

Buttler and Co ready for Bangladesh challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

England are well aware of the probable threat of the slow and low pitches in Bangladesh as skipper Joss Buttler informed on Sunday that the visitors have prepared themselves for the challenge ahead of the upcoming three-match ODI series next month.

The defending world champions, in both the ODI and T20I formats, are also taking the series in Bangladesh as part of their preparation for the upcoming ICC ODI World Cup, scheduled to be played in India later this year.

"This is the type of conditions that would probably be the closest we will get in India. That's the kind of challenge we want as a team to test ourselves in tough conditions," Buttler told the media in his first press conference since arriving in Bangladesh on Thursday.

England are the only visitors to win an ODI series in Bangladesh since 2015. However, Buttler was adamant on focusing in the present rather than dwelling in the past.

"That's a long time ago," Buttler said of England's win in their last ODI series in the country in 2016 -- when Bangladesh also recorded their maiden Test victory against the visitors.

"Bangladesh have a good record at home. We have some very good players in our team. We are excited for the challenge," he said.

The 32-year-old also pointed out how their experience of playing in the sub-continent can help them in the series. Buttler was instrumental in the previous edition of the Indian Premier League for Rajasthan Royals, ending as the franchise-based league's top run-getter for that edition.

The likes of Dawid Malan and Moeen Ali have featured in the recently concluded Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) while Will Jacks, who replaced injured Tom Abell in the England squad for the series, was the tournament's leading scorer in the 2021-22 season.

"We have had a lot of guys in the last few years exposed to playing in sub-continent conditions," he added.

The first of the three-match ODI series is set to begin on March 1 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The second match will be played at the same venue on March 3 before the teams travel to Chattogram for the final ODI. The ODI series will be followed by a three-match T20I series.

Jaker's ton not enough for Central

SPORTS REPORTER

Central Zone batter Jaker Ali reached his second first-class century on the second day against South Zone in one of Bangladesh Cricket League's final-round fixtures at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura on Sunday but his effort wasn't enough for his side to take a lead as they were bundled out for 283, in reply to South's 313.

The right-handed batter hit 15 fours and two sixes for his unbeaten 138, top-scoring in what was a lone fight from his end.

South's Khaled Ahmed and Nasum Ahmed picked up three wickets each.

Having started the day at 281 for seven, South managed to add 32 runs to their overnight total, with Central's Abu Hider returning with figures of five for 55 runs.

In the other match between North Zone and East Zone at the at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar, North skipper Naeem Islam scored his 29th first-class century to help his side post 378 for nine before declaring.

Abu Jayed Rahi was the pick of the bowlers as he scalped four wickets for 93 runs, while Tanvir Islam scalped three.

In reply, East batter Mominul Haque scored the third century of the day as he remained unbeaten on 103 with Jahurul Islam not out on 50 at the other end as East trailed by 161.



Apparently, Bangladesh players did not let the Shakib Al Hasan-Tamim Iqbal issue affect their morale as pacers Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed were seen sharing some light moments with coach Chandika Hathurusingha during their practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Sunday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Strained culture meets unhealthy dressing room

SPORTS REPORTER

It has been there for a while, the unease between two of Bangladesh cricket's biggest brands in Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal.

That they are not on speaking terms is a moderately recent development compared to their enormous career in Bangladesh national side and although it has been a rather open secret, the strained relationship became official after Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan's explosive interview on Cricbuzz. What also became apparent were the 'groups' within the team.

Thus, when Tamim came to the press conference room yesterday at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, he came prepared for the questions but not quite for a massive media presence.

From the very first question that he fielded, it became apparent that he was not denying what the BCB president had said about the strained relationship with Shakib, and throughout the presser he did the same. However, he refuted that there are 'groupings' in the dressing room.

Tamim, who has been out of the team for six months due to T20 assignments and injury, felt such allegations only used to come out when things were bad and it was a surprise for him now since the team are doing well in ODIs.

"I have been playing for Bangladesh for 17 years. In different times when the team wasn't doing well, this term was being used. I am quite a straightforward person and

I have never seen grouping in my career. Sadly, when the team isn't doing well, this term comes up. Now the team is doing well. As far as I am concerned, everything is very fine," he said when asked regarding various groups within the team.

"I was prepared [regarding fielding so many questions related to his relationship with Shakib] since yesterday [Saturday]. I have never seen so many journalists in



one room. I knew these questions would come. It would have been very easy for me to say 'no comments', and 'let's move forward', but I think it was important to give my message to the journalists and fans," he added.

"The most important thing is how we play on the field," he replied when asked what it was like to answer such questions. And asked if the message is also for the BCB president, he said: "It's for everyone."

He named a few names when

asked who his friends in the side were. "It is a professional world where your relationship won't be the same with everyone," he opined.

When ahead of an important series, such information gets out in the media, it inevitably creates an impact even as Shakib is yet to join the side. More acutely, with both Shakib and Tamim being key members and captains, a strained relationship off the field hinders intellectual discourse between the two -- what perhaps could have been a key component to Bangladesh's success. Thus, from a professional viewpoint, it is still debatable whether that relationship does not impact younger members of the side even if Tamim feels differently. It also brings forward the culture of the country's entire cricket if key information is leaked.

A source close to one of the players said that even the players in question cannot really remember what first caused a rift. There had been a closed-door meeting between the two and when it was suggested to Tamim that he had tried to mend things during that meeting, he felt the information related to such a discussion should not have gotten out.

But will the relationship get back to what it was? "Everything is possible," Tamim replied.

For the BCB and the related stakeholders, that scenario will be welcomed. For coach Chandika Hathurusingha, the importance of ending such dressing room culture will be paramount. So will be putting a stop to information leak, such as who picked which player, that creates further divide.

Inter's title hopes fade

REUTERS, Bologna

Inter Milan suffered a damaging 1-0 defeat at Bologna on Sunday which virtually ended their slim hopes of winning the Serie A title.

At the same ground where their title aspirations were dealt a fatal blow last season, Riccardo Orsolini's goal condemned Inter to another loss.

Simone Inzaghi's team are second in the standings on 47 points from 24 matches, 18 behind leaders Napoli who beat Empoli 2-0 on Saturday. Bologna thought they had taken the lead through Musa Barrow in the 12th minute, only for the effort to be ruled out following a VAR review.

Inter had brief spells of possession in the first half, but created few clear-cut chances as Lautaro Martinez headed an Alessandro Bastoni cross just wide of the target and Henrikh Mkhitaryan twice fired over the bar.

Romelu Lukaku and substitute Edin Dzeko each had a shot on target, but it was Bologna who broke the deadlock in the 76th minute when Orsolini raced on to Jerdy Schouten's pass and powered a shot into the net.

'Step by step, we can reach the big level'

AGENCIES

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo revealed that being in the same wavelength as his teammates after an initial settling in period has been one of the reasons for his rich goalscoring form at Al-Nassr.

Ronaldo bagged a second hat-trick to help his side cruise to a 3-0 win in their Saudi Arabia Pro League match against Damac FC on Saturday.

"I feel more adapted to the team. It's not easy to come and in five, six, or seven games; everyone knows my movements. But I'm starting to understand their movements, and they are starting to understand my movements. Step by step, we can reach the big level," Ronaldo was quoted as saying by Arab television channel SSC after the game.

The Portuguese icon's heroics saw the Riyadh-based club return to the top of the Saudi Pro League standings, with a two-point lead over second-placed Al-Ittihad.

Despite only making his debut last month, Ronaldo's already in contention to win the top scorer award in the league this term. With eight goals, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner is joint-fourth in the goalscoring charts. He remains only five goals behind top scorer and teammate Talisca.

The forward praised his teammates as well for showing 'fight' to win the match.

"I'm very happy, but the most important (thing) is the team. The team did a fantastic job (against Damac); they ran; they fought. For me, the goals are important, but the most important thing is the team," Ronaldo added.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute
Chattogram.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জনবাহু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

e-GP Re-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP portal.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of the work	Tender last selling Date & Time	Tender close and opening date & time	Re-Tender ID No.
1	22.04.0000.018.50.506.22/66 Date:26/02/2023	Supply of scientific equipment for BFRI.	12 Mar 2023 at 12:00 Noon	13 Mar 2023 at 12:00 Noon	795526
2	22.04.0000.018.50.508.22/67 Date:26/02/2023	Supply of small equipment for BFRI.	12 Mar 2023 at 12:00 Noon	13 Mar 2023 at 1:00 Noon	795540

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 e-Tender registration in the Nation e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The Fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be de posited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

3/2/23
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“ It's not a goodbye to La Liga -- it's even more complicated, but we will fight to the end and see what happens.”

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti after his side were held to a 1-1 draw at home in the derby game against Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

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Corrigendum-1

Due to unavoidable circumstances the tender notice for 'Procurement of 137 nos. Air-Conditioned Diesel Fueled Standard (12 meter long) Buses for BRT Operation under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport).' Tender No. MD/GDSUTP (BRT, Gazipur-Airport)/DBRT/ICB/AFD-05/DGD-01, vide Memo No. 35.06.0000.000.17.001.22-881, dated: 14.01.2023 is hereby revised as follows:

Section-2 ITB 24.1 & 27.1	Tender selling date, closing & opening date and time	Last selling date	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
		March 06, 2023	March 06, 2023 16:00 hr BST	March 06, 2023 16:00 hr BST

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.
Memo No. 35.06.0000.000.17.001.22-953
Date: February 27, 2023

SD/-
Safiqul Islam
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