

**WHAT TO WATCH**  
**T SPORTS AND GTV**  
 Bangladesh vs South Africa  
 First Test, Day 2  
 Live from 10:00 am  
**SONY SPORTS 2**  
 Champions League

AC Milan vs Club Brugge  
 Live from 10:45 pm  
 Arsenal vs Shakhtar Donetsk  
 Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)  
**SONY SPORTS 1**  
 Monaco vs Red Star Belgrade

Live from 10:45 pm  
 Real Madrid vs Dortmund  
 Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)  
**SONY SPORTS 5**  
 Juventus vs Stuttgart  
 Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)



Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam became only the second Bangladesh player to take 200 wickets after Shakib Al Hasan.

He also beat Shakib to become the fastest player to reach the milestone of 200 Test wickets as he did it in his 48th match, six fewer than Shakib.

The 32-year-old finished Day 1 with a five-wicket haul, his 13th in the format.

He is now the highest wicket-taker at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium with 79 Test scalps, three wickets more than Shakib.



CSouth Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada celebrates his landmark 300th wicket with Matthew Breetzke after removing Bangladesh batter Mushfiqur Rahim during opening day of the first Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. He became the fastest to take 300 Test wickets (11,817 balls), beating Pakistan's Waqar Younis (12,602 balls).

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Bangladesh move backwards strategically

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

There was no way for Bangladesh to make up for a very poor batting performance, bowled out for 106 against South Africa in the first Test in Mirpur, but spinner Taijul Islam's fifer sort of came pretty close to making up for the batting debacle on Monday. But in terms of strategical standpoints or how Test cricket should be approached, Bangladesh once again appear to be going backwards.

For when an assessment is done on Test mentality, Bangladesh were already on the backfoot by having picked eight batters in the playing eleven. That meant they went in with just a lone pacer in Hasan Mahmud. Following the Test win in Mount Maunganui, and in the latter period, discussions have gone on about providing more opportunities to pacers.

When the pace unit appears to be thriving, and its merits have been proven in away Tests -- the latest feat in Pakistan where pace trio picked up all 10 wickets in Rawalpindi -- Bangladesh went backwards.

The paradox being that a shaky batting unit meant more batters were preferred. Since Mirpur always has something for

spinners, it was a pacer that was replaced as Jaker Ali Anik made his debut.

But no Test team takes that counterintuitive approach. All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's absence saw team management revert to kind.

But Kagiso Rabada and Wiaan Mulder showed early on that the wicket had zip

too as six wickets fell to pace. Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto had suggested a day before that it was a traditional Mirpur track, but the bounce did not verify such a claim.

"Yeah, we were really surprised at how the wicket played out. We thought it was going to turn, and not really nip, but with

session. If South Africa had been surprised, they still had enough to get two pacers in the line-up. Bangladesh only made room for one.

"Test cricket should offer a fair contest between bat and ball," Rabada also argued.

But what transpired was more in line with how Taijul himself put it during his presser. "When a team plays badly, there is no chance for fairness [between bat and ball], whether you produce a good wicket or a bad one."

Top-order batting collapses are a regularity for Bangladesh in Tests. Asked about the poor batting display, Taijul said: "We fell short by some runs. Had we gotten 200-250, we would have been in a terrific position."

Thus one batter more did not make a difference on Day 1. It is not clear whether newly-appointed head coach Phil Simmons had any input regarding the matter but there would be big question marks on whether Bangladesh are moving backwards regarding focusing on strength, especially pace, rather than focusing on making up for batters' shortcomings.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**Bangladesh:** First innings-106 all out in 40.1 overs (Joy 30, Shadman 0, Mominul 4, Shanto 7, Mushfiqur 11, Liton 1, Miraz 13, Jaker 2, Nayeem 8, Taijul 16, Hasan 4 not out; Rabada 3-26, Mulder 3-22,

Maharaj 3-34)

**South Africa:** First innings-140-6 in 41 overs (de Zorzi 30, Stubbs 23, Rickelton 27, Verreynne 18 not out, Mulder 17 not out; Taijul 5-49, Hasan 1-31)

and seam movement to offer to pacers. Rabada's delivery first-up should have warned Bangladesh -- a short of length delivery that exploded off the surface, opener Mahmudul Hasan just about getting out of the way of a scorcher.

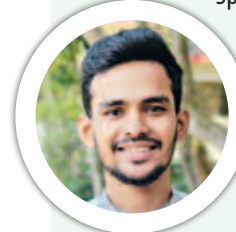
Mulder did the early damage with three quick wickets and Rabada bagged three

the new ball, there was a bit of movement. Not really much swing, but off the wicket, there was quite a bit of seam movement. To be fair, that's actually how it played in the nets," Rabada said at the press conference after Day 1 where 16 wickets had fallen.

Out of 16, 7 went to pacers as Hasan too got the ball to zip around in the third

### SHORT CORNER

#### Sports adviser sceptical about acceptability of BFF polls



Sports adviser Asif Mahmud expressed his scepticism regarding the acceptability and competitiveness of the upcoming Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) polls following a visit to the federation on Monday, his first since taking over the adviser's role. Asif Mahmud held a discussion with BFF general secretary Emran Hossain before briefing the media regarding his views on the October 26 elections and other issues related to football. "I am against the electioneering of former councilors. But the FIFA regulations and the autonomy of the BFF must be respected," the adviser said. The elections will be observed by representatives from FIFA, AFC and SAFF.

#### NCL: Rajshahi-Khulna clash set for climax

The opening round fixture between Rajshahi Division and Khulna Division in the National Cricket League 2024-25 is set for a thrilling finish as Khulna, chasing a daunting 516-run target, reached 120 for naught at stumps on day three at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

#### Kings in Thimphu for AFC Challenge League

Five-time Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings have flown to Thimphu, Bhutan for the AFC Challenge League, the new third-tier club competition of Asia, after having participated in the now-defunct AFC Cup in three previous editions.

The Bangladeshi club, who failed to cross the group-stage hurdle on each of those occasions under Oscar Bruzon, now have a new coach in charge and are without their talismanic forward Robson Robinho.



Robert Lewandowski scored twice to help leaders Barcelona thrash visitors Sevilla 5-1 in LaLiga on Sunday in a confidence boost for Hansi Flick's side ahead of key clashes against Bayern Munich and Real Madrid. Lewandowski has reached 12 league goals in 10 games, double the amount of Kylian Mbappe and Ayoze Perez who are the joint second highest scorers in LaLiga.

PHOTO: REUTERS

\*Read full stories on The Daily Star website

## Bellingham braces for Dortmund reunion

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham is set to face his former team Borussia Dortmund at the Santiago Bernabeu tonight, in a rematch of last season's Champions League final which saw the England international and Los Blancos secure a record 15th title.

Although Bellingham's first season in Spain started with a glut of goals, the 21-year-old has shown signs of frustration in his sophomore year at Madrid, tasked with more defensive responsibility in midfield than at many times last season following the arrival of French superstar Kylian Mbappe.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti used the hard-working Bellingham on the right of midfield in a 2-1 La Liga win at Celta Vigo on Saturday, another new role for the 112 million dollar man.

Bellingham started last season as a key figure in the centre of Madrid's attack, scoring 10 goals in his first 10 games across La Liga and the Champions League.

Thrust into the position after Karim Benzema departed with Madrid still waiting for then Paris Saint-Germain



left of midfield at frequent intervals.

The midfielder looked exhausted in the final months of the campaign and struggled with shoulder and ankle issues. Bellingham was also below his best for England at Euro 2024 despite the Three Lions reaching the final.

He has been on a sharp upwards trajectory since breaking into the Birmingham City first team as a teenager, with the club retiring his number 22 shirt after he joined Borussia Dortmund at 17.

Bellingham became the club's youngest captain at 19 and led them to the brink of the league title before Bayern Munich claimed victory on the final day of the 2022-23 campaign.

Ancelotti has repeatedly emphasised Bellingham's job has changed and he should be appreciated for what he is still bringing to the team, in a midfield role now similar to what he was accustomed to before joining Los Blancos.

Madrid are still searching for the right formula ahead of a vital week, facing Dortmund and then La Liga leaders Barcelona, and Bellingham will be determined to contribute whether that includes him scoring or not.

striker Mbappe to arrive, Bellingham thrived. However, after nine games this season in all competitions, Bellingham is yet to find the net.

During the second half of last season, Ancelotti looked to shore up Madrid's defence by getting Bellingham to play a hybrid role which saw him drop to the

## New Zealand's GLORY-LADEN WEEKEND

New Zealand experienced one of the finest weekends in its sporting history after the triple success of winning the Women's T20 World Cup, a rare Test triumph in India, and America's Cup sailing glory. First, on Saturday, the dominant Kiwis lifted the America's Cup -- the world's oldest international sporting trophy -- for the third consecutive time after beating their British opponents. On Sunday, New Zealand crushed the mighty India by eight wickets in Bengaluru to record their first Test cricket win on Indian soil for 36 years.

Later the same day, Sophie Devine's team beat South Africa by 32 runs in Dubai to achieve their historic first Women's T20 World Cup crown -- a first for New Zealand in the game's shortest format, women or men.

PHOTO: ICC

