

# Tigers in another bind ‘We didn’t plan for this sort of pitch’

SPORTS REPORTER

Forgetting the equation of rescuing a draw in the two-match Test series after losing the first game, Bangladesh are now desperate to avoid defeat in the second game too, struggling on 105 for four in their first innings in reply to the West Indies’ 409.

Mohammad Mithun (6\*) and Mushfiqur Rahim (27\*) brought some stability with a fifth-wicket stand but the pair will have a daunting task on the third day, with the hosts needing another 105 runs to avoid a follow-on.

Questions about ability to adapt to the longest version of the game by the Bangladesh batsmen were raised once again when they came out to bat with 37 overs to negotiate in the final session.

It was neither the pitch, nor any exceptional bowling. Instead, the batsmen were guilty of playing too many shots that proved costly.

Soumya Sarkar opened the innings but failed to open his account as the left-hander gifted a simple catch to short mid-wicket to an incoming Shanon Gabriel delivery in the very first over of the innings.

It was a 12th consecutive innings where the Tigers’ openers were unable to go past



**West Indian players celebrate the dismissal of Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque as the visitors tightened the screws on the home team with an excellent bowling display after scoring 409 runs in the first innings of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

drive and was caught at gully after playing away from his body.

At the other end, the experienced Tamim Iqbal tried to remain positive and continued to play his strokes.

He struck six fours and a six, with skipper Mominul Haque at the other end trying to rebuild the innings.

It seemed the hosts might go on to recover from the early damage after the pair added 58 for the third wicket.

But the visitors struck back again as off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall dismissed Mominul for 21 with some extra bounce.

The left-hander was caught behind trying to play a shot that could have been left.

On 44, Tamim was required to stay till the end but soon handed a simple catch at short mid-wicket off Alzarri Joseph and Bangladesh were left on 71 for four.

Earlier, the West Indies resumed the second day on 223 for 5 with Nkrumah Bonner on 74 and Joshua Da Silva on 22. The pair picked up where they left off on the first day.

Both batters looked positive and utilised scoring opportunities after some indiscipline bowling from the hosts.

Bonner, who was eyeing a maiden Test hundred, departed after Mehedi Hasan Miraz managed to provide the breakthrough and break the 88-run sixth-wicket stand.

The right-hander was caught at leg-slip on ninety but Joshua then continued to re-build another big partnership with Alzarri Joseph for the seventh wicket.

The pair continued to frustrate the hosts with Joseph starting to score runs quickly and dispatching the Bangladeshi bowlers all over the ground. The pair added 118 for the seventh wicket.

Da Silva registered his second fifty and was also eyeing a maiden ton but he too departed in the nineties.

Taijul’s delivery went straight through Silva’s defense and struck timber with him just eight runs short of his century.

Pacer Abu Jayed then removed Joseph after he had made a career-best 82 but he made sure the West Indies went past the 400-run mark in their first innings.

The lone specialist pacer for the Tigers, Jayed, then joined Taijul as the pair went on to remove the Windies lower order to end with up four wickets each.

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The team selection, the approach with the ball, the listless body language on the field and the obvious lack of patience and adaptability with the bat --

Bangladesh has been below par in all aspects till the end of the second day of the second Test against the West Indies.

Bangladesh is fighting to avoid the follow-on at their home of cricket in Mirpur on 105 for four in reply to the sizeable 409 from the West Indies.

The likes of Soumya Sarkar, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, skipper Mominul Haque and even the experienced Tamim Iqbal all have themselves to blame for playing rash strokes and surrendering the opportunity to take on the just when it mattered after the hosts started batting in the final session.

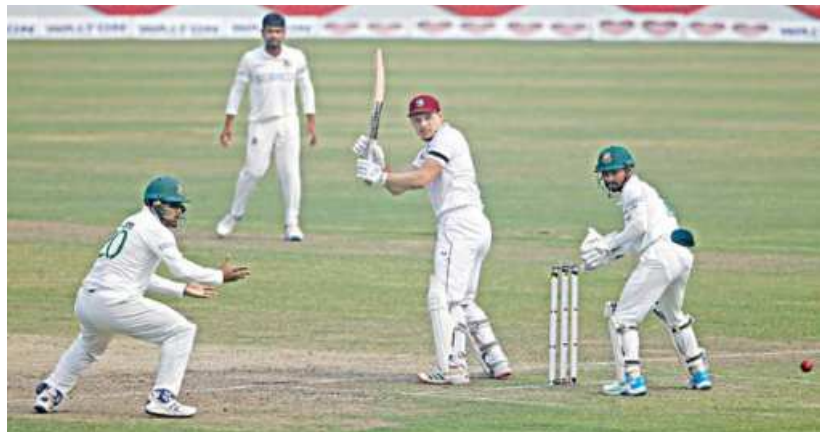
Many questioned the temperament of the Bangladeshi batsmen against a rather inexperienced West Indies side who are now on top of the hosts and are looking to seal a 2-0 series win that was unthinkable before the visitors’ stirring triumph in the first Test in Chattogram.

“First of all, the wicket was really good to bat on and all our four wickets that fell were not related to the pitch or even a brilliant delivery. All four were because of the batsman’s error. I think it’s our fault and if we had not lost more than two wickets, we could have been in a better position. I have to say they [West Indies] are on top,” Tamim told the media yesterday.

West Indies, resuming the second day on 223 for five, capitalised on undisciplined bowling

**Joshua Da Silva’s 92 drove the West Indies innings on the second day of the Dhaka Test on Friday.**

PHOTO: STAR



from the Tigers. Batsman Nkrumah Bonner, wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva, and even fast bowler Alzarri Joseph at number eight scored big against lacklustre bowling from Bangladesh.

“Obviously, we wanted to take early wickets when we started the day and it would have been good if we could restrict them below 300,” he said, and went on to add that it’s not only about the errors of the hosts, but credit should also be given to the West Indies batters.

There were other aspects that Tamim blamed such as the pitch, which according to the left-hander did not turn as much as the team management had expected in order to favour the three spinners in the Tigers’ line-up.

Bangladesh once again fielded only one specialist seamer in the form of Abu Jayed, who ended up picking four wickets alongside left-arm spinner Taijul Islam.

Tamim was asked whether they should have included another seamer in the eleven.

“Look, the plan we had before the start of the Test match was not for this sort of pitch. When a home team picks three spinners, it’s not rocket science to realise that we expect the wicket to spin more. But unfortunately, it didn’t spin for whatever reason and as we couldn’t execute our plans due to the wicket -- there will be discussion about it,” said Tamim.

When asked whether the Tigers have any realistic chance to accomplish the daunting task of saving this Test, Tamim said they have no other option than to believe they can.

As they had learned little from the loss in Chattogram, where there was also noise about the pitch not helping the hosts as much as expected, it seems that belief is a brave and optimistic one.

## Mori quits, apologises

REUTERS, Tokyo

Tokyo 2020 Olympics chief Yoshiro Mori resigned on Friday and apologised again for sexist remarks that sparked a global outcry, leaving the troubled Olympics searching for a chief five months from the opening ceremony.

The resignation of



former prime minister Mori, 83, will further erode confidence in the organisers’ ability to pull off the postponed Summer Games during a coronavirus pandemic.

A Tokyo 2020 board member told reporters the new president would be chosen by a selection committee.

Among the candidates being considered to succeed him was Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto, media said.

Hashimoto, 56, is a seven-time Olympian and pioneering female lawmaker. Her first name is based on the Japanese words for the Olympic flame and she was born just days before the 1964 Tokyo Olympics opened.

Mori sparked a furore when he said during an Olympic committee meeting this month that women talk too much, setting off a chorus of calls for him to be sacked. He initially refused to step down.

“My inappropriate comments caused big trouble. I’m sorry,” Mori said at the beginning of a meeting of senior organising committee officials on Friday, adding that the most important thing was for the Tokyo Olympics to be a success.



PHOTO: FIFA.COM

## SIX FOR FLICK’S BAYERN

**Bayern Munich players lift coach Hansi Flick in the air to celebrate their Club World Cup success following a 1-0 win over Mexico’s Tigres in the final in Qatar on Thursday. Benjamin Pavard’s second-half strike sealed the win as the Germans claimed a “six pack” of titles within 12 months under the former assistant coach of Germany national team. Bayern became the second side to win all six available titles within a year after Barcelona managed the feat in 2009.**

## Thiem tames Kyrgios

AFP, Melbourne

Ice-cool Dominic Thiem rallied from two sets down to tame flamboyant Nick Kyrgios at the Australian Open Friday in front of a raucous crowd hours before Melbourne goes into coronavirus lockdown.

Kyrgios produced a virtuoso performance in the first two sets, using every trick in the book, including underarm serves and tweeners, as he fed off the energy at a boisterous John Cain Arena, his favourite court.

But he couldn’t sustain the intensity as US Open champion Thiem, last year’s runner-up, found his groove with some dominant serving to fight back and outlast

the 25-year-old 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

He will now play 18th seed Grigor Dimitrov for a place in the quarter-finals, with the Bulgarian through after Pablo Carreno Busta retired injured in the second set.

“It was my first match against Nick on his favourite court with an amazing crowd, there are easier things to do,” said Thiem.

“That is one of the tougher challenges we have in our sport, you never know what is coming. Nick is a huge player when he is on fire, like today.”

Austrian Thiem came into the clash after dropping just six games in his previous match, in contrast to Kyrgios who played a draining and emotional five-setter.



**Eight-time champion Novak Djokovic had a bit of a scare against America’s Taylor Fritz in the third round of the Australian Open on Friday, but the World No. 1 eventually won the match 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Spin onslaught awaits Eng in second Test

AFP, CHENNAI



India warned England on Friday to expect a spin onslaught in the second Test as they bid to hit back after a crushing first Test defeat.

The hosts are looking to bounce back on Saturday after their 227-run loss in the opening match, a rare Test match win for England on Indian soil. Chennai’s M A Chidambaram stadium remains the venue for the second of the four Tests, but on a different pitch.

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane backed his spinners to cause the visitors problems.

“(The pitch) looks completely different, I am sure it will turn from day number one,” Rahane told

reporters.

“We have to forget what happened in the last match, focus on this and play a good game. We know these conditions really, so we have to put our best foot forward.”

Senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed nine wickets in the first Test, but got little support from the other end as Shahbaz Nadeem and Washington Sundar leaked too many runs in England’s first innings total of 578, which was helped by a monstrous haul of 218 by England skipper Joe Root.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel is back in the team after missing the opener with a knee injury while Nadeem is out of the squad.

“Everyone’s in the mix,” Rahane said without revealing the XI.

“All our spinners are really good,” he said.

“If in India the ball is turning then the opposition is under pressure. I am not too concerned about how our spinners are bowling. I am sure they will come up with a plan and bowl well.”

Meanwhile, England have left out James Anderson and Dom Bess, with the visitors naming Stuart Broad, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes and paceman Olly Stone in their 12.

With speedster Jofra Archer ruled out due an elbow injury, Olly, who played his only Test in July 2019, or Woakes are expected to partner Broad.

“(Stone) is certainly looking very good in and around training,” captain Joe Root told reporters on the eve of the Test.

## Uttar Baridhara eke out another draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara Club played out a third straight home draw in the Bangladesh Premier League as they held visitors Muktiyoddha Sangsad to a 1-1 draw at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi yesterday.

With four draws, one of which was away from home, Baridhara Club stayed above 11th-placed Muktiyoddha Sangsad despite having equal four points seven outings.

National forward Suman Reza put Baridhara ahead in the 42nd minute with his third goal of the campaign from a goalmouth melee but the hosts surrendered the lead two minutes into the second half when Muktiyoddha captain Yusuke Kato nodded home a corner-kick.

“We have been trying to take home advantage because a lot of fans turn up to watch our matches and they support us from the gallery which encourages the players to perform better,” said Baridhara captain Suman.

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523789 e-GP/13/EE/ SRD/2020-2021	Repairing of Raniganj Ferry Ghat approach Road Raniganj end by supplying & dumping /laying 2nd class brick bats at 30th km of Pagla-Jogannathpur-Raniganj-Aushkandi Road (R-241) under Sunamganj Road Division during the year 2020-2021.	24/02/2021 11.45	24/02/2021 14.00	24/02/2021 14.00

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