

'Hopeful of leaving behind bad India series memories'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) selector Hannan Sarker said he wanted the Tigers to channel in the good memories from their Test series triumph in Pakistan and forget the bad ones from the India tour earlier this month as the hosts gear up for a two-Test series against South Africa, starting on October 21.

"If you look at the two previous series, we did really well against Pakistan. Then against India, we couldn't perform as expected," Hannan said in a video message on BCB's official Facebook page yesterday.

"There are ups and downs and we want to forget our bad memories and channel the good ones from Pakistan [series].

"The players are working on both mentality and technique despite not getting enough time to shift from one



Bangladesh's newly-appointed head coach Phil Simmons had his first interaction with the Tigers' squad and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto after joining the training session in Mirpur, just hours after arriving in the country earlier in the morning yesterday. Simmons, whose appointment was announced after the Bangladesh Cricket Board parted ways with former coach Chandika Hathurusingha on Tuesday, will have very little time to get things sorted as the Tigers prepare for the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa, who also arrived in the country on the same flight as Simmons. The first match will begin on October 21 in Mirpur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED/BCB



BANGLADESH SQUAD

Najmul Hossain Shanto (captain), Shadman Islam, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Liton Das, Jaker Ali, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Tajul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana.

series to another.

"I am very optimistic that we will leave behind the bad memories of the India series and make a good comeback in this series."

It has been a rollercoaster ride for Najmul Hossain Shanto's side in the past three months. The Tigers were on cloud nine, having sealed a historic 2-0 Test series in Pakistan in August, but were soon handed a reality check in the following India tour in which they got hammered 2-0 in the Test series followed by a 3-0 mauling in the T20I series.

The positive thing about the build-up to the South Africa series is that it is taking place at home and will begin with the first game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, the Tigers' favoured venue for giant-killing.

It is set to be a challenge for Bangladesh's newly-appointed head coach Phil Simmons as well, given the West Indian has very little time to get a grasp of proceedings before the ball starts rolling.

Simmons, who arrived yesterday morning, took no time in his attempt to settle in as he met a few players a few hours later, including skipper Shanto, during a training session in Mirpur.

The only change in the squad is pacer Khaled Ahmed, who was dropped for the series as the Tigers announced a 15-member squad after being part of the 16-member squad that toured India.

Tuchel targets trophies as England manager

AFP, London

Thomas Tuchel said he must rise to the challenge of ending England's wait for a first major trophy since 1966 as the German was unveiled as the new manager of the Three Lions on Wednesday.

Former Chelsea boss Tuchel will start his new job from January 1, 2025 on an 18-month deal to the conclusion of the 2026 World Cup.

The 51-year-old, who has been out of work since leaving Bayern Munich at the end of last season, succeeds Gareth Southgate as permanent coach and becomes the third foreign England manager after Sven Goran Eriksson and Fabio Capello.

"The offer came in the absolutely right time," Tuchel told a press conference at Wembley.

"Now I have to live up to it of course. I know that there are some trophies missing in the federation and, of course, I want to help to make it happen."

Tuchel, who has also coached Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain, has the trophy-winning pedigree that the FA is seeking to help end a 58-year wait to win a



major tournament since the 1966 World Cup on home soil.

The highlight of the German's career to date came during his spell in English football when he won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021.

However, the FA's move has drawn criticism over their unwillingness to trust an Englishman with its top job, overseeing a richly-talented generation of players.

FA CEO Mark Bullingham said English candidates were among 10 interviewees but that Tuchel represented the best chance of delivering success.

His appointment has not been universally welcomed as the Daily Mail labelled Tuchel's arrival as a "dark day for England".

The Sun printed the English fans' chant "it's coming home" in German on its front page.

Meanwhile, England's decision to appoint Tuchel as manager was termed as a 'bold move' by former captain Alan Shearer.

"We need a trophy -- it's as simple as that. We need a manager who can deliver that," Shearer told "The Rest Is Football" podcast shortly before Tuchel was confirmed.

"There's no doubt he has an incredible CV, but this is going to be a very different test for him. It's a bold move from the FA, there's no doubt about it."

However, hailing Tuchel's appointment was England captain Harry Kane, who was signed by Bayern last year and scored 44 goals in 45 matches under his tutelage.

"I think it's a really great appointment. I worked closely with him last season and think he's a really top, top coach and also a great person," said Kane.

The 37-year-old Lionel Messi provided an emphatic reminder of his enduring quality with three clinical finishes, two assists, and some of his trademark creativity throughout the game during Argentina's 6-0 win over Bolivia in a 2026 World Cup qualifier in front of the home crowd at Buenos Aires' Monumental Stadium on Tuesday. Messi's 10th international hattrick -- joint-highest with rival Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal -- inspired Argentina to bounce back from their defeat against Colombia last month and a draw with Venezuela last week. Meanwhile, Brazil also romped to a 4-0 home win over Peru in Brasilia. [Inset] Raphinha converted a penalty in each half while Andreas Pereira and Luiz Henrique scored late goals, helping Brazil maintain their fourth position in the standings with 16 points from 10 games, six behind leaders Argentina.

PHOTO: AFP



2025 CHAMPIONS TROPHY 'Contingencies available' if India don't travel to Pakistan

REUTERS

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chiefs are confident a solution can be found if India do not travel to Pakistan for the 2025 Champions Trophy, adding that India's participation is necessary to protect the tournament's broadcast rights.

Pakistan, who won the last edition of the Champions Trophy in England in 2017, will host the Feb. 19-March 9 tournament.

Due to their soured political relations, India have not visited Pakistan since 2008.

Pakistan also hosted the Asia Cup last year but eventual winners India played all their matches in Sri Lanka under what the organisers called a "hybrid model".

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice president Rajeev Shukla said last month the final decision over whether India will travel to Pakistan would be taken by the country's government.

"I know Pakistan are expecting India to travel," ECB chief Richard Gould told reporters on Wednesday. Gould and ECB chair Richard Thompson are in Pakistan for England's three-Test series and have met with Pakistan Cricket Board officials.

"There are lots of different alternatives and contingencies available if that doesn't happen. I wouldn't have thought (it would be played without India), because if you play the Champions Trophy without India the broadcast rights aren't there, and we need to protect them."

"Hopefully, we can have the fullest possible competition in Pakistan."

SHORT CORNER

Kohli hails Hall of Famer de Villiers

India great Virat Kohli has led the plaudits for ICC Hall of Famer AB de Villiers, penning a letter to the South African legend upon his induction. Joining England great Alastair Cook and Indian women's pioneer Neetu David in the latest class of inductees, de Villiers finished his career with over 20,000 runs across the three international formats, and is regarded as one of the first true three-format batting greats.

Gabba dropped for Ashes opener

Perth will stage the first Test in the 2025-26 Ashes, it was announced Wednesday, ending Brisbane's almost 40-year run of hosting of the opener of the Australia-England series. England's bid to win back the historic Ashes urn will begin at Perth Stadium on November 21, 2025, with the second day-night Test to be played at Brisbane's Gabba, Cricket Australia said.

Rain washes out day one of India-NZ Test

Rain washed out the opening day of the first Test between India and New Zealand in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The southern Indian city has been lashed by rain for the past 48 hours and more wet weather is forecast in the coming days. New Zealand's one-off Test against Afghanistan near New Delhi was abandoned last month without a ball being bowled after five days of rain.

*Read full stories on The Daily Star website

