

Tigers fight back late as India post 278-6 on Day 1

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The Daily Morning Voice Online Desk: The final session on the first day of the opening Test in Chattogram between Bangladesh and India looked to be slipping away from the hosts with two set batters- Cheteshwar Pujara and Shreyas Iyer- capitalising on the settled wicket but the Tigers clawed back from a bleak outlook to take two wickets in the last 10 overs of the day to reduce India to 278-6 at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Wednesday. Having started the post-Tea session at 174-4, Shreyas and Pujara, who put together a 149-run stand cruised to 261 before the latter was castled by Taijul Islam for 90 runs as he missed out on a century. Iyer remained unbeaten on 82 but had to see Axar Patel fall lbw to Mehedi Hasan Miraz on the last delivery of the day. Things could've gotten much better for the Tigers had they been sharper in fielding as wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan Sohan dropped Pujara after lunch on 12 off Ebadot, and the fast-bowler later failed to grasp the easiest of catches at deep mid-wicket to give Shreyas a reprieve on 67. For Bangladesh, Taijul was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets for 84 runs in 30 overs, including the prized scalp of Virat Kohli, while Mehedi sent back the dangerous Rishabh Pant for 46 in the second session before dismissing Axar in the third session to end the day on a high for Bangladesh. Earlier in the day, KL Rahul dragged a Khaled Ahmed delivery onto his stumps after making 22. Pant launched a counter-attack, hitting six fours and two sixes to put India back in the driving seat after being 48-3. After lunch wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan dropped Pujara off Ebadot Hossain on 12 in the second ball of the second session. India had made a brisk start, reaching 41 runs in 13 overs after stand-in skipper Rahul won the toss and elected to bat first at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. Gill attempted a paddle sweep but could only manage a top edge which flew to Yasir Ali at leg slip. After Rahul fell to Khaled, Taijul got the big wicket of Kohli.