

T SPORTS

South Africa vs Bangladesh  
1st Test, Day 4  
Live from 02:00 pm  
La Liga  
Barcelona vs Sevilla  
Live from 01:00 am

(Monday)

STAR SPORTS 1  
IPL  
Chennai vs Punjab  
Live from 08:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS HD 1  
West Ham vs Everton  
Live from 07:00 pm

STAR SPORTS HD 2

Tottenham vs Newcastle  
Live from 09:30 pm  
STAR SPORTS 2  
ICC Women's World Cup  
Final  
Australia vs England  
Live from 07:00 am

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I have only been here for about two months now and he [Mahmudul Hasan Joy] is one of the boys who caught my eyes as far as talent, work ethic and patience. He stuck to what he knows. He never tried to play any shot that was not in his repertoire. It was something special for Bangladesh.

Jamie Siddons  
Bangladesh batting coach.



Mahmudul Hasan Joy wears a broad smile as Mehedi Hasan Miraz advances to congratulate him on a brilliant century on the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday. Joy's resilient 137 – the first Test ton by a Bangladeshi batter against the Proteas – kept hopes alive for the visitors.

PHOTO: AFP

# The grit, grind and granite behind Mr. Happy

MAZHAR UDDIN

He may have been the youngest member of the Bangladesh team, but 21-year-old Mahmudul Hasan Joy showed that he has a mature head on his shoulders on way to registering his maiden Test hundred and the first by a Bangladesh batter against South Africa on the third day of the first Test in Durban yesterday. A display of sheer determination, grit and patience was underlined by the youngster recognising the importance of his wicket and then absorbing a tremendous amount of pressure right after opening the innings on the second day. Before being the last Bangladesh wicket to fall, Joy made 137 runs and faced a mammoth 326 deliveries, smashed 15 fours and two sixes. He also ensured the visitors would cut down the deficit by scoring some quick runs in the end. As he held watch throughout, the right-hander was involved in three crucial 50-plus partnerships, with Najmul Hossain, Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz. It never seemed that Joy was playing just his third Test match, let alone

in tough South African conditions. Bangladesh ended up posting 367 runs in their first innings courtesy of that 'one-man show' and were trailing by 69 runs, a gap that will give the visitors the belief they can put up a fight in the Test. Joy had earlier shown glimpses of his patience in his second Test, facing 228 balls and scoring 78 in the historic Test win against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in January this year.

### SCORES IN BRIEF (DAY 3)

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
First Innings- 367 all out and Second Innings- 6 for no loss in 4 overs (Erwee 3 not out, Elgar 3 not out)  
**BANGLADESH**  
First Innings- 298 all out in 115.5 overs (Joy 137, Liton 41, Shanto 38; Harmer 4-103, Williams 3-54)

The Chandpur native, who was given the nickname 'Mr. Happy' by his childhood coach Syed Shameem Akhter Faruqi for his ever-present smile even in the toughest of times, reflected that character during his tremendous knock



yesterday. Joy used to work with his childhood coach during the offseason and even bought a granite slab to prepare for bouncy tracks. "Joy's father came to me when he was around 12 years old and asked me to prepare him for admission to BKSP. I worked with him for a year and from the beginning, he was a very hardworking and attentive student. He is an international cricketer now and has big coaches to train him, but whenever he comes to Chandpur, he practises here in my academy," a proud Faruqi – who is the BCB-appointed Chandpur district coach – told The Daily Star yesterday. "He contributed to us buying a granite

slab for the academy. In fact, before travelling to South Africa he came here and prepared with the fast and bouncy tracks in mind." Hannan Sarkar, the age-level selector and former national opener who picked Joy during his age-level days, was unsurprised by the transformation of the young boy who was part of the ICC Under-19 World Cup-winning side just a couple of years ago. "He had the ability to play long innings even during age-level days. And his hunger to play big knocks is something we have seen from the very beginning. He even scored a thousand runs in a year during his under-19 days in 2019. He likes to take some time. Once he gets set, he starts to explore," Hannan said. "The main thing is he knows his limitations very well. One of his problems was that he tried to chase balls away from his body. But what I have noticed is that he has worked on his footwork, which has worked well for him. Joy still tried to play a few of those [away from his body] in the ongoing Test, but the best part is that he has realised and adapted well. This time, he went back and across to cover the line of the ball," said Hannan.



### WORLD CUP DRAW: WHAT THEY SAID

"I say to people, be calm and enjoy the World Cup. I hope it ends with Argentina in the final."  
**LIONEL SCALONI, ARGENTINA COACH**

"It's a strong group if you take into consideration Germany. As for the rest of the group, I don't know much, I won't lie to you - almost nothing. Now is the moment to take the time to study them and continue thinking and trusting in what we are as a team."  
**LUIS ENRIQUE, SPAIN COACH**

"It is neither (the group of) death nor life, every group has a degree of difficulty. Portugal have Uruguay, South Korea, Ghana."  
**TITE, BRAZIL COACH**

"If Ukraine makes it there, it's a wonderful accomplishment. If the people of Ukraine can get some hope by their team playing in the World Cup, it's amazing. It will be more of a celebration in my eyes."  
**GREGG BERHALTER, U.S. COACH**

"It could have been easier or harder," he said. "We know Denmark well and we will get to know each other even better with our matches in the Nations League in June and September."  
**DIDIER DESCHAMPS, FRANCE COACH**

"It's not great. We would have liked to have avoided France, because I'm pretty sure they are one of the best teams in the world with the incredible talent they have."  
**KASPER HJULMAND, DENMARK COACH**

"I'm super happy. The French are favourites, we are far from it, but, having grown up here, living here, playing in the French Championship (for St Etienne), it is the dream of many players."  
**WAHBI KHAZRI, TUNISIA STRIKER**



## Familiar foes meet with trophy on the line

AGENCIES

Australia will be strong favourites to win the Women's World Cup for a seventh time in Christchurch on Sunday but reigning champions England have hit their stride at the business end of the tournament and will not give up the trophy easily. While the top ranked Australians have romped through the tournament with eight straight wins, four-times champions England have been in crisis management since losing their first three contests. They qualified for the semi-finals with a thumping win over Bangladesh, however, and were at their very best when they crushed second-ranked South Africa by 137 runs on Thursday to reach the final for the sixth time. The English know they will have to hit similar peaks when they return to Hagley Oval on Sunday to face Australia, who they have not beaten in their last seven meetings in one-dayers.

## Anamul, Mithun keep Prime Bank on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Bank Cricket Club remained on top of the points table in the Dhaka Premier League with a 127-run thumping of Mohammedan Sporting Club, thanks to prolific batting displays from Anamul Haque and Mohammad Mithun at the ULAB cricket ground yesterday. Sent in to bat first, Anamul and Shahadat Hossain gave Prime Bank a solid start with a 51-run opening stand before they lost Shahadat and Abhimanyu Easwaran in quick succession. Anamul, however, went on to stitch together a 131-run partnership for the third wicket with Mithun, guiding the side close to 200. Anamul's cracking run-a-ball 94 featured nine fours and six maximums while Mithun scored 60 runs off 74 balls. Following their departure, the lower-and-middle-order batters kept the scoreboard ticking, but ended up getting bundled out for 312 runs with three balls remaining. Soumya Sarkar bagged four wickets for Mohammedan. In reply, Mohammedan batters collapsed in face of Prime Bank's bowling attack. Rakib Hasan took four wickets while Robiul Hoque and Mahedi Hasan scalped two wickets each to restrict their opponents to 183 runs in 38.3 overs. Meanwhile in Savar, Abahani defeated Brothers Union by six wickets in a low-scoring encounter. Electing to field first, Abahani's bowlers were all over Brothers as a fifer from Tanzim Hasan Sakib and a couple of wickets each from Mohammad Saifuddin and Tanvir Islam bundled their opponents for 219. A blistering unbeaten century from Hanuma Vihari and a half-century from skipper Mosaddek Hossain saw Abahani cruise to a comfortable chase with six wickets remaining.



PHOTO: TWITTER

Liverpool forward Diogo Jota celebrates scoring the first goal in their 2-0 win over Watford at Anfield yesterday. The win meant Jurgen Klopp's men have 72 points from 30 matches, two points ahead of Manchester City, who travel to Burnley later on Saturday.

## Focus on quality in school cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Prime Bank National School Cricket Tournament will start from next Friday across the country. Bangladesh Cricket Board's Age-Group tournament committee chairman Obeid Rashid Nizam informed yesterday during a press conference in Mirpur that the number of schools has been reduced to 348 from 550 this year as they focused on quality. "We want to emphasise more on quality rather than numbers. This year we set some criteria for the schools and we selected those who fulfilled each criterion," said Obeid. In an attempt to make school cricket more meaningful, the board has decided to bring the 15 best players under scholarship programmes. Alongside that, they will also give 25 women umpires the duty to officiate the matches so they can gain experience. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, school cricket remained halted for the past two years.