DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2026, KARTIK 16, 1433 BS

SPORT



"I've seen a lot of responsibility from a club which, at this level, is a club of great class, and as far as we're concerned, that's it, we've done our part, there's nothing more for us to do.

Real Madrid coach **JOSE MOURINHO** on Kylian Mbappe's recent China issue.



Harmer's heroics reshape WTC table

Bangladesh slip to fifth

SPORTS REPORTER

Simon Harmer's career-best 10 for 120 powered South Africa to a 2-1 series victory over Australia on Saturday, triggering a major reshuffle in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings. Harmer became only the third spinner to claim a 10-wicket haul in a Test against Australia, and the first South African spinner to achieve the feat in Cape Town.

Bangladesh also suffered a setback in the standings after their eight-wicket defeat to West Indies in Mirpur. They dropped from fourth to fifth as India moved up from fifth to fourth, despite not playing. Bangladesh's points percentage dropped from 55.56 to 47.62, while India remained on 51.52. West Indies improved from 20.83 to 26.92 per cent.

At the top, Australia surrendered their first position and dropped to third, allowing New Zealand to move from second to first and South Africa to climb from third to second. The Proteas also reclaimed the number one spot in the ICC Test team rankings.

WTC STANDINGS

Teams	Matches	Points	Percentage
New Zealand	6	52	72.22
South Africa	7	60	71.43
Australia	13	108	69.23
India	11	68	51.52
Bangladesh	7	40	47.62
England	16	74	38.54
Sri Lanka	6	24	33.33
West Indies	13	42	26.92
Pakistan	9	5	4.63

Concussion protocol leaves Mominul out of Sylhet Test

Mominul Haque will miss Bangladesh's second Test against West Indies in Sylhet due to the mandatory seven-day restriction under the ICC's concussion protocol. Batsman Amite Hasan has replaced him in the squad.



The southpaw was struck on the head while attempting a catch at silly point on the third day of the first Test in Mirpur. Unable to bat later in the match, he was replaced by concussion substitute Jaker Ali Anik on October 30.

***Read full story on The Daily Star website*





Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto signalling for a DRS review was a common sight on Day 4 of their first Test against West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. However, Bangladesh were denied four lbw decisions -- three against West Indies opener Brandon King and one against his opening partner John Campbell -- as the on-field calls remained not out. While Shanto rued the umpire's calls after the day's play, his team had plenty of shortcomings of their own, as King remained unbeaten on 81 and Kavem Hodge on 31 not out to guide the visitors to a comfortable eight-wicket victory in pursuit of a 170-run target, taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

When approach and ambitions fail to align

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

- Bangladesh went looking to exploit West Indies' weakness against spin but failed to account for their own struggles against the turning ball.
- The Tigers' spin trio managed just eight wickets, while Windies' spinners accounted for 16.
- Leaving out a proven pacer like Kemar Roach demonstrated a hard-nosed tactical flexibility of West Indies. The Bangladesh think tank, in contrast, was found wanting.

Bangladesh's Test aspirations have soared in recent times, particularly after victories over Pakistan at home and Australia away. Despite those wins coming through pace prominence, their preference for falling back on tried-and-tested yet archaic spin strategies showed that while their ambitions had grown, the mindset required to turn them into reality was still lacking.

Bangladesh went into the just-concluded first Test in Mirpur looking to exploit West Indies' weakness against spin. However, they failed to account for their own struggles against the turning ball. In the last five years, the Tigers have won just one of six Tests against top opponents in Mirpur -- against Pakistan earlier this year. That victory came courtesy of pacer Nahid Rana's late burst with the old ball.



Spin has long been a difficult proposition for Bangladesh batters. Over the last five years in Mirpur, they have lost 80 wickets to spin, compared to 73 to pace. In this Test alone, West Indies' spinners accounted for 16 wickets. Left-arm spinners claimed 11, with Jomel Warrican taking nine of them. The hosts' spin trio, meanwhile, managed just eight wickets.

The visitors triggered two batting collapses in two days. The repeated failures showed that Bangladesh batters have not learned from past mistakes, allowing opposition spinners to get on top of them.

When going for big targets in the World Test championship (WTC), relying on familiar methods seemed disastrous to begin with. "Wicket was prepared considering strengths and weaknesses of West Indies and how we can dominate the game," Bangladesh skipper Shanto said at the press conference, explaining how they had sought to use home advantage.

"Spinners have won us the game in the past so we had that confidence [in their abilities] and still do. I don't think we made any mistake with the conditions."

The Tigers had utilised rank turners at home to beat England and Australia during 2016-2017, and went on to brush aside West Indies similarly. But since 2021, Kyle Mayers' onslaught and the effectiveness of other West Indies batters against spin have contributed to three consecutive home Test defeats. Even in the recent drawn one-off Test against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, Bangladesh's spinners failed to deliver at important moments. Yet, changes in tactics were not sought and it proved costly.

Shanto identified the first innings as the point at which Bangladesh had made their "mistake". A collapse saw them bowled out for 272, losing their last seven wickets for 51 runs. His assessment suggested that the team had failed to adjust its approach to counter spin in the second innings.

The presence of mind required in Test cricket was evident in Roston Chase's team selection. Shanto had avoided commenting on the pitch a day before the game, lest Chase gets a wind of the conditions. The West Indies skipper, however, was far ahead of that level of thinking.

"It was shocking for us... to see that much grass off," Chase said. "I didn't think it was going to go that low, but then when that did happen, we actually changed at the last minute, leaving out [Kemar] Roach and bringing in [Joshua] Bishop."

Leaving out a proven pacer like Roach demonstrated a hard-nosed tactical flexibility. The Bangladesh think tank, in contrast, was found wanting amid the competitive atmosphere of the WTC.

Mushfiqur Rahim's absence had made the task difficult in Dhaka, and without Mominul Haque in the second Test in Sylhet, containing West Indies' spin attack becomes an even greater challenge.

Shanto admitted their "poor batting played a bigger role than the quality of opponents' bowling". But whose fault is that, really?

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
NCL GT20
Semi-final 1 (1st vs 4th)
Live from 11:00 pm
Semi-final 2 (2nd vs 3rd)
Live from 5:00 am (Monday)
LA LIGA
Getafe CF vs Sevilla FC
Live from 7:00 pm
Racing Santander vs Real Madrid
Live from 9:15 pm

RAJDHANI TV
Premier League
Liverpool vs Arsenal
Live from 10:30 pm
Newcastle vs Everton
Live from 2:00 am

Chelsea leave United on the brink

Chelsea midfielder Morgan Rogers celebrates after opening the scoring in their 2-0 Premier League home win over Manchester United at Stamford Bridge yesterday, piling further misery on Red Devils head coach Michael Carrick. Rogers broke the deadlock in the 50th minute before Cole Palmer converted a penalty 14 minutes later to extend United's winless run to nine games, their longest winless run since 1988. The defeat also leaves the 20-time English champions just one point above the relegation zone, with the prospect of ending the weekend in the bottom three. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

SHORT CORNER

Mithun, Sohan lead Khulna recovery

Mohammad Mithun and Nurul Hasan Sohan struck centuries to help Khulna Division recover from early trouble and reach 280 for eight on the opening day of their fifth-round National Cricket League match against Mymensingh Division in Khulna on Saturday.

Navy rule the pool

Bangladesh Navy dominated the Max Group 35th National Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Competition, finishing atop the medal table with 34 gold, 24 silver and 15 bronze medals at the four-day meet that concluded at Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex in Dhaka on Saturday.



A total of 20 national records were set during the competition, with four falling on the final day across nine events.

Bangladesh Army finished second with 16 gold, 22 silver and 26 bronze medals, while BKSP came third with two silver and six bronze.

India name second-string SAFF squad

Defending champions India have announced a 28-member squad for the upcoming SAFF Championship in Dhaka, with their Under-23 head coach Naushad Moosa set to take charge of a largely second-string side as the senior team prepares for two friendlies against New Zealand.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced the squad on Friday for the November 5-17 tournament, which will see India attempt to defend the title they won in 2023 for a record-extending ninth time.

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