

# Bangladesh cricket stuck in its old ways: Ashraful

SPORTS REPORTER

Four matches into Bangladesh's campaign in the ICC ODI World Cup, the pre-tournament optimism surrounding the Tigers has all but withered away.

The defeat against India in Pune on Thursday was Bangladesh's third straight loss, which has left them at the edge of mathematical impossibility of making it to the semifinal.

Since the victory over Afghanistan in Dharamshala in their opener, a match Bangladesh were favourites to win, the team has looked underprepared, short of plans and largely out of their depth.

The change in captaincy so close to the tournament, not having a fixed batting order and placing a bet on young players to do the job in a tournament of such magnitude indicates the lack of proper planning from the management.

Former Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful shares this sentiment as he feels that the team's lacklustre showing is a direct result of poor planning.

"Many had expected Bangladesh to qualify for the semifinal. But we now see that the reality is quite different. Actually, the three-month chaos leading up to the World Cup unsettled the team," Ashraful, who is in India as a traveling cricket expert for T Sports, told The Daily Star on Friday.



Bangladesh players and coaching staff arrive at the team hotel in Mumbai following a road-trip from Pune yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

Bangladesh's buildup to the World Cup got chaotic the moment Tamim Iqbal announced his shock retirement in July, which he revoked the following day, and reached its peak when the opener was left out of the World Cup squad.

Ashraful was highly critical of the way Tamim's issue was handled by the management, and gave examples of how earlier managements had handled the temperamental opener in the past.

"Tamim has always been over-emotional. I remember, Tamim didn't want to play in the Test against England at

Lord's in 2010 because he had a niggle or something like that. Coach Jamie Siddons put his arms over Tamim's shoulders and convinced him to play. After that, he scored back to back centuries in the two Tests

"Even Mashrafe [Bin Mortaza] handled Tamim well and got the best out of him. But the current management completely failed to handle Tamim, which led to all this drama," he said.

The youngest Test centurion also ridiculed the management's decision to drop Tamim on the basis of him being not

a 100 percent fit.

"All that talk about him not being fit for the World Cup was ridiculous. We are seeing how New Zealand are managing the injured Kane Williamson and England are handling Ben Stokes. The team could've similarly managed Tamim's injury."

According to Ashraful, the biggest problem for Bangladesh cricket is the backwards mentality of the players and the cricket authorities, which has left the Tigers stuck in their old ways while the rest of the World has leaped ahead.

"After getting knocked out by us in the 2015 World Cup, England have completely revolutionised batting in cricket. Since that World Cup, they have scored over 300 57 times in ODIs. Other teams are also playing the same way. But we still aim to score 270-280 even on batting pitches," said Ashraful.

"In Bangladesh, the senior batters usually don't want to bat higher up the order. They try to play it safe and bat at No. 5-7. I want the seniors to take more responsibility and bat higher.

"When we played our first World Cup in 1999, we aimed to win a couple of matches. 25 years later, the management still has the same goal. If we keep prioritising winning home series, we will only win an occasional match in the World Cup, we will never progress."

## 'Messi should have own Ballon d'Or category'

AFP, London

Pep Guardiola says Lionel Messi should have his own category at the Ballon d'Or after he was asked whether the World Cup winner or Erling Haaland should win this year's award.

Messi, who recently left Paris Saint-Germain for Inter Miami, is favourite to win the award for a record-extending eighth time after leading Argentina to World Cup glory last year.

Haaland could be his main rival for the prize after scoring 52 goals in 53 games to help Manchester City win the treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season.

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola managed Messi at Barcelona and currently coaches Norway forward Haaland.

"Always I said that the Ballon d'Or should be in two sections, one for Messi, and after look for the other one, so Haaland should win, yes," Guardiola said on Friday.

"We won the treble because he scored 50 million goals but of course Messi, if you tell me the worst season for Messi is the best for the rest of the players.

"Both deserve it, so what can I say?"

The Ballon d'Or awards ceremony takes place in Paris on October 30.

## Ramos set for Real reunion as Sevilla start new era

AFP, Barcelona

Sergio Ramos has not played against Real Madrid since 2005 but on Saturday, his Sevilla team welcome the Spanish league leaders to the Sanchez-Pizjuan for a reunion.

New Sevilla coach Diego Alonso faces a stern test in his first game at the helm and in experienced veteran centre-back Ramos he has a player who can offer plenty of insight into Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid side.

Ramos controversially left Sevilla for the Spanish capital at the age of 19, which some fans have never forgotten, even though the majority welcomed him back with open arms this summer.

"We believe that the mere proposal of this signing was already a lack of respect for the values that have made us great... and for the thousands of Sevilla fans who have suffered the scorn of this player in the past," wrote Sevilla ultras group Biris Norte in an open letter.

In the years after his departure, Ramos was keen to goad his former side, while he was roundly booed on visits to face Sevilla.

However, the defender said he could "die happy" after playing for his boyhood club again, and has impressed since returning even though the team was struggling under Jose Luis Mendilibar.

"I had a few doubts at first but the reception I had on my arrival, I will take to the grave ... now I can die happy," said Ramos after his first match back at the Sanchez-Pizjuan, a win over Las Palmas.

One sour note was his own goal



against old rivals Barcelona, handing the champions a 1-0 win at the Catalan club's temporary Olympic Stadium home at the end of September.

Ramos will hope his first clash with Real Madrid goes better, although it promises to be an emotional affair for him.

He left Madrid for French side Paris Saint-Germain in 2021 but was injured when the sides met in the Champions League in March 2022.

The last time Ramos faced Madrid was for Sevilla in May 2005, and he scored in a 2-2 draw, hammering home a long-range drive after a free-kick was laid off to him.

Ramos has never lost a game against Real Madrid -- the other time he faced them Sevilla won 1-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid will want to keep, or even

extend, their three point advantage over Barcelona ahead of the Clasico on October 28.

Barcelona host former coach Ernesto Valverde's Athletic Bilbao on Sunday in another reunion, with the Catalans currently third.

Girona, second, welcome bottom-of-the-table Almeria on Sunday and will be confident of staying ahead of their more illustrious Catalan neighbours.

Sevilla are 14th, with only two wins in their first eight games and only two points clear of the relegation zone.

The Madrid clash is only the start of a tough run of games for Alonso and his side, with Arsenal visiting on Tuesday in the Champions League, and a derby clash against Real Betis in La Liga on the horizon.

## Army, Navy seal Independence Cup spots

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army Football Team and Bangladesh Navy Football team moved into the final round of Independence Cup in the qualifying round at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Army defeated Bangladesh Air Force Football team 2-0, with Emtiaz Raihan breaking the deadlock in the 57th minute and substitute midfielder Mijanur Rahman scoring a minute from time. Air Force were reduced to 10 men after goalkeeper Manju Mia picked up a second yellow card in the 73rd minute.

In the day's second match, Navy handed an identical 2-0 defeat to University of Dhaka as Akash gave them a 24th-minute lead before Abu Sayed wrapped up the victory with in the 72nd minute.

Out of four participating teams in the qualifying round, three will advance to the 13-team final round, which is scheduled to get underway on October 27 at four separate venues in Munshiganj, Gopalganj, Cumilla and Bashundhara Kings Arena.



BCB selector Habibul Bashar hands over a crest to Naeem Islam on Thursday for becoming only the second Bangladesh batter to reach 10,000 first-class runs.

PHOTO: BCB

## Batters struggle bar Bijoy, Anik

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Division batter Anamul Haque Bijoy scored a century on the second day of a National Cricket League's second-round fixture against Chattogram Division at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Overall, batters in all ongoing contests have struggled to stamp their authority as a total of 300 runs is yet to materialise.

In Sylhet, Bijoy's 110-run knock, featuring three sixes and six fours, propelled his side's total to 285 before being bundled out as Khulna took a 43-run lead in reply to Chattogram's first-innings 242.

Khulna pacer Al Amin Hossain scalped two wickets late in the day to help reduce Chattogram to three down for 38, trailing by five.

In Mirpur, Anik Sarkar was unfortunate to get out on 99 but his knock allowed Rangpur Division to take a 224-run lead against Dhaka Metro. Rangpur ended the second day at 278 for six after bundling out Metro for 173 earlier on the day.

At Bogura's Shaheed Chandu Stadium, half-centuries from Rony Talukdar (63) and Shuvagata Hom (52) helped Dhaka Division score 256 against Sylhet Division.

Sylhet pacer Khaled Ahmed picked up three wickets. At stumps, Sylhet managed 22 for one.

Elsewhere, Barishal Division's Moin Khan scored a fifty to help his side to 233 in reply to Rajshahi Division's 209 at the Shaheed AHM Kamaruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. Rajshahi's Habibur Rahman remained unbeaten on 48 to help his side reach 75 for two.



Uruguayan striker Darwin Nunez practises set-pieces as his Liverpool teammates are involved in a prep session with the coaching staff at the training ground ahead of today's Merseyside derby in the Premier league against Everton. The Reds will look to start the post-international-break with a win in the early kickoff.

PHOTO: LIVERPOOL FC

## GRADUATE ADMISSION

### Spring 2024

#### MS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY



**Application Deadline**  
1 November, 2023

**Admission Test**  
3 November, 2023

**Program Features**

- 36-Credit Hours Program
- Course Waiver
- Evening & Weekend Classes
- Classes conducted by PhD Holders

**Career Opportunities**

- High acceptance in PhD
- Research Organizations
- Food and Pharmaceutical Industries

**Apply online at:** <http://apply.northsouth.edu>

**Graduate Application Helpline:** 01886271722



### NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY & MICROBIOLOGY

+880255668200, Ext - 6417

For more details

graduate.admissions@northsouth.edu

/MSBIOTECHNOLOGYSNU

We accept online application



Admission QR Code