

# Bangladesh tighten grip on first Test

Bangladesh reaches 484-9 on Day Two, extending dominance over Sri Lanka with record partnership

● **Mushfiqu, Shanto extended partnership**

AFP | Galle

Bangladesh continued their dominance over Sri Lanka on the second day of the first test yesterday, finishing at a commanding 484 for nine -- despite a few late breakthroughs by the hosts.

The Tigers resumed on 292 for three overnight and turned the screws on a batting-friendly wicket, with Mushfiquir Rahim and Najmul Hossain Shanto extending their record-breaking partnership.

The 264-run partnership finally ended when Shanto fell for 148, deceived in the air as he attempted to drive one.

Shanto's fluent innings was peppered with 15 boundaries and a six.

Mushfiquir kept going with wicketkeeper Litton Das before finally falling for 163, a marathon knock that spanned nearly nine hours and 350 balls.



Bangladesh's Mushfiquir Rahim plays a shot

Das piled on further misery for Sri Lanka with a brisk 90 off 123 deliveries, cashing in on tired bowlers and some loose fielding.

He was particularly severe on the spinners, using his feet to good effect to lift the ball cleanly

over the in-field.

But he also survived some anxious moments.

Pathum Nissanka grassed a

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**Mushfiquir Rahim batted nearly nine hours for his 163 – his first big score after 13 innings – as Bangladesh posted their second-highest Test total in Sri Lanka**

sitter at short mid-wicket when he had just 14 to his name.

Moments earlier, he had survived a run-out stemming from a mix-up.

He eventually perished attempting a reverse sweep off debutant Tharindu Rathnayake, gloving it to Kusal Mendis behind the stumps.

Bangladesh batting coach Mohammad Salahuddin said it was a “very good effort by the batsmen”.

**Scorecard**

Bangladesh 484 for 9 (Mushfiquir 163, Shanto 148, Das 90, Rathnayake 3-38, Asitha 3-30) vs Sri Lanka

“We were very impressed with the way Mushfiquir Rahim went about things. He had not scored a big one in a while but we knew it was just a matter of time before he scored a big one,” Salahuddin said.

“They (batsmen) showed character and we have almost scored 500 runs now. I hope our bowlers will be able to create opportunities bowling to attacking fields as we have got the runs on the board now. It will be an interesting day three.”

Sri Lanka's Milan Rathnayake said it was one of the “flattest wickets we have seen in Galle”.

“It was a tough wicket to bowl on but I thought we did a decent job,” Rathnayake said.

“When they were building the pressure and taking the attack on to us, it was important to stay calm and show character. I thought after tea we came back stronger to claim five wickets.”

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