DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2026, ASHWIN 20, 1433 BS

SPORT



Midfielder Rodri, the Golden Ball winner at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, scored his first international goal in two years as Spain brushed aside the Czech Republic 3-1 in Oviedo yesterday to maintain their perfect start to the Nations League. The world champions moved three points clear of England at the top of Group A3. Spain cruised into a two-goal lead through Yamal and captain Rodri, but Jiri Slama gave the Czechs hope by pulling one back with 20 minutes to go. However, Mikel Merino wrapped up Spain's win late on after Ladislav Krejci was sent off for the visitors, as Spain extended their unbeaten run to 41 games, including their World Cup final victory over Argentina in July. PHOTO: X



"It is difficult to find an explanation for such a performance without duels, fouls, aggressiveness, togetherness... I've been here for 20 years, but for the first time I feel ashamed after a game.

Croatia midfielder **LUKA MODRIC** after losing 7-0 against England in Nations League

Bigger contingent, shrinking return

ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's contingent keeps getting bigger at the Asian Games, but the results have gone in the opposite direction.

At the 2014 Incheon Games, Bangladesh sent 166 people and returned with three medals: one silver and two bronzes. At Aichi-Nagoya in 2026, the contingent had swelled to 260, including 187 athletes.

The return was just one bronze. That is a 56.6 per cent increase in numbers, but a two-thirds drop in medals.

More than a disappointing medal tally, it raises a bigger question about what Bangladesh is actually trying to achieve at the continent's biggest multi-sport event, and why, despite larger delegations and years of familiar promises, the system continues to fall short.

The same explanations are trotted out after every disappointing campaign: a lack of talented athletes, inadequate training, poor planning and insufficient financial support. Whenever questions are raised about the size of the contingent, organisers point to exposure, arguing that taking athletes to major Games will help them perform better at the regional South Asian Games.

But exposure without a long-term plan is difficult to distinguish from expensive participation.

The contrast with Bangladesh's neighbours is telling.

India finished fourth with 85 medals: 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze. Pakistan won 10, including two silver and eight bronze, while Sri Lanka claimed one gold, one silver and one bronze. Nepal returned with two bronzes.

For Bangladesh, another Games has instead brought another round of soul-searching. But the deeper failure lies with the system.

The respective federations, Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and the government have repeatedly failed to put in place long-term planning for the Asian, Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Preparation is too often replaced by short-term measures. Officials make headlines over selection issues, coaches are left out of contingents, and organisational controversies take attention away from the preparation needed to compete. Questions over athlete selection and the number of officials had already surfaced before the contingent left for Japan.

Bangladesh's participation in the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games was once dismissed as 'token participation'. That label may now be outdated in terms of numbers, but the fundamental problem remains. The contingent keeps growing, and so does the expenditure, without a corresponding rise in competitiveness.

There is no mystery about where the realistic medal possibilities lie. In individual sports such as athletics, swimming, shooting, archery, fencing, gymnastics and weightlifting, performance can be measured through times, scores and rankings. In team sports, consistent international results can offer a clearer indication of genuine medal potential.

Yet Bangladesh continues to spread limited resources across a large number of disciplines without first establishing realistic targets and giving athletes enough time to prepare.

Shooting and archery have long been labelled Bangladesh's most promising medal sports. But repeated disappointing performances at international level, including the World Cups, have widened the gap between the hype and the reality.

The time has come to rethink what Bangladesh wants from these multi-sport Games. A bigger contingent may create the appearance of a bigger sporting ambition, but numbers alone do not constitute progress. Without proper preparation, long-term planning and realistic medal targets, sending hundreds of athletes and officials abroad risks turning the Asian Games into little more than an expensive 'leisure trip', only bigger each time.

Across 22 disciplines in Aichi-Nagoya, Jinnat Akter was the one athlete who kept Bangladesh from returning empty-handed. Her bronze in the women's 52kg wushu sanda event ended a 40-year wait for Bangladesh's second individual Asian Games medal.

She brought home Bangladesh's only medal. For everyone else, the Games brought back the same old questions.

Bangladesh went to Japan with a 260-member continegent and will return with just a bronze medal. They finished tied for 37th, alongside four other nations, at the bottom of the medals tally. Five nations failed to win a medal.



PHOTO: REUTERS

MEDALS TALLY (TOP 5)

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	169	89	83	341
Japan	83	95	91	269
South Korea	39	43	68	150
India	21	27	37	85
Uzbekistan	21	25	24	70

Shanto awaits green light for Afghanistan Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are still waiting on Test captain Najmul Hossain Shanto's availability for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, starting on October 9 in Abu Dhabi. However, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources said Shanto looked fit after beginning individual batting session in Mirpur yesterday.

Sources said Shanto had suffered from dengue fever in Japan, but the medical department has remained positive about his recovery.

BCB chief selector Habibul Bashar was also optimistic about Shanto's recovery but wants to wait for clearance from the medical department.

"Medically, he is fine and reports suggest he is fit. But given that he had fever, he was struggling with fitness. So we will get an assessment soon regarding the player," Bashar told reporters.



Shanto was ruled out of the Asian Games on September 28 following a bout of fever and returned home without playing a match.

He faced Taskin Ahmed and other bowlers in the nets on Sunday without any discomfort, providing relief for the Test side ahead of the Afghanistan match.

"He is ready [for a five-day match] and there is no problem," a team management source said after his practice session.

"He batted today and faced no problems. He will undergo another session tomorrow. After he gives feedback [following the practice session], we will decide. It also depends on the team management," another source said.

If all goes smoothly, Shanto is expected to catch a flight to the UAE late on Monday night. Most of the Test squad are already in Dubai and began their two-day practice game against the UAE on Sunday. The players who featured in the Asian Games are also scheduled to join the Test squad in Dubai on Tuesday.

Bangladesh will then play a tri-nation series, involving Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, starting October 17. The Test players are expected to feature in the third round of the ongoing National Cricket League to prepare for the home Test series against the West Indies, beginning on October 28.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Jamuna Rail Bridge Project
Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka.

No. 54.01.0000.630.07.398.26-10073 Date: 01 October 2026.

Corrigendum-01 to Invitation for Bid (IFB)

The following corrigendum to invitation for Bid (IFB) against Reference No. 54.01.0000.630.07.398.26-9982dated 13.08.2026 for Package No. WD5: "Construction of Internal Roads, Drains and Related Works near Soydabad Station Area under Jamuna Rail Bridge Project" is hereby issued as under:

Sl No.	Ref. No.	As in IFB	As per Corrigendum Notice
1.	Sl. 2 Para-4	The similarity of the contracts shall be based on the following: A and Related Works. For the above or other contracts completed and under implementation as prime contractor (single entity or JV member) or subcontractor between 1st January 2021 and Bid submission deadline, a minimum experience in the following key activities successfully completed: Construction of at least 1.5 km Internal Road (Bituminous road) and 0.5 km Drain.	The similarity of the above mentioned contracts shall be based on the following: -Any civil construction work. Besides, the following similarity shall have to be ensured by the above contracts or any other contracts: -Completed contracts as prime contractor (single entity or JV member) or subcontractor between 1st January 2021 and Bid submission deadline, a minimum experience in the following key activities successfully completed: Construction of at least 1.5 km Internal Road (Bituminous road) and 0.5 km Drain.
2.	Sl. 5	The Bidding Document may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above during office hours until 5:00 PM, 04 October 2026 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 20,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Twenty Thousand only) by cash.	The Bidding Document may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above during office hours until 5:00 PM, 18 October 2026 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 20,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Twenty Thousand only) by cash.
3.	Sl. 6	Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11:00 AM local time on 05 October 2026 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT 4,000,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Four Million only) in favor of FA&CAO (Project), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.	Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11:00 AM local time on 19 October 2026 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT 4,000,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Four Million only) in favor of FA&CAO (Project), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.

Other terms and conditions of the IFB will remain unchanged. The above corrigendum shall be the part and parcel of the Bid Document.

1/10/26

(Al Fattah Md. Masudur Rahaman)
Project Director
Jamuna Rail Bridge Project.

GD-2403

IN BRIEF

Argentina thrash Burkina Faso 7-0

AGENCIES

Argentina produced another dominant attacking display on Sunday, thrashing Burkina Faso 7-0 at the Monumental Stadium in their second friendly match of the FIFA international break.

Lautaro Martinez, Gianluca Prestianni, Nico Paz, Julian Alvarez, Franco Mastantuono and Giuliano Simeone scored for Argentina. Burkina Faso defender Moumoune Diallo also scored an own goal.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni thanked the Burkina Faso players who travelled to Argentina despite some internal issues.

Lionel Messi did not play after arriving in Argentina on Friday. He is expected to feature in Tuesday's friendly against Benin at the Monumental which will be his last match in an Argentina shirt.

Joy hits ton as Ctg dominate Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudul Hasan Joy smashed the first century of the National Cricket League season yesterday, putting hosts Chattogram in a strong position against Rajshahi.

Recently dropped from the Test side, Joy hit his seventh first-class ton, ending Day 2 unbeaten on 102. Fellow opener Sadikur Rahman was 86 not out, taking Chattogram to 190 without loss at Stumps in response to Rajshahi's 364 all out.

Elsewhere, Barishal were skittled for 94 by Khulna. Forced to follow-on after Khulna's 426 all out, Barishal closed on 43 for 2. In Mirpur, Rangpur left Dhaka 120 for 6, in reply to Rangpur's 340. Meanwhile, hosts Sylhet reached 236 for 5 in response to Mymensingh's 311 in Sylhet.

WHAT TO WATCH

SONY SPORTS 1, 2, 5
UEFA Nations League
Live from 12:45 am (Tuesday)
France vs Belgium
Italy vs Turkiye
Northern Ireland vs Georgia

T SPORTS
Canada Super 60
Live from 6:00 am
FIFA ASEAN CUP
Bronze-medal match
Live from 3:00 pm
Final
Live from 7:00 pm
World Championship of Legends
Bangladesh Vs England
Live from 9:30 pm