



(L) Bangladesh players train at the Qatar University Ground ahead of today's World Cup qualifying fixture against India. Having shown tremendous resolve and resilience in a 1-1 draw against Afghanistan, the men in red and green will be wary of the threat posed by India's phenomenal captain Sunil Chhetri (inset). PHOTO: BFF/COLLECTED

'It's going to be another tough match'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will desperately be looking to repeat Thursday's performance when they square off neighbours India in the World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers in Qatar today. The match kicks off at 8:00pm (BST) at the climate-controlled Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha.

Despite a creditable draw against Afghanistan, Jamie Day's charges are still bottom of the five-team table with two points from six matches, one behind point India. An outright victory over their neighbours will brighten Bangladesh's chances of finishing fourth as well as earning a direct berth to the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

However, the tie is not only an important affair, but also a prestigious battle for the boys in red and green, who have been deprived of outright wins against the Blue Tigers in their last three meetings despite taking the lead on all occasions, including in their last meeting away in Kolkata.

Although there is a 79-place gulf between the sides in the FIFA Rankings, it has hardly been reflected in the past matches with Jamal Bhuiyan and Co. drawing praise after a brave 1-1 performance against India in Kolkata in front of some 70,000 raucous spectators.

For their latest clash tomorrow, nearly two years since the last, only five players -- Jamal, Rahmat Mia, Riyadul Hasan Rafi, Bipul Ahmed and fit-again Mohammad Ibrahim -- who played in the starting eleven for Bangladesh in that game may be picked by Jamie.

Regardless, Bangladesh will definitely be seeking inspiration from Thursday's spirited showing against Afghanistan with a squad made up of inexperienced players

and their British coach will have to trust some inexperienced players once again.

"It's going to be another tough match. They have some very good players and showed battling qualities in recent matches. We need to defend well again and be better on the ball in possession," Day told The Daily Star yesterday. "You look at India's last match against Qatar. With 10-men, they fought like warriors and lost 0-1. It only depicts the quality in their side. We are looking forward to the game. We are aware that we need to play to our maximum, and hope India have another off-day."

After playing out a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh at home, India

are expected to be hungrier in order to raise their points tally as well ensure direct qualification for the Asia Cup. However, while Jamie thinks while India are not quite feeling those pangs, he expects them to want to win. "I don't think [they are] hungrier but I guess at the start of this tournament India would have expected automatic qualification to the Asian Cup. So they need to win," said the 41-year-old.

After Sohel Rana was sidelined with a bone fracture, fit-again Mohammad Ibrahim, who threatened India the most with daunting runs and dribbles during the Kolkata match, is going to be drafted in the playing eleven to

boost Bangladesh. "Ibrahim will be involved. It is good to have a player like him available again, especially with 5 key players missing," hoped Jaime.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan, who has said before that they always get inspiration to play against India due to the historical reasons, believes the match is going to be 'intense'. "It will be intense with a lot of battles. It's a beautiful match to be part of. Last time in Kolkata we were disappointed not to get the 3 points as India scored very late in the game. We have that hunger in us, and we know we can do some damage," Jamal was quoted as saying by the All India Football Federation official webpage.

First WC qualifying win in 10 years in sight

SPORTS REPORTER

Although playing in the FIFA World Cup proper is a dream that appears light years away for Bangladesh, the men in red and green have been playing the qualifying round the beautiful game's showpiece event for 36 years.

Being among the lowest-ranked sides in the FIFA Rankings, Bangladesh boast no achievements worth a mention in their footballing history barring a SAFF Championship. Since they began playing World Cup Qualifiers in 1985, Bangladesh have never made it past the initial hurdles whether they played in the group stage directly or participated in pre-qualifying stage.

In 54 World Cup qualifiers, Bangladesh have so far posted nine victories: twice against Thailand and Sri Lanka and once each against Indonesia,

Taiwan, Mongolia, Pakistan and Lebanon.

In their 10th World Cup Qualifying campaign appearance, Bangladesh will be looking for a 10th triumph today in Doha when they take on India, who have beaten Bangladesh twice in three World Cup qualifier meetings.

Before the pre-qualifying stage was introduced for the 2006, 2010 and 2014 edition FIFA World Cups, Bangladesh played in the group stages directly in the five previous editions and registered at least one victory in each.

Two wins came in the qualifying rounds for the 1986 Mexico World Cup Qualifiers, one in the 1990 World Cup qualifiers, two in 1994 World Cup qualifiers and 1998 France World Cup qualifiers and one 2002 in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

Afterwards, Bangladesh failed

to get victories in the first-round matches of the 2006 and 2010 World Cup qualifiers before advancing to the second-round play-off in the 2014 World Cup qualifiers with a 3-0 aggregate win over Pakistan. They were then eliminated by an aggregate of 4-2 against Lebanon.

During the 2018 World Cup Qualifiers, Bangladesh suffered seven defeats in of eight matches, the other being a draw. They also remained winless after six matches of the ongoing 2022 World Cup Qualifiers.

They have a realistic chance to end their 10-year drought in World Cup qualifiers by securing a win against India, who have not lost to Bangladesh in 18 years since a 1-2 defeat during the semifinal of the SAFF Championship in 2003 in Dhaka. Of 26 meeting between two sides, Bangladesh beat India thrice, lost 13 times and drew 10 times.

Shakib's bat remains out of whack

SPORTS REPORTER



Ever since making his return to international cricket after serving the one-year ban by the International Cricket Council (ICC), star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is yet to shine with the bat.

Prior to ban, cricket fans witnessed a phenomenal ICC World Cup 2019 campaign from the 34-year-old who struck five fifties and two hundreds, scoring 606 runs in eight games at a whooping average of 86.57, at the biggest international stage.

Although Shakib remained instrumental with the ball but things seem difficult for the left-hander with the bat in both international and domestic circuit. It is understood that the one-year gap from international cricket did hamper his confidence as he is yet to rediscover his signature rhythm with the bat.

However, the premier all-rounder did show a glimpse of his talent with the bat on his comeback series against the West Indies back in January last year where he scored 19, an unbeaten 43 and 51 in three games and turned out to be the Man of the Series.

But things started going downhill since then, starting with his stint with the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League where he eventually lost his place in the playing eleven, following a below-par display with the bat in the first three games, scoring 3, 9 and 26 runs.

He continued his abysmal form in the three match ODI series against Sri Lanka last month where despite having returned to his favoured number three position, the highest ranked ODI all-rounder was unable to make his presence felt.

In the first ODI against Sri Lanka Shakib did play with caution in the middle, facing 34 balls for his 15 runs,

but the left hander eventually mistimed a lofted shot and was caught at long on. In the second game, he was undone by sheer pace from Dushmantha Chameera and was trapped leg before without troubling the score.

Focus continued to intensify on Shakib's batting but yet again he was disappointed by scoring no more than four runs to complete another lacklustre show for the Tigers.

Expectations however, kept on rocketing after he was roped in by Mohammedan Sporting Club in the ongoing Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier



League T20 competition, which was also his first appearance in the league after five years. But things remained unchanged for Shakib with the bat in the first three rounds of the league where he managed to score 29, 0 and 20 in his three innings.

With an average of 11.77 in his last nine T20 games, the stats surely do not reflect the calibre of someone who still remains the first and only player in history to be ranked by ICC as "the number one all-rounder" in all three formats of the game.

Known for his specific training style, Shakib was recently seen working on his batting with his childhood mentor Mohammad Salahuddin and according to many it is only a matter of time for the proven class of the champion performer to overcome his current form.



England's Rory Burns, who hit 132 in the first innings, walks back to pavilion after scoring 25 runs in the second innings during final day's play of the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's yesterday. England adopted a cautious approach to reach 56-2 at tea after New Zealand set the hosts a target of 273 on the final day. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Radio' Mueller, Hummels turn up volume

AFP, Berlin



After a two-year exile from international football, 2014 World Cup winners Thomas Mueller and Mats Hummels are set to crank up the volume on the pitch for Germany's bid to win Euro 2020.

Germany head into the European Championship low on confidence after a shock home defeat to North Macedonia in March in the wake of an historic 6-0 thrashing by Spain last November, the Germans heaviest defeat in more than 80 years.

On both occasions, shell-shocked faces in the stunned German ranks exposed a lack of leadership with captain Manuel Neuer helplessly watching the crisis unfold from his goal.

Germany's under-fire head coach Joachim Loew, who will step down later this summer, has reacted by reversing his 2019 decision to axe Hummels and Mueller, recalling the experienced pair to help lead on the pitch at the Euro.

"It's certainly true that Mats Hummels or myself are players who dare to speak up," said Mueller, who made his 101st international appearance on Wednesday after a two-year hiatus.

Loew is desperate to sign off after 15 years in charge by winning the Euro to mend his reputation, tarnished by the Germans' 2018 World Cup debacle, and

needs Mueller, 31, and Hummels, 32, to give his squad a boost. As Germany left-back Robin Gosens admits "both have a special aura. You notice immediately that you can rely on these guys. And that feeling is enormously important for a football team."

'Radio Mueller', as he is nicknamed, was the loudest German voice on the pitch in Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Denmark while Hummels marshalled the German defence, but his last-gasp tackle could not



stop Yussuf Poulsen's equaliser.

"It's not about roaring or volume per se," explained Mueller. "The point is to distribute information so that every player can react as quickly as possible to game situations. I am what I am." "When I see the quality that is in the team, I want to wake up German football," he added.

There is no way of hitting the snooze button on Mueller, who wants to fire up Germany's bid to be crowned European champions for the fourth time.



Federer pulls out of French Open

REUTERS

Former world number one Roger Federer, who is targeting a record 21st Grand Slam title at Wimbledon, withdrew from the French Open on Sunday, a day after winning a tough third-round match, opting to save himself for the grass-court season.

"After discussions with my team, I decided that I should withdraw from the French Open today," Federer said in a statement released by the French Tennis Federation.

"After two knee operations and more than a year of rehabilitation, it's important that I listen to my body and not rush back into competition," the 39-year-old Swiss added.



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref:27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.107

Date: 06/06/2021

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date&Time	Opening Date
1	581708	Procurement of Spare Parts for GBC and BoP Instrumentation	03/06/2021	02/08/2021, 3:30 PM	03/08/2021
2	583044	Procurement of Spare Parts for ST Excitation System	03/06/2021	01/08/2021 03:30 PM	02/08/2021

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shafiqul Islam
06/06/2021

Shafiqul Islam
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant
(Unit-2) NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.