

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 Hug, who was sought for advice regarding these changes by Chowdhury.

Hug 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 Hug, 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

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Selection dilemma

Cricket

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 paceman Syed Rasel in place of Mohammad Sharif as the third seamer.

After the second Test, it was all 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.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.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."

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.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

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

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.

"That's what I've been able to

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

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

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 about.

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.

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 with a header which was

well saved by Oswaldo Sanchez but it

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.

Paul, Emeka lift MSC



SPORTS REPORTER

Second half goals by Nigerian striking pair Paul Mwachukwu and Emeka 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.

Nigerale striker Santosh Surendra 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 rivals Abahani, who are on 32 points and take on Brothers in their crucial 16th game tomorrow.

Mohammedan 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