in their second

innings on the fourth day.

Imrul Kayes's mindless shot, Tamim Iqbal's wrong judgment and finally Mushfiqur Rahim's bad luck saw the home side faced with a big challenge as a seemingly mundane Test affair, following a batting spree on a flat track, burst into life at the end of the fourth day's play.



Taijul Islam (C) gets a pat from his captain Mahmudullah Riyad after his marathon effort with the ball. The left-arm spinner bowled 67.3 overs and took four wickets for 219 runs. That tenacity is something wicketkeeper-batsman Liton Das (L) can take inspiration from when he comes out to bat to save the Test for Bangladesh on the fifth and final day today.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh resume their second innings today on 81 for three, with a 119-run deficit and a documented history of their inability to bat well in the second innings, where they have crumbled on many occasions under self-inflicted pressure after stupendous performances in their first innings.

However left-arm spinner Taijul Islam -- who bore the maximum bowling load (67.3 overs) during Sri Lanka's mammoth 713 for nine declared, in the process becoming part of an ugly record as the first Bangladeshi to concede over 200 runs in an innings -- made it clear that it would not be an easy task for the Tigers to get something out of this Test.

"We have to save the game. It will not be easy on the fifth day but if our batsmen can play good cricket, then we may get something out of it. It would have been better had we lost one wicket. Losing three wickets was too much," said Taijul, who attended the press conference after the day's play.

"The wicket deteriorated as the match progressed. There was some more turn today," was the spinner's opinion of the fourth day's pitch. And he predicted the fifth day's track as well, saying: "There are rough areas that are created as bowlers bowl from different angles. The rough can sometimes make a bad ball into a good one. As a batsman, it will be tough to survive."

Taijul expressed his dissatisfaction over Bangladesh's bowling attack and he was equally unimpressed with the Lankan bowlers.

"It's a batting wicket, but we didn't bowl to that level. I don't think they [Sri Lanka] bowled

Most Expensive bowler for the Tigers in Tests			
Name	Figures	Opponent	Year
Taijul Islam	4-219	Sri Lanka	2018
Mohammad Rafique	2-181	India	2007
Sohag Gazi	1-181	Sri Lanka	2014
Most overs bowled by a Bangladeshi in an innings			
Name	Overs	Opposition	Year
Taijul Islam	67.3	Sri Lanka	2018
Shakib Al Hasan	66	England	2010
Mohammad Rafique	57.1	New Zealand	2004

really well. We made 80-odd runs during this short time [in the second innings]. There were some deliveries on good areas, which gave them the three wickets," he said.

"I think if we bowled better, I wouldn't have had to get close to such records," he said while reflecting on his bowling record.

Bangladesh spin bowling coach Sunil Joshi also rued his spinners' performance in the match despite the pitch having nothing to offer them.

"I think they could have been better. They could have had more consistency. If you don't get wickets in the first session, you can always get them in the second and third sessions. You need to be patient. The young Bangladesh spinners need to understand the way they can perform in Test cricket," he said.

Du Plessis out of ODI series

AFP, Centurion

South African captain Faf du Plessis has been ruled out of the rest of the one-day international series and a Twenty20 series against India with a broken finger.

Du Plessis left the field during the first one-day international in Durban on Thursday with what he thought was a minor injury to his right index finger.

But Cricket South Africa announced ahead of Sunday's second match in the six-match series that the finger was broken.

He will be out of action for between three and six weeks and will aim to be fit in time for the first of four Tests against Australia, starting in Durban on March 1.

It had previously been announced that former captain AB de Villiers would miss the first three one-day matches, also with a finger injury. A captain for the rest of the series will be announced on Saturday.

Batsman Farhaan Behardien and wicketkeeper-batsman Heinrich Klaasen have been added to the squad.

Lynn, Maxwell wallop Kiwis

AFP, Sydney

Power hitters Chris Lynn and Glenn Maxwell propelled Australia to a convincing seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first tri-series Twenty20 match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

Lynn (44 runs from 33 balls) and Maxwell (40 not out from 24 balls) shared in a scorching 77-run stand from just 53 balls to steer Australia to the rain-reduced total of 95 from 15 overs with 21 balls to spare.

Despite a top-order wobble, in which captain David Warner and the debutant D'Arcy Short fell inside the first three overs, the belligerent power of Lynn and Maxwell swamped the Kiwi bowling attack.

Australia's victory was earlier set up by towering paceman Billy Stanlake whose fierce pace justified Warner's decision to bowl first after winning the toss, as he wrecked New Zealand's top order with three wickets in the space of his first eight balls.

Australia play England in the second match of the tri-series in Hobart on Wednesday.

Four cheers for Indian Youths

AFP, Mount Maunganui



Opener Manjot Kalra smacked an unbeaten 101 in even time as India

easily disposed of Australia at Mount Maunganui on Sunday to win the Under-19 World Cup for a fourth time.

With Kalra scoring freely, India won by eight wickets as they chased down Australia's 216 all out with more than 11 overs to spare.

The opener's century included eight fours and three sixes, and he was well supported by wicketkeeper Harvik Desai, who was 47 not out when he finished the match with a boundary.

The pair put on 89 for the third wicket, while Prithvi Shaw scored 29 at the top of the innings and Shubman Gill added 31.

Australia's innings, all over in the 48th over, was held together by Jonathan Merlo's 76 after it fell apart despite a promising start.

The victory sparked wild celebration in cricket-crazy India with their great Sachin Tendulkar leading the accolade after a record fourth World Cup.

Fans danced in the streets and exchanged sweets just as Harvik Desai hit the winning

boundary in the final to seal an eight-wicket win over Australia.

With celebrated former captain Rahul Dravid as the coach, the Indians finished the 16-team competition in New Zealand unbeaten.

"With great team work, great dreams work. Congratulations to our world champions, you have made us proud," Tendulkar said in a recorded video on Twitter.

"For our youngsters the beautiful journey has just begun ... continue to give your best and enjoy the game above all, good luck and have a wonderful career."

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) promptly announced a cash bonanza for the team, with Dravid to receive five million rupees (\$78,000) and \$47,000 for each of the 16 players in the winning squad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too joined in the collective applause, saying the win made every Indian extremely proud.

"Absolutely thrilled by the stupendous achievement of our young cricketers," Modi tweeted from his official account.

Mohammad Kaif (2000), current senior team captain Virat Kohli (2008) and Unmukt Chand (2012) had previously led the Indian Under-19 team to victory.



CLASS OF 2018: The Indian youth team celebrate with the ICC Under-19 World Cup trophy after defeating Australia by eight wickets in the final at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP