

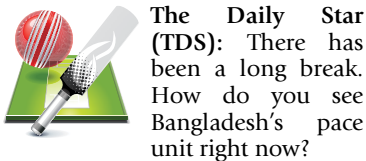


A batter of Bangladesh Ansar & VDP makes solid connection as her teammates watch intently during the final of the 4th Walton National Women's Baseball Championship against Bangladesh Police at Paltan Maidan yesterday. Ansar won the final by 17-10 points to claim their fourth title in this American sport, which is trying to make its presence felt on the sporting landscape of this country.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# ‘Mustafizur has potential to bring the ball back in’

The upcoming three-Test tour of Sri Lanka could see Bangladesh welcomed on a pace-friendly wicket -- as the Sri Lankan media indicates. If that is the case, is the pace unit of a usually spin-heavy Tigers ready to embrace the challenge? Bangladesh's fast bowling coach Ottis Gibson talks about that and more during an interview with The Daily Star's Ekush Tapader.



**The Daily Star (TDS):** There has been a long break. How do you see Bangladesh's pace unit right now?  
**Ottis Gibson (OG):** Yes, it has been a long break. But as far as our bowlers are concerned, we have been in constant contact with them with the fitness program. And once we have enough time and once they are fit enough, we can add on the cricket basics to their fitness level at the end. The medical team also has been keeping a close contact with the players. The BCB has put in a really good programme for the bowlers and all the bowlers are coming in different facilities and bowling a lot of overs and sending them [through videos] to us and we are able to monitor their work. Of Course they will still need to be match-fit but that will come once we start the camp.  
**TDS:** Mustafizur Rahman was not included in BCB's red-ball contract. But recently selectors had mentioned that they were considering him for Tests as well. What is the key for Mustafizur being considered for Tests now?  
**OG:** Obviously Mustafizur is a quality bowler. And him being left-handed gives us an option. So we have spoken about him and about using his left-handed quality in

Test cricket. We have tried to see if we can get him up to speed for Test cricket; upgrade his skill in terms of swinging the ball back in and him being more patient as it is required in Tests. He has shown keenness to get involved in Test cricket and therefore we have to try and see how much we can put into him workwise to see if we can get him up to Test-match standard. He is a quality white ball bowler but we want to see if we can make him a quality Test bowler as well.  
**TDS:** There was an issue regarding Mustafizur that he is not able to swing the ball into the right-handers. Has there been any improvement on that?  
**OG:** Yes, there was this issue before I got here. I was only able to spend little time with him during the Zimbabwe series. He was not playing the Zimbabwe Test series but we kept him with the team so that I could monitor him closely and work with him. And he has shown the potential to swing the ball back in. And in the ODI in Sylhet, he should have had an LBW wicket as the ball swung back in and hit the batsman in the front but he did not appeal. I don't think he believed in himself that he could swing the ball back in but the ball certainly swung back in. So the early signs are that he can swing the ball back in and that's

why we want him around the Test squad so that he can continue to do that.  
**TDS:** Sri Lankan selectors told media that they were going to prepare pace-friendly wickets for Bangladesh. What is your thought on that? Is that a 'false threat'?  
**OG:** We don't know that [if Sri Lanka will prepare a pace-friendly wicket]. What we can do is prepare ourselves for whatever the condition. It will be a plus for



us if we can take a squad of 20 players that may include four, five or six fast bowlers as we have a few quality fast bowlers. And I hope that they prepare pace friendly wickets so that our bowlers can exploit those conditions.  
**TDS:** Do you think Bangladesh's current pace unit will be able to take 20 wickets?  
**OG:** In the sub-continent it will not be only the pacers who will be taking all 20 wickets. For that we

need to put up a decent bowling unit that will also include a spinner. We have a couple of quality spinners and I believe Shakib [Al Hasan] should be back by then so he will add some quality in our bowling attack. I believe in bowlers that we have got. Taskin [Ahmed] has been looking really good recently. We have Rahi, Ebadot and Hasan Mahmud can be a fantastic young cricketer. So we have fast bowlers who can take wickets but it is the bowling unit that needs to take 20 wickets. And I don't think we will ever play four fast bowlers. We might play three fast bowlers and I believe those three fast bowlers will have an impact in the game if the condition suits.  
**TDS:** Recently Sri Lankan players participated in a longer version domestic tournament. Do you think that they are better prepared than Bangladesh?  
**OG:** We have not played any cricket -- not even domestic -- since March. The Sri Lankan players have been practising for a long time. So they are ahead of us in terms of preparation. But once we get to Sri Lanka and give ourselves enough time to practice, we will soon get up to speed. Over the five days of a Test, if we apply ourselves and play our best cricket, I feel like we can be a match for them. It is a series that we feel we can win.

## Azarenka fights her way back to the top

AFP, New York



Victoria Azarenka came from a set down to stun record-chasing Serena Williams on Thursday and set up a US Open final against Japan's Naomi Osaka. Azarenka recovered from a 6-1 hammering in the first set to win the next two 6-3, 6-3 and schedule her first Grand Slam final appearance in seven years. The former world number one is enjoying a remarkable renaissance in New York that the Belarusian credits to finding humility, following several years disrupted by injury and a custody battle over her son. "I think when you're coming up from kind of nothing, then you become a number one player in the world, sometimes you can start to think you're invincible and that you're better than everybody, and it's not true," Azarenka said. "So the ego starts to grow. It's very hurtful when it gets damaged. Instead of getting the ego damaged, I tried to remove that and learn from my mistakes," she added. After a first set plagued by double faults and unforced errors, Azarenka turned the

tide in the second, upping her service game and getting more returns in play as she began to dictate lengthy rallies. "I knew I needed to step up with my aggressivity, play a little smarter, play with a little bit more width of the court and bring the intensity up," Azarenka explained. The wwo-time Grand Slam winner had never beaten Williams before in a Grand Slam. Her last appearance in a Grand Slam final came in the US Open in 2013 when Williams beat her. "I've been there before. Today was gonna be different," Azarenka said. Williams said she started the 1 hr 56min-match "really strong". "(But) then she just kept fighting. She just changed and started playing better and better. Maybe I took a little too much off the gas pedal at some point," the American added. The defeat ended Williams' hopes of winning a record-equalling 24th singles Grand Slam at Flushing Meadows. It has been more than three years since Williams won her 23rd singles tennis major title at the 2017 Australian Open.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Serena Williams's pursuit of a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title was halted by a rejuvenated Victoria Azarenka in the semifinals of the US Open on Thursday.

## Cavani trades boots for ballet shoes?

AFP, Montevideo

Edinson Cavani has swapped football boots for ballet shoes to help popularise classical dance for boys and smash stereotypes in his native Uruguay. As the world speculates on the 33-year-old's future, Cavani donned tights at the Uruguay National Ballet school in Montevideo recently to lend himself to efforts to get young boys in football-mad Uruguay to take up ballet. "I don't share the view that every boy has to play only soccer," the long-haired striker told AFP. "I believe that girls and boys have to be free to seek their happiness in what they are most passionate about, because that's the best way to be well-trained, growing day by day in a firm structure." PSG's record scorer ended his contract with the French champions and is a free agent, with clubs like Italy's Juventus and Atletico Madrid circling for his signature. Trading his body-sweres and step-overs for pirouettes and "glissades," Cavani was put through his paces by professional dancers at the Sodre, Uruguay's National Ballet company, before recording a video message to kids. "The experience was incredible, the dancers explained to me how to do the steps and when I saw them, I was left with a real sense of admiration! Because dance is something wonderful," he said.

## CSA rejects suspension bid

REUTERS, Cape Town

Cricket South Africa (CSA) has rejected a resolution by the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) to suspend its board while a task team investigates its conduct. SASCOC told Reuters on Thursday night that the embattled board of CSA was asked to step aside after, among other things, failing to share a damning report that led to the sacking of former chief executive Thabang Moreo some nine months after he was first suspended. It also follows heavy criticism from sponsors and national team players, the latter accusing the board of "self-interest".

## Champions clash on opening day

REUTERS, Manchester



Leeds United have waited 16 long years to return to the Premier League and Marcelo Bielsa's side will get a very clear reminder of what they are now up against when they face champions Liverpool at Anfield in Saturday's season opener. While the Yorkshire club have work to do to re-establish themselves in the Premier League, the fixture brings back memories of great clashes between the clubs in the early 1970s when they were among the top teams in the country. That period included a memorable Charity Shield game in 1974 when Kevin Keegan and Billy Bremner were sent off after punches were thrown at Wembley. Pressing rather than punching is likely to be the order of the day on Saturday and it will be fascinating to see Leeds play their high-energy approach against Klopp's similarly relentlessly attack. Analysis by Gracenote reveals that this season's competition will contain the highest number of former league champions



Bust-ups, like this one between Liverpool's Kevin Keegan and Billy Bremner of Leeds, were commonplace back in the day.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

for 51 years. Fifteen clubs in this season's Premier League have been English top-flight champions in their history. Two of those former champions, Tottenham Hotspur and Everton, meet on Sunday in North London in a match which pits Jose Mourinho

against Carlo Ancelotti. Spurs are searching for the consistency they so lacked last season while Everton have strengthened impressively in the transfer market with James Rodriguez, Brazilian Allan and Abdoulaye Doucoure transforming their midfield.

National Housing Authority

Low Income Community Housing Support Project

Grihayan Bhaban, 82, Segunbagicha

Dhaka - 1000

[www.nha.gov.bd](http://www.nha.gov.bd)

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Date: 10-09-2020

**e-GP Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following work described below.

Sl.	Name of Work	Tender ID	Tender/Proposal Publication Date and Time
01	Improvement and Construction of Road U-Drain Sanitary Sub-structures & Electrification works etc. at Rahmatganj Millgate Ward No- 04 Settlement under Sirajganj Pourashava	493844	15-09-2020 09.00 AM
02	Improvement and Construction of Road and U-Drain Sanitary Sub-structures & Electrification works etc. at Rahmatganj Goli Ward No- 04 Settlement under Sirajganj Pourashava	493967	
03	Vertical Extension of Victoria High School Gopal Building with ancillary works at Janpur Settlement Ward No. 08 Sirajganj Pourashava	493968	

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no online / hardcopies will be accepted.

2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited through any branch of the registered bank.

4. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@oprocuro.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@oprocuro.gov.bd)).

(Bijay Kumar Mondal)  
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GD- 1443