

**English translation:**

At present, cricket has become more popular than football. Bangladeshi girls and boys of this generation are more into cricket than football these days. This is basically the main reason. That is, cricket is pretty new in the sports arena of Bangladesh, and it gained popularity not too long ago, but their rate of success in cricket compared to football is much higher. You all probably know that in cricket there are eleven players on each side. There is one wicketkeeper, and usually five or six good batsmen are kept in the team. There are about four or five bowlers. And if there are all-rounders in the team, then it is even better. By all-rounder, I mean a player who is good at both batting and bowling. An all-rounder plays a huge role in One-Day cricket today. So Bangladesh's position in cricket is much better than its position in football. In football, Bangladesh has... sorry.... In cricket, Bangladesh has achieved the test status<sup>1</sup> quite a few years back. Although it is not that their position is very good in that or that they have defeated many teams, but still they did beat a few teams and increased their success rate in test cricket. At present, Bangladesh is ninth or eight in the world rankings. By ranking, I mean the rate of success. In the meantime, Bangladesh has already defeated current world champion Australia, and almost all other former world Champions. In One-Day Internationals (ODI), Bangladesh has defeated Australia, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. The only teams left for them to defeat are New Zealand and England. They have also beaten the West Indies. So, if they can just beat England and New Zealand in ODIs, then all the Bangladeshis would be elated. So, I hope that the new boys in the Bangladesh Cricket Team will be able to beat these two countries too, and bring up the rankings of Bangladesh even higher. Currently Bangladesh has some very skilled players who, I hope, will make extremely good performances in both bowling and batting and make us shine among all others. So, among sports, these are the two popular sports in Bangladesh: cricket and football.

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<sup>1</sup> This means that Bangladesh can now play the 3-5-day long international matches. These are called "Test matches."