



HAMZA'S WONDER GOAL NOT ENOUGH

Jaws dropped and hands landed on heads as Bangladesh star Hamza Choudhury produced a moment of sheer brilliance that left spectators breathless – not only at the National Stadium but also in front of TV screens, bringing Bangladesh back into the game in their FIFA friendly against

Nepal yesterday. In a match that had offered little to cheer for the home side, the Leicester City midfielder delivered a one-man show, drawing Bangladesh level at 1-1 just a minute after the restart with an outrageous bicycle kick. Hamza then followed it up with an audacious Panenka penalty

in the 50th minute to give the hosts a 2-1 lead, but ultimately, Bangladesh were deprived of their second win of the year as Nepal's Ananta Tamang found an equaliser in the third minute of stoppage time. Earlier, Rohit Chand fired Nepal into the lead with a thunderous strike in the 29th minute.



PHOTO: STAR

Shanto leads with the bat

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI, from Sylhet

Day 3 of the Sylhet Test against Ireland on Thursday began with a couple of setbacks for Bangladesh, as two set batters fell inside 19 deliveries of the start.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy missed the double century mark, Mominul Haque missed out on a ton, but their failures did not deter skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who resumed his Test captaincy with a stellar knock that was both fluent and showcased authority.

Stats suggest that leadership brings out the best of his batting abilities as four of his eight tons have now come as skipper. He also averages 38.69 as captain, almost nine runs better than without the mantle.

The 27-year-old had stepped down from the role after the topsy-turvy situation in the Sri Lanka tour in June earlier this year and even in that two-match series, the Southpaw had registered two tons in Galle.

Even though he had stepped down after the Sri Lanka series, Bangladesh did not play another Test till the ongoing one against Ireland, for which he has returned to the hotseat.

In his comeback, he asserted his responsibility with the bat with a 114-ball ton, which ensured Bangladesh remained out of Ireland's reach.

In the brief period when the Tigers did not

have a Test captain and names were being thrown around as potential successors, one cricketer had quipped to this reporter 'if you give the captaincy to the best performer, the team will listen'.

With an innings like this, Shanto appears to be thinking along the same lines

Shanto surpassed Mominul in scoring tons as captain and has equaled Mushfiqur Rahim with four tons. Joy, who came to the press conference yesterday, praised Shanto's knock.

"He bats very aggressively whenever he comes in. When we give a good start from the top, it becomes easy for those who bat later... I'd say his was a very good innings," he said.

Matthew Humphreys, who bagged five for 170, talked about the value of that innings.

"He's a top-class player, and we knew that coming into the game, but I think the way he started, he played the new ball really well... We had a moment of pressure this

morning when we took the two early wickets and he kind of came in and put us back on the back foot with a few strong shot," Humphreys said.

Shanto's ton helped Bangladesh declare on 587 for 8, with a 301-run lead. With the visitors already five down for 86, chances are he will begin his second stint as captain with an emphatic innings win.



NSC orders all federations to form anti-harassment committees

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) has instructed all federations and associations under its jurisdiction to form five-member committees to prevent sexual harassment of women. In a press release issued on Wednesday, the NSC stated that each committee would have to have at least three women and the list of members will have to be submitted to the NSC by November 19.

Female athletes and others involved with the sports body can file complaints of sexual harassment with the committee, who will be responsible to take appropriate actions.

The press release further read that if a complain is not addressed or if the complainant is not happy with the verdict, they can approach the NSC. The directive follows the recent allegations of sexual harassment made by former Bangladesh cricket team captain Jahanara Alam, which have shaken the country's sports fraternity, and has raised calls for independent inquiry committees and other measures to ensure the safety of female athletes.



"Alhamdulillah, it feels wonderful to win Bangladesh's first-ever medal in the compound event of the Asian Archery Championships."

Bonna Akter, silver medallist, compound mixed team event

"They [Olympic gold medallist opponents] can hit 10s, and so can I. I've only been playing for two years; they're much more experienced. But I never felt intimidated."

Kulsum Akter Moni, bronze medallist, women's compound individual event



Bangladesh shone brightly at the Teer 24th Asian Archery Championships 2025, securing both silver and bronze on an inspiring Thursday in Dhaka. Bonna Akter and Himu Bachhar won silver in the compound mixed team event after a thrilling 151-153 final loss to India -- Bangladesh's first-ever medal in the compound category. [Inset] Later, Kulsum Akter Moni added to the glory with a bronze in the women's compound individual event, edging Chinese Taipei's Si-yu Chen 145-144.

PHOTO: BAF

Babu laments heavy 8-2 loss to Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Rezaul Karim Babu expressed his disappointment after an 8-2 thrashing by Pakistan in the first of three play-off matches at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Although a loss against the four-time World Cup champions was hardly unexpected -- given Bangladesh's record of never having beaten Pakistan -- the margin of defeat was a major letdown for the hosts.

Bangladesh adopted a defensive approach in the first two quarters but struggled to contain the opposition. Pakistan, despite an unconvincing overall performance, punished Bangladesh's repeated errors with clinical ease.

"We were not ready for an 8-2 defeat," Babu said. "The margin could have been smaller if our two penalty corners hadn't rebounded off the post. We conceded 3-4 goals due to technical mistakes."

Explaining the team's strategy, Babu said: "It's not possible for us to play at full pace throughout the game against Pakistan because of the difference in physical ability."

Bangladesh will look to regroup and respond when they face Pakistan again in the second match at the same venue on Friday.

Bank guarantee deadline extended to Nov 18

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) Governing Council has extended the deadline for franchises to submit their bank guarantees to November 18, following requests from several teams for additional time, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official confirmed on Thursday.

"As some teams requested, it has been extended to the 18th," BCB's media committee chairman Amzad Hussain told The Daily Star.

Earlier, when the BPL GC announced the five franchise names on November 6, teams were instructed to submit their bank guarantees within five working days, a period that ended on Thursday.

"They [franchises] said that the time was not sufficient because the bank takes a few days to process collateral and create charge documents," he said.

Amzad didn't disclose how many franchises requested for the deadline extension but claimed that if any team fails to provide the bank guarantee of Tk 10 crores within the new timeframe, their franchise fee of Tk 2 crores will be forfeited.

The BPL GC has already confirmed November 23 as the date for the players' auction. The 12th edition of the franchise-based T20 league will feature five teams -- Dhaka Capitals, Chattogram Royals, Rajshahi Warriors, Rangpur Riders, and Sylhet Titans -- and is slated to begin on December 19.



A two-match Test series between India and world champions South Africa begins at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Friday.

❖ South Africa have a poor recent record in India, having lost their previous two series 3-0. Their last series win came under Hansie Cronje in 2000. But under Bavuma, South Africa have a leader with a top success rate -- winning nine and drawing one of 10 Tests as captain.

❖ For the first time in decades, South African cricket will move away from their tradition of

playing a Boxing Day Test at home to accommodate an SA T20 competition.

❖ India's recent 2-0 sweep of West Indies took them past South Africa to become the third-most successful team at home in Test cricket. They have 122 wins in the five-day format in India, behind only Australia, who have 262 home wins, and England, who have 241.



"Coming to India, it's never easy. We understand the magnitude of the challenge. Some of us in the group have experienced moments of hurt."

— South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma



"Whenever we play in India, more or less the spinners decide the game. The better the quality of the spin attack you have, the better your chances of winning the match."

— India captain Shubman Gill

A division without own daughters

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI FROM SYLHET

Despite over a decade of promises, women's cricket in Bangladesh still lacks a true culture emerging from a vibrant domestic system that nurtures competitiveness and identity, as evident in the ongoing Women's National Cricket League (NCL) T20 2025-26.

The NCL differs from club or franchise cricket in that teams are formed by divisions, with most players drawn from their own regions. Yet, in the 14th edition, which began at BKSP on November 8 and runs until November 17, Sylhet Division's side included not a single player from Sylhet itself.

Icon players Sharmin Akhter Supta and Sanjida Akter represent Sylhet but come from Gaibandha and Jessore, respectively. The omission has frustrated local cricketers.

BCB sources confirmed that player selection follows board instructions -- with the binding commitment that selection must be done from the draft -- but local cricketer Pinky Akter argued that "such rules exist every year, yet 2-3 local players are usually picked." She also alleged that cricketers who were made captains had "picked others who they had friendships with."

Sylhet coach Mohammad Al Wadud Sweet explained that only one Sylhet player, Kulsuma, was in the BCB draft and was picked by Chittagong before Sylhet could act. "Since the auction system began, even replacements must come from the draft," he said.

An official admitted that "names from the divisions weren't sent up this time," though the reason was unclear. National selector Sazzad Ahmed said the draft was based on performances in Premier League



and First Division cricket, adding that divisions like Sylhet, Chattogram and Barisal have "fewer players."

Records show at least three Sylhet players -- Pinky, Jui Talukdar, and Kulsuma -- played or were registered in recent Premier League seasons. Sazzad said he was "not sure why their names weren't pushed" but that he simply compiles lists based on submissions.

Officials from other divisions reportedly lobbied for their own players, while "no one from Sylhet took initiative," one Sylheti player said. Sylhet Division

Men's team manager Ali Wasiquzzaman linked the issue to the outcome of transition following a change of government and officials, leaving the division "without proper oversight." Players from Sylhet have also alleged that others represent their divisions despite comparable Premier League performances.

Wasiquzzaman, who previously coached the Sylhet women's team, said the local structure collapsed after 2015. "We had around 65 players once, but the programme stopped, and gradually they drifted away," he said, adding that few now play top-tier cricket.

BCB director and Bangladesh Tigers Standing Committee chairman Rahat Shams, himself from Sylhet, admitted he "missed the train this time" as the team was already formed from Dhaka through the draft before he assumed his new role. He acknowledged that "the stock in the pipeline isn't big" and said the priority now is to rebuild it.

"The goal is to create a pool of 15-20 players [from Sylhet]," he said, adding that a female manager, Selina Akhter Chowdhury, has been appointed to oversee the team, while coaching and development programmes are being planned for the region.

With few local leagues and limited opportunities, Sylhet reflects the absence of a cricketing ecosystem that rewards continuity and representation. Although expanding women's cricket nationwide is often discussed at board meetings, the reality is that it remains trapped in a cycle of promise and neglect.

In the meantime, the Sylheti girls wait in limbo, each missed season chipping away at their experience and confidence. For many, the future remains uncertain, and no one seems there to witness their disappointment or bear the weight of their dreams deferred.