



**The halls of the BCB headquarters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (Inset) are empty as part of steps to prevent the spread of coronavirus, but work continues for the groundsmen who are busy with the upkeep of the playing area.**

PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

## AGENCIES

Speaking in an interview to Sportstar, Chanderpaul picked Kohli as the best batsman in the world. "Obviously, it's Virat Kohli. He has been working on all the aspects of his game, and the results are showing," he said.

"You have to give credit to him for that. It's not easy to stay at the top of your game for so long. You got to put in your work, and the results are showing," the 45-year-old further said.

"I have seen his conduct and he is friendly with the opposition also. I have played cricket at the same level, I can say this. Indian cricketers are now said to be aggressive. But there has to be some aggression on the field. However, there has to be a limit," he added.

**P<sub>TI</sub>**, *Port of Spain*



The coronavirus outbreak, which has claimed over 12000 lives and infected more than 250,000 globally, has led to the cancellation and postponement of all sports activities across the world.

"It is a good time for introspection, a good time for reflection, a good time to look at where you are as an individual in your career and what you want to achieve going forward," he was quoted as saying by Jamaica Gleaner.

"You have to take this time in order to do that and also keep yourself in good physical shape, and mentally as well, because when the bell rings and they say 'ok, everything is back to normal and we need to go on tour', it might not be enough time to be prepared, but you as an individual have to be prepared mentally in order for you to try to perform at your best," he said.

West Indies were scheduled to play a three-Test series from June 4, following warm-up matches against England Lions and Worcestershire on May 22 and 28, respectively.



**RUBEL HOSSAIN**

"I think I could have definitely worked hard on my skill to improve over the years. Although I have played over 100 ODIs but you will notice that I have not featured regularly during these 11-year career. Fast bowling is a tough art and the more you play, the better you get. There



**ABU JAYED**

It will be important for the youngsters to have enough motivation to become a fast bowler and perhaps the likes of Jayed and others would want to be the role model for many in the coming days.

*Reza-e-Karim, the former general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, was a shining beacon for the country's cricket. The history of Bangladesh's cricket cannot be put forward without noting the contributions of this giant. BCB director Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby reflects on the life of the unsung hero, who passed away yesterday, leaving Bangladesh with a future to relish.*

During the Pakistan period, there were no separate headquarters for various sports. What is now the National Sports Council (NSC) was once the headquarters of the EPSF and on the ground floor was a conference room where the cupboards would each represent one of the national sports bodies like the hockey federation, the cricket board, the football federation and others.

In this state, people like Reza bhai and Raisuddin Ahmed took the initiative to move the country's cricket forward diligently. That cupboard was the cricket board and their activities were all related to those files in the cupboard. Late in the afternoon, the people in charge of the different federations would gather in the common room just as teachers



Reza bhai, who used to play cricket and participated in organising clubs, had also

umpired First Division matches, where the rivalry was fierce. Many of the clubs had an army of supporters and not many umpires were interested in officiating the matches. Reza bhai would don an apron and a hat to get on the field. He was always well-respected

Cricket is an expensive game if you think about it. You need clothing, bats, balls, stumps and also refreshments for the players. They were able to reintroduce cricket through their organisational skills and even though the country was financially stressed after the war, in 1974 the first league was completed. Then in 1977, Ted Clark's MCC (the first cricket team to tour Bangladesh) visited Bangladesh to play a series of matches and it became apparent that there was a support for cricket among the general populace as people turned out in droves. That love from people was what they capitalised on to pave the way for Bangladesh to get ICC's associate membership.

We then played in our first-ever international tournament during the ICC Trophy in '79

In Kenya in 1994 we lost the ICC Trophy but prepared for the 1997 edition, knowing that matches would be played on astro turf. We brought three astro turfs with Reza bhai's foresight and Rais bhai's (former director of Bangladesh Biman) influence, the latter helping to bring them in for free from England on Biman flights. We played the league for two seasons on astro turf and it had a huge impact on us winning the 1997 ICC Trophy -- the turning point for our cricket and also how we got to where we are now -- and later playing the World Cup.

Reza bhai has left us but he has left us and Bangladesh cricket with many of his contributions. He has departed with our love but there is a lot of history of Bangladesh cricket which he has taken with him and we couldn't know them. We only learnt from our personal dealings and from watching him at work. He is the dedicated, knowledgeable, unsung hero of Bangladesh cricket.