



Bangladesh were off to a better start in the second Test against West Indies with Mehedi Hasan Miraz taking two wickets on the first morning at a surprisingly spin-friendly Sabina Park in Jamaica yesterday. West Indies reached 164 for three at the tea break.

PHOTO: AFP

Even going in Kingston

SPORTS REPORTER



A reversion to their strength and more suitable conditions helped Bangladesh produce a much more competitive performance in the first two sessions of the second and final Test against West Indies at Sabina Park in Kingston yesterday. Spin was introduced as early as the second over after skipper Shakib Al Hasan chose to bowl first and by tea on the first day West Indies had reached 164 for three with both sides looking for the edge on a hard-fought day.

West Indies batting mainstay Kraigg Brathwaite was unbeaten on a patient 81 with Shimron Hetmyer for company when tea was taken.

After the innings and 219-run humiliation in the first Test in Antigua, Bangladesh had opted to drop misfiring pacer Rubel Hossain for the left-arm spin of Taijul Islam. Taijul did repay the faith late in the second session, ending the 79-run third-wicket partnership by getting Shai Hope caught off the shoulder of the bat by wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan, who put in a despairing dive to send Hope home for 29.

Earlier, however, it was off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz who -- after opening the attack with Shakib -- provided the early breakthrough in the ninth over when he had opener Devon Smith caught at short leg. Mehedi returned to trap Kieran Powell leg-before in the 25th over for 29 to leave West Indies on 58 for two.

Shakib, who bowled the second over, chose to give just 12 overs of the 65 bowled so far to pacers Kamrul Islam and Abu Jayed.

Mash still uncertain

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Bangladesh ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza remained undecided about whether he will fly tonight for West Indies with the other members of the ODI squad as his wife Sumona Haque's condition was yet to stabilise.

Mashrafe was supposed to fly with Sabbir Rahman, Mosaddek Hossain, Nazmul Islam and Abu Hider this evening but the beloved cricketer was undecided about his travel plans to join the Tigers in the Caribbean because Sumona, who was diagnosed with bacteria in her blood, made little progress in treatment.

According to sources, Mashrafe will take the final decision about whether he will fly tonight or on July 15 this afternoon.

"If he cannot fly tomorrow then he may fly on the night of July 15 and we are hopeful that he will finally be able to join the team before the three-match ODI series," said chief selector Minhajul Abedin last night.

Meanwhile, Mustafizur Rahman and Anamul Haque, the other two members of the ODI squad, will board a different flight early morning of July 14.

The Tigers will play a warm-up game on July 19 in Jamaica before the start of the ODI series on July 22 at the Guyana National Stadium, where the second match will also take place on July 25. The third and final ODI will be held on July 28 at Warner Park, St. Kitts.

Embassy football fest underway

SPORTS REPORTER

The Embassy Football Fest began yesterday at the Sheikh Russel Roller Skating Stadium with embassies of Australia, India, Myanmar, Canada, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Denmark, Norway, Afghanistan, South Korea, Sweden, Iraq, Oman, Brazil and Maldives and Ministry of foreign affairs of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Diplomatic Police division competing in two-day event.

Dean of Diplomacy, George Kochary inaugurated the tournament.

Rafa, Novak set for titanic battle

AFP, London



Rafael Nadal described long-time rival Novak Djokovic as "one of the more complex" players he's ever met as they prepare to clash for the 52nd time on Friday with a Wimbledon final spot at stake.

World number one Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 champion at the All England Club, trails Djokovic, the 2011, 2014 and 2015 winner, 26-25 in a rivalry which began at Roland Garros 12 years ago.

Along the way, they have fought out a series of classic and epic battles including Djokovic's 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5 Australian Open final victory in 2012.

At five hours and 53 minutes, it was the longest final ever at a Slam.

The following year, Nadal downed the Serb, who was world number one at the time, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-7, 9-7 in the semi-finals in Paris, this time in four hours and 37 minutes.

"It's always a big challenge to face Novak," said 32-year-old Nadal

who is back in the semi-finals at Wimbledon for the first time since 2011 when he finished runner-up to Djokovic.

"He is one of the more complex players that I ever saw in our sport. You know that you can't win against him if you don't play very well."

For his part, Djokovic is eyeing a 13th major after making the semi-finals of a Slam for the first time since finishing runner-up at the 2016 US Open.

Djokovic's 2017 Wimbledon campaign ended in a quarter-final retirement with an elbow injury which led to surgery and precipitated a worrying dip in form and confidence.

Nadal had not dropped a set at the tournament until the quarter-finals where he fought back to defeat Juan Martin del Potro 7-5, 6-7 (7/9), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Wednesday.

Friday's other semi-final pitches Anderson, the eighth seed who lost to Nadal in last year's US Open final, against ninth-seeded American John Isner. Isner beat 2016 runner-up Milos Raonic in the quarterfinal while Anderson stunned eight-time champion Roger Federer. Both men are in the semi-finals at Wimbledon for the first time.



Angelique Kerber eased into her second Wimbledon final by defeating Jelena Ostapenko yesterday, but a much sterner test awaits in the title decider in the form of seven-time champion Serena Williams.

PHOTO: AFP

SEMIFINAL H2H



NADAL (2) VS DJOKOVIC (12)

25	H2H Overall	26
2	H2H on Grass	1

WIMBLEDON 2018 STATS

17	Sets Played	17
2	Sets Lost	2
25	Return Games Won	31
25	Aces	41
184	Winners	160
101	Unforced Errors	67
12h 56m	Hours on court	10h 19m

SEMIFINAL H2H



ANDERSON (8) VS ISNER (9)

3	H2H Overall	8
0	H2H on Grass	1

WIMBLEDON 2018 STATS

19	Sets Played	18
4	Sets Lost	3
18	Return Games Won	15
123	Aces	161
260	Winners	301
137	Unforced Errors	124
12h 05m	Hours on court	12h 15m

Kerber, Serena in final

AFP, London



Serena Williams booked a Wimbledon final rematch against Angelique Kerber as the seven-time champion marched into her 10th All England Club title match with a 6-2, 6-4 rout of Julia Goerges on Thursday.

On 20-match winning streak at Wimbledon, Serena is the third oldest female Grand Slam finalist in the Open era at 36 years and 291 days.

She will face German world number 10 Kerber on Saturday in a repeat of the 2016 showpiece won by Williams.

Williams has often blasted her rivals off Centre Court with ferocious power-hitting, but German 13th seed Goerges was sent packing with a more subtle 70-minute display featuring just 16 winners and five aces.

In only her fourth tournament since the birth of her daughter Olympia in September, the 23-time Grand Slam champion is closing in on her first major title as a mother.

The American star will have history in her sights against Kerber as she tries to equal Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles.

An eighth Wimbledon title would also move her past Steffi Graf into second place on the list of female Wimbledon champions, behind nine-time winner Martina Navratilova.

Earlier, Kerber raced into her second Wimbledon final and fourth Grand Slam showpiece as the German crushed former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-3 in 67 minutes.

The 30-year-old hit only 10 winners but that was all it took to get the job done as Latvian 12th seed Ostapenko shot herself in the foot with 36 unforced errors.

Ratna returns

SPORTS REPORTER



Prolific shooter Sharmin Akter Ratna has been called up to the national squad for the upcoming Asian Games. She returns after nearly three years, during which the country's most successful female shooter has been overlooked due to the Bangladesh Shooting Federation's youth policy.

Ratna, who won gold medals in 10m air rifle individual and team events during the 2010 South Asian Games in Dhaka and then clinched a gold medal along with Sadia Sultana in the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in India, last represented Bangladesh in the Delhi Asian Air Gun Championship in 2015 and a month later was suspended for six months on disciplinary grounds.

In the meantime, Ratna gave birth to a baby girl, participated in the National Shooting Championships in October 2017 to bag silver in the 10m air rifle event and gold in the three-position rifle event.

"Shooting is a game of physical and mental fitness, both of which are low for me at the moment and it will take some time to regain my rhythm, but I believe I can regain my performance again," said Ratna, who joined the training camp last Sunday.



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GTV & CHANNEL 9
West Indies v Bangladesh
Second Test, Day-2
Live from 9:00pm
SONY TEN-1
Sri Lanka v South Africa
First Test, Day-2
Live from 10:30am
SONY ESPN
Zimbabwe v Pakistan
First ODI
Live from 1:15pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Wimbledon
Men's Semifinals
Live from 6:00pm

QUICK SINGLES

Scan the QR codes below to visit The Daily Star website to read the stories that did not make the print edition.

Chelsea sack Conte as manager

Chelsea have sacked Italian Antonio Conte as manager, media in Britain and Italy reported on Thursday after Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis had said on Wednesday that the Blues were close to securing a deal for Maurizio Sarri.

SL A win series after home collapse

The Bangladesh A team lost nine wickets in the morning session of the third day of the third and final four-day match against Sri Lanka A to lose by an innings and 38 runs in Sylhet. Lankan spinner Malinda Pushpakumara took six for 46 to help the tourists clinch the three-match series 1-0.

South Africa 4-1 at stumps in first Test

South Africa were four for one at stumps in response to Sri Lanka's first innings score of 287 on day one of the opening Test in Galle on Thursday.

Veteran spinner Rangana Herath got Aiden Markram out for nought to put the visitors in trouble.

Bangladesh finish third in FIBA basketball

Hosts Bangladesh had to be content with a third-place finish in the South Asian zone qualifiers of the FIBA U-18 Asian Championship after suffering defeat in the last match against Nepal yesterday.

Kuldeep 6-for leads India to 8-wicket win

India's spin sensation Kuldeep Yadav tormented England with a six wicket haul and Rohit Sharma then piled on the runs as the tourists won their opening one-day international with eight wickets and 9.5 overs to spare at Trent Bridge.