



TIGERS HUMBLED

Having come into the series against West Indies on the back of four series wins on the trot, the Tigers could not even salvage some pride in the final T20I in Chattogram yesterday. The Tigers' recurring theme of failing to perform as a unit continued, with opener Tanzid Tamim once again standing out through a crucial knock while others failed to provide meaningful support. The West Indies, however, were different in this regard, as Roston Chase and Ackeem Auguste struck fifties to guide the visitors past the modest 152-run target, rendering Tanzid's 62-ball 89 in vain. Fittingly, the West Indies completed a clean sweep with a convincing five-wicket win in the final game -- their first whitewash away from home in a three-match series.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Busy schedule ahead for Tigresses

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team face a packed schedule ahead, beginning with a tour of India in December under the ICC Women's Future Tours Programme (FTP), Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials have confirmed.

"We have been asked by the host board to be prepared for departure on either December 14 or 15. The itinerary is yet to be finalised, but as per the FTP calendar, the tour will feature three ODIs and three T20Is," a BCB official told The Daily Star.

"Preparation for the India tour will begin very soon," a player said.

According to BCB officials, the new women's FTP cycle will also commence with Bangladesh's tour of India, and the ODI leg of the series will mark the start of the ICC Women's ODI Championship campaign for the Tigresses.

Following the India tour, Bangladesh will shift focus to the Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers, scheduled for January-February. Sri Lanka are then expected to tour Bangladesh in April next year.

As per the FTP, the Tigresses will also tour Australia and New Zealand in October and December 2026, respectively, making for a hectic and crucial year ahead for the national side.

ASHFAQ UL ALAM

It took two new batters, a reshuffling of the batting line-up, a career-best T20I score from Tanzid Tamim, and Taskin Ahmed hitting a six without walking into his stumps for Bangladesh to finally cross the 150-run mark against the West Indies in their third attempt in the three-match T20I series in Chattogram on Friday.

The hosts crossed the 150-run threshold only just, getting bundled out for 151 in 20 overs -- a total the visitors chased down in 16.5 overs to take the series 3-0.

In the previous two matches, both of which ended in defeats, the Tigers made 149 all out and 135-8 respectively.

To change their batting fortunes, the management dropped middle-order batters Tawhid Hridoy and Shamim Sohan to bolster the middle order.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh: 151 all out in 20 overs (Tanzid 89; Shepher 3-36, Holder 2-32)

West Indies: 152 for 5 in 16.5 overs (Chase 50, Auguste 50; Rishad 3-43)

Result: West Indies won by five wickets, taking series 3-0

Player of the match: Roston Chase

Player of the series: Romario Shepherd

When they batted, there was dew. They were lucky to bat second, you can't control and judge before the game.... Before the series we wanted a tough time and they gave us a tough time.

Bangladesh captain LITTON DAS

Hossain, sent down opener Saif Hassan to No.4, and brought in Parvez Hossain Emon to open the innings and Nurul Hasan Sohan to bolster the middle order.

But even after such wholesale changes, Bangladesh found themselves at nine down for 144 with just four deliveries left in the innings and No.11 Taskin on strike.

Thankfully for the hosts, Taskin dispatched a short delivery from Romario Shepherd -- who had completed a hattrick the same over -- for a six, and that too without knocking the stumps with his boot as he had done in the series opener.

Tanzid, who was dropped twice, was the lone warrior for Bangladesh, making 89 off 62 balls -- nearly 59 percent of the total. He had hit a half-century in the second match as well -- 61 off 48 -- but found no support

from the others in that game as well.

Depending on one batter to rescue the side is in no way a sustainable model for a team to do well; more batters have to put their hands up and execute their roles.

Bangladesh came into the West Indies series having won four T20I series on the trot, creating a sense that the Tigers will find the right balance in the format.

But even during this period, Bangladesh's batting frailties were getting exposed. The side was getting rescued by individual performances like Tanzid's and by the bowling unit, which has displayed adaptability and depth in recent times.

With around three months left before the ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, and just one T20I series on the horizon -- against Ireland at home this month -- there is simply no time left to try out other options in the batting department.

The management might bring in players like Soumya Sarkar and Mohammad Saifuddin, who are part of the white-ball setup but not in the T20 squad right now, but other than that, the majority of the squad that is facing the Caribbean side will most likely represent Bangladesh in the mega event.

If nothing else, the West Indies series showed that one big innings is not enough to put up big totals. For a team like Bangladesh, every batter has to play their role efficiently. If not, sporadic success is the best the Tigers can hope for in the long run.

Test team to start training on Nov 8

SPORTS REPORTER FROM CTG

Bangladesh's Test players are set to begin preparations for the upcoming two match series against Ireland on November 8 in Sylhet, confirmed Bangladesh Cricket Board's cricket operations in charge, Shahriar Nafees.

"The dedicated Test players will take part in the second round of the National Cricket League (NCL), which starts tomorrow [Saturday]. They will then get two rest days before travelling to Sylhet on November 7," Nafees told The Daily Star. He added that members of the white-ball squad, who are also part of the Test setup, will join the group on the same day.

"The white-ball players will have a few rest days after the West Indies series, as they have been playing continuous cricket over the past few months," he added.

It was learnt that among the Test specialists who were not part of the three-match T20I series against West Indies, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam will not feature for Rajshahi Division in their second-round NCL match against Khulna Division in Mirpur on Saturday.

The two-match Test series against Ireland will begin on November 8 in Sylhet, while the second Test will start on November 19 in Mirpur.

The announcement of the squad and the new Test captain is expected to follow a board of directors' meeting scheduled for November 3.

Arsenal look to extend stay at top

REUTERS

Arsenal will look to extend their remarkable run of form when they travel to Burnley tomorrow but manager Mikel Arteta.

The Gunners have been in impressive form, becoming the first English top-flight team to play at least six times in a month without conceding a goal.

Their flawless October included Premier League wins over West Ham United, Fulham and Crystal Palace, alongside triumphs against Olympiacos and Atletico Madrid in the Champions League, and a League Cup win against Brighton.

Arteta's men currently sit atop the Premier League standings with 22 points from nine matches, four clear of second-placed Bournemouth.

"Yes (keep the foot on the gas) and maintain the level of urgency," Arteta said. "The concentration, the focus, the ambition we are showing in every game, and every game brings different challenges."

"Sometimes we have to be very patient and some of the time we have to have a different approach."

"The game against Burnley is going to be really tough. They are extremely well coached and Scott (Parker) has done really well with the club."

In-form Brazil international Gabriel Martinelli and centre-back William Saliba are out for the trip to Burnley. Martinelli limped off the pitch following Arsenal's 1-0 Premier League victory over Crystal Palace on Sunday, while Frenchman Saliba was substituted at halftime at the Emirates. Martin Odegaard, Kai Havertz and Noni Madueke also remain sidelined.

Hattrick champion Noshin wants to compete against men

ANISUR RAHMAN

Having secured a hattrick of titles at the National Women's Chess Championship, Woman's FIDE Master (WFM) Noshin Anjum has announced her intention to compete in the Open section from the next edition, aiming to challenge male opponents rather than continuing in the women's championship.

Noshin became only the second woman in Bangladesh to achieve this rare feat after the legendary Rani Hamid, who holds the record of winning the title six consecutive times since the inaugural edition in 1979 and achieved another hattrick between 2006 and 2008.

On Friday, Noshin needed only a draw against Warsia Khusbu to secure her third straight title. Khusbu accepted the draw offer after just six moves, allowing the 21-year-old to finish with 8.5 points from 11 rounds.

"It's a great feeling to finally relax after winning the hattrick title," Noshin told The Daily Star. "I will now try to play in the Open section so that I don't have to participate in the women's championship from the next edition. I narrowly missed qualifying for the Open section in the last two editions after losing in the final round of the National B Championship."

After winning her first national title in 2022, Noshin had declared her ambition



to become a Grandmaster by competing in the Open section. She is close to earning the WIM title, having already secured two WIM norms. She now needs one more norm and a 2200 rating to complete the requirements.

This year, Noshin set her sights on completing the hattrick but faced an early setback when she lost to Nusrat Jahan Alo in the third round. It was her mother's encouragement that motivated her to continue. "My mother told me that

"Alo might lose points in the remaining rounds, so I should keep fighting," said Noshin. Regaining focus, she took the solo lead after the seventh round and never looked back, achieving the rare feat.

"I won't take long to reach the level of players like Liza and Shirin, but becoming the country's first Woman Grandmaster (WGM) will take time because it's quite difficult to improve rating points nowadays," said Noshin, who studies in the Department of Food and Nutrition at the University of Dhaka.

Noshin also noted that the standard of the national women's championship has risen significantly in recent years. "When I first played in the national championship in 2016, there were only a few experienced players. Now there are many young and competitive participants, which makes the tournament much tougher. Anyone can beat anyone," she said.

The young champion appealed for sponsorship support to pursue her dream of becoming Bangladesh's first WGM. "I don't have enough support to play overseas tournaments regularly. My single mother looks after me, and I try to help her financially as a contractual player for Bangladesh Navy. Without individual sponsors, it's difficult to compete abroad and earn the rating points I need to reach my goal," Noshin added.

India savours 'greatest day' in WOMEN'S CRICKET

AFP, Mumbai

India's stunning World Cup semifinal win over Australia was described Friday as the greatest day in the history of women's cricket in the country, with Jemimah Rodrigues hailed for her "innings of a lifetime".

Batter Rodrigues hit an unbeaten 127 as the hosts chased down a record 339 in Mumbai on Thursday to oust reigning seven-time champions Australia in Mumbai.

India face South Africa in the final at the same venue on Sunday as both teams attempt to win the one-day tournament for the first time in its 52-year history.

"This is the greatest day in the history of Indian women's cricket," veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle said on X.

Virat Kohli, the star batsman from the men's team, called Rodrigues's display the "standout performance", while former men's captain Sunil Gavaskar called the victory "exhilarating" and "absolutely thrilling", especially because they were clear underdogs.

"You can say that the Indian women's team has definitely come of age," Gavaskar said.

India lost three successive matches in the league phase before clinching the last



semifinal spot, in contrast to Australia's unbeaten run into the final four.

India were in trouble at 59-2 in reply to Australia's massive 338 when Rodrigues turned the game on its head in a 167-run third-wicket partnership with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who hit 89.

Rodrigues, a middle-order batter who had a modest start in the tournament and was dropped in the league game against England, was promoted to number three and delivered when it mattered.

"When you are left and then come back into the team the pressure is way too high... today's innings was a marvellous innings," added Gavaskar.

That was echoed by former national cricketer Mohammad Kaif, who called it an "innings of a lifetime".