

## New BCB by next week?

MOHAMMAD ISAM

The impending change in Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), as promised by Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, will come into effect once the 'would-be' new board boss arrives in the capital next week.

It is now more than just a rumour that Chowdhury will restructure the cricket board and it will take a real shape once the new figurehead, whose identity is yet to be confirmed, is made official by the government.

"It is no magic figure, but the number of members would be between 9 to 13. I have asked him to keep it to around 10, as it is with ICC or ACC but it is up to him," said former BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Huq, who was sought for advice regarding these changes by Chowdhury.

Huq however expressed his ignorance about who would be the new BCB chief.

The internationally acclaimed cricket organiser, who is now the CEO of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), came to Dhaka a few days back and had a useful meeting with the country's sports boss.

"We only talked about cricket. I told him about my ideas and how I see the board evolving into a more professional and a lot more accountable body. There should be people who will not be holding honorary posts rather there should be people who will be paid for their job. That is what we basically talked about," said Huq, who spoke at his residence.

He touched on most of the issues that he discussed with Chowdhury, who prefers around 12 to 13 members on the new committee.

"I did not discuss any names with him but whoever they are, must have cricketing background, both internationally as well as in the domestic front.

"I gave him my views on how it should be structured, to be more specific. It should be structured

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## Did U Know?

The 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles was the first time the three-level winners' stand was used for the medal ceremony.



### Chris Gayle

(West Indies cricketer)  
"I am just the back-up captain right now and whenever he (Ramnaresh Sarwan) comes back he will get the same support from the guys. Because we have won the series a lot of people might be saying that Chris should continue as captain but I think Sarwan really deserves his chance. It was unfortunate that he got injured."

Brushing off suggestions that he could permanently take over as West Indies captain following the 2-1 ODI series win over England.



### ESPN

Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm

### TEN Sports

Copa America  
First Semifinal  
Brazil v Uruguay  
Live at 6:45 am (Wednesday)

# Selection dilemma



BISHWAJIT ROY from Kandy

Having flown in Tushar Imran from home ahead of the third Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Test starting here tomorrow, the visiting team management established the idea that it was ready to give the middle-order batsman his comeback Test after two years.

The think-tank, however, was in a selection dilemma after the first look at the Asgiriya pitch during yesterday's practice session and looked to revise their pre-meditated strategy going into the final match of the series with only three specialist bowlers.

An expected seaming condition with a lot of grass on the surface has forced the management to consider bringing in left-arm pace-man Syed Rasel in place of Mohammad Sharif as the third seamer.

After the second Test, it was all but decided that the Tigers would

field three specialist bowlers in Kandy but the latest development has made the selectors' job harder as they have to drop a batsman to make way for Tushar.

Mehrab Hossain have had a poor maiden Test but ignoring him would seem harsh after giving the youngster just one game. A few believe that the time has come to axe opener Shahriar Nafees after his series of poor showing.

For Tushar, failure could mean returning to the wilderness again as it is hard for any cricketer to play his natural game after joining the team in the middle of the series.

Tushar is one of the most unfortunate players in the country as he has hardly got fair judgment during his career. Tushar made his Test debut in 2002 against Sri Lanka and last played against the same team in 2005, and in between, he played two Tests in South Africa. The number of four games, however, was good enough for the Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel to say that they have given Tushar enough chance.

Understandably, the question has been raised whether this one-match performance would be a criteria for the selectors to make a conclusion on his future.

Selector Akram Khan, who is touring with the team, however, assured a fair treatment.

"Just forget what happened in the past. We hope he will give his best if he ultimately plays the match and I can assure you that his performance here will not be decisive for future selection. He will get the fair treatment," said the former Bangladesh captain.

Akram have had the experience of joining the team in the middle of the tournament during the 2003 World Cup in South Africa and he is very much aware of how difficult it is for a batsman.

"No doubt it's a big pressure for a batsman but you should cope with this at this level. But Tushar has an advantage as he is considered for the one-day squad," he explained.

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PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

Bangladesh interim coach Shaun Williams addresses the team just before they begin a practice session at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday.

# Federer targets Sampras

AFP, London



Roger Federer wrapped up his fifth successive Wimbledon title and backed himself to pass Pete Sampras's record of seven All England Club titles and all-time mark of 14 Grand Slams.

The world number one survived his greatest test as Wimbledon champion when he beat his only serious rival Rafael Nadal 7-6 (9/7), 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 2-6, 6-2 in the third longest final of all time here.

It also meant he equalled the legendary Bjorn Borg's mark of five successive Wimbledon crowns.

"Pete Sampras is maybe the greatest player we've ever had. So to come out and break his record, it's not the easiest thing," said Federer who at just 25 has plenty of time on his side.

"It takes me five Wimbledons

and three Australian Opens and three US Opens to just get close to him. So it just shows you what a great player he was.

"I don't know how much longer I can keep it up, but I definitely feel like I'm mentally and physically still fit to go on for many more years to come. But that's not going to make you win trophies. You've got to give yourself occasions and possibilities.

"That's what I've been able to

do. I'd love to equal his record, let's put it that way first. To be on the same level as Pete Sampras, my former hero is already very nice, but I'm not there yet."

Nadal, who for the second successive year lost to Federer at Wimbledon four weeks after beating his great rival at the French Open, has no doubt that the world number one is the best player of all time.

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## LEADING GRAND SLAM WINNERS

No	Player	Grand Slam
14	Pete Sampras (USA)	2 Australian, 7 Wimbledon, 5 US
12	Roy Emerson (AUS)	6 Australian, 2 French, 2 Wimbledon, US
11	Bjorn Borg (SWE)	6 French, 5 Wimbledon
11	Rod Laver (AUS)	3 Australian, 2 French, 4 Wimbledon, 2 US
11	Roger Federer (SUI)	3 Australian, 5 Wimbledon, 3 US
10	Bill Tilden (USA)	3 Wimbledon, 7 US
8	Andre Agassi (USA)	4 Australian, 1 French, 1 Wimbledon, 2 US
8	Ivan Lendl (CZE)	2 Australian, 3 French, 3 US
8	Fred Perry (GBR)	1 Australian, 1 French, 3 Wimbledon, 3 US
8	Ken Rosewall (AUS)	4 Australian, 2 French, 2 US

# Paul, Emeka lift MSC



SPORTS REPORTER

Second half goals by Nigerian striking pair Paul Mwach Ukwu and Emeke Christina kept Mohammedan hot on fellow title chasers Abahani's heels with a hard-fought 2-1 win against Chittagong Abahani yesterday.

Having handcuffed the black and whites for the first 45 minutes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, the visitors gave away two quick goals inside the first ten minutes of the second half.

Nepalese striker Santosh Sahukhal pulled one back for Chittagong Abahani who tried hard in search of an equaliser but failed to break the shackles as Shafiqul Islam Manik's side went into a tight defensive shell.

With their ninth win in 16 attempts, Mohammedan came level with their Dhaka archrival Abahani, who are on 32 points and take on Brothers in their crucial 16th game tomorrow.

Muktijoddha still lead the table with 33 points from 17 outings while second-from-bottom Chittagong Abahani stuck to 12 points also after 17 matches.

Mohammedan, 3-1 victors against Chittagong Abahani in the away match last April, took time to settle against a spirited side, who were also beaten 2-1 by a last minute goal during their last trip to the capital against Abahani of Dhaka.

After equal ball possession, Mohammedan got their first real chance after 20 minutes when Emeka met a left-flank cross by Kamal but headed the ball wide. The resulting goalkick came to Mohammedan midfielder Zahid who found Emeka inside the box with a centre but the Nigerian's effort missed the mark again.

Five minutes later, Abahani defender Monirul made a goalline save when Paul toe-poked the ball from close after Emeka had turned Kamal's corner with a header towards the Mohammedan captain's path.

Mohammedan maintained the pressure but the Chittagong Abahani's Nepalese goalkeeper Surendra punched out a 30-yard drive by Sharif in the 45th minute.

Surendra was working overtime

and he had to dive full length in the first-half added time to keep a close-range shot by Emeka.

Nepalese international Santosh threatened to score four minutes after resumption but his low drive was parried by Himel's reflex at the Mohammedan near post.

Paul finally broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute when the robust Mohammedan skipper, waiting eagerly at the far post, put a powerful header home after Zahid crossed the ball from the right. The goal took Paul's tally to 14 and share the joint top-scorer's place with Brothers' Nigerian striker Junior.

Two minutes later, Emeka doubled the lead from a seemingly offside position when he broke a trap to clinically finish from just inside the box with a low drive past an onrushing Surendra for his ninth goal.

Santosh got his second league goal with a sublime freekick outside from the box when the man from the Himalayas curled a right-footer into Himel's near post.

The black and whites looked more interested to hold on to the slim lead and coach Manik pushed defender Belal in place of a more attacking Zahid.

The attacks in the rest of the

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## Kandy's favourite son

BISHWAJIT ROY from Kandy

The venue in Kandy may be one of the most unique in the cricketing world but for the city itself it is not the venue but their hero for whom they feel highly proud and it is none other than the champion off-spinner Muthiah Muralidaran, a household name in the hill-city.

In cricketing circles the hill town is almost synonymous with the spin-wizard as the world has never seen such a unique bowler.

Wicketkeeper cum batsman Kumar Sangakkara is the other big name in the city but still people love to say it's 'Murali's Kandy'. And what impresses everybody is that the success has hardly changed Murali as he is as simple now as he was in his childhood or early days.

"A very nice and simple family," was the compliment from Janaka Pathirana, an official of the Central Province Cricket Association.

"I am closely associated with his family for the last ten years and I don't find any change in him although he has achieved great success as a cricketer. He is as simple now as I found him from the very first day," said Suresh, sales manager of his father's company, Luckyland Biscuits.

Murali's father, S. Muthiah, also believes that everybody loves his elder son not only for his success but also for his simplicity.

"You know my son is the same man that he was before his success.

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## Not paradise for hosts

SPORTS REPORTER from Kandy

Walking into the venue premises one can find hardly anything extraordinary as it is surrounded with some old-fashioned and half-finished buildings. But once you step through the huge green gates and into the ground of the Asgiriya Stadium, there is tranquillity abound.

It is the home ground of Trinity College, one of the most prestigious schools in Sri Lanka, located in the heart of Sri Lanka's hill-city. The Trinitians feel proud of the fact that what is a school venue has developed into a Test venue within only 150 days.

Despite the breathtaking natural beauty the stadium has never been considered as a favourite one for the cricketers. Rather it is known as a 'wretched venue' because there have been a number of quite shocking injury instances in this ground.

Case in point the infamous collision of Jason Gillespie and Steve Waugh that left both men bloodied and the horrific elbow injury of West Indies great Brian Lara.

The venue is also infamous for rain interruptions as clouds hug the surrounding hills almost all the time and that is one of the reasons that the pitch always offers extra bounce to assist the pace bowlers.

Even the home side cannot count it as one of their favourites having won only five games and lost nine out of 19 affairs a fact that they will surely be looking to improve on come Wednesday.



PHOTO: AFP

Argentine sensation Lionel Messi (R) accelerates past Peru defender Miguel Villaltas during their Copa America quarterfinal at the Metropolitan Stadium in Barquisimeto on Sunday.

## ARGENTINA-MEXICO SEMIFINAL

# Goal glut continues

INTERNET, undated



Argentina continued the high-scoring trend in the quarterfinals as a second-half salvo saw Alfio Basile's side thrash Peru 4-0 in Barquisimeto, Venezuela.

Juan Roman Riquelme's double plus goals from Lionel Messi and Javier Mascherano keyed the victory.

With Brazil beating Chile, 6-1, and Colombia ousting hosts Venezuela, 4-1, the last eight has certainly not been short on goals, although for a while that looked like it was going to be the case in Barquisimeto.

A frustrating opening 45 minutes for Argentina ended scoreless as Diego Milito failed to make any impact against the Peruvian defense.

However, Basile brought on Carlos Tevez for Milito during the interval and that made the difference as Riquelme and Messi came into their own.

Riquelme made the breakthrough two minutes after halftime as a nice move involving the midfielder and Tevez finished with him beating Leao Butron with a left-foot strike.

Tevez hit the crossbar with a header five minutes later before Riquelme turned provider after 61 minutes. The 29-year-old played in Messi with a beautiful ball and the Barcelona sensation nutmegged Butron to double Argentina's lead.

The third came in the 74th minute when Tevez fed Messi and, despite the latter's shot being parried by

Butron, Liverpool midfielder Mascherano pounced for his second of the tournament.

Argentina completed the scoring with five minutes to go when Manchester United target Tevez beat his man and found Riquelme, who coolly slotted past Butron for his second of the game.

Peru coach Julio Cesar Uribe admitted his team could not cope with Argentina's depth of talent in their 4-0 Copa America quarterfinal defeat on Sunday.

"The result says what happened," said Uribe.

"Argentina had the variations and superior talent. We gave it our best effort but we were well and truly beaten. It's part of football."

His Argentina counterpart Alfio Basile emphasised the importance of winning in style and described the second half as their best performance so far in the tournament.

The tournament favourites have scored 13 goals in four games and face Mexico in their semifinal on Wednesday.

"I was delighted by the way we played our football," he said. "All the boys were involved."

"It's not just about winning. You can simply win a game, but to win the way we are doing makes me proud."

Argentina will face Mexico - who cruised to a 6-0 rout of a 10-man Paraguay - in Wednesday's semifinal.

Hugo Sanchez's side were in control from as early as the second minute when a woeful back-pass from Julio Cesar Caceres allowed Nery Castillo to get a clear run on goal which was crudely halted by

Paraguay goalkeeper Aldo Bobadilla. Bobadilla was shown the red card and Castillo slotted home the spot-kick past replacement custodian Joel Zayas.

The Guaranes went on making mistakes and it cost them a second goal in the 26th minute when Juan Carlos Cacho burst through midfield without a challenge before laying the ball off to Gerardo Torrado and his rising drive flew past the helpless Zayas.

Twelve minutes later, Castillo proved why he has been one of the Copa America's outstanding performers with his fourth goal of the tournament - a fine volley from the edge of the area.

Mexico almost added a fourth before half-time but Jaime Correa somehow shot wide at the far post after wonderful work from Castillo.

Castillo was taken off nine minutes into the second half with a leg injury but it is not expected to keep him out of the last four clash.

Caceres threatened a consolation for Paraguay with a header which was well saved by Oswaldo Sanchez but it only spurred Mexico into action and they made it 4-0 when Fernando Arce fired a shot over Zayas from 20 yards.

Paraguay's misery was not yet complete and Mexico added two more goals before the final whistle.

The fifth came from the spot, substitute Cuauhtemoc Blanco firing home after Andres Guardado had been tripped by Claudio Morel Rodriguez.

And in injury time, Omar Bravo headed home at the far post.



PHOTO: STAR

Nigerian striker Paul (R) heads the ball past Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper Surendra (L) to put Mohammedan ahead in their B.League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.