

## BFF vindicates decision

**Football**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin denied that they had made a mistake sacking national coach Edson Silva Dido, but admitted that the incident leading up to the termination of the Brazilian coach's contract was not a good thing.

The BFF boss called on the journalists at his BFF office yesterday, two days later after sacking Dido, to present some points and views regarding the issue in a bid to close this chapter.

"Sacking the coach was not a good thing and it would be better if we could avoid it, but I won't say we made a mistake and changing a coach is nothing new," said Salahuddin.

Salahuddin, however, said that they had made a mistake of selecting a coach based only on his resume, but he promised to choose the right coach in the future.

"I did a little bit of research on why our coach was changed frequently compared to the other countries, it is the big problem to select a coach because we have a shortage of funds and we can select a coach only seeing his resume."

"And we don't choose a coach, but look at big teams or clubs, they first choose a coach in their board meeting and they rope in the targeted coach. If they fail to get their first choice, then they go for the second one and the process is going this

way. But we first see who has less demand and then his CV and are also searching for a free coach provided by the likes of FIFA, AFC and Germany," said the former national striker.

The likes of Franz Beckenbauer in Germany, (Ashrafuddin Ahmed) Chunnun in Bangladesh was star and he was surrounded by people when he came out on the street and both were stars in their own country and they also needed a coach who could handle them. At present, either Rajani (Kanta Barman) and (Zahid Hasan) Emily is our star and they also need a superior coach who can handle them in right way, but our free or less paid coach,

who has never handled the superstars, comes here and treat the players' as school boys and the problem occurs this stage, said Salahuddin.

"I promise you that the next selection of the national coach will be the right selection," added Salahuddin.

Coming to the Dido issue, Salahuddin said that he had no problem with the Brazilian as he was a good coach, but the problem was with him that he wanted to build a future team, whose utility might be seen in one year, but the national team who play today or day after tomorrow and building a future team is a two different subjects.

Salahuddin also said that

he had two targets; to bring out best result through the existing national team and building a future team.

Defying the criticism, he said other countries or big clubs only experiment with new players in friendlies. But the stakes were too high to experiment in the national team with unknown players in the SAFF Championship.

Salahuddin also emphasised the need of keeping the local football alive though making good result of the existing national team.

The BFF boss said that he would hire a professional manager and the foreign coach is likely to be hired in next March or April.



Defender Rajani Kanta Barman (2nd from R) is all smiles as he shares a light moment with another member of the national football team at the BFF House yesterday.

## U-19 FOOTBALL Bangladesh 4th in group

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished fourth in Group E of the AFC U-19 Championship qualification after playing a 3-3 draw against Laos at the Royal Thai Army Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

Despite having gone 2-0 down in the first 15 minutes, Bangladesh bit back with a hat-trick from Asif Hossain.

Laos went ahead with Phomsouvanh Manolom and Saisana Sopha scoring in the very first and 14th minute respectively. Three minutes later, Asif reduced the margin while Saisana Sopha struck his second goal in the 35th minute to make it 3-1 for Laos.

After resumption, Asif pulled another goal back three minutes from time and struck a last-gasp goal to complete his hat-trick as well as gave Bangladesh a draw in their fifth and final match.

Bangladesh, who lost the first three matches against group champions South Korea (12), runners-up Thailand (12) and third-place Vietnam (12), secured four points from five outings.

## Zim U-19 start with loss

SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe Under-19 team started their Bangladesh tour with a loss as they conceded a 3-3 run defeat to BCB XI at the Khulna Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, BCB XI put on a challenging total 254 losing 8 wickets in their allotted fifty overs. The mainstay of the batting came from opener Anamul Haque (60) and middle-order batsman Mominul Haque (45).

Zimbabwe under-19 team had a few pretty good knocks in their innings as well, including Dean Mazharidza (65) and Gary Chiri Muuta (39), but as many as five run-outs caused thwarted their chase and saw them skittle out in 48.4 overs with 221 runs on the board, handing the hosts a 33-run victory.



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## Gazi ground Biman

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

Erratic Gazi Tank Cricketers patched up a much-needed win when they edged high-flying Biman by five wickets in their low-scoring Premier Division League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

In the other matches of the day, Kalabagan won against Victoria by 20 runs while BKSP surprised Khelaghar by 17 runs.

Biman, who have been in fine form thus far with wins in every match they played before yesterday, put on a terrible batting display as they got bowled out for 79 runs in 36.3 overs against a very disciplined Gazi Tank bowling attack. The innings' top score was 24, coming from the bat off Elias Sunny, and the second best was 10. National team's opening bowler Nazmul Hossain and young all-rounder Sohrawardi Shuvo, were the most impressive with the ball, as they captured three wickets each.

Chasing a victory target of 80 shouldn't have been a tough assignment for a star-studded batting line-up that was boosted by the arrival of Pakistani batsman Misbahul Haq, but they

made some meal of the chase to reassert the hapless state of their star batters. Ultimately they had to rest on a well-compiled 29 from the Pakistani and that ensured their victory in 21.1 overs with five wickets in hand.

At BKSP, Kalabagan defeated Victoria by 20 runs, thanks to a 111-run fifth-wicket stand between Mohammad Zahid (70) and Zubair Ahmed (72) that helped them post a daunting total of 229 for eight in their stipulated 50 overs. Victoria had a good start as the openers put on 60 runs, but were pegged back by some good bowling and kept losing wickets at regular intervals. In the end, despite their best efforts, they fell 20 runs short as they folded for 209 in 48.1 overs.

BKSP also got a much-needed victory as they edged Khelaghar by 17 runs at Fatullah. Batting first, BKSP put on a modest total of 180 in before being all out in 48.3 overs, thanks to a 91-run second wicket stand between Ashiquil Alam (42) and Asif Ahmed (48).

In reply, Khelaghar's in-form batsman Ashraf Ali batted with purpose for his 100-ball 52, but found very little support from the others as they folded for 163 runs in 47.4 overs, falling short by 17 runs. Tanvir Haider was the outstanding bowler for BKSP with figures of 3 for 18.



Gazi Tank captain Alok Kapali (C) and their prized Pakistani recruit Misbahul Haq (3rd from L) walk back to the dressing room along with other members of the team after clipping Bangladesh Biman's wings quickly in a Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

## T20 time in Dubai

**Cricket**

AFP, Dubai

Shahid Afridi described Pakistan's defeat in the one-day series as "shameful" but was hopeful his players could lift their performance for the two-match Twenty20 series starting here on Thursday.

Pakistan lost the final match by a narrow seven-run margin in Abu Dhabi to go down 2-1 to New Zealand in the three-match one-day international series.

"It was a shameful defeat and we batted like club cricketers," said Afridi, who will lead the side for the Twenty20 series because Younus Khan quit the shortest form of the game after leading Pakistan to victory in England in June.

During Monday's one-day international Pakistan, who managed to dismiss New Zealand for 211 all out, were let down by their top-order

batsmen as they struggled to 101 for nine.

An explosive unbeaten 73 by tail-ender Mohammad Aamir -- who set the highest score for a number 10 batsman in the history of one-day cricket -- gave them an outside chance of winning.

But Aamir and Saeed Ajmal's new Pakistani record of 103 for the tenth wicket could not prevent New Zealand from taking the last wicket to survive the turn around and win the match.

Afridi said he has been trying to motivate his players after the defeat, adding that he did not believe being defending Twenty20 champions would put them under extra pressure in Thursday's opening match.

"We need to stick to the basics and do our best to win both the matches," said Afridi, man-of-the-match in both the semifinal and final of June's world Twenty20.

Opener Imran Nazir and all-rounders Sohail Tanvir and Fawad Alam have joined the squad

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## Arman Aziz gets recall

SPORTS REPORTER

Playmaker Arman Aziz has been recalled for the national team yesterday, a day after the Bangladesh Football Federation announced a fresh 31-member squad for the SAFF Championship to be held in Dhaka from December 4 to 13.

Question about the exclusion of Arman was raised while the BFF declaring a fresh squad keeping sacked Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido's choice of 23 and the game governing body recalled the Mohammedan midfielder to raise the players' list to 32.

Arman was supposed to join the camp yesterday afternoon at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan.

Earlier, all 31 players reported to head coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo at the BFF House and left the capital in morning for BKSP whether they had a light stretching afternoon and they will go full-fledged training for today.

Coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo said he would basically work with the technical side of the players in his two sessions training in a day.

Injured goalkeeper Aminul Haq had a practice while a few players had been suffering from injuries, said Shantoo, who replaced sacked coach Edson Silva Dido.

The former national goalkeeper asked team manager Satyajit Das Rupu to arrange two practice matches against better sides before their friendly match against Korean Ulsan Hyundai Club on November 26.

## Mumbai rain keeps it 4-2

AFP, Mumbai

Heavy rain washed out the seventh and final one-day international between India and Australia on Wednesday, giving the tourists a 4-2 series win.

The umpires called off the game at 5:00pm (1130 GMT), two-and-a-half hours after the scheduled start, after persistent rain had rendered the pitch at the D.Y. Patil stadium on the outskirts of Mumbai unplayable.

The match held only academic interest because Ricky Ponting's injury-hit world champions, missing nine one-day regulars, had already taken a decisive lead by winning the last three games.

Australia are due to fly home today to prepare for the upcoming Test series against the West Indies, while India clash with Sri Lanka in the first of three Tests in Ahmedabad from Monday.

The first day of Sri Lanka's three-day tour opener against the Indian board president's XI in Mumbai was also washed out earlier on Wednesday.

## WC '07 debacle haunts Sachin

CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar has rated the first-round exit in the 2007 World Cup as the worst moment of his professional career, and said the debacle was because the batting order "was not right".

India crashed out after defeats to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the opening phase of the tournament, which took place at the end of Greg Chappell's tumultuous two years as coach.

"I felt our batting order was not right," Tendulkar told the news channel Times Now. He has usually preferred to open the batting in one-dayers but was sent in at No. 4 in that World Cup. "It was a big tournament and we had a fantastic team. Everything looked well set but I felt our batting order was not right. This was one of the reasons (behind India's early ouster)."

He also spoke about his two stints as national captain, which are widely viewed as disappointing. "No regrets at all. Captaining is not about an individual but a team," he said. "Of course it was painful whenever the team lost but losing the 2007 World Cup was more disappointing."

Tendulkar, who will complete 20 years in international cricket in four days' time, said he was targeting the 2011 World Cup title. "Touch wood, my body is holding up nicely. Of course I'm looking forward to the 2011 World Cup and by God's grace we should be able to achieve what we want to achieve."

## BCB will do everything to make WC a success

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) high-ups reassured on Wednesday that they would leave no stone unturned to make the ICC 2011 World Cup a grand success, even though there is hardly any visible progress in the preparations.

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal sought cooperation from all corners to successfully host the show-piece event first time in the country while talking at a

press conference yesterday.

The board arranged the press conference at a local hotel to disclose the detailed outcome of the last central organising committee (COC) meeting held in Mumbai though most of the minutes, including the match schedule, have already been published.

Mahbubul Anam, BCB's senior vice-president and secretary of the COC, informed that the tickets would go on sale from February next year and before that the rates would be fixed by next month.

It was informed that the respective board has to fulfil

all the requirements of the venues before October next year to make sure the International Cricket Council (ICC) can start their operation three months before the start of the tournament itself.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to complete the preparations before the deadline with cooperation from all," said Kamal adding that they would take all necessary action to make the Mirpur venue as the "Home of Cricket" in true sense.

Kamal assured that measures would be taken to permanently remove all the shops around the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. "We are taking initiatives to shift the shops to another place and we know we have to do a lot of work at this stadium to give it a proper shape," he said.

Bangladesh will host eight matches of the mega event including two quarterfinals and the opening ceremony, to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Of the matches, Chittagong has been awarded two group-stage games.

Before the announcement of the venues, an ICC delegation last month visited Mirpur and Chittagong and they pointed out some areas for improvement. "We have to keep them posted every month and the next inspection is scheduled for March next year, so we have to upgrade everything accordingly," said

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Bangladesh Cricket Board president AHM Mustafa Kamal (2nd from L) makes a point while addressing a press briefing at a local hotel yesterday. The BCB boss returned from Mumbai on Tuesday after attending the schedule and venue disclosure ceremony for the 2011 World Cup to be jointly staged by Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India.

## Younus given rest, Yousuf to fill in

**Cricket**

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan on Wednesday appointed Mohammad Younus as captain for the Test tour of New Zealand after Younus Khan asked for a rest following the one-day series defeat against the same country.

"Yes, Younus has asked for a rest so we have appointed Younus as captain for the three-Test tour," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt told AFP, adding, "it has nothing to do with the defeat against New Zealand."

Pakistan lost the three-match series 2-1 after a narrow seven-run defeat in the final match on Monday.

Following the one-day series defeat, Pakistani media reported that Younus had lost the confidence of his fellow players, who wanted him to be replaced.

Pakistan will fly from here on Sunday to play three Tests in New Zealand. The first Test starts in Dunedin on November 25.

Butt said he had no objection to Younus asking for rest.

"We did appoint Younus captain until the 2011 World Cup, subject to his performance and fitness, but we have no objection to him asking for a rest, and I don't think it's a turmoil

in Pakistan cricket," said Butt.

The 31-year-old Younus replaced Shoaib Malik following Pakistan's defeat in a home one-day series against Sri Lanka in January.

But despite leading Pakistan to the World Twenty20 title, Younus' tenure was full of turmoil and controversies.

Younus was forced to offer his resignation over unproven allegations of match-fixing after Pakistan lost to New Zealand in the semifinal of the Champions Trophy held in South Africa last month.

His resignation was rejected by the PCB. Under Younus, Pakistan drew a two-Test home series against Sri Lanka in February-March, the second match being abandoned after the visiting team's bus was attacked by terrorists in Lahore.

Pakistan then lost a one-day series against Australia in the United Arab Emirates and then went down in three-Test and five one-day matches on the tour of Sri Lanka.

Before the latest defeat against New Zealand, former players, including ex-captain Inzamamul Haq, demanded Younus be sacked as one-day captain.

As a player, Younus also fared poorly, scoring 0, 19 and three in the latest series against New Zealand.

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## Enke commits suicide

**Football**

AFP, Berlin

Germany was in shock on Wednesday after football star Robert Enke, who was set to represent his country at the 2010 World Cup, committed suicide after battling with depression for many years.



ROBERT ENKE

Police said goalkeeper Enke threw himself in front of a train at a level crossing in the small town of Neustadt am Rubenberge, near Hanover, shortly before 6:00 pm (1700 GMT) on Tuesday. He was 32.

He leaves behind a widow, Teresa, and a daughter of eight months, Leila, adopted by the couple in May - three years after their two-year-old daughter Lara tragically died of a heart defect in 2006.

"He threw himself under a train and died of his injuries. It was definitely suicide," police spokeswoman Martina Stern told AFP.

Joerg Neblung, a close friend and advisor to the eight-times capped goalkeeper, also confirmed that Enke had taken his own life. "I can confirm that it was suicide," he said.

The news has stunned football-mad Germany and chancellor Angela Merkel has contacted Enke's widow.

"The chancellor has expressed her shock and sympathies today in a very personal letter," Merkel's spokesman Christoph Steegmans told reporters in Berlin.

The German Football Federation (DFB) announced Saturday's friendly against Chile in Cologne has been cancelled out of respect -- although Enke was not in the squad having only returned from injury last weekend for his club Hanover.

"We thought about playing the game as a farewell to Robert, but it is clear it is too soon after this terrible news," said team manager Oliver Bierhoff, who shed tears while delivering the news in a press conference.

Hanover police have confirmed Enke left a suicide note, but with respect to the family will not reveal where the note was found, but Enke's Mercedes was found near to the level-crossing where he took his life.

Enke, born in Jena in eastern Germany in 1977, was understudy to then first-team keeper Jens Lehmann during the 2008 European championships and took over in goal for Germany

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