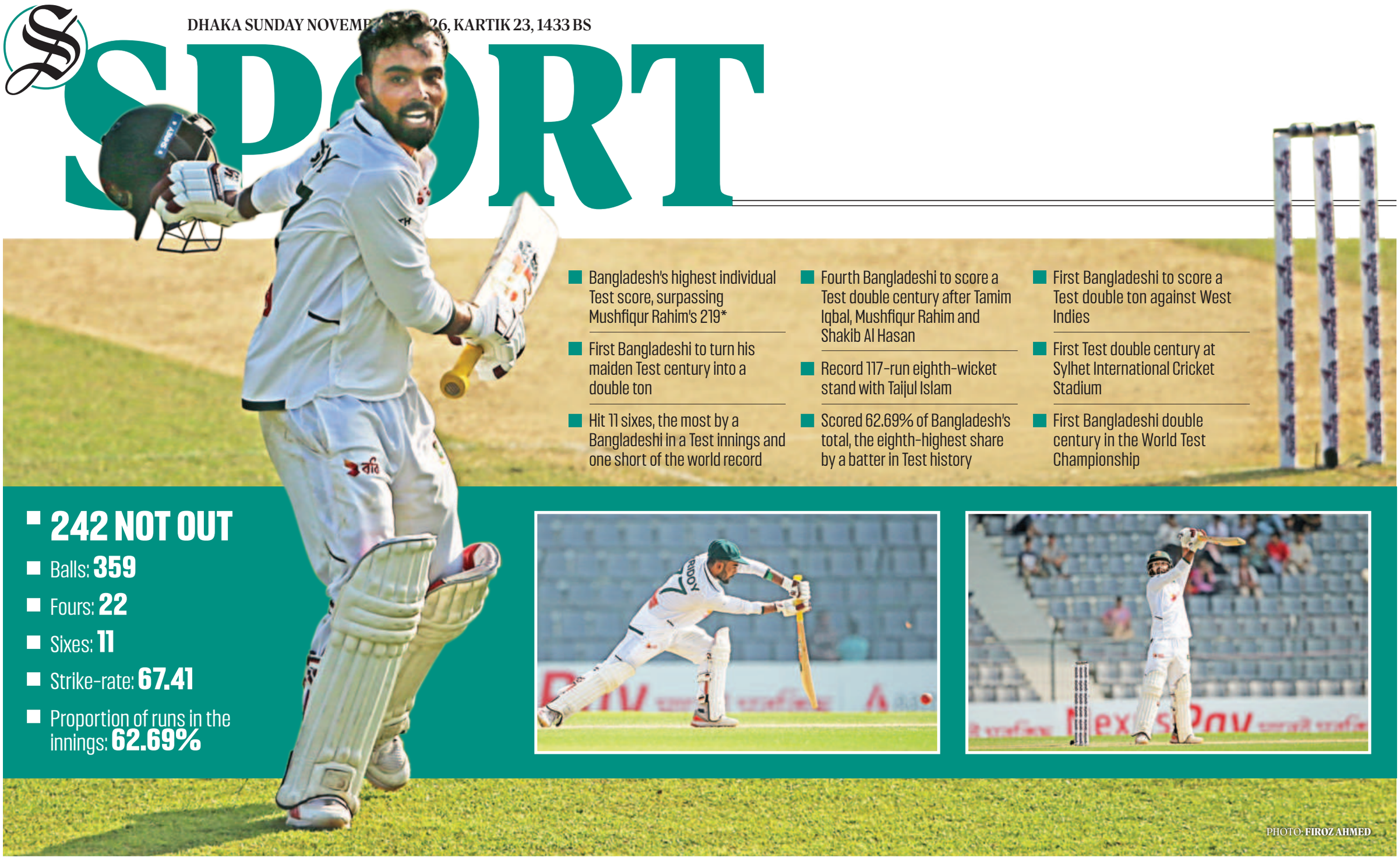
SPORT



- Bangladesh's highest individual Test score, surpassing Mushfiqur Rahim's 219*
- First Bangladeshi to turn his maiden Test century into a double ton
- Hit 11 sixes, the most by a Bangladeshi in a Test innings and one short of the world record
- Fourth Bangladeshi to score a Test double century after Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan
- Record 117-run eighth-wicket stand with Taijul Islam
- Scored 62.69% of Bangladesh's total, the eighth-highest share by a batter in Test history
- First Bangladeshi to score a Test double ton against West Indies
- First Test double century at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium
- First Bangladeshi double century in the World Test Championship

242 NOT OUT

- Balls: **359**
- Fours: **22**
- Sixes: **11**
- Strike-rate: **67.41**
- Proportion of runs in the innings: **62.69%**

PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

Hridoy's marathon of grit in the heat

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI *from Sylhet*

Patience, grit, and sudden acceleration. Tawhid Hridoy showcased it all yesterday.

Under an unforgiving Sylhet sun on Saturday, the West Indies sensed an early kill. Instead, they ran into a man possessed. Doing whatever he wanted en route to a record-breaking double century, Hridoy showcased steely determination and resilience with his unbeaten 242.

He ground things out alongside Mushfiqur Rahim, seeing out day two after facing 80 deliveries to reach 29.

Bangladesh were five for 138 in the morning session, staring at another collapse after Mushfiqur and Litton Das fell to soft dismissals. Hridoy took it upon himself to do it all. When he lost Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who had added 41 important runs alongside him, Bangladesh had only just avoided the follow-on. There was still plenty of work to do.

The West Indies pacers extracted extra bounce from the surface, while their spinners fared better than Bangladesh's. But Hridoy played a game of his own. There were ramps, pulls and cuts aplenty, all among his strong suits. He struck 11 sixes and took pressure off the lower order. Alongside Taijul Islam, he put together 117 runs before adding another 85 with Taskin Ahmed.

His two dismissals in the Mirpur Test had drawn criticism of his commitment to the longest format. Hridoy brushed aside suggestions that he was not ready for the job with a Herculean act with the bat.

Selector Habibul Bashar had picked him based on what he had seen in a first-class match in Sylhet.

"In my first stint as a selector, I saw him in a first-class match in 2022 or 2023. I came and spoke to [Chandika] Hathurusingha back then. I told Hathurusingha that Hridoy is our next best Test batsman. A batsman like him at number six will help us a lot," Bashar recalled.



"We were in the ascendancy, thinking about how big a lead we could get. But Hridoy played a special innings, putting Bangladesh in a good position."

JOMEL WARRICAN, West Indies Spinner

Bashar had heard rumours that Hridoy did not want to play Tests. "I was very surprised."

"Why don't you want to play Test matches?" Bashar asked. Hridoy, he recalled, was surprised too, replying: "I never said anything like that; I want to play Test matches."

"I also told him that when I pick him, it will be based on his natural batting style," Bashar recalled. Hridoy did exactly that, despite failing in Zimbabwe and Mirpur.

"The biggest thing is that Hridoy wanted to play Test cricket very badly. He specifically wanted to play the South Africa 'A' team series, so I definitely wanted to give him that opportunity, and that drive helped him here," Bashar said.

That internal drive pushed Hridoy to show that his 350 not out in Potchefstroom was no fluke. He trusted his defence, took his time and built an innings over eight hours. The two dismissals in Mirpur had fuelled his resolve. Cramps eventually got the better of him, keeping him from the press conference yesterday.

Challenges remain in the coming days, but Hridoy showed the rewards of determination. The quality of the innings alone justified the records he set.

His bat speed, assertiveness and willingness to take the game on, even in such a situation, will leave a mark on Bangladesh's Test history.

"It was the best Test innings I have seen from the ground. You know why? The situation alone made it the best," Bashar said. And few could argue.

SCORES IN BRIEF

- **West Indies:** First innings 356 and second innings 7-0 in 4 overs.
- **Bangladesh:** First innings 386 in 11.5 overs (Tanzid 16, Shanto 18, Hridoy 242 not out, Mushfiqur 34, Miraz 16, Taijul 22, Taskin 12)

Hridoy's Houdini act: A knock among Bangladesh's greatest?

Tawhid Hridoy's unbeaten 242 against the West Indies in Sylhet was an extraordinary display of resilience and batting prowess. Walking in with Bangladesh under pressure, the 25-year-old held the innings together as wickets fell around him, gradually turning a precarious situation into a 30-run first-innings lead. His record-breaking knock, marked by patience, resolve and an array of attacking strokes, stands as one of the most remarkable individual efforts in Bangladesh's Test history and turned a day of adversity into one of the most memorable in the country's cricketing journey, writes Al-Amin.

Read full story on The Daily Star website



Barcelona's Brazilian forward Raphinha looks in high spirits during a training session on the eve of tonight's crucial LaLiga away fixture against second-placed Atletico Madrid. The league leaders, on 30 points from 11 games, hold a two-point advantage over Atletico, with Real Madrid a further point behind and also eyeing a slip-up. In his fifth season at Barcelona, Raphinha has scored 19 goals in all competitions this season -- 15 in LaLiga and four in the Champions League -- and recently renewed his contract with the Catalan club until June 2030. PHOTO: **FC BARCELONA**

Timely lift as SAFF stakes rise

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are set for a major squad boost ahead of their second and final Group A match of the SAFF Championship 2026 against Sri Lanka on November 11, with talismanic midfielder Hamza Choudhury and promising forward Farhaan Ali Wahid expected to join the team on Monday.

Team manager Amirul Islam Babu confirmed their arrival as Bangladesh trained at Dhaka's Kings Arena yesterday. Hamza's Sheffield United played away against Charlton in the English Championship on Saturday, while 19-year-old Farhaan's Boreham Wood faced Wigan Athletic in the FA Cup first round.

"As per the SAFF rules, we are allowed to register 28 players, and we have registered 28. Currently, we have 26 players in the squad. The remaining two could not join due to the FIFA window [which opens from November 9]," Babu told reporters.

He also expressed optimism about the recovery of defensive mainstay Topu Barman, who picked up an injury during the warm-up ahead of the Bhutan fixture.

Attacking midfielder Sheikh Morsalin could also return. He clarified that he had missed the opening match due to a slight fever rather than an injury and "recovered four or five days ago". He is now "100 per cent fit".

Bangladesh, seeking their first regional title in 23 years, began their campaign with a 1-0 win over Bhutan, substitute forward Mohammad Ibrahim scoring the decisive goal in the 69th minute. The victory took the hosts to the top of the three-team Group A. If Sri Lanka beat Bhutan in today's match, both sides will secure semifinal places.

In the day's other fixture, Pakistan face the Maldives in a must-win Group B encounter after losing 3-2 to India in their opener. A victory for Maldives victory would see them and India advance to the last four.

Despite Bangladesh's narrow win over Bhutan, Morsalin felt the result could keep the team motivated. "Sometimes scoring too many goals makes the body relax. From that perspective, I think it is better that way. We are still hungry," he said.

He also cautioned against underestimating Sri Lanka, whose squad includes several expatriate players. "We are not taking Sri Lanka lightly by any means. They have a very good team, and we are preparing accordingly," Morsalin said.



- Bangladesh's Hamza Choudhury and Farhaan Ali Wahid are expected to join the squad after their club commitments, while Topu Barman and Sheikh Morsalin are nearing full fitness.
- A win for Sri Lanka in their Group A clash against Bhutan would see them and Bangladesh into the semifinals.
- Organisers have announced a 50 per cent discount on tickets for today's double-header, applicable only to today's matches.
- SAFF general secretary Purusottam Kattel expressed satisfaction with the opening ceremony and matches but acknowledged organisational shortcomings. He said steps had already been taken to address the issues ahead of today's fixtures.

PHOTO: **STAR**

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS

Bangladesh vs West Indies
2nd Test, Day four
Live from 9:30 am

SAFF Championship
Maldives vs Pakistan
Live from 4:30 pm
Sri Lanka vs Bhutan
Live from 8:00 pm

LaLiga
Real Sociedad vs Rayo Vallecano
Live from 9:15 pm
Villarreal CF vs Getafe CF
Live from 11:30 pm
Atletico Madrid vs FC Barcelona
Live from 2:00 am (Monday)

RAJDHANI TV

Premier League
Sunderland vs Chelsea
Live from 8:00 pm
Manchester United vs Aston Villa
Live from 10:30 pm