

❶ Bangladesh are staring at their 47th innings defeat in their 154th Test, as they trail hosts Sri Lanka by 96 runs in their second innings with just four wickets in hand in the Colombo Test.

❷ Of the 46 innings defeats till date for Bangladesh, a record nine such losses came against South Africa and eight each against India and Sri Lanka.

❸ Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam completed his 17th five-wicket haul in Tests yesterday. Taijul remains just two fifiers behind Shakib Al Hasan, who holds the record for most in this regard for Bangladesh.

❹ It was, however, Taijul's fifth fifer in an overseas Test, equalling Shakib's tally. No other Bangladesh bowler boasts more five-wicket hauls outside home.

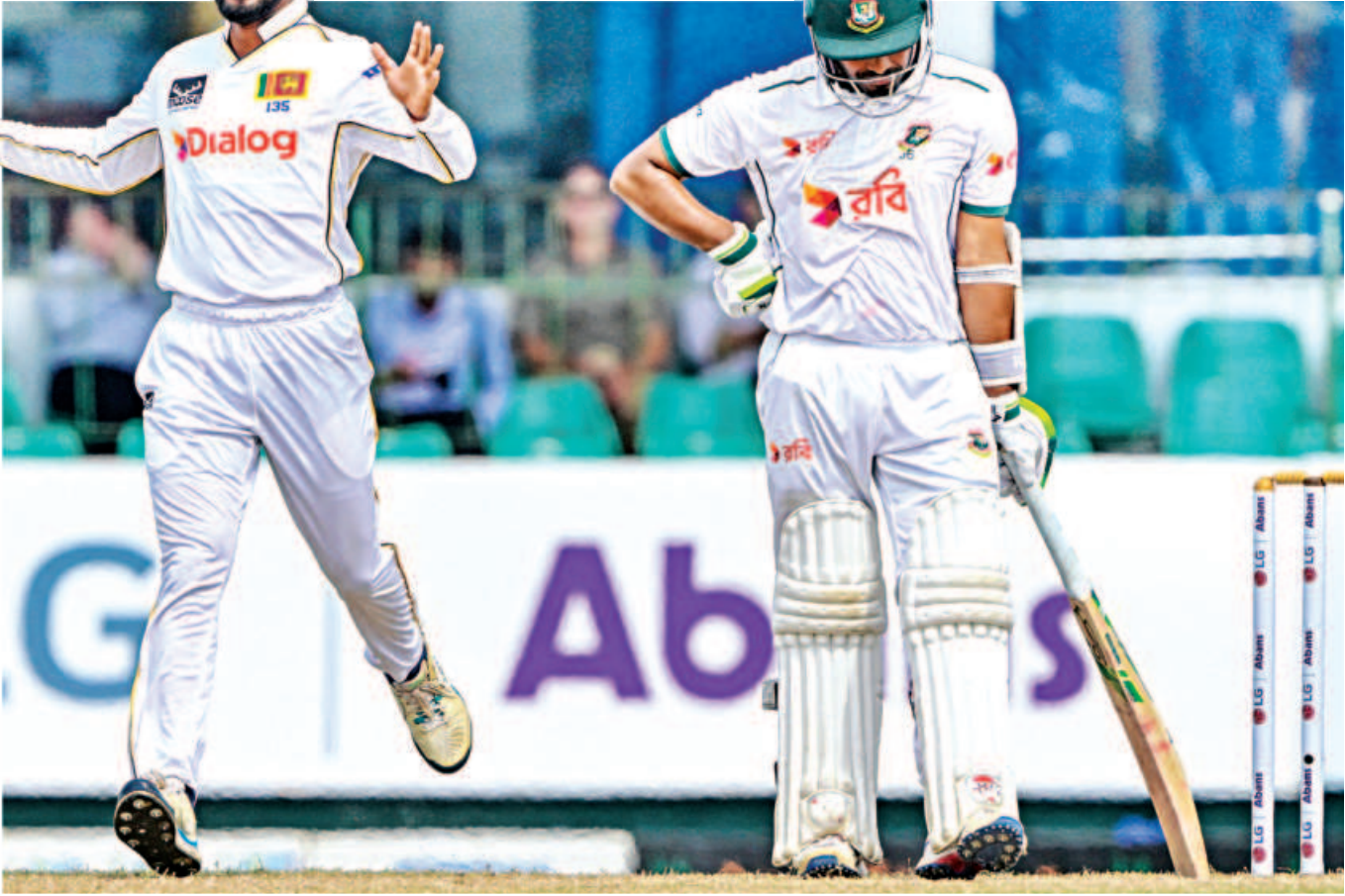
BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh first innings: 247 all out in 79.3 overs

Second innings: 115 for six in 38.4 overs (Mushfiqur 26, Litton 13 not out; Dhananjaya 2-13, Jayasuriya 2-47)

Sri Lanka first innings: 458 all out in 116.5 overs (Nissanka 158, Chandimal 93, Mendis 84, Taijul 5-131, Nayeem 3-87)

Bangladesh trail by 96 runs.



Bangladesh opener Anamul Haque Bijoy's stint in the middle on Day 3 of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo captured the essence of how the Tigers fared as a batting unit. Bijoy's run-a-ball 19, which included two fours and a six, was perhaps his best start to an innings since his return to the national side, but it came to a premature end in only the seventh over when he toed a short ball bowled by Asitha Fernando to short-leg. His teammates followed suit as all six Bangladesh batters dismissed on the day, including Mushfiqur Rahim [bottom], got starts and reached double figures only to succumb to disappointing ends.

SL name squad for Bangladesh ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka announced a 16-member squad on Friday for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Bangladesh, set to begin in Colombo on July 2.

Fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka returned to the squad post-injury while wicketkeeper-batter Sadeera Samarawickrama got recalled to the ODI side after around eight months.

All-rounder Milan Rathnayake, who is yet to debut in the format, has also been called up to the ODI side for the first time.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh players who were selected for the 50-over portion of the Sri Lanka tour left for the island nation yesterday.

The first two ODIs will be played in Colombo and the third and final one will be played in Pallekele on July 8.

The ODIs will be followed by a three-match T20I series which will begin in Pallekele on July 10.

SRI LANKA ODI SQUAD:
Charith Asalanka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Nishan Madushka, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Duniith Wellalage, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Milan Rathnayake, Dilshan Madushanka, Asitha Fernando, Eshan Malinga

Failure to adjust leaves Tigers in disarray

SPORTS REPORTER

After the second day of the Colombo Test, Bangladesh coach Phil Simmons had hoped that his batters would "take notes" of how Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka struck a brilliant a century and score big in the second innings.

But his hopes were shattered on Friday, as Bangladesh's struggles with the bat worsened in their second innings, leaving them staring at defeat after the conclusion of the third day's play against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Bangladesh are trailing by 96 runs and have lost six top-order batters for just 115 runs before stumps, having batted for a little over a session.

Earlier on the day, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam was rewarded for his perseverance with a five-wicket haul but the same resolution was missing in Bangladesh's batting effort.

In the first innings, majority of the batters got starts but could not capitalise and in the second innings, the application of the batters failed to match the merit of the Lankan bowlers.

Bangladesh's highest partnership in the match came during the first innings, when Mushfiqur Rahim and Litton Das both received reprieves from fielders and strung together 67. But on Day 3, having conceded a 211-run lead, the visiting batters could only muster 30-odd partnerships – the highest being a 32-run stand between captain Najmul Hossain



Shanto and Mominul Haque.

Arguably, Bangladesh did not get the best conditions for batting in either of their innings but the wicket still had enough for batters to persevere.

Anamul Haque Bijoy's tenure as opener appears to be coming to an end after another unspectacular show. Having failed to get off the mark twice this series, he proceeded to try and negotiate Lankan pacers by moving further during his trigger movement.

Even though he managed to hit a

couple of fours and a six in his run-a-ball 19, his unease was clear. He eventually succumbed to a short delivery and the manner of his dismissal showing that his domestic form is not quite meeting international red-ball standards.

Mominul was one of the players alongside Mushfiqur to have prepared well for the tour but having managed starts, he threw his wicket away in his previous three innings in the series. And on Friday, loss of focus saw him get dismissed cheaply to a pretty regular delivery.

Mominul has one fifty in his last 10 innings and questions will be asked about his place in the side.

"Every batter got out after getting set and scoring 25-30 runs. But if there were two hundreds or even two fifties from these players, we would have been in a better position," Taijul remarked at the press conference yesterday.

Application of the batters have remained somewhat ambiguous throughout the series. When they needed to be on the front foot to negotiate the turn, many of the batters went onto the back foot, so, whenever the Lankan spinners produced arm deliveries, they suffered.

While arguably the bowlers let Bangladesh down in the Test, the batting department's failure was the bigger concern as another innings defeat looms.

Goalkeepers keeping focus in rainy Yangon

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's football team braces for AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers amid rain in Myanmar.

Bangladesh are set to play their first match against Bahrain on Sunday. Despite persistent rain in Yangon, Myanmar, the squad has been training with unwavering determination.

The Bangladesh team reached Yangon on June 25 and has been facing continuous rainfall since. Even on Friday, the team trained under wet conditions.

Bangladesh's No. 1 goalkeeper Rupna Chakma shared her thoughts in a message released by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), saying, "We seek prayers from everyone so that we can play well in all three matches. As goalkeepers, our responsibility is to make the saves. We are working hard in training under the guidance of our coach."

Having already won back-to-back SAFF titles and established dominance in South Asia, Bangladesh know that progressing to the elite level of Asian football demands relentless effort and preparation.

Goalkeeping coach Masud Ahmed Uzzal emphasised this point: "I am training Rupna and the other goalkeepers to meet the standards required for the Asian level. I hope we will achieve something good and return home with pride."

Bangladesh have set sights not only on a strong start against Bahrain but also on keeping clean sheets in all three group matches.

'No reason right now to delay BCB election'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh youth and sports advisor Asif Mahmud said on Friday that they are working on the process of amending the constitution of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) but affirmed that for the time being there is no reason to delay the BCB elections scheduled for October.

"We are working on the process of amending the constitution," Asif told reporters on Friday.

"The decentralisation should be done in a way that it causes stakeholders no harm. There should be no harm to those who are contributing to cricket in this process. We want to change the constitution through a constitutional process and after consultation with stakeholders," he added.

The advisor suggested that the timing of the election would depend on the process by which the constitution would be amended.

"It [BCB election] depends on the process, whether it will be earlier or later," he said.

"So far, there is no reason to delay the election. We can't say at this moment what the situation will be in October. But we may talk to ICC if needed... We want to conduct the election on time," he added.

The National Sports Council (NSC) had formed a committee on June 24 to prepare recommendations for updating the constitutions and affiliation policies of federations under the NSC.

Earlier, BCB had formed a constitution reform committee led by director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim during the tenure of the previous BCB president Faruque Ahmed. However, that committee was suspended in January in the face of protest from Dhaka clubs.

CLUB WORLD CUP LAST 16

Messi's PSG reunion, Real Madrid face Juventus

AFP, Philadelphia

From Inter Miami's Lionel Messi facing former side PSG to Real Madrid meeting Juventus and Chelsea taking on Benfica, here we look how the last 16 of the Club World Cup shaped up.

Palmeiras v Botafogo

All four Brazilian representatives reached the last 16, and at least one will be in the quarterfinals, as Palmeiras and Botafogo face each other. Botafogo are the reigning Brazilian and South American champions and beat European champions PSG on the way to qualifying from their group at Atletico Madrid's expense.

Benfica v Chelsea

Enzo Maresca's Chelsea finished second in their group but avoided a strong Bayern Munich side by doing so, pitting them against Benfica. The Portuguese powerhouses edged the German giants in their final group game.

PSG v Inter Miami

Messi's Inter Miami were a

FIXTURES	
Palmeiras v Botafogo	Saturday, June 28 (10:00 PM)
Benfica v Chelsea	Sunday, June 29 (2:00 AM)
PSG v Inter Miami	Sunday, June 29 (10:00 PM)
Flamengo v Bayern	Monday, June 30 (2:00 AM)
Inter Milan v Fluminense	Tuesday, July 1 (1:00 AM)
Manchester City v Al Hilal	Tuesday, July 1 (7:00 AM)
Real Madrid v Juventus	Wednesday, July 2 (1:00 AM)
Dortmund v Monterrey	Wednesday, July 2 (7:00 AM)

surprise package in the group stage, beating Porto on their way to last 16, but a late collapse against Palmeiras meant they finished second and must face the Argentine playmaker's former side, PSG. Champions League winners PSG are expected to vanquish their MLS opponents, but Botafogo beat Luis Enrique's side in the group stage to prove they are not untouchable.

Flamengo v Bayern Munich

Brazilian side Flamengo stunned Chelsea in the group phase to claim top spot, but must overcome the might of Vincent Kompany's Bayern to progress.

Inter Milan v Fluminense

Recent runners-up in the Champions League, Inter ground out wins over Urawa Red Diamonds and River Plate to finish top of their group and will now hope to avoid becoming the latest European team to stumble

against Brazilian opposition.

Manchester City v Al Hilal

City come into the knockout phase in ominous form after being the only team to win all three group games. They have scored 11 times in their last two matches, with a 5-2 destruction of Juventus coming after they put six past Al Ain.

Real Madrid v Juventus

This is a clash between two traditional European titans who have met 21 times before. Real are adapting to life under a new coach in Xabi Alonso, who will hope to have Kylian Mbappe back after the Frenchman missed the group stage with illness.

Borussia Dortmund v Monterrey

Dortmund coach Niko Kovac has not held back on expressing his feelings about having to play in extreme heat at the tournament so he will be happy the game against Mexican side Monterrey is at the covered and air-conditioned Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Alcaraz faces tough test in Wimbledon treble bid

AGENCIES

Carlos Alcaraz will begin his quest for a third successive Wimbledon title against dangerous Italian Fabio Fognini, as this year's draw, conducted at the All England Club on Friday, promises star-studded showdowns, featuring big names like Jannik Sinner, Alcaraz, and Novak Djokovic.

Men's top seed Sinner, beaten by Alcaraz in the French Open final this month, meets fellow Italian Luca Nardi.

Djokovic, meanwhile, chases an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title, and opens against Alexandre Muller. But unlike previous years, the road appears steeper.

Djokovic, having last won a grand slam all the way back in 2023 at the US Open, hasn't played a single warm-up match on grass this season and has been hampered by recurring injury concerns. While his legacy on these courts is extraordinary, with Djokovic seeking to tie Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon singles titles, question marks linger over his physical readiness.

Spaniard Alcaraz, who warmed up for Wimbledon by winning the Queen's Club title, will be wary of the threat posed by the

enigmatic Fognini, although the 38-year-old Italian is not the force he was when he reached ninth in the rankings in 2019.

Alcaraz's path also seems tricky as his potential semifinal opponent could be Germany's third seed Alexander Zverev, who plays France's Arthur Rinderknech in his opening match.

As defending men's champion, Alcaraz will open play on Centre Court on Monday, which will feature the bottom half of the men's draw and the top half of the women's draw.

Meanwhile, Sinner's pursuit of a maiden Wimbledon crown could hinge on a heavyweight semifinal clash with seven-time champion Djokovic.

Women's top seed Aryna Sabalenka will open her campaign versus Canadian qualifier Carson Branstine, while defending champion Barbora Krejčíková, the 17th seed who pulled out of the Eastbourne tournament on Thursday with a thigh strain, faces Alexandra Eala of the Philippines.

Women's second seed Coco Gauff's first-round opponent is Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska, while third seed Jessica Pegula, Gauff's likely semifinal opponent, plays Italian qualifier Elisabetta Cocciaretto.

