




Tigers fall short after hard fight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh had never come this close against India in Tests. But after almost two good sessions, where they first staged a fight with the bat and then with the ball on Saturday, Bangladesh came very close to their first-ever Test win against India.

The late fightback from the India tail ensured that the visitors snatched away the big chance, after Bangladesh created by picking up seven wickets, with a three-wicket win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The crowd that showed up at Mirpur were expectant in the morning session, there to witness history. Jaydev Unadkat had a close call in just the first third delivery of the day, one Bangladesh reviewed before the nightwatchman survived with umpire's call.

Soon after, just like Shakib Al Hasan had given the first wicket at the start of India innings on Saturday, the ace all-rounder produced the first wicket in the morning session,

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The aerial view of Shuvadya canal in South Keraniganj shows the water body is littered with discarded plastics and household and garment wastes. The rampant dumping of waste clogged the canal, once considered a lifeline of Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PANCHAGARH CLASH Cops file 5 cases against 1,200 people 2 BNP leaders among 81 named accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Panchagarh police yesterday filed five separate cases against 1,200 people, including 81 named, over the clash between BNP activists and police during the party's procession on Saturday.

One person died while at least 50 others were injured in the clash.

Five sub-inspectors of Panchagarh Police Station filed the cases on charges of obstructing police, vandalism, obstructing commuters' movement and violence using explosives.

The 81 identified accused include Anwar Hossain, president of Panchagarh Sadar BNP, and Jahirul Islam, convener of the party's district unit, said Abdul Latif Mia, officer-in-charge of Panchagarh Police Station.

When contacted, SM Sirajul Huda, superintendent of Panchagarh police, said no innocent person will be harassed but the accused will be arrested.

Meanwhile, police handed over the body of Abdur Rashid Arefin, 50, joint convener of Maidandighi union BNP in Boda upazila, who died during the clash, to his family after autopsy.

He was buried in his village

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Ready to negotiate over Ukraine

Says Putin, accuses West of trying to break up Russia

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia is ready to negotiate with all parties involved in the war in Ukraine but Kyiv and its Western backers have refused to engage in talks, President Vladimir Putin said in an interview aired yesterday.

Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine has triggered the most deadly conflict in Europe since World War Two and the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

There is, thus far, little end in sight to the war.

The Kremlin says it will fight until all its aims are achieved while Kyiv says it will not rest until every Russian soldier is ejected from all of its territory, including Crimea which Russia annexed in 2014.

"We are ready to negotiate with everyone involved about acceptable solutions, but that is up to them - we are not the ones refusing to negotiate, they are," Putin told Rossiya 1 state television in the interview.

CIA Director William Burns said in an interview published this month that while most conflicts end in negotiation, the CIA's assessment was that Russia was not yet serious about a real negotiation to end the war.

An adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Putin needed to return to reality and acknowledge that it was Russia which did not want any negotiations.

"Russia single-handedly attacked Ukraine and is killing citizens," Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter. "Russia doesn't want negotiations, but tries to avoid responsibility."

Putin said Russia was acting in the "right direction" in Ukraine because the West, led by the United States, was trying to cleave Russia apart. Washington denies it is plotting Russia's collapse.



"I believe that we are acting in the right direction, we are defending our national interests, the interests of our citizens, our people. And we have no other choice but to protect our citizens," Putin said.

Asked if the geopolitical conflict with the West was approaching a dangerous level, Putin said: "I don't think it's so dangerous."

Putin said the West had begun the conflict in Ukraine in 2014 by toppling

a pro-Russian president in the Maidan Revolution protests.

Soon after that revolution, Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine and Russian-backed separatist forces began fighting Ukraine's armed forces in eastern Ukraine.

"Actually, the fundamental thing here is the policy of our geopolitical opponents which is aimed at pulling apart Russia, historical Russia," Putin said.

Putin casts what he calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine as a watershed moment when Moscow finally stood up to a Western bloc he says has been seeking to destroy Russia since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

Ukraine and the West say Putin has no justification for what they cast as an imperial-style war of occupation which has sown suffering and death across Ukraine.

Putin described Russia as a "unique country" and said the vast majority of its people were united in wanting to defend it.

"As for the main part - the 99.9 percent of our citizens, our people who are ready to give everything for the interests of the Motherland - there is nothing unusual for me here," Putin said.

"This just once again convinces me that Russia is a unique country and that we have an exceptional people. This has been confirmed throughout the history of Russia's existence."

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Russia slams Haas visit to Shaheenbagh

Says it's an attempt to interfere in Bangladesh affairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Russia believes the US ambassador's visit to Shaheenbagh to meet the family of an opposition party activist is an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

"Russia considers the US ambassador's visit to Shaheenbagh as an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh," said Maria Zakharova, spokesperson for the Russian foreign ministry.

The Russian embassy in Bangladesh circulated the statement.

Zakharova said, "This incident is an expected result of the activity of the American diplomat, who, under the pretext of caring about the rights of the citizens of Bangladesh, was persistently trying to influence the domestic processes in the country."

"As of late, his colleagues from the British and German diplomatic missions have been engaged in the same cause and have allowed themselves to openly give recommendations to the local authorities regarding transparency and inclusiveness in the parliamentary elections scheduled for next year."

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Smoking linked to mid-life memory loss: study

AGENCIES



Middle-aged smokers are far more likely to report having memory loss and confusion than nonsmokers, and the likelihood of cognitive decline is lower for those who have quit, even recently, a new study has found.

The research from The Ohio State University is the first to examine the relationship between smoking and cognitive decline using a one-question self-assessment asking people if they've experienced worsening or more frequent memory loss and/or confusion.

The findings build on previous research that established relationships between smoking and Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia, and could point to an opportunity to identify signs of trouble earlier in life, said Jenna Rajczyk, lead author of the study, which appears in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

It's also one more piece of evidence that quitting smoking is good not just for respiratory and cardiovascular reasons - but to preserve neurological health, said Rajczyk, a PhD student in Ohio State's College of Public Health, and senior author Jeffrey Wing, assistant professor of epidemiology.

"The association we saw was most significant in the 45-59 age group, suggesting that quitting at that stage of life may have a benefit for cognitive health," Wing said. A similar difference wasn't found in the oldest group in the study, which

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Oil-laden tanker sinks in Meghna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

An oil tanker, carrying 11 lakh litres of fuel, partially sank in the Meghna in Bhola Sadar's Tultuli area early yesterday.

A portion of the oil spilt in the river after the tanker, Nandini-2, was hit by an unidentified vessel around 4:00am, said Enayet Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bhola Sadar Police Station.

The quantity of the oil spilt in the river could not be determined immediately, he added.

All 13 staff members of the tanker were rescued by a sand-laden vessel following the incident, he said.

Efforts have been on to recover the oil since 5:00pm, said KM Shafiul Kinjal, media officer of Bangladesh Coast Guard (south).

After the incident, a hole near the engine room made the oil tanker's stern to skin, said OC Enayet, adding that most of the vessel sank by the evening.

The oil tanker had taken in around 2.34 lakh litres of diesel and the rest octane from Chattogram port and headed towards the Padma Oil depot in Chandpur.

If oil spills into the river, it can cause huge damage to the biodiversity and aquatic life, said Arifur Rahman, assistant professor of the environmental science department at the Patuakahli Science and Technology University.



An oil tanker with its stern under water in the Meghna near Tultuli in Bhola Sadar after another vessel hit it from behind early yesterday. Diesel and octane spilled into the river. People are seen trying to pump out the rest from the vessel.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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Man shot dead by Khasi people at Sylhet border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bangladeshi was shot dead by some Khasi people on the Indian side of the Bangladesh-India border in Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Madassir Ali, 52, of the upazila's Goabari village.

Golam Dastagir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Jaintiapur Police Station, said, "He was shot dead by some members of the Khasi community after he went to their village near the border inside India to steal betel nuts."

"The others who were with him brought his body back inside Bangladesh. Police later recovered it and sent it to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy."

Md Intaj Ali, chairman of Nijpat union, said, "Some people from almost every bordering village are smuggling something or the other from India. Many have stolen various things from the village of the Khasis along the border. The Khasis now think everyone is a thief and so, such shooting incidents take place almost every year."