Star SPORT
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'We've failed to develop human resources'

Nazmul Abedin Fahim is one of those few souls who had a purposeful hand in leading Bangladesh cricket against immense challenges. A mentor to many of the current national stars, he delves into the structural stagnancy that is Bangladesh cricket at the moment during the second of a two-part interview with The Daily Star's *Abdullah Al Mehdi and suggests changes that should have already been adopted.*

A philosophy's triumph comes from its unwavering-ness; just as important as success are the determination of those who staunchly guarded the principles of the philosophy against the obstacles that came and established its worth. The essence of a philosophy that produces success in the long term is that it can be followed, reviewed and renewed consistently.

Following the success of 1997 with the ICC Trophy, a new batch of players -- one that paved the way for the era of the Big Five of Bangladesh cricket -- with the determination to play a positive brand of cricket, ushered the country into a new era.

They had created the ceiling of what new and upcoming stars of the present could aim to break through. However, it was not so easy when they started and people like Fahim, who had seen it all as their mentor, was behind them from the start.

"We readied ourselves for a huge war with how we prepared. The scale of work we undertook was huge and we used to look after every aspect. Behaviour, conduct, food habits, everything was monitored.

"If we look back at the time 15 years ago, those that were there dreamt and for them it was the matter of those dreams being fulfilled. Shakib [Al Hasan] or Tamim [Iqbal] didn't know whether they would be able to reach the level they are at. I'm sure there were enough doubts in their minds as well. But the big difference is back then they didn't think themselves to be celebrities, like the new generation thinks. I don't blame the new generation since the circumstances now are different to what they were before."

Fahim says that that sort determination and culture 'needed to be cultivated'. "We were able to instill into the thinking of that generation – which had Shakib, Tamim, Mushfiqur and many others -- that 'we are no less than anyone'."

From the age-group through to the national team, the likes of Mushfiqur and Shakib were handpicked and guided as part of a batch of players who would be ready to take the next step in international cricket. The management come to that decision and way of doing things that was fit for that scenario but Fahim, who was part of that management group, would not necessarily administer the same policy for the present day.

"We didn't have a pipeline back then, like we do now. So that effort was invested in a group of players and it paid off," Fahim said.

"It was a high-performance training programme but we needed to do it on a bigger scale. Not just national level, we needed to do it at a divisional level. By this time, we should have implemented big-scale projects in regional cricket. Our cricket would have had a much stronger base by now [if we did all that]. If you look at Western Australia, they have the same programme for cricket development for the U-19s as they do for the national team. That's where we are lagging behind."

Fahim pointed out the massive failure in planning towards the future of cricket. "We needed good coaches, good grounds, good curators and from those urgencies, everything should have stemmed. But it appears that we don't need those things because there is only one school, in Mirpur, in fact for the whole of Bangladesh where cricket happens. We don't see a school like that in Rajshahi, or elsewhere and that should have happened by this time. Even at district levels, there should have been good schools. Because from those places, trained cricketers and people who will be involved in cricket would be produced. We have utterly failed in this regard. This would have been the country's cricket's biggest achievement had it happened."

The centralisation of decision-making of the cricket board was a large part of the problem. For too long, the idea has been to focus on the national team. "If we develop regional cricket, systemic development would automatically come into existence. When the regional entity would try to develop a game, they would have to compete with the other divisions. Right now, no one has a target or a responsibility and all responsibility is on the cricket board and all headaches belong to them."

When everything happens centrally, everything is on one body and there is neither the competitiveness required to improve nor accountability.

"We have failed tremendously in developing human resource in the last 20 to 22 years. If we want to spread cricket throughout the country, we would need good people. Our problem is that everyone knows everything but actually no one knows anything. Coaching, team selection, being a physio are very specialised jobs and not just anyone can do it.

"From 2000 till 2007, there had been work on programmes that catered to training coaches and thanks to that we have a few coaches at the moment but that programme wasn't continued.

He drew attention to the national team in order to drive home his point regarding misalignment of the domestic structure. His remark also sheds light on Bangladesh's difficulty in the longest format, as Test cricket requires teams to excel in various aspects. Poor planning does not bode well.

"When we look at the management of the national team, we have brought Daniel Vettori and others. We do that so the team performs but why don't we feel the need for that in first-class cricket? Don't we require good coaches, trainers and physios there?

"We tried to handpick coaches and foreign players and hoped they will make ends meet and do something. We need people, who are close to the level of international standard coaches, for our A team, first-class, Premier League. But focus has been limited to the national team and even if we want to now, can we afford to bring 12 foreign coaches for the Premier League teams?

"For us cricket is still a game. It has moved forward, it's not where it was 30 years ago. It has to be easier to plan forward and that involves a lot of research and paperwork. But no one is thinking of those. We are a result-oriented community, we look at the result but not the process. To understand things such as a process, one needs detailed knowledge," he surmised.

While the coronavirus pandemic has brought cricket to a standstill, the break can help organisers in the country look at the nature of the problem that has been created in the last decade and find real solutions that lend themselves to a concrete process. Fahim stressed that there is an opportunity for fresh thinking here and to ensure that the country does not fall back into the same loop which prioritises results. But that sort of planning would also require people with knowledge to contribute.

Stokes acknowledges Smith as a 'genius'

ICC

Despite their steadfast on-field rivalry, England all-rounder Ben Stokes has acknowledged Australia's Steve Smith as a "genius" and a batsman "on a different level".

England felt the brunt of Smith's class during the Ashes last year, when the Australian, upon Test comeback after a year-long ban, helped his side retain the urn for the first time in England in 18 years.

But Stokes knows Smith better than many others in the England side, having played alongside him in the Indian Premier League with Rajasthan Royals. It's all culminated in a healthy respect towards his Australian opponent.

"He's still strange to play against and he's still strange to play with, and the best thing about it is that he admits it. He knows it, he knows it!" Stokes said about Smith in a chat for the IPL franchise.

"But I feel to be a genius you have to be a bit strange and you know he's certainly both.

"Even though he plays for Australia – biggest rivals England and Australia – you've just got to hold your hands up sometimes to players like that and go yeah you're on a different level when it comes to batting."

Stokes added, though, that the singlemindedness towards batting was not something that works for him.

"I could never be like that, personally, I could not think about cricket in the way that he does when it comes to batting," he added. "

You know obviously he's on all the time but that's why he averages sixty whatever he does in Test cricket but that's not for me but it's for him, who's to say whose right or wrong."

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কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, সিলেট।

দরপত্র দাখিল ও উন্মুক্তকরণের সময় বৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত পুনর্বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এ দপ্তরের জন্য ২ (দুই) টি ব্যাগেজ স্ক্যানিং মেশিন (ডুয়াল ভিউ) ও ০১ (এক) টি কার্গো/ল্যাগেজ স্ক্যানিং মেশিন (ডুয়াল ভিউ) ক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত 'দৈনিক বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন' ও দৈনিক 'দি ডেইলি স্টার' পত্রিকায় বিগত ১২/০৩/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হয়। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে বহির্বিশ্বের পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশেও করোনা ভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) এর সংক্রমণের কারণে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার সংক্রমণ প্রতিরোধে বিভিন্ন ধাপে সাধারণ ছুটি ঘোষনা করে। এ পর্যন্ত ঘোষিত সাধারণ ছুটির সর্বশেষ মেয়াদ ২৬/০৪/২০২০ খ্রিঃ হতে ০৫/০৫/২০২০ (সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিনসহ) পর্যন্ত। কিন্তু জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড এর অফিস আদেশ (নথি নম্বর ঃ ০৮.০১.০০০০.০১১.০৯.০১৮.১৯-১৮৪, তাং- ২৭/০৪/২০২০ খ্রিঃ) এর প্রেক্ষিতে এ দপ্তর জরুরী প্রয়োজনে প্রয়োজনীয় নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণপূর্বক খোলা রাখার সিদ্ধান্ত গৃহীত হয়। এমতাবস্থায়, আগামী ০৭/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দলিল/শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে, ১০/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে এবং ১০/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

গোলাম মোঃ মুনীর
কমিশনার (চঃ দাঃ)
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, সিলেট।
GD-776

Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry trained but most footballs around the world, including this one in Nigeria, continue to be neglected. PHOTO: AFP

Research suggests new risk for athletes

Reuters

A research produced by Italian immunologists and lung specialists suggests that elite athletes are likely to inhale virus particles and direct them to lower areas of the lung due to strenuous exercise.

Research from Germany and Italy suggests that footballers and other athletes face a particular risk of the coronavirus infecting their lungs, raising major questions over attempts to restart professional football

The research, produced by Italian immunologists and lung specialists based at institutes in Berlin, Rome and Verona, suggests that due to strenuous exercise, elite athletes are more likely to inhale virus particles and direct them to the lower areas of the lung.

The preprint paper, which has yet to be peer-reviewed, also suggests that athletes who are asymptomatic could make their condition worse by infecting their lungs during strenuous exertion.

Football has ground to a halt in all major leagues in Europe and none have yet to resume.

European soccer's governing body UEFA has set a May 25 deadline for leagues to outline their plans to re-start.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road
Chittagong

Ref No. 28.03.0000.041.01.004.20(CRSS-29) Date: 28th April, 2020

Corrigendum

International/Local Tender Notice for Supply of 2000 (Two Thousand) Metric Ton Cold Rolled Steel Coil in Two Sizes

This is to notify for all concerned due to pandemic situation caused by Corona Virus, Bangladesh is going under lock down. Some corrigenda have been made for following tender notice:

Tender Ref	Existing	Amended
Ref No. 28.03.0000.041.01.004.20 (CRSS-29), Date: 19th March, 2020	Tender last selling date 29-04-2020	23-06-2020
	Tender closing date and time 30-04-2020. Time: 1200 Hours (BST)	24-06-2020, Time: 1200 Hours (BST)
	Tender opening date and time 30-04-2020, Time: 1205 Hours (BST)	24-06-2020 Time: 1205 Hours (BST)
	Offer validity time 31-07-2020, Time: 1700 Hours (BST)	31-08-2020 Time: 1700 Hours (BST)
	Pre-tender meeting **Place:** BPC Head Office, BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh. **Date:** 12/04/2020; **Time:** 1130 Hrs.	**Place:** BPC Head Office, BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh. **Date:** 08/06/2020; **Time:** 1130 Hrs.

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Md. Abu Hanif
Sr. General Manager (C&O)
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
GD-777

Root reveals Ellen DeGeneres sledges

AFP, *London*

England captain Joe Root said Tuesday he had been sledged during his cricket career for looking like American comedian and chat show host Ellen DeGeneres.

Sledging, the practice where a fielding side verbally abuses a batsman to disturb his concentration, can take many forms. But Root said he understood what had led opponents to come up with the jibe.

"I've been called Ellen DeGeneres on a number of occasions over the course of my career," Root told BBC Radio 1.

"I think there's a likeness there."

With the start of the English cricket season suspended until July at the earliest because of the coronavirus, Root, 29, appeared on the pop music station to select some of his favourite records.

He opted for 'Mardy Bum' by the Arctic Monkeys and 'She Moves In Her Own Way' by the Kooks as his opening two 'Mancave Anthems'. His choices also included 'The Greatest Show' as a tribute to England star all-rounder Ben Stokes.