

## ‘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



### SAFF WOMEN’S CHAMPIONSHIP

## Curtain rises with India-Pakistan clash

SPORTS REPORTER

The curtain on the 7th SAFF Women's Championship is set to rise today at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, with the seven South Asian nations eager to show their potential and vie for the prestigious title.

India, who had established their supremacy in the regional championship by becoming champions five times in a row, are set to renew their old rivalry with Pakistan in the opening match of Group A at 5:30pm Bangladesh time.

### KEY FIXTURES

Bangladesh vs Pakistan	Oct 20
Bangladesh vs India	Oct 23
Semifinals	Oct 27
Final	Oct 30

While India are ahead both in terms of record and depth of squad, Pakistan can pose threat to their neighbours, thanks to the inclusion of Saudi Arabia-based midfielder Maria Khan, Canada-based goalkeeper Rumaysa Khan and USA-based forward Isra Khan.

Paying respect to their opponents, both India coach Santosh Kashyap and Pakistan coach Adeel Rizki expected a very exciting opening match.

However, it is the defending champions Bangladesh who are expected to grab

most spotlight in Group A as well as in the championship, especially after the way they outshone subcontinent's powerhouses India and Nepal two years ago to clinch their maiden title at this very venue.

Since the introduction of the championship in 2010, Bangladesh have advanced to the knockout stage in all but the 2012 edition. The two-time finalists are being considered as one of title contenders this time around too, given the fact that they have taken nearly three months of preparation under Peter Butler.

At the pre-tournament conference in Kathmandu yesterday, all participating teams disclosed their desire goals and promised to offer fight in each and every game. Bangladesh captain Sabina Khatun believes all the players and all the teams are excited for the tournament.

“I think everyone feels excitement for SAFF Women's Championship and every team have come here with good preparation,” Sabina said. “We have been preparing for this tournament for

a few months and we have taken a good preparation and our team is ready for the tournament.”

Pakistan captain Maria was excited ahead of their ‘World Cup’ campaign.

“I’m excited and we are ready to complete and excited. This is our World Cup and we are very excited for it,” said Maria.

Tournament favourites India's coach Kashyap rated Bangladesh, Nepal and other participants highly ahead of the tournament.

“All the teams are very close in terms of quality, and they fight hard. Whether it's the men's or women's teams, we can't afford to think we are the favourites and will win easily. It won't be like that for sure and we have to battle for every moment in every match.

“I have also seen Bangladesh and Nepal play, and I expect all the games to be closely contested. So, what happens on match day can be unpredictable. It depends on how the players perform under pressure and other factors,” said the India coach.

## 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*

## 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 Tuchel for 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 hat-trick -- 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

