

Hasan takes 6-55 as Bangladesh claim opening day of Australia Test

AFP | Darwin, Australia

Hasan Mahmud took a career-best 6-55 as Bangladesh bundled Australia out for 198 to take the honours on the opening day of the first Test in Darwin on Thursday.

At the close Bangladesh were 96-1, 102 runs behind Australia. Mominul Haque was on 35 with Tanzid Hasan alongside him on 32 as the visitors made a superb start to a Test match most people expected them to lose inside three days.

Earlier, Hasan led an impressive display by the visitors' seamers as Australia slumped to their lowest Test score against Bangladesh, their previous worst being 217 in Mirpur in 2017.

The 26-year-old was the pick of the attack, but he was ably supported by fellow quicks Taskin Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain, who took two wickets apiece.

"I was just trying to bowl line and length, trust the process and follow what the captain was



Bangladesh bowler Hasan Mahmud (C) holds the ball aloft after taking six Australian wickets on the first day of the first cricket Test match between Australia and Bangladesh at Marrara Stadium in Darwin

saying," Hasan said.

"(Taskin and Ebadot) were trying their best and they did very well also."

Steve Smith was the only Australian to offer any resistance, scoring 71, while the rest of the batsmen looked out of sorts

against the disciplined attack.

"We haven't played a Test match for a while and it can take some time to get into it," Smith said.

"It wasn't easy. The ball was doing stuff and you have to be patient.

beaten by a Cricket Australia XI in their only warm-up match.

Hasan made the initial breakthrough in the 12th over with the score on 45.

Jake Weatherald, on 23, had a huge swipe at a ball outside off stump and only managed a thick edge to wicketkeeper Litton Das.

Hasan struck again soon after, fellow opener Travis Head chopping on for 22 to leave Australia 52-2.

Bangladesh then saw a huge opportunity go begging when Smith, on two, edged Ebadot to third slip where Tanzid Hasan spilled the chance.

Smith had a second escape next over when he got a thick edge off Taskin only for the ball to fly through a vacant third slip.

Marnus Labuschagne, on one, wasn't so fortunate.

He poked at an Ebadot ball outside off stump and edged to Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto at second slip, leaving Australia 61-3.

Cameron Green came in and played some big shots before chipping Taskin to short mid-

wicket, where Mushfiquur Rahim took an easy catch.

Wicketkeeper Alex Carey looked in good touch after lunch and cruised to 19 until he played on to Ebadot with the score on 129.

Taskin then produced the ball of the day to beat Beau Webster's bat and clip the top of off stump to leave the home side struggling on 152-6.

Cummins tried to steer the hosts to tea without further loss, however Shanto brought Hasan back into the attack with immediate success, the Australian skipper getting a big edge to Litton. Hasan got his fourth in the same fashion, Mitchell Starc getting a thin edge to the keeper with the score on 172.

Smith threw his wicket away going for a big hit before Nathan Lyon was last man out in similar fashion.

Bangladesh started their reply confidently and eased to 36 before Australia got the breakthrough, Shadman Islam (20) getting a leading edge off Mitchell Starc to Lyon at backward point.

Juventus forward Vlahovic signs three-year Besiktas deal

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Serbian international Dusan Vlahovic yesterday signed a three-year deal with Turkish club Besiktas after an injury-marred final year in Italy with Juventus.

The 26-year-old forward, whose contract with the Serie A giants expired this summer, will earn 7.5 million euros (\$8.6 million) per season in Istanbul, Besiktas said in a statement.

The 41-times capped player was greeted by a crowd of supporters as he touched down in Istanbul on Wednesday night.

"We want to be champions," the Serb declared on his arrival.

In Turkey he will play alongside Belgian



forward Leandro Trossard who joined from Arsenal in mid-July.

Vlahovic joined Juventus from Fiorentina in the summer of 2022 and scored 68 goals in 168 matches for the Turin club.

However, Serie A's second-highest scorer in the 2023-2024 season with 16 goals subsequently fell down the pecking order of strikers.

After returning last April from a long layoff due to a thigh injury, the Serbian suffered a calf problem, finishing the league season with just seven goals to his name.

Last crowned Turkish champions in 2021, Besiktas have since struggled to compete with Galatasaray and Fenerbahce, the city's other two major clubs.

Messi returns after father's death but Miami knocked out of Leagues Cup

AFP | Miami, United States

Lionel Messi made an emotional return Wednesday following his father's death and hints at retirement, but it wasn't enough for his Inter Miami side who were knocked out of the Leagues Cup in a 3-2 loss to Mexico's Leon.

The Miami captain flew back to Florida from Argentina on Tuesday night after attending the funeral of his father, Jorge, on Sunday and came on at half-time to a massive ovation.

Jorge, who was his son's agent, died last week at the age of 68. On Wednesday morning, Messi posted an emotional tribute to his father on social media, admitting that he wasn't sure



Lionel Messi #10 of Inter Miami CF is challenged by Rodrigo Echeverria #20 of Leon during the Leagues Cup Phase One match between Inter Miami CF and Leon at Nu Stadium

he wanted to continue playing football. "I don't know what I'll do without you, I don't know how to go on," Messi wrote.

"I just played football, and now I have serious doubts about continuing to do so for much longer."

Miami led 1-0 but two goals from Colombian Daniel Arcila fueled Leon's come-from-behind victory, which made them the first team to qualify for the quarter-finals of the tournament between MLS and LigaMx clubs.

Messi had made himself available to Miami coach Guillermo Hoyos for the must-win final group match, having been absent when they lost to Monterrey on Saturday.

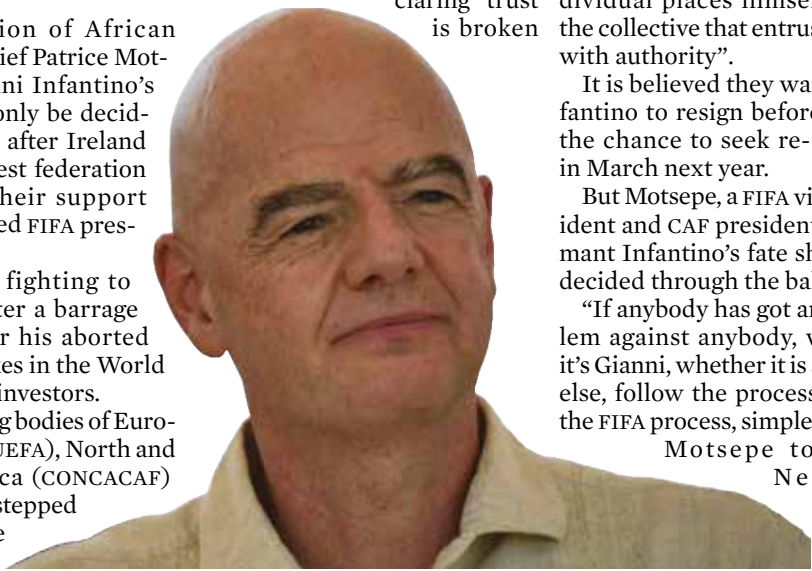
Infantino future should be decided by election says African football chief

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Confederation of African Football chief Patrice Motsepe says Gianni Infantino's future should only be decided by elections after Ireland became the latest federation to withdraw their support for the embattled FIFA president.

Infantino is fighting to save his job after a barrage of criticism for his aborted plan to sell stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

The governing bodies of European football (UEFA), North and Central America (CONCACAF) and Asia (AFC) stepped up the pressure on Infantino



in a joint letter this week, declaring "trust is broken is broken

through deception, when an individual places himself above the collective that entrusted him with authority".

It is believed they want to Infantino to resign before he has the chance to seek re-election in March next year.

But Motsepe, a FIFA vice-president and CAF president, is adamant Infantino's fate should be decided through the ballot box.

"If anybody has got any problem against anybody, whether it's Gianni, whether it is anybody else, follow the process, follow the FIFA process, simple as that," Motsepe told Sky News on Thursday.

"I f

you want to take him out, go for elections; let the 211 member associations decide. Do that and the vote will express whether they've got confidence in him or not.

"You've got to be very careful. There are elections taking place next year. Shouldn't we allow that process to continue?"

Motsepe was in Salzburg at the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday to hold talks with UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin, whose organisation are threatening to boycott the World Cup and Club World Cup in protest at Infantino's scheme.

"I've heard so many stories about various issues and am careful to pass judgement on anything," Motsepe said.

"Everybody has a right to be heard. Let's have a hearing, and a proper forum."

CAF had already backed Infantino and Motsepe claimed there was no breach of rules over the World Cup sell-off talks, because the proposals would be submitted to FIFA members for final approval.

"There's a lot that's problematic and negative that they have to fix," Motsepe said.

"But he has apologised and said maybe there's a different way these things should have been done, but we also take advice."

However, there has been no end to the tidal wave of criticism engulfing Infantino.

And on Thursday the Foot-

ball Association of Ireland (FAI) became the latest FIFA member to withdraw its support for Infantino.

The English FA and Welsh FA had already withdrawn their backing for the 56-year-old Swiss.

"Following an FAI Board Meeting, the decision was taken to rescind the letter of support that the Association supplied earlier this year," the organisation said.

"It has since written to FIFA to explain its reasoning. The Association is grateful for the support that FIFA provides to Irish football, but recent events have raised significant concerns regarding governance, transparency and the lack of meaningful consultation."