



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus stands alongside captains of the 11 teams as well as other dignitaries at the state guest house Jamuna on Sunday following the unveiling of the trophy for the 2nd Women's Kabaddi World Cup, which gets underway in Dhaka today.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S OFFICE

WOMEN'S KABADDI WORLD CUP STARTS TODAY

The second edition of the Women's Kabaddi World Cup will kick off in Dhaka today and will conclude on November 24.

Four matches will take place on the opening day, with Bangladesh and Uganda facing off in the opening match, following the inauguration ceremony at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur at 3:00 pm.

11 teams are participating in this edition, down from 16 from the first edition held in Patna, India in 2012.

India won the first edition while Iran emerged runners-up.

Bangladesh had finished fifth in that edition, held in Patna, India.

Group A: Bangladesh, India, Germany, Thailand, Uganda
Group B: Iran, Chinese Taipei, Kenya, Nepal, Poland, Zanzibar



South Africa's last Test win in India before this was in 2010 in Nagpur -- by an innings and six runs. Between that win and the Kolkata victory, they played eight Tests in India, losing 7 and drawing 1.

India failed to chase 124 at Eden Gardens -- their second-lowest failed chase in a defeat after failing to chase 120 against West Indies in Bridgetown in 1997.

124 is also South Africa's second-lowest successful defence in Tests; the lowest is 117 against Australia in Sydney in 1994.

Very exciting, you want to be a part of those types of games and obviously be on the right side of the result. I think we tried to hold our ground as much as we could. We knew it was going to be tough with the bat, it was tough for us, but we needed to exploit what was there.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma

There was no demon in this wicket. It was not an unplayable one. This was not a typical turning track. It was more of a test of your technique and mental toughness... Those who defended well scored runs.

India coach Gautam Gambhir

BAVUMA SCRIPTS Eden glory to make it 10 in 11

AGENCIES

Tumba Bavuma walked out onto the Eden Gardens turf in Kolkata on the third morning on Sunday knowing South Africa's fate rested squarely on his shoulders. He did what a captain does -- leading from the front to script a sensational win for his country, alongside Simon Harmer who spearheaded the Proteas' lion-hearted bowling effort with four for 21.

Ten wins in eleven Tests as captain -- his only non-victory a draw -- had elevated Bavuma alongside Mike Brearley for the most wins before a first defeat. Yet none of those triumphs had demanded more grit than the battle unfolding on this treacherous Kolkata surface.

South Africa had conceded a first-innings deficit of 30.

Resuming at 93 for seven, they clung to the contest by a thread. The pitch had turned into a minefield overnight, its inconsistent bounce swallowing shot-makers whole.

Bavuma began the day on 29 and remained calm in the chaos, unwilling to surrender. Each ball he faced was a skirmish; each run, a rebellion. Corbin Bosch offered brave company with a defiant 25, but when Jasprit Bumrah speared one through his off stump, the tail unraveled swiftly. Still Bavuma stood firm, batting 136 balls for an unbeaten 55, the only fifty of the match. He walked

off stranded, but unbowed.

India required just 124. Even without their injured captain Shubman Gill, they were expected to march home. But Bavuma gathered his huddle, voice low, conviction unshaken -- and his bowlers responded like lions.

Marco Jansen ripped out both openers before lunch, leaving India effectively 10 for three. The noise from the packed home crowd dimmed into unease.

Then Harmer took charge, his off-spin biting, bouncing, deceiving. He removed Dhruv Jurel, ending the young wicketkeeper's dream start of seven wins in seven Tests. He pulled off a stunning caught-and-bowled to dismiss Rishabh Pant, and dismantled India's middle order with the ruthlessness of a man who sensed history within reach.

Keshav Maharaj struck twice in two balls. Washington Sundar's resistance fell to Aiden Markram. Axar Patel's brief fireworks fizzled.

And as India collapsed for 93, losing by 30 runs, the South Africans erupted.

Harmer finished with match figures of eight wickets, a fully deserving Player of the Match. But this victory, this breathtaking heist within three days, belonged above all to Bavuma: the captain who refused to yield, who carved 55 runs of pure defiance to give his bowlers something to fight for.

The second and final Test starts Saturday in Guwahati.

'Need to be ready for any challenge'

SPORTS REPORTER

India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu believes they are up for a fiercely competitive match against Bangladesh in Dhaka on November 18, the penultimate game of their AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign with both sides already out of contention.

The India team arrived on Saturday evening and were wrapped under heavy security, away from the media. Speaking to the All India Football Federation's media team, Sandhu said they will need to be mentally and physically prepared for the Bangladesh challenge.

"It's always a big game for them and for the people of Bangladesh because it's against India," said Sandhu. "We need to be prepared mentally and physically because it's always a tough game. It might not be the nicest game to watch. It might be scrappy, and we as a team need to be ready for any challenge. We need to be tough out there when we face them."

"The experience over here has always been a learning one. You know it's not an easy place to come because it's very competitive. Being our neighbours, the team here wants to do well against us and give us a tough time," the 32-year-old goalkeeper said.

Meanwhile, defender Sandesh Jhingan, who captained India when these two sides last met in March's reverse fixture in Shillong which ended in a goalless draw, said, "We were briefed (about the security situation) before coming here. ... We, as athletes, are only focused on putting our best foot forward while playing. Sport is something that unites people, and I hope this game can also unite and bring a good feeling."



SHORT CORNER

Dhaka rally behind Shibli ton

Dhaka Division batter Ashikur Rahman Shibli struck a composed century to steer his side to 252-4 on Day 2 of the fourth round of the National Cricket League 2025-26, reducing the deficit against Rajshahi Division to 46 runs at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium on Sunday.

We conceded too many goals: Aikman

After suffering a 10-3 defeat in the third and final match in the qualifiers play-off series against Pakistan, Bangladesh hockey team's Dutch coach Siegfried Aikman said the number of goals conceded had simply been too much for his side, having suffered 8-2 and 8-0 losses in the first two matches.

U-17s eye Asian Cup finals after 19 years

Bangladesh have set their sights on reaching the finals of the 2026 AFC U-17 Asian Cup as the qualifying rounds kick off across seven venues on November 22, with the boys in red and green placed in a challenging Group A with China, Bahrain, Brunei, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Bangladesh have failed to reach the final round in the last nine editions since their breakthrough qualification in 2006.

**Read full stories on The Daily Star website.

Doggett set to become Australia's third indigenous Test cricketer

AGENCIES

Seven years after first being named in an Australian squad, Brendan Doggett is poised to achieve a lifelong dream, becoming the country's 472nd Test cricketer after Josh Hazlewood was ruled out of the Ashes opener at Optus Stadium in Perth on Friday.

The 31-year-old will join a fast-bowling attack featuring Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland, mirroring the late-blooming path of his fellow Indigenous teammate. In almost 150 years of Australian Test cricket, only two Indigenous men -- Boland and Jason Gillespie -- have represented the nation, with Doggett set to become the third.



Doggett's journey has been unconventional. After first receiving a national call-up in 2018, injuries slowed his progress. A move to South Australia in 2021, however, allowed him to lead the attack and cement his place in Australian squads, though he was often behind Starc, Hazlewood, and captain Pat Cummins.

With both Hazlewood and Cummins unavailable for the Ashes start, Doggett finally gets his opportunity.

"His path to a potential Baggy Green is not a common one in the modern game," Gillespie, who coached Doggett at South Australia, told ABC Radio. "He's one of the quicker bowlers in Australia, got a good motor, he's a greyhound and as fit as a fiddle. England will sniff an opportunity, but I'm confident the Australian seam attack is good enough to get the job done."

Doggett will join a rare group of Australians to make their Test debut without prior white-ball international experience, cementing his reputation as a determined, late-blooming talent.

Estevao's electric emergence 'guarantees Brazil's future'

STAR SPORTS DESK

For Brazil, a 2-0 win over Senegal on Saturday night offered something far greater than a routine result: a glimpse of the future. And that future, judging by the way Estevao lit up north London, looks unmistakably bright. The 18-year-old Chelsea winger was the standout performer in a match defined by flashes of attacking fluidity and Carlo Ancelotti's ongoing experimentation. Playing on the right of a dynamic front four with Vinicius Jr, Rodrygo and Matheus Cunha, he needed only one moment to tilt the evening his way, operating with the confidence of someone who has been doing it for seasons.

Just before the half-hour mark, a Casemiro pass ricocheted kindly into his stride, and Estevao accelerated onto the ball before curling a left-footed finish inside the far post. Casemiro's header soon made it 2-0, but the evening belonged to the teenager after his sixth strike in last five starts.

Goal aside, what impressed most was his appetite to press, his measured combination play, his ability to glide past defenders without forcing the spectacle. "With Estevao, Brazil has a guaranteed future,"

Ancelotti said. "The amount of talent he has is incredible... he's got a lot of magic and he works very hard."

His rise has felt rapid, but in truth it has long been signposted. Born in Franca, Sao Paulo, Estevao joined Cruzeiro's academy in 2017 and became Nike's youngest Brazilian signee at just 10. His move to Palmeiras in 2021 further accelerated his ascent.

Palmeiras coach Abel Ferreira has long been effusive, calling him "the best talent to emerge from Brazil since Neymar." He soon earned him the nickname "Messinho".

Chelsea had acted decisively in late 2024 -- as they often do -- securing a deal worth over 50 million pounds. Estevao arrived at Stamford Bridge this July after Palmeiras completed their campaign in the FIFA Club World Cup, where Chelsea were crowned champions. Ancelotti believes he is built for both stages.

"He doesn't need many minutes to show his quality," the Italian noted. "Brazil are lucky to have him -- Chelsea as well."

More than two decades have passed since the Selecao last lifted the World Cup. Thus, for the five-time world champions, the implications stretch far beyond a promising cameo in London.

At the Emirates Stadium, Brazil fans may have caught their first real glimpse of someone who is not merely the next Neymar, nor a Messi imitation, but a player whose emergence makes the idea of restoring a dynasty feel possible again.

