

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka (Day-1)**  
**Sri Lanka:** First Innings- 258 for 4 in 90 overs (Mathews 114 not out, Mendis 54, Fernando 36; Nayeem 2-71, Shakib 1-27, Taijul 1-73)



Angelo Mathews' [inset] unbeaten 213-ball 114 allowed the visitors to land on a solid ground, at 258 for four, after the first day's play in the Chattogram Test. However, Bangladesh would not be too displeased with their performance, thanks largely to Shakib Al Hasan and Taijul Islam. The hosts' left-arm spin duo were able to weave sticky strands around the Lankan batters to make sure the opening day presented no clear winners.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



## Don't think of winning, Fahim advises Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Centurion Angelo Mathews will hold the key for the Sri Lanka as the visitors attempt to post a big first-innings total after reaching 258 for four on the first day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Bangladesh have only themselves to blame for their predicament as Mahmudul Hasan Joy missed a straightforward catch in the slip cordon off the bowling of Taijul Islam, which would have sent Mathews back for 69.

The three specialist spinners – Nayeem Hasan, Shakib Al Hasan and Taijul – shared the four wickets that fell on the first day while pacers Khaled Ahmed and Shoriful Islam will get the chance to utilise the second new ball today.

Despite the two seamers going wicketless on a relatively batting-friendly track on the first day, prominent coach Nazmul Abedeen Fahim believes they can still make an impact and bundle Sri Lanka out below the 350-mark.

"There was hardly any swing or seam for the pacers on the first day. The pitch looked good for batting and is expected to remain the same over the coming days and spinners will play a big role in picking up wickets. But I think the two pacers can provide a platform by bowling tight and not giving the Sri Lankan batters opportunities to score freely. It will help mount pressure on batters and spinners can cash in on that," Fahim said during the discussion for a multimedia segment at The Daily Star premises yesterday.



"After the first day, the visitors are in a better situation. But if our bowlers can restrict them below 350, it will be a big psychological boost for the hosts moving forward."

He also prescribed that it would be unwise for the Tigers to start thinking about the result. Instead, he urged them to play for a draw, which could help Bangladesh stay in the game for a longer period.

"When you think too far, it can backfire. We can learn from the historic Mount Maunganui Test against New Zealand. We never thought of winning that Test match. We grinded it out session by session and that kept us in the game. Once we reached a certain position, only then we started to believe that there was a possibility of winning the Test. And we eventually won," he said.



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Nazmul Abedeen Fahim

# HERATH SATISFIED by shrewd variations

SPORTS REPORTER FROM CHATTOGRAM

Four years since a drawn Test at Chattogram's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium against Sri Lanka, the surface still kept its end of the bargain for the batters, as expected. In-between comfortable stroke-play and solid defence, the Bangladesh spinners were able to have their say on a surface that does not have much for pace and had very little for spinners in terms of spin on Day One.

Nayeem Hasan, returning to the Test squad after more than a year, got the better of Dimuth Karunaratne after both Lankan openers had gotten off to a solid start. He then accounted for Oshada Fernando.

Spin coach Rangana Herath complimented his spinners' ability to get a grip on the game as Sri Lanka ended at 258 for four with Shakib Al Hasan Taijul Islam using their experience to good effect and complementing Nayeem Hasan's attacking mindset.

"I am happy with how the bowlers did, especially considering it was the first day of a Test match. Shakib and TJ [Taijul] bowled well. Nayeem took two wickets. He [Nayeem] hasn't played

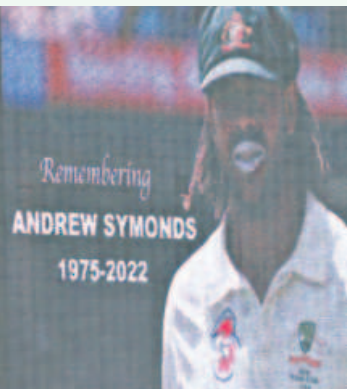
much cricket in the last 18 months but he has been practicing a lot. Because of that, I saw he needed a bit of confidence, but when he got that wicket off the first ball, his confidence [was restored]."

Shakib and Taijul were instrumental in bringing Bangladesh back into the game after the second session saw the game veer towards the visitors, with Kusal Mendis and Angelo Mathews putting on 92 for the third wicket.

The duo worked to a plan and Bangladesh capitalised with crucial breakthroughs after creating pressure. The deliveries from Shakib in particular had a little more air than usual.

With the lack of pace on the wicket in mind, Shakib bowled at 81 km/h in his first spell. The Lankans' run-rate came down from 3.04 at lunch to 2.82 at tea. Taijul used his pace variations to good effect, being quicker in the air than Shakib by bowling at an average of 87 km/h. But the variation of his slower and faster deliveries kept batters guessing.

Herath was happy that the bowling plan came off, especially with Shakib only just returning after testing negative for Covid-19. "We discussed that the bowlers should have a bit of pace and also bowl slower at times. I think Shakib and TJ used their pace very well."



### TRIBUTE TO SYMONDS

A minute's silence was observed yesterday in memory of Andrew Symonds, considered as one of Australia's greatest allrounders in limited overs cricket, before the start of the first Test. Symonds passed away in Queensland on Saturday following a car accident.

# Taskin doubtful for WI Test series

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed is doubtful for the two-match Test series against West Indies as he will be in rehabilitation, recovering from the shoulder injury sustained in South Africa.

Taskin was ruled out of the ongoing Test series against Sri Lanka and went to England to get an assessment on the injury. The pacer has been rehabbing for a month, but the BCB medical team now must wait at least another four weeks for him to make a complete recovery.

"We are looking at conservative management, which includes physiotherapy and rehabilitation, plus or minus regenerative injections, which we are not using right now. We will go for conservative management for the next four weeks and see what happens," BCB chief physician Debashish Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.



"We consulted one of the best shoulder surgeons, who also operated on Mustafizur [Rahman]. He suggested to wait and see with conservative management. If that doesn't work, then a surgical procedure will be needed. Surgery is our last resort."

Bangladesh are slated to play the first Test in Antigua from June 16 and are expected to leave in the first week of June. But Taskin could be included for the shorter-format games in July.

"We can't be certain if he will miss whole series. We can't say a month before the series whether he will be ruled out. The team will leave on June 8 so it may be that we will think of his inclusion for the shorter versions," Debashish said.

He was also encouraged by the fact that the conservative approach had seen Taskin's improve over time.

"He is a lot better now and doesn't feel pain while doing daily activities. So let's see how much he can heal through the natural processes.

We are not thinking of a difficult thing like surgery because the outcome of surgery is very unpredictable. No one can guarantee that he will be able to bowl at 140km/h after surgery," Debashish concluded.



West Ham United striker Jarrod Bowen celebrates after scoring one of his two goals against league leaders Manchester City in their Premier League fixture in London on Sunday. Bowen's brace gave the Hammers a 2-0 lead in the first half before the Cityzens scored twice in the second half to leave with a share of the spoils.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Swiatek retains Italian Open title

REUTERS

World number one Iga Swiatek retained her Italian Open title after overwhelming Ons Jabeur 6-2, 6-2 in Rome on Sunday, clinching her fifth consecutive WTA crown and winning her 28th match in a row. Having swept the titles in Doha, Indian Wells and Miami, Swiatek has now won every WTA 1000 tournament she has contested this season and will be the favourite to add to her 2020 French Open success when the Grand Slam tournament begins next week. Swiatek outmanoeuvred Jabeur to snap the Tunisian's 11-match winning streak, which began in her title run in Madrid, to level their head-to-head record at 2-2 after having lost both 2021 meetings at Wimbledon and Cincinnati.

