DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 23, 2026, KARTIK 7, 1433 BS

SPORT



PHOTO: AFP

Brook smashes record ODI double ton

England captain Harry Brook registered the fastest-ever double ton in ODIs yesterday, becoming the first Englishman to reach the landmark in the format. Brook's 116-ball 202 against Sri Lanka in the tri-series in Rawalpindi, also involving hosts Pakistan, helped England to 429 for four. Brook, however, ended on the losing side as Sri Lanka chased down the target with two wickets in hand and one ball to spare to register the second-highest successful chase in the format.

Fastest ODI double hundreds (by balls)

114 - Harry Brook vs SL, Rawalpindi, 2026
117 - Shubman Gill vs WI, Guwahati, 2026
126 - Ishan Kishan vs BAN, Chattogram, 2022
128 - Glenn Maxwell vs AFG, Mumbai WS, 2023
136 - Pathum Nissanka vs AFG, Pallekele, 2024



Youngster Kalam Siddiqui Aleen celebrates his century against West Indies yesterday before scoring 135 as the BCB XI posted 371 for seven on the opening day of their two-day warm-up match at Anvir Cricket Stadium in Dhaka. The two-match Test series begins on October 28. PHOTO: STAR

Paz puts Red Devils to the sword



Como's Nico Paz celebrates after scoring his second goal during their UEFA Champions League clash against Manchester United at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia yesterday. The Argentine's brace and an assist made him the youngest Argentine to be involved in three goals in a Champions League match since Lionel Messi in April 2009, achieving the feat at 22 years and 43 days. Goals from Tasos Douvikas and Jacobo Ramon completed a stunning 4-1 victory for Cesc Fabregas's side. Joshua Zirkzee's late strike spared United their joint-heaviest defeat in the competition, but extended the Red Devils' winless run to seven games. For Como, who have risen from Serie B to Europe's elite over the past three years, the result will go down as one of the greatest in the club's history. PHOTO: REUTERS

"That was one of the most beautiful games of my career, I'll never forget it.... It's more than what I had dreamed of."
Nico Paz, Como midfielder

"I think everybody's got to take responsibility for that [4-1 defeat]. I'll take responsibility for the overall team and performance, it stops with me and I'm fine with that."
Michael Carrick, Man United head coach

Fear of failure gripping Tigers?

SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe and Afghanistan will contest the UAE ODI Tri-Series final today while Bangladesh watch from the sidelines, left to rue a missed opportunity. After a 99-run thrashing by Zimbabwe, the Tigers still had a route to the final, but needed to beat Afghanistan first on Wednesday.

Instead, an early collapse and a failure to capitalise on chances to regain momentum left Bangladesh all out for 160 in a seven-wicket defeat that ended their campaign. The manner of the loss pointed to a team struggling to handle pressure, with fear of failure creeping into its game.

"The team showed a fear of failure which significantly impacts how the game will be played. It was painful to see the approach in the Afghanistan game. It was becoming apparent during the game that fear of failure gripped them," a team management official told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh once dominated both Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, but that advantage has faded. They won 10 of 16 ODIs against Afghanistan through 2023 but have lost five in a row since November 2024, their worst run against them. The latest defeat leaves Afghanistan ahead 12-11 in 23 meetings. Zimbabwe have also won five of the last seven ODIs against Bangladesh, including two consecutive series.

The concern extends beyond the tri-series. Bangladesh have won four of their last seven ODI series, against West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia. All three defeats came away from home. Their last bilateral series win abroad was against Ireland in May 2023, and they have since lost six consecutive away series, including a 3-0 whitewash in the West Indies. They have won just four of their last 19 away ODIs.



- Bangladesh won 10 of 16 ODIs through 2023 but have lost five consecutive matches since November 2024. They have lost five of their last seven ODIs against Zimbabwe.
- Bangladesh were bowled out inside 50 overs in 28 of 86 innings batting first between 2010 and 2020 (32%). Since 2023, that has risen to 14 of 35 innings (40%).

Stand-in skipper Tawhid Hridoy has also highlighted the gap between Bangladesh's ambitions and their performances.

"Whenever we play a big series, tri-nation, Asia Cup, or World Cup... personally, and as a team, everyone wants to win a trophy. This hunger is in everyone. We only say it, but our actions don't reflect it," he said after the defeat that knocked Bangladesh out.

The batting numbers underline the problem. Between 2010 and 2020, Bangladesh were bowled out inside 50 overs in 28 of 86 innings batting first, around 32 per cent. Since 2023, that figure has risen to 14 of 35 innings, or 40 per cent.

ODI batting demands a balance between Powerplay aggression, consolidation through the middle overs and acceleration in the final 15. Yet Bangladesh's top six against Afghanistan included four openers, leaving the batting order looking like square pegs in round holes.

Nor has the team settled on alternatives. Seventeen batters have occupied positions four to seven in the past two years, with Saif Hassan, Jaker Ali, Afif Hossain, Nurul Hasan and Shamim Hossain appearing in and out of the side. Mosaddek Hossain, brought into the middle-order picture after a successful Australia series, has also struggled to retain his place after seven matches.

Ahead of bigger ODI assignments, they need a settled middle order and the composure to recover when things go wrong. Otherwise, the fear of failure could continue to undermine their ambitions.

SHORT CORNER

Aliss reported for suspect action

Bangladesh off-spinner Aliss Al Islam has been reported with a suspect bowling action during the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ODI Tri-Series match against Afghanistan in Sharjah on Wednesday. Aliss made his ODI debut in the match, conceding 47 runs in 8.3 overs without taking a wicket as Bangladesh lost by seven wickets and crashed out of the tournament, which also involves Zimbabwe. Aliss will undergo an independent assessment of his bowling action at an ICC-accredited testing centre in accordance with the ICC Illegal Bowling Action Regulations.

Nat'l Badminton C'ship begins today

A total of 616 shuttlers from 88 teams will compete in the 40th National Badminton Championship 2026, which gets underway at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Dhaka today, with Tk 10 lakh in prize money and a motorcycle for the best player.

***Read full stories on The Daily Star's website*

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
Bangladesh Football League
Brothers Vs Abahani
Live from 2:45 pm
UAE ODI Tri-Series
Final: Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe
Live from 5:30 pm
LaLiga
Alaves vs Malaga
Live from 1:00 am (Saturday)



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tall Indian defenders block a Bangladesh player's attempt at goal during the final of the Begum Khaleda Zia IHF Nations Trophy at the Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium in Paltan yesterday. Bangladesh fought hard but eventually suffered a 28-16 defeat as India clinched the four-nation women's handball tournament title unbeaten.

Bavuma brilliance fuels Proteas revival

STAR SPORTS DESK

South Africa battled rain, a batting collapse and Australia's resistance to produce a remarkable turnaround, notching an innings-and-31-run victory in the second Test at St George's Park in Gqeberha yesterday to level the three-match series 1-1.

With five of the 15 scheduled sessions washed out, the Proteas had little room for error after losing the opening Test in Durban last week. Yet, from being reduced to 110 for six in their first innings, captain Temba Bavuma's career-best 179 and a relentless bowling display carried them to a commanding win.

The hosts had been put into bat and were struggling at 20 for two on the opening day before further rain interruptions curtailed proceedings, as Australia appeared firmly in control.

Bavuma, however, stood tall when his team needed him most, finding crucial support from Marco Jansen and Simon Harmer, who both scored half-centuries as South Africa declared at 425 for nine.

Jansen then ripped through Australia with a five-wicket haul, bowling the visitors out for just 99 and forcing them to follow on for the first time since 2019.

Australia fought back through Travis Head's 121 and a 40 off 166 balls from nightwatchman Scott Boland. But Wiaan Mulder dismissed both on the final day before Jansen removed Josh Hazlewood to seal the victory, despite another session being lost to rain.

Bavuma, who described his 179 as one of his best knocks, took pride in the team's ability to grind down the opposition.



"We saw throughout the match that batting was difficult. Take a lot of pride in that," Bavuma said.

"When we were batting, it was about how we can extend it for another hour, another session. Once the opportunity is there, wanted to be a lot more ruthless. That's how we play our cricket."

Australia skipper Pat Cummins acknowledged that his side were "a long way away from our best."

The victory extended Proteas' impressive record after enforcing the follow-on: they have now won 28 of 33 such Tests, with the other five ending in draws.

Gqeberha also remains a difficult venue for Australia, who have not won there since 1997. It is only the second Test venue outside England where they have suffered five defeats, joining Karachi. With the series level, the teams head to Cape Town next week for a decider.