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I would say our batters are in a good flow, especially after the series against Sri Lanka A. They’ve scored runs which is why we, the bowlers, were able to defend well. The Asia Cup and this series will help us in the [T20] World Cup. We’ve played matches in Abu Dhabi before and as far as I know, the wickets there are similar [to ours].

Bangladesh vice-captain Nahida Akter told the reporters yesterday.



Bangladesh Women's cricket team began training under floodlights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to ramp up their preparation for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, starting on October 3, in the UAE. Skipper Nigar Sultana Joty did not attend the session yesterday and will join her teammates for an official photoshoot and press conference followed by another training session today before leaving for the UAE on Thursday.

PHOTO:BCB

SHORT CORNER

Tabith Awal to run for BFF presidency

Two-time Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vice-president Tabith Awal has officially declared his candidacy for the BFF presidency in the elections scheduled for October 26. His announcement comes eight days after Tarafder Ruhul Amin emerged as the first candidate, following incumbent president Kazi Salahuddin's decision not to seek a fifth term.

Complacency costs U-20s facing Guam

Bangladesh squandered the lead twice in a 2-2 draw against Guam in their AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers match in Hai Phong yesterday. After a 4-0 loss to Syria in their opener, Bangladesh needed a win to keep their slim hopes of advancing to the competition's final round for the first time in 20 years.

CSA delegation witnesses commando drills at SBNCS

A four-member delegation of Cricket South Africa (CSA) inspected the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCS) in Mirpur as part of their routine inspection ahead of the Proteas' upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh, scheduled next month.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.



CHESS OLYMPIAD  
India secure double gold

AGENCIES

Continuing their dominating display, GMs Gukesh Dommaraju, Arjun Erigaisi, and Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu led the Indian men to a decisive 3.5-0.5 victory over Slovenia, sealing their triumph in the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Budapest yesterday (Bangladesh time).

Finishing a remarkable four points ahead of five rival teams, unbeaten India claimed gold, while the United States secured silver after GM Wesley So's victory against China. Uzbekistan rounded out the podium with bronze, thanks to GM Shamsiddin Vokhidov's win over France.

In a historic achievement, Indian women's team clinched gold for the first time at the Olympiad after narrowly missing out in 2022. They decisively defeated Azerbaijan 3.5-0.5, edging second-placed Kazakhstan by one point in the points table.

The double gold feat was termed as an "unbelievable" achievement by India's chess great Viswanathan Anand.

In contrast, Bangladesh's men's team finished 78th, and the women's team placed 81st in the tournament contested by a record number of 197 teams, representing 195 nations.

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI, from Chennai

Bangladesh spent a relatively relaxed day without any practice sessions in Chennai yesterday, which would have been the fifth day of the first Test had it not finished inside four days at MA Chidambaram Stadium. However, the baptism of fire from the India challenge was felt after a 280-run loss at Chepauk.

Although Bangladesh dominated most of the proceedings in their series win at Pakistan, India proved a different beast for the buoyant Tigers. Team sources informed that they are not daunted by the prospect of facing such a fascinating and skillful outfit as India. There is no mental barrier, at least according to what they are feeling within the team environment.

Some players and members of the management even took the opportunity, when time allowed, to roam around Chennai. Earlier in the morning, selector Hannan Sarkar attended a press meeting at the team hotel, accompanied by media manager Rabeed Imam. Hannan also discussed the gap in calibre.

"If you look at the bowling and batting departments of the two sides, you will see that they [India] are some way ahead. We expected a tough time, and they [India] did provide that.

"It was a good sporting wicket in Chennai, especially in the first two days. If we consider the batting, we failed to live up to the challenge. There was some recovery in the second innings, and some batters regained some confidence," he said.

The biggest difference was felt in the batting units of the two teams. While India



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Selector Hannan Sarkar

had three centuries in two innings, only Najmul Hossain Shanto got close to three figures.

It was reported that a team meeting took place in the morning at the team hotel, with all players involved. Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and the coaching staff spoke to the batters in particular about the mistakes made and analysed what went wrong.

Bangladesh may also need to consider combinations and changes in the playing eleven, with ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan under observation after suffering

a painful blow to his right hand in the second innings. He also had issues with his spinning finger, something that only surfaced after the match, Hannan clarified in his press meeting.

Shakib has been under observation since Sunday. The Tigers are set to depart for Kanpur along with the India team via chartered flight on Tuesday at 1:30 pm.

"These past two days, the physio has kept him under observation. When we get back to the ground [in Kanpur], we will get the physio's feedback," Hannan said. "Shakib is such a player that if he can't bowl, he could play as a batter. If he feels he can't bat or bowl, then it's a different scenario," he added, suggesting that changes in the combination would occur based on the physio's assessment.

With the bat, Shakib applied himself well in both innings despite being unable to score big. There is also the T20 series to come, so combination changes will be considered, keeping Shakib's injury troubles in mind.

As majority of teams use seven batters and four specialists, with the all-rounder being part of the seven batters, Mehedi Hasan Miraz is the all-rounder who could step in and bat earlier in Shakib's absence. This would mean that the other left-arm spinner, Taijul Islam, waiting in the wings for a match, could come into the playing eleven, depending on the conditions.

The bigger headache, as could be inferred from the team meeting discussion, is that all Test teams depend on the top order for runs, and thus Bangladesh need more from the top six in the second and final Test.

Barca goalkeeper Ter Stegen to undergo knee surgery

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen will have surgery on a ruptured knee tendon, the Catalan club said Monday, with the club's captain potentially sidelined for the rest of the season.

The 32-year-old German international was stretched off after falling awkwardly during his team's 5-1 victory over Villarreal on Sunday.

"(Ter Stegen) has a complete rupture in the patella tendon in his right knee," said Barcelona in a statement.

"On Monday afternoon he will undergo a surgical process and once complete a new update will be released."

Ter Stegen, who was criticised after making a mistake in Barcelona's 2-1 Champions League defeat at Monaco on Thursday, suffered the injury before half-time at Villarreal's Estadio de la Ceramica.

"I think it will be a huge injury, when he lay down on the field... you can see it directly," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said after the game.

Inaki Pena replaced Ter Stegen and is set to fill in for the German, although Barcelona may look to sign a replacement.

Flick said it was too soon to comment on the issue.

"I don't know if I like this question directly after the match... I just want to see how Marc is, he's our captain and is a very important player for us," said Flick.

"Please understand that I don't want to talk about that."

Ter Stegen started two Nations League matches for Germany in September after Bayern Munich veteran Manuel Neuer's retirement from international duty in August.

Sri Lanka win Galle Test to make moves in WTC

AGENCIES

Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took two overs to polish off the New Zealand tail and complete a five-wicket haul as Sri Lanka sealed a 63-run victory in the opening Test at Galle International Stadium on Monday.

Chasing 275 for victory, New Zealand were all out for 211 despite Rachin Ravindra's gallant 92, their batters unable to negotiate the sharp turn and low bounce at the venue.

Jayasuriya (5-68) claimed his eighth five-wicket haul, seven of them coming at his happy hunting ground in Galle alone.

With the win, Sri Lanka claimed important points to challenge teams at the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) table.

India have continued their strong run in the WTC 2025 cycle with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka's win helped their move towards a potential spot in the competition final at Lord's next year.

The two results have led to shifts in the race for the two final spots, with India tightening their grip on top spot, and Sri Lanka leapfrogging their current opponents into third spot.



Calmly accounting for the Tigers in Chennai, India's win in Chennai and the 12 World Test Championship points reasserts their status at the top of the table, moving to a percentage of 71.67%, extending their lead on Australia in second (62.50%).

Bangladesh, who had jumped to the fourth position following an exceptional 2-0 win against Pakistan, drop to sixth place (point percentage of 39.29%) behind Sri Lanka and England after the defeat.

"The win in England boosted our morale," Sri Lanka captain Dhananajaya de Silva said referring to their Test match victory at The Oval

earlier this month.

"We've the ability to win Tests and the boys are delivering now."

Jayasuriya's match haul of nine wickets earned him the player of the match award.

"I like this Galle pitch," Jayasuriya said.

"I just concentrate on bowling a consistent line and length, focus on that and get the results."

The second Test, also in Galle, begins on Thursday.

Moving to third on the WTC25 table after victory in Galle, Sri Lanka stand the best chance of challenging the 2023 World Test Championship finalists for a spot in the 2025 final.

The 63-run victory over the Black Caps in Galle was their fourth in eight matches, moving them an even 50% of possible World Test Championship points, with a best possible percentage of 69.23% for Dhananajaya de Silva's men.

That figure would likely be enough for a chance of lifting the mace in next year's finale at Lord's, though the side would need to beat New Zealand once more, claim a clean sweep of South Africa, and beat Australia 2-0 at home in a series early next year.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

AC Milan players Rafael Leao, Tammy Abraham, and Youssef Fofana cover Inter Milan's corner flag with a Milan Kit in celebration after their centre-back Matteo Gabbia netted in the 89th minute to clinch the Milan derby, known as the Derby della Madonnina, at San Siro on Monday. The act was a response to Inter's Marcus Thuram who celebrated the same way when Inter won the derby 2-1 the last time the two sides met in April.