

BFF's emergency meeting Monday

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has called an emergency meeting on Monday to discuss the current crisis after its vice-president Kazi Salahuddin declared that he would not work under president SA Sultan.

Declining to comment on Salahuddin's Friday's outburst, where the former star footballer had termed Sultan a liar, BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal told reporters yesterday that the executive committee would discuss all the issues.

"The EC (executive committee) is the supreme authority, so we will discuss everything there on Monday," said Helal.

"We will also serve letters to all of them to join the meeting because only declaration is not good enough to accept it as resignation. Everybody have to follow official procedure," he said while refusing to consider Salahuddin's public announcement as a valid resignation.

Although Helal said that everything would be decided in the emergency meeting, it was all but sure that the BFF unlike the previous occasion will pursue the former national football great to change his mind.

Salahuddin, who is also the chairman of the National Team Management Committee (NTMC), walked out of BFF in disgust after the federation president named controversial Amirul Islam Babu as national team manager for the SA Games overturning the NTMC advice.

With Salahuddin hell-bent not to return the BFF general secretary hinted that there was a chance to dissolve the NTMC.

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Bangladesh opener Shahriar Nafees, who scored highest 78, flicks one on the on side as Zimbabwe wicketkeeper Brendon Taylor looks on during the opening one-day international at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday.

Fielding let Tigers down

Cricket

TIGERCRIKET, Harare

Pace duo Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shahadat Hossain Rajib tore into Zimbabwe as Bangladesh made just the start they wanted while defending a fighting 246/7. But Stuart Matsikenyeri and Elton Chigumbura's superb batting took the game and in a tense finish Zimbabwe completed victory with two wickets and four balls to spare.

Matsikenyeri virtually toyed with the Bangladesh spinners who were expected to be the main movers in this series and his 88(97 balls), Chigumbura's unbeaten 70 (68 balls) and a partnership worth 115 in 20.2 overs showed character that Bangladesh just could not produce and the weak link in the Bangladesh attack, the part-timers Aftab Ahmed, Mohammad Ashraf and Alok Kapali have given away 72 from 9.2 overs and that only compounded the woes.

There was some pretty ordinary fielding also with throws not being on target, fumbles and misfields. But the most costly proved to be Javed's flooring of Matsikenyeri when he was on 61. The pugnacious Matsikenyeri tried to clear left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak Raj over long off but could not time the ball and Javed with all the time in the world could not get close

enough and dropped the ball.

Matsikenyeri celebrated by clubbing a four and a six.

Then Shahriar Nafees, the batting hero, made no effort to catch a ball again off a Matsikenyeri mishit and that pretty much told the story of the fielding effort of the Tigers after the 15th over mark.

"I have never seen the team field so poorly. We were giving away two when there should have been one. We were making singles into fours and could not take that vital catch. That was the main reason I think why we lost today," said skipper Habibul Bashar after the match.

"The bowlers, particularly the pacers were very good today but I expected the spinners to have more say in this match which just did not turn out that way. 246 is a good score," added Bashar. "I am disappointed but we have four more matches and we did come back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 last time we played them. So the series is still open."

If anyone from the Bangladesh side is to escape criticism it has to be the two fast bowlers Mortaza and Shahadat who never gave up. They bowled their hearts out and kept the intensity going while their mates appeared flat for some unknown reason.

It was Shahadat and Mortaza who gave Bangladesh just a hint of hope after Bangladesh appeared

set for a bigger wicket-margin defeat by grabbing three wickets in their final spells. Both are hard, tough competitors and Shahadat's verbal confrontation with Chigumbura towards the end was just one example of that.

Earlier Mortaza, fresh from his five-wicket burst in the practice match on Wednesday, probed on the perfect channel just outside off and made outswingers to test the Zimbabwean openers. He got his break early when Justice Chibhaba tried to get going and drove straight to Javed Omar at mid off (7/1). Chibhaba's opening partner Vusumisi Sibanda and number three Piet Rinke (10) took the score to 38 before Rinke tried to turn the ball on the outside only to get a top edge which was comfortably taken by wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud.

Zimbabwe had reached 50 in 14.4 overs when Shahadat took centre stage. The country's quickest bowler had struggled with no balls and wides while bowling from the Golf Course end. He changed sides and with fifth delivery of the 14th over had Hamilton Masakadza skying a flick with some extra bounce.

The next ball was an unplayable Yorker that uprooted the off stump Sibanda (22).

Brendan Taylor looked classy as ever in his 26 (28 balls) but played

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SL pair shatters WR

Mahela 4th top individual scorer

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Mahela Jayawardene smashed the fourth highest score of 374 and shared a world record stand of 624 with Kumar Sangakkara as Sri Lanka battered South Africa in the first Test here on Saturday.

The batting feast at the Sinhalese sports club saw Sri Lanka pile up a mammoth 756-5 declared in reply to South Africa's modest 169 to gain a match-winning lead of 587 runs.

The Proteas, who must bat out the last two days to save the game, were 43 for no loss in their second innings at stumps with Jacques

Rudolph on 24 and Andrew Hall on 13.

Rudolph opened in place of Herschelle Gibbs, who cannot bat before five wickets have fallen after being off the field for four sessions with a stomach bug.

Skipper Jayawardene and Sangakkara, who came together on Thursday evening with their team on a precarious 14-2, destroyed the South African attack in the best ever partnership in the history of Test cricket.

The third-wicket pair surpassed the previous best of 576 for the second wicket by fellow-Sri Lankans Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama against India at the Premadasa stadium here in 1997.

Left-handed Sangakkara fell for 287, caught behind chasing a wide ball from Andrew Hall, but Jayawardene batted on to surpass Jayasuriya's Sri Lankan record of 340.

Jayawardene crossed West Indian Garfield Sobers' 365 not out and was one run away from equal-

ling Brian Lara's 375 against England in 1994 when he was bowled by an express Andre Nel delivery.

Some 4,000 home fans fell silent, having expected Jayawardene to cross the three remaining milestones: Lara's 375, Matthew

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Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene salutes the crowd after reaching his triple century on the third day of the first Test against South Africa at Colombo on Saturday.

TOP 10 TEST PARTNERSHIPS

The top 10 partnerships in Test cricket after Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene broke the record in the first Test against South Africa in Colombo on Saturday:

Runs	Wkt	Batsmen	Country	Against	Venue	Season
624	3rd	K Sangakkara/M Jayawardene	SRI	RSA	Colombo	2006
576	2nd	R Mahanama/S Jayasuriya	SRI	IND	Colombo	1997
467	3rd	A Jones/M Crowe	NZL	SRI	Wellington	1991
451	2nd	D Bradman/W Ponsford	AUS	ENG	Oval	1934
451	3rd	M Nazari/J Miandad	PAK	IND	Hyderabad	1982
446	2nd	C Hunte/G Sobers	WIS	PAK	Kingston	1957
438	2nd	M Atapattu/K Sangakkara	SRI	ZIM	Bulawayo	2004
429	3rd	J Rudolph/V Dippenaar	RSA	BAN	Chittagong	2003
413	1st	P Roy/V Mankad	IND	NZL	Madras	1955
411	4th	C Coadrey/P May	ENG	WIS	Birmingham	1957

TOP 11 TEST INNINGS

The top 11 Test innings after Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene scored 374 in the first cricket Test against South Africa here on Saturday:

Score	Batsman	Country	Against	Venue	Season
400no	B Lara	WIS	ENG	St John's	2004
380	M Hayden	AUS	ZIM	Perth	2003
375	B Lara	WIS	ENG	St John's	1994
374	M Jayawardene	SRI	RSA	Colombo	2006
365no	G Sobers	WIS	PAK	Kingston	1957-58
364	L Hutton	ENG	AUS	Oval	1938
340	S Jayasuriya	SRI	IND	Colombo	1997
337	H Mohammad	PAK	WIS	Bridgetown	1957-58
336no	W Hammond	ENG	NZL	Auckland	1932-33
334no	M Taylor	AUS	PAK	Peshawar	1998
334	D Bradman	AUS	ENG	Leeds	1930

Note: no denotes not out

B'DESH V ZIM SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the opening one-day international between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday:

BANGLADESH	
Omar c Taylor b Mupariwa	8
Shahriar b Rainsford	78
Aftab c Taylor b Mupariwa	0
Ashraf c Higgins b Masakadza	25
Bashar c Chibhaba b Mupariwa	40
Rafique c Taylor b Masakadza	23
Kapali b Mupariwa	39
Mashud not out	14
Mashrafe not out	7
Extras: (lb-5, w-7)	12
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs)	246
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-16, 3-75, 4-146, 5-185, 6-188, 7-238	
Did not bat: Razzak, Shahadat	
ZIMBABWE	
Sibanda b Shahadat	22
Chibhaba c Omar b Mashrafe	1
Rinke c Mashud b Mashrafe	10
Masakadza c Ashraf b Shahadat	7
Taylor b Rafique	25
Matsikenyeri c Mashrafe	89
Shahadat	89
Chigumbura not out	70

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'Secret camp fruitful'

Cricket

AGENCIES, Bangalore

India skipper Rahul Dravid said Saturday a strong start would be the key to winning the tough triangular one-day cricket series in Sri Lanka next month.

"We have a tough series ahead, with Sri Lanka doing very well in recent one-dayers. But if we start well, we can make a turnaround," said Dravid, whose side were thrashed 4-1 in one-dayers in the West Indies in May.

India clash with Sri Lanka on August 16 in their opening match of the tournament, also featuring South Africa. Each team will play four league matches before the top two advance to the August 29 final in Colombo.

Dravid said the team had been boosted with the return of master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who missed one-day series against England at home and then in the Caribbean due to a shoulder injury.

"His presence is important to all of us. It is good for us that he is around and looking forward to doing well in Sri Lanka," said Dravid.

Tendulkar is the world's leading scorer in the shorter version of the game, with 14,146 runs in 362 matches with a record 39 centuries.

Dravid also said that the team's unconventional camp that concluded Friday at a far flung venue might not fetch immediate returns but it would be beneficial in the long run. Dravid said the camp was not only aimed at bonding the team further but also gave the players some "new experiences to think about".

"Every camp has got some element which is directed towards the short term. There is also an element which is directed towards the long term. It gave new experiences to people who tried to get something out of their personalities," Dravid told a press conference a day after his team returned from the Pegasus Centre of Excellence.

The players underwent rigorous three-day training at the institute which was aimed at increasing the tolerance levels in a fun-filled environment.

Dravid said the camp could not deliver results overnight but it was only a part of the larger learning process for the players. "It is a challenge to see the boys grow not

only as good cricketers but also to help them grow as people. Nothing can change in one day or two days. It cannot change you overnight but it gives something new to think about, some new experiences to think."

The Indian skipper said the youngsters in the squad gained a lot from the innovative program. "The boys enjoyed the experiences and they came out and communicated to seniors. They will gain a lot from it. It will help them develop their overall personality and we will see the effects in the long term."

England beat Pakistan

AFP, Manchester

England beat Pakistan by an innings and 120 runs on the third day of the second Test at Old Trafford Saturday to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

Left-arm spinner Monty Panesar took a Test-best five for 72 and fast bowler Steve Harmison five for 57 as Pakistan, replying to England's first innings 461 for nine declared were bowled out for 222 in their second innings with more than two days to spare.



Did U Know?

In 1970, 127 runners ran the New York Marathon. In 1998, the number rose to 32,000.



Dilhara Fernando

(Sri Lanka pace bowler)
"I have found a new method to avoid bowling no-balls by measuring my leap before delivery and my run up. I don't think I will in future bowl no-balls."

What to WATCH

ESPN

England v Pakistan
2nd Test, Day 4
Live from 4:00 pm

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v South Africa
1st Test, Day 4
Live from 11:00 am

School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Sandipan Chatterjee of Kolkata and Ashim Roy of Tripura were sharing the lead in the Class VI to XI group of the 8th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament after the end of the fifth round at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Sandipa beat Satyajit Kunda and Ashim won his board against Babul to ensure maximum five points.

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Star forward Ariful Haque Prince (L) signs to stay with Mohammedan on the final day of the hockey players' transfer on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

MSC shop at last

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club at last turned up in the inter-club players' transfer on the final day to complete their formalities in the Premiership hockey at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

The popular Motijheel outfit, who stayed away from the hectic first two days' bourse dominated by frantic activities from other giants Usha Krira Chakra and Abahani, finally lured in some ageing players.

Mohammedan signed up 14 players including five bracketed in the national pool. They are Ashiqzaman, Yamin Hossain, Mashiur Rahman Biplob, Maksudul Alam Habul and Shamim Reza.

Finished third in the Premier League last year, the Black and Whites brought Shamim Reza from Abahani and Yamin from the Mariners Club. They also con

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