

Ronaldo is the only foreign player worth what he earns because of the global exposure he brings to the league and the country

Former Saudi Sports Minister Prince Abdullah bin Mosaad said of Ronaldo whose annual salary has been estimated at \$211 million - \$4 million a week.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

TIGERS SERVE IRELAND FIRST T20I VICTORY THIS YEAR

Ireland had not won a single T20I this year -- losing four and two no-results -- until they faced Bangladesh in the first match of the ongoing three-game series in Chattogram yesterday. Capitalising on a lacklustre overall showing by Bangladesh, who have had their busiest year in the format with 28 T20Is played, Ireland cruised to a 39-run victory to take a 1-0 lead in the series -- the last for Bangladesh before their 2026 T20 World Cup campaign in India and Sri Lanka next February. [Inset] Led by Harry Tector's unbeaten 45-ball 69, Ireland posted 181 for four by punishing some wayward bowling. Bangladesh's batting fared even worse, with the top four, including skipper Litton Das, dismissed for single digits. Thanks to Towhid Hridoy's career-best score of 50-ball 83 not out, Bangladesh avoided utter humiliation to get to 142 for nine in 20 overs.

Paddlers fearful of future despite historic international success

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) is celebrating a historic achievement but the lack of financial support and facilities pose significant challenges in sustaining international success. Paddlers Javed Ahmed and Khoi Khoi Sai Chakma recently won the silver medal in the mixed doubles event at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia, surpassing the country's previous best performances of bronze medals in team events at the South Asian Games. At a press briefing held at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium yesterday, BTTF officials and the medalists highlighted both their achievement and the on-going struggles of Bangladesh's table tennis scene, which has seen declining participation and limited infrastructure. Former national champion and coach Mostafa Billah said: "I think this achievement will act to revive the country's table tennis like what Bangladesh cricket did after winning the ICC Trophy in 1997."

**Read the full story on The Daily Star website

A puzzling auction list and unclear selection criteria

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Last year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) introduced the T20 iteration of the National Cricket League (NCL) to expose domestic players to competitive T20 cricket and help Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) franchises identify local talent.

As the tournament wrapped up its second edition on October 12, the competition appeared to have fulfilled its purpose to some extent with several new players delivering notable performances.

However, the list of local players for the upcoming BPL auction, scheduled for November 30, tells a different story.

BCB's national team selection panel prepared a list of 166 local cricketers, divided into six categories, and sent it to the six BPL franchises on November 26. However, several of the top performers from the recent NCL T20 failed to make the cut.

Among them, Chattogram division's off-spinner Mohammad Rubel stands out as the most glaring omission.

The 29-year-old was one of the tournament's standout bowlers, taking 10 wickets in eight matches at an economy rate of 5.20 -- finishing as the fifth-highest wicket-taker. His consistency earned him the Most Promising Player of the Tournament award. Yet Rubel did not find a place on the local players' list.

"I really don't know anything about it. Only the selectors know why I am not on the list," Rubel told The Daily Star yesterday.

"It's definitely very upsetting for me. In the NCL T20, I didn't bowl badly, rather, I bowled well and was named the most promising player. Naturally, I felt I might get a chance in the BPL. I hoped that maybe someone would pick me. Since I'm not even on the list, it feels bad," he added.

Rubel is not alone. Several other consistent performers across both editions of the NCL T20 were also overlooked, such as Chattogram's left-arm spinner Ashraful Hasan Rohan, and



pace duo of Ahmed Sharif and Fahad Hossain, Barishal division's batter Iftikhar Rahman Iti, as well as left-arm wrist-spinner Nuhayel Sandeed and leg-spinner Shadhin Islam. Many of these players have recently featured for Bangladesh 'A' or the High Performance Unit as well.

In stark contrast, players with little to no recent competitive cricket have made it into the auction list. Barishal's Monir Hossain Khan and Rangpur's Sanjit Saha Dip -- both absent from competitive cricket for the last year and a half -- were included. Shahriar Alam Mahim, out of action for three years, was also listed.

Concerns extend beyond mere selection. The categorisation of players into six salary brackets -- ranging from Tk 11-50 lakh -- has raised eyebrows as well.

Despite not being part of the regular national T20 setup, Mohammad Naim was

placed in Category A, while Tawhid Hridoy, Parvez Hossain Emon, Nasum Ahmed, and Jaker Ali Anik -- all of whom were part of Bangladesh's playing XI against Ireland in the first T20I on Thursday-- were placed in Category B.

Meanwhile, promising pacer Nahid Rana was slotted into Category C alongside established Test cricketers such as Mominul Haque, Shadman Islam, and Zakir Hasan. Habibur Rahman Sohan and Jishan Alam, who impressed in the Asia Cup Rising Stars and Top End T20 respectively, were placed in Category D.

Although the selectors still have two days to make additions to the auction list, the initial list begs the question of whether the players are truly being judged on merit or if the selectors are simply ticking boxes without proper assessment.

Crisis within: How will BFF respond?

ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's underwhelming performance in their 1-0 defeat to Malaysia in the opening match of the Tri-Nation Series, also involving Azerbaijan, has raised a serious concern -- whether the poor display stemmed from on-field lapses or from issues unfolding off the pitch.

These questions surfaced because of the points made by head coach Peter Butler during the post-match press conference at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Wednesday. Butler claimed there were "characters within the side who are trying to disrupt the camp."

Such comments carry weight, especially coming from the man who overcame significant odds and internal allegations to guide the



women in red and green to a historic first ever qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup last July. This is the same group of players who recently toppled strong opponents like Myanmar, Bahrain, and Turkmenistan to secure their place among Asia's elite -- but have since looked out of sorts and lacking confidence.

Their performance against Malaysia was a stark contrast to those qualifying displays. The team showed no urgency, cohesion, or understanding throughout the match.

Butler has excluded several senior influential players from the squad following a revolt in late January involving 16 players. Five senior players from that lot will not be called back to his team, Butler made it clear recently, after questions about reinstating them came up in recent media briefings.

This ongoing dispute has raised serious concerns about team unity and harmony, especially with preparations for the continental tournament having begun in late September. Recent friendly results have also delivered a harsh reality check. Bangladesh suffered heavy defeats to Thailand -- 3-0 and 5-1 -- in Bangkok, and their struggles continued in the Tri-Nation Series, part of the final build-up to the Women's Asian Cup.

Butler further claimed that some of his current players are "good friends" with those excluded and suggested he would not take "responsibility for people trying to upset the apple cart outside."

While tactical shortcomings -- including a high defensive line, failure to convert chances, and recurring defensive errors -- remain issues, Butler indicated that the deeper crisis is one of intention and discipline. These are areas the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) must address urgently.

BFF women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron said she would "sit with players and the coach separately" to address the matter. If unresolved, such internal disruptions could severely damage the team's preparations, create factions within the squad, fracture trust, reduce commitment and motivation, and risk a complete collapse -- with the major Asian championship just three months away.



PHOTO: ARSENAL

Arsenal stayed perfect in the Champions League with another dominant performance, handing Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich their first defeat of the season in a 3-1 win at the Emirates on Wednesday. Bayern's unblemished record was spoiled by goals from Jurrien Timber, Noni Madueke, and Gabriel Martinelli. Bayern drew level through 17-year-old midfielder Lennart Karl, but the Premier League leaders bounced back in style.

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No. FD/SICIP/BPI-PIU/236/2025-2929Date: 27 November 2025

Recruitment Notice

Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Finance
Agency	:	Finance Division
Program Name	:	Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Scheme Name	:	Expansion of Skills for Employment and Socially Inclusive Training for Priority and Emerging Sectors
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
Position	No.	Minimum Qualification and Experience
Program Implementation Unit (PIU) for SICIP-Bangladesh Petroleum Institute (BPI)		
Chief Coordinator	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Masters in any discipline or Bachelor of Science in Engineering.At least 15 years' working experience in relevant field.Experience in skills development fields will be preferred.Working experience as the head of the training institute/project implementation unit of any project will be an added advantage.Strong communication, interpersonal and computer skills.
Coordinator (Job placement & Database)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Masters in any discipline or Bachelor of Science in Engineering.At least 10 years' working experience in relevant field.Experience in skills development fields will be preferred.Strong communication, interpersonal and computer skills.
Application Closing Date and Time	:	Applications shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Program Director on or before 3:00 pm by 15 December 2025 in sealed envelope clearly marked "Application for the Selection of (Name of Position)". Contact address with email and mobile number of the applicant should be written on the left side of the A4 Size Envelope. Necessary documents in support of educational qualifications, experiences and skills have to be submitted.
Name of Official Inviting Recruitment	:	Mohammed Walid Hossain
Designation of Official Inviting Recruitment	:	Executive Program Director
Address of official Inviting Recruitment	:	Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15 th Floor), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
Contact details of official Inviting Recruitment	:	Phone: +880255138753-5 Ext: 100 E-mail: epd.sicip@gmail.com
The recruitment entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all the Application without assigning any reasons whatsoever.		
Mohammed Walid Hossain Executive Program Director Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP) Finance Division, Ministry of Finance Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15 th Floor) 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka.		