

# SPORT

## What to WATCH

**T SPORTS**  
 India vs West Indies  
 2nd Test, Day 3  
 Live from 10:00 am  
 NCL T20 final  
 Live from 5:00 pm  
**TEN CRICKET AND WILLOW TV**

Pakistan vs South Africa  
 First Test, Day 1  
 Live from 11:00 am  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1**  
 ICC Women's World Cup  
 India vs Australia  
 Live from 3:30 pm



Australia (CA) has 10 directors while England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has 11 – two of whom are full-time salaried officials, the CEO and CFO. Excluding them, there are only nine in leadership roles.

All in all, the so-called big three in cricket combined have 27 policymakers, just two more than Bangladesh.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) operates with eight board members; Cricket South Africa (CSA) has 13, excluding two executives. Cricket West Indies (CWI), which represents multiple nations, is run by a group of 10.

Even the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), boards that are often in the news for political reasons like the BCB, have 11 and seven directors respectively.

Zimbabwe Cricket has 12, Cricket Ireland 14, and Afghanistan Cricket Board eight.

**An all boy's club, almost**  
 Throughout BCB's history, women's representation in policymaking has never been a real priority.

There has been only one female director in its history—former women's cricketer Monowara Anis Minu, who served during the 2007–08 term. There are talks that the current board might

entitlements are clearly defined and transparent.

That's not the case in the BCB. According to the constitution, directors are not salaried, yet some even leave their jobs to take up this unpaid position.

In the latest polls, one former national team cricketer, who had been a selector earning a handsome honorarium, resigned to become a director without pay.

**Much ado, little done**  
 The BCB outnumbers all major boards in the number of policymakers, but that has hardly translated into on-field success.

Take the men's national team for example: ranked 9th in Tests, 10th in ODIs, and 9th in T20s, despite being the central focus of the board.

The BCB could not arrange international matches for the women's team for almost five months before sending them off for the ongoing ICC Women's World Cup.

Domestic cricket has been on the decline for years, the Bangladesh Premier League has been marred with allegations of corruptions, the game's decentralisation remains a pipe dream, and cricketers everywhere are crying out for more facilities.



PHOTO: ACP

Rashid Khan weaved a web of spin with five wickets for 17 runs in 8.3 overs to bundle out Bangladesh for 109 runs in 28.3 overs in reply to Afghanistan's 190 in the second ODI at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday. The rot started, though, with a triple-wicket spell from Azmatullah Omarzai as Afghanistan took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The third and final match takes place on Tuesday.

## Squad finalised for Hockey Junior World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has finalised a 20-member squad for next month's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup in India, leaving out six players from the squad that led them to the final round.

Goalkeeper Nayan, Shumonto Chakma, Shahidul Islam, Tyeb Ali, Saddam Hossain and Shimul Islam are the players who have been left out. Among these six, midfielder Tyeb had played in the recent Asia Cup in India.

While members of the coaching staff declined to comment on the issue, BHF's general secretary Riazul Hasan said that the omissions have been made by the coaching staff and selection panel based on performances in the recent Malaysia tour as well as the three-month-long camp.

"The decisions were based on their performances, both in the camp and the Malaysia tour. All of those who have been left out were omitted due to lack of form," Riazul told The Daily Star.

The BHF spokesman informed that the team would leave for Europe on October 28 to play two matches each against their Swiss and Austrian counterparts. The team would then leave for India on November 18 and play two practice matches against Switzerland and Chile ahead of the Junior World Cup.

Two out of the 20 players will be kept as standbys for the tournament, which runs from November 28 to December 10.

Bangladesh are in Pool F of the 24-team competition alongside heavyweights Australia, France and South Korea.

### Bangladesh squad:

Mahmud Hasan, Ashraf Haque, Mehrab Hossain Samin, Ramin Hossain, Enam Sharif, Munna Islam, Rahid Hasan, Aziz Rahman, Sabbir Hossain Konok, Din Islam, Ashraf Islam, Mehedi Hasan, Ismail Hossain, Amirul Islam, Hozaila Hossain, Obaidul Hossain, Tanvir Rahman, Rakibul Islam, Mohammad Abdullah, Shahidur Rahman.



best suited to four, and Pinky remains reliable despite being a slow starter.

All-rounder Rabeya Khan defended her skipper but admitted that "when the top order doesn't score, whatever the lower order does becomes meaningless". She added that Joty remains a "confident" batter who is "trying hard" despite the lack of runs.

As Bangladesh head to Visakhapatnam for their next two matches against South Africa and Australia on October 13 and 16, they will hope their captain can rediscover her touch to keep their World Cup campaign alive.

## Too many cooks for BCB broth?

EKUSH TAPADER

Ten – that's how many directors the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had when Faruque Ahmed took over as its president in last year's August.

Just days earlier, the Awami League government had fallen in the face of an uprising, and several directors resigned from the board in the new political reality.

Time and again, Faruque spoke about the difficulties of running the board with only two fifth of the usual 25 directors.

Ironically, however, even with only 40 percent of the board intact, the BCB under him still had more people in policymaking roles than the boards in Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Afghanistan and even the cricketing powerhouse India.

BCCI+ECB+CA = BCB

Faruque was eventually ousted from the board but made a dramatic comeback in the latest BCB polls, which took place on October 6, and is now one of the two vice-presidents of the newly elected board president Aminul Islam Bulbul.

Bulbul does not have to deal with a depleted board like Faruque, as 23 directors were elected in the latest polls. The National Sports Council (NSC) nominated the remaining two directors, and although there is some controversy over one of them – Ishfaq Ahsan – he is expected to be replaced soon.

With 25 members, Bulbul heads the largest board of directors among all Test-playing nations—more than twice the size of most, and in some cases, more than thrice.

The world's richest cricket board, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), operates with just eight members. Cricket



include one woman as the NSC might nominate a woman to replace Ishfaq.

In contrast, major cricketing nations have significant female representation. NZC leads the way: both its presidency and executive chair is held by women, and five of its eight directors are also women. South African and Irish boards also have a female president.

Five out of nine ECB directors are women. CA has three female directors and the Australian government has mandated that national and state sporting bodies must achieve a 50-50 gender split on their boards by mid-2027.

In BCCI, one of the two representatives from the Indian Cricketers' Association must be a woman.

**No transparency in financial benefits**  
 In most major cricket boards, the financial benefits and honorariums of elected or appointed directors are not a secret. For instance, Australia's directors receive annual honorariums, and the exact amounts are publicly available. Salaries of paid executives such as CEOs and CFOs are also listed on their websites.

Although the BCCI's policymakers are honorary, their benefits and

### Too many cooks in the kitchen?

Soon after getting elected as president, Bulbul, half-jokingly, said that they were overwhelmed with work and that things would be easier if a day had 33 hours instead of 24.

The reality is that even with 24-hour days and fewer than half of the policymakers, world's leading cricket boards are operating much more efficiently. So, the question is: does BCB really need such a large board?

"I don't think such a large board is necessary," former BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Haque, who worked as CEO of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), told The Daily Star. "The board of directors should only decide the direction of cricket – the professionals are supposed to execute those decisions. In every other country, boards are small... Why BCB needs 25 directors, I don't know. I think that's too many."

## Hasim targets BPL after standout NCL run

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Left-arm spinner Abu Hasim has turned heads with his disciplined bowling in the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) T20, which concludes today with holders Rangpur Division facing Khulna Division in the final at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

In a tournament dominated by familiar names, Hasim has emerged as a rare fresh find. Alongside unheralded performers like Mohammad Rubel (10 wickets in eight matches) of Chattogram and Khulna's Sheikh Parvez Jibon (10 in six), the 28-year-old has taken 11 wickets in eight matches – the second-highest tally so far behind Chattogram's Hasan Murad (14 in eight) – while maintaining an economy of just 4.74 despite bowling mostly in batter-dominated Powerplay overs.

Hasim's rise has been far from easy. Hailing from Thakurgaon, outside Bangladesh's mainstream cricket hubs, he never featured in age-level cricket. His career took shape only after a fellow Thakurgaon cricketer Ehsanul Haque Lipu spotted his talent during a practice session and brought him to Dhaka for a trial to play in the First Division Cricket League in 2015.

"It is extremely challenging for a player from Thakurgaon to reach this level," Hasim told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I started out as an economical bowler, but over the years I worked on my variations and began taking wickets consistently. After eight years in the First Division, I finally got picked by Rupganj Tigers in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) two years ago," added Hasim, whose bowling has been a key factor behind Rangpur's second consecutive appearance in the competition's final. His current NCL form continues his steady rise. In the last Dhaka Premier League (DPL) season, he took 18 wickets in 14 matches for Gazi Group Cricketers at a miserly economy of 4.26. "After my DPL performance, I set a goal to do well here so I could get a chance in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL)... and hopefully, that effort will pay off."



## 'Time to plan wisely'

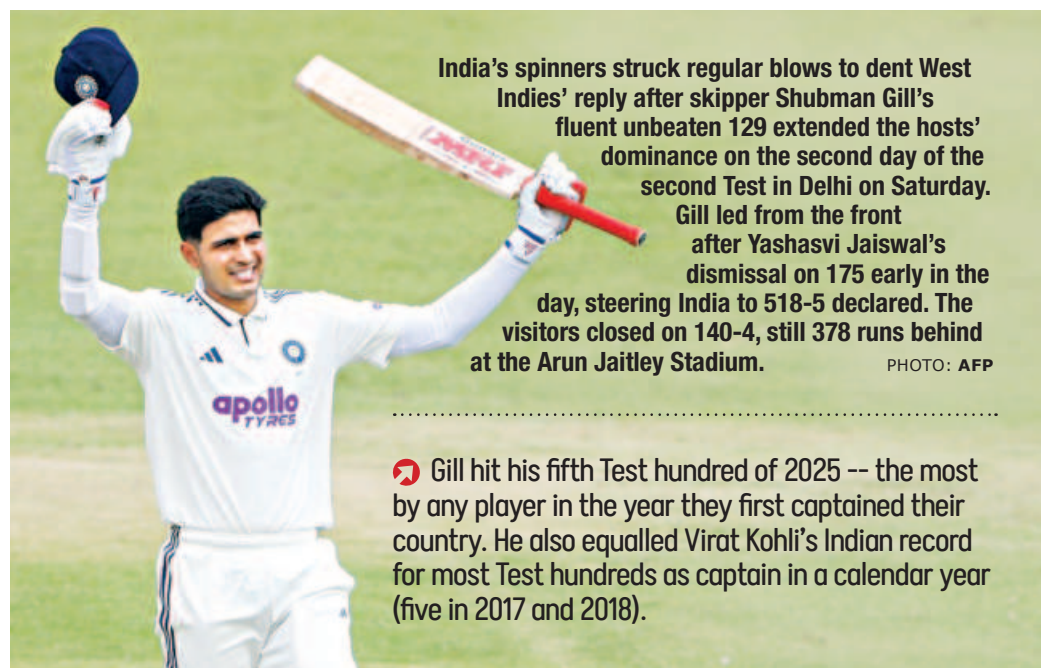
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty's poor form in the ICC Women's World Cup has emerged as a key concern for the Tigresses, as their batting remains inconsistent despite strong performances with the ball.

A mainstay of the side in recent years, Joty has scored only 27 runs in three innings. She began with a promising 23 off 44 against Pakistan, forging a 62-run stand with Rubya Haider Jhelik in a seven-wicket win in Colombo. But a promotion up the order has since misfired.

Usually effective at number four, where she averages over 31, Joty was pushed to number three after Farzana Hoque Pinky was dropped – managing a two-ball duck against England and four off 28 against New Zealand, where Bangladesh were bowled out for 178 and 127 respectively.

Former captain Rumana Ahmed criticised the reshuffle. "It's time to plan our top order wisely. Our batting is relatively weak, and success in a World Cup demands a solid order," Rumana wrote on social media, adding that Sharmin Akhter Supta has been in form at three, Joty is



India's spinners struck regular blows to dent West Indies' reply after skipper Shubman Gill's fluent unbeaten 129 extended the hosts' dominance on the second day of the second Test in Delhi on Saturday. Gill led from the front after Yashasvi Jaiswal's dismissal on 175 early in the day, steering India to 518-5 declared. The visitors closed on 140-4, still 378 runs behind at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. PHOTO: AFP

Gill hit his fifth Test hundred of 2025 – the most by any player in the year they first captained their country. He also equalled Virat Kohli's Indian record for most Test hundreds as captain in a calendar year (five in 2017 and 2018).

France striker Kylian Mbappe celebrates with teammate Hugo Ekitike after scoring the opener in a 3-0 win over Azerbaijan in a FIFA World Cup Qualifier at home yesterday. At the stroke of half-time, Mbappe collected Ekitike's pass, stormed through the defence, and slotted home into the far corner. Mbappe, however, injured his ankle in the 83rd minute and will be missing Monday's qualifier against Iceland. PHOTO: AFP

