

## Kiran hopeful about Choton's return

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahfuza Akter Kiran, chairman of Bangladesh Football Federation's women's committee, is still hopeful that coach Golam Rabbani Choton would change his mind and return as head coach of the women's teams.

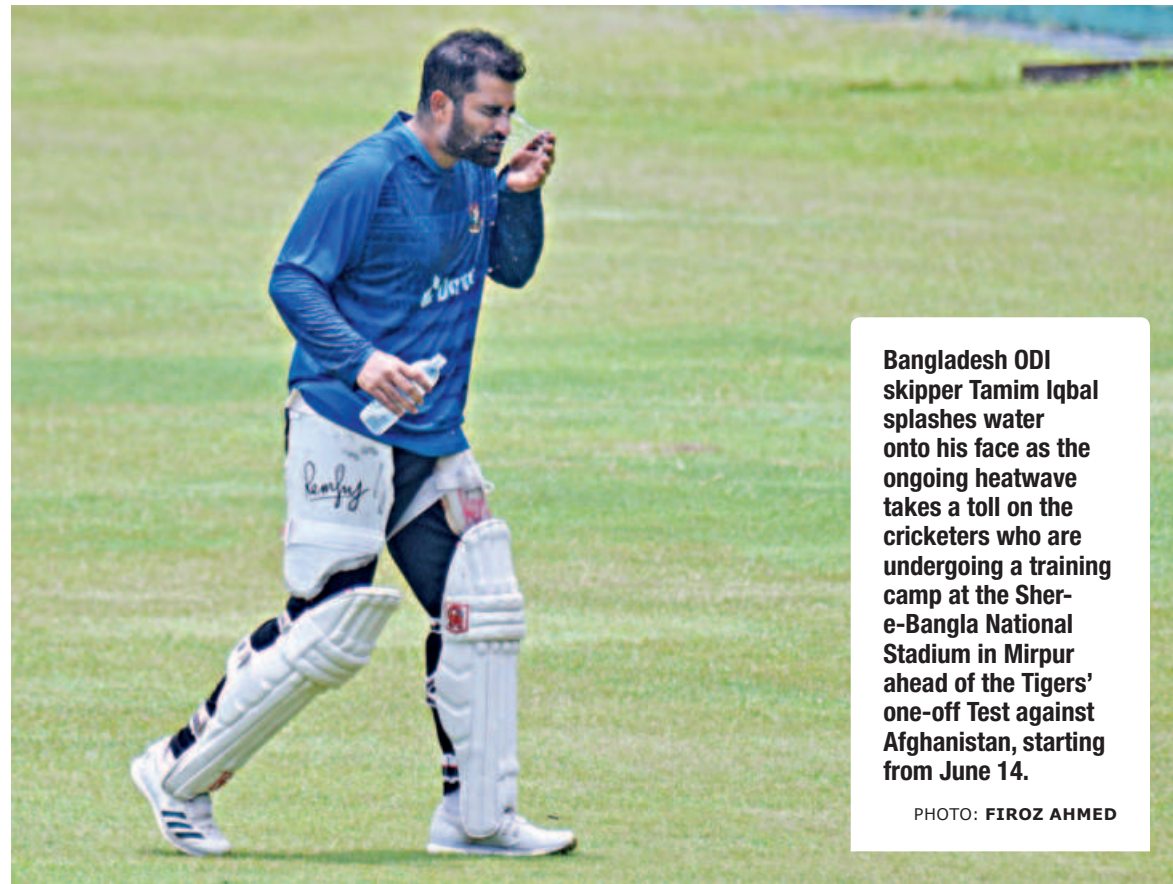
Choton announced that he was stepping down from his role on May 26 and sent an official resignation letter to the federation last Monday.

"Choton bhai has not left yet because he just sent his resignation which has not been accepted. I talked to him yesterday [Wednesday] and it seems that he may return and I still believe that he will," Kiran told The Daily Star.

She, however, said that the federation would look to bring a foreign coach if Choton does not change his mind. "We are working on it. If he doesn't return, we may search for a foreign coach," she said.

Since Choton's resignation, the different age group teams and the senior team have been training under the supervision of technical director Paul Smalley and assistant coach Mahbubur Rahman Litu.

Most of the footballers have been gearing up for the upcoming Women's Super League which is scheduled to get underway on June 10. The senior team, however, is hopeful to make use of the FIFA International friendly window in July, and the U-17 side is scheduled to take part in the Round 2 of the AFC U-17 Women's Asia Cup from September 16 to 24.



**Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal splashes water onto his face as the ongoing heatwave takes a toll on the cricketers who are undergoing a training camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur ahead of the Tigers' one-off Test against Afghanistan, starting from June 14.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Tk 1,303 crore allocated to Youth and Sports ministry

SPORTS REPORTER

The Youth and Sports Ministry received an allocation of Tk 1,303 crore for the 2023-24 fiscal year as finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal placed a Tk 7,61,785 crore national budget yesterday.

On the surface, it is an increase of Tk 28 crore compared to the last fiscal year's budget of 1275 crore. However, the last allocation was revised to Tk 1,628 crore, meaning that the allocation for the current fiscal year has decreased by nearly 20 per cent.

In his speech, Kamal said it was necessary to develop the sports sector, which is an important means for physical and mental well-being and sound entertainment. Construction and renovation of various sporting infrastructure, including modern stadiums, gymnasiums, and swimming pools, are going on and free gear is being provided to the sports clubs, he added.

## Pothas might just need a 'magic wand'



SPORTS REPORTER

Former South Africa batter Nic Pothas was appointed assistant coach of Bangladesh and deputy to head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and, with the Sri Lankan still on vacation, Pothas has been overseeing the Tigers' training camp. In his first interaction with the media, he joked about having a magic wand that could fix Test batting woes.

It is still early days for Pothas in Bangladesh cricket. Afghanistan defeated Bangladesh by a big 224 runs the last time the two sides met in a Test which created controversies. While foreign coaches come and go, a lot is expected from the current crop but Pothas was not aware of how things work here in the media.

He appeared to dilute the intensity of an intriguing question from the media with a joke. With the Bangladesh A side struggling against West Indies A in an

ongoing four day game, Bangladesh's Test failings and what Pothas may bring to the plate were brought up.

He was asked how he would effect changes in the format at a press conference yesterday, replying: "I have got a magic wand. I will just wave the magic wand. Very quickly we will make batsmen."

He went on to clarify that he was joking. "I am joking. These things take time. I cannot come into a new culture and suddenly just start to change things. I have to watch the batsmen for a period," he added.

Selector Habibur Bashar had appeared at a loss for words the other day when speaking about the A side's batting failure. Pothas put it well enough that he needed time to know the players and he opined countries could go through waves of doing well or doing poorly.

"The excitement is in solving the problem. You have to play the seamers

before you get to the spin. We can't focus all our attention on [Afghanistan's] spin and before we know it, we are five down against seam. We will do our analysis and research. Test matches are like a game of chess," he opined.

It would be easier said than done given that the A side's Mominul Haque and youngster Mahmudul Hasan had gotten out to deliveries on their pads in the ongoing third four-day match in Sylhet. Pothas has been working with both red-ball and white-ball cricketers at the ongoing camp, but generally Tests see Tigers suffer the most and his work would be more pivotal going forward.

Given Bangladesh A's current struggles against West Indies A and Bangladesh's overall record in Test cricket, Afghanistan will be a tough ask. The spin challenge and players playing red-ball formats sporadically means the Tigers might just need a magic wand to overcome their Test record at home against Afghanistan.



**Sixteen-year-old qualifier Mirra Andreeva reached the French Open last 32 on Thursday with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Diane Parry to set up a potential clash against Coco Gauff. She is just the seventh player under the age of 17 to make the third round in Paris since 1993, a group that includes the likes of Serena Williams and Martina Hingis. Ranked at 143, Andreeva, who was the youngest player to win a match at Roland Garros in 18 years when she came through the first round, secured victory after 77 minutes on a second match point.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Messi's last PSG game on Saturday

REUTERS

Lionel Messi will play his last game for Paris Saint-Germain against Clermont on Saturday, coach Christophe Galtier confirmed on Thursday.

Messi, who has 21 goals and 20 assists for PSG in all competitions this season, moved to the French capital from Barcelona in 2021 on a two-year contract.

The 35-year-old World Cup winner won the Ligue 1 title in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons with PSG as well as the French Super Cup in July 2022.

"I had the privilege of coaching the best player in the history of football. This will be his last match at the Parc des Princes, and I hope that he will receive the warmest of welcomes," Galtier told reporters on Thursday. Messi's last game for PSG is unlikely to be a joyous affair as their title celebrations would be put on ice with the team concern for goalkeeper Sergio Rico, who was involved in a riding accident.



## Cabrera's challenge to settle on best XI

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera will be dealing with a headache as he looks to get his playing eleven right during the upcoming SAFF Championship, especially following the booters' dismal performances in March's friendlies against Seychelles.

The 38-year-old Spaniard has already announced a 35-member preliminary squad, which will be trimmed to 27 ahead of the start of a residential camp on June 4. He will then finalise a 23-member squad for the regional football extravaganza, which is scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from June 21.

Although Cabrera has set his sights high, aiming to take Bangladesh to the semifinals after missing out in the past five editions since 2009, selecting a playing eleven appears a tough task given the dearth of quality players and the omission of a few players he trusted in past due to waning performances or injury.

Following his appointment in 2022, Cabrera experimented in his first two friendlies, losing 2-0 to Maldives and drawing against Mongolia.

He then settled on a team during a third friendly against Indonesia, which ended 0-0, and fielded the same eleven throughout his first assignment, the Asian Cup Qualifiers. His team put up determined performances but lost all three games, falling 2-0 to Bahrain, 1-2 to Turkmenistan and 1-4 to Malaysia.

During that qualifying campaign, Cabrera banked on Anisur Rahman Zico, Yeasin Arafat, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Bishwanath Ghosh, Rimon Hossain, Jamal Bhuiyan, Biplu Ahmed, Atiqur Rahman Fahad, Rakib Hossain, Mohammad Ibrahim and Sazzad Hossain.

It appeared Cabrera would stick to those players during friendly matches in September last year, but he again opted to tinker, making a few changes that paid off in a 1-0 win against Cambodia but backfired afterwards in a 3-1 loss to Nepal.

Cabrera's experimentation continued into 2023 as he made seven changes to the team that lost to Nepal during two friendlies

against Seychelles in March. But again the changes did not pan out as an unimpressive Bangladesh toiled to a 1-0 win before going down in the second match by the same margin.

Cabrera had also opted to field players outside their regular positions but those moves were largely ineffective against Seychelles.

With Bangladesh's biggest campaign knocking at the door, the Spaniard is expected to face a huge challenge in picking the right combination.

With midfielders Fahad, Biplu, Jafar Iqbal and some others not in the 35-member preliminary squad, Cabrera

will have just one chance to test out whatever combination he settles on during next month's friendly against Cambodia a week ahead of the SAFF Championship. If Cabrera really want to get out of the group stage comprising two strong opponents Lebanon and Maldives, he will need to make the most of the players at his disposal and the new faces in the team.



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Memo No: Ban/Pau/ED/LGCRRP/2022-2023/311

Date: 31-05-2023

### e-Tender Notice No: 01/LGCRRP/2022-2023/(OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of Works as mentioned in the following table.

Tender ID No.	Package No & Description of works	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender closing & Opening (Date & Time)
837641	LGCRRP/Bancharampur/2022-23/W-01 (A) Estimate for construction of CC Road with Ghatla at Doshdona main road to bahrombari river ghat, (ch0.00-70.00m) In ward no-01, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria. (B) Estimate for construction of RCC Drain at Doshdona Masjid side Romjanerbari to Korimerbari, (ch0.00-122.00m) In ward no-02, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria. (C) Estimate for construction of CC Road at Jogonathpur Main road to Ahmad Allis bari, (ch0.00-50.00m) In ward no-03, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria.	14-06-2023 16:00 PM	15-06-2023 12:00 PM
838248	LGCRRP/Bancharampur/2022-23/W-02 (A) Estimate for construction of Repair work in Protabgonj Bazar, (ch0.00-215.00m) In ward no-04, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria. (B) Estimate for construction of CC Road at Main road near Shabbari Masjid to connecting road via shohel house, (ch0.00-90.00m), In ward no-05, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria. (C) Estimate for construction of CC Road at Bancharampur-Homana Main road to Shashan Ghat, (ch0.00-100.00m), In ward no-06, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria.	14-06-2023 16:00 PM	15-06-2023 12:30 PM
838252	LGCRRP/Bancharampur/2022-23/W-03 (A) Estimate for construction of Footpath at Upazila Bridge to Upazila Parishad gate, (ch0.00-120.00m), In ward no-07, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria. (B) Estimate for construction of CC Road at Asadnagar-kalainagar main road to Shelter project, (ch0.00-60.00m), In ward no-08, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria. (C) Estimate for construction of CC Road with palisading at Asadnagar Main road near Madrasha to Mafil kholfar bari, (ch0.00-55.00m), In ward no-09, Under Bancharampur Pourashava, Brahmanbaria.	14-06-2023 16:00 PM	15-06-2023 13:00 PM

These are 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

31.05.2023  
(Mohammad Arun Molla)  
Assistant Engineer  
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