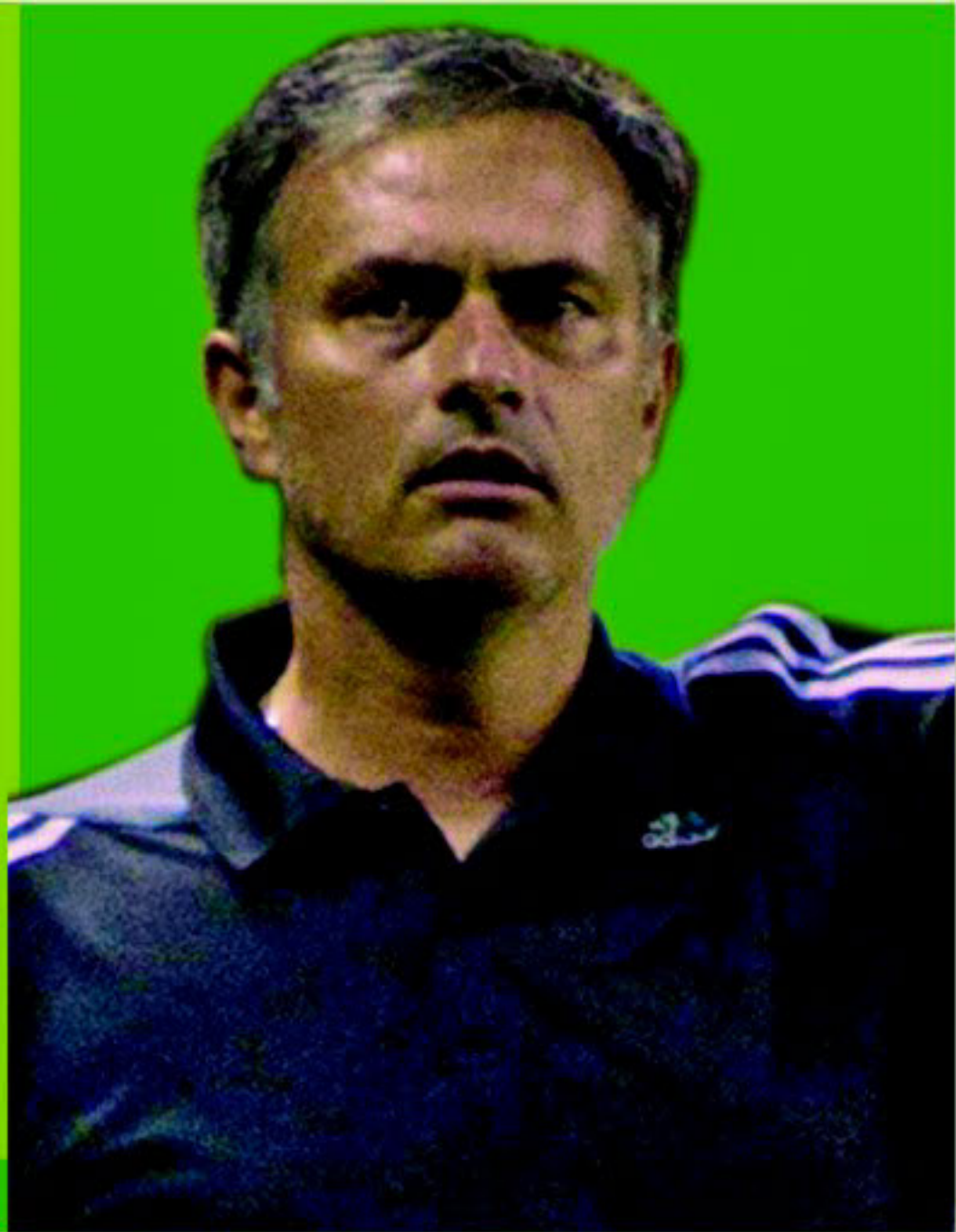


Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

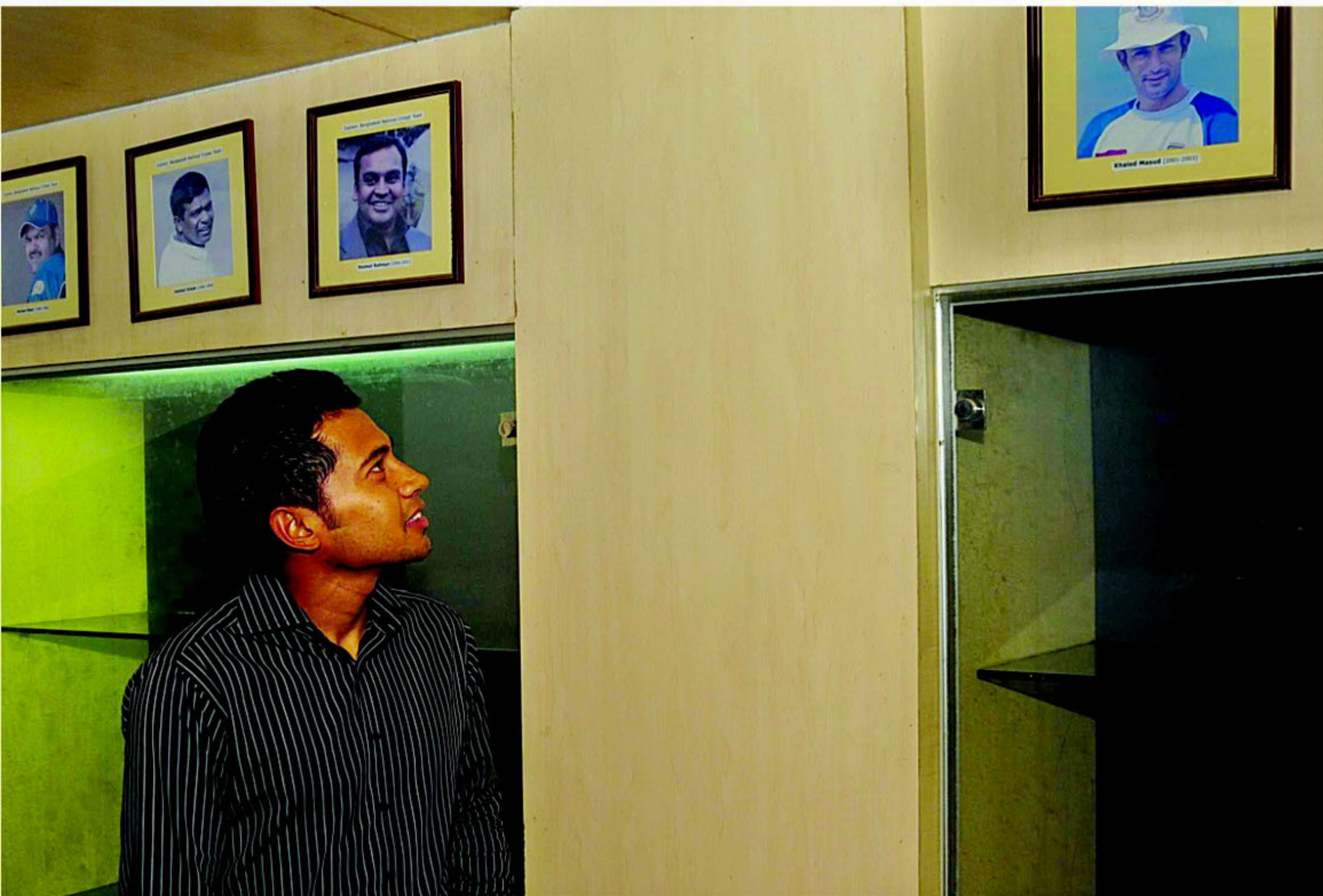
Generous Jose

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has donated a coaching trophy awarded for his treble-winning season with Inter Milan for auction in memory of mentor Bobby Robson. Former England and Barcelona manager Robson died of lung cancer two years ago at age 76. He is credited with helping launch Mourinho's career in football. "The entire family is completely astounded by this generous gift from Mr. Mourinho," Robson's son Mark said. "We are thrilled and so thankful to him." Proceeds of the sale of the FIFA coach of the year award Mourinho won in 2010 will go to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.



Little Mushfiq relishes big challenge

Named Bangladesh captain; Riyad his deputy



LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION: Newly-appointed Bangladesh captain Mushfiq Rahim gazes at Khaled Mashud's portrait as he arrives at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur yesterday. He becomes the eighth man to lead the Tigers, and the second wicketkeeper after Mashud.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY

"The whispers turned into reality today," was the instant reaction from wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim as he talked to the Daily Star Sport immediately after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) declared the little man the Tigers' new captain and all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad as his deputy on Tuesday.

Following the removal of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, there was no other choice for the game's governing body but to name the 23-year old Bogra-lad -- who is one of few players in the team whose place in the playing eleven is confirmed -- the new skipper to lead the team in the upcoming home series against West Indies and Pakistan.

So understandably, the announcement did not come as a big surprise for the young man, who has had the experience of leading the Under-19 team in the 2006 World Cup where his national team predecessor Shakib played under his captaincy. "I'm really delighted as this is the ultimate honour for any cricketer," said Mushfiqur with a smile.

Like many other cricketers Mushfiqur dreamt of leading the national team but the honour has come his way earlier than he expected because of the board's 'whimsical' decision of sacking Shakib and Tamim from their posts following Bangladesh's dismal show in the recently concluded tour of Zimbabwe.

"I must thank the board for giving me the responsibility and I will try my best to serve my country. I know it's a big challenge for me and I am ready to take on the challenge. I hope I will get full support not only from the board but also from my colleagues and coaching staffs," responded Mushfiqur, who has so far played 24 Tests and 98 one-day international

als, when asked whether the captaincy came his way earlier than expected.

The soft-spoken Mushfiqur was also very much aware of the fact that it would not be an easy task for him to lead an improving team like Bangladesh.

"I am fully aware of the expectations. I am confident that I will be able to take the team to new heights. We had been playing good cricket for the last two years, but we failed to perform against Zimbabwe in the last series as a unit. My first job would be to inspire the team so that we can bounce back from the dismal showing. And I'm hopeful about the coming series if we can play as a unit," hoped the new Bangladesh captain.

The general feeling is that Mushfiqur, who was once removed from the vice-captaincy due to an alleged attitude problem, is a bit of an introvert, a trait that may not be ideal for captaincy but the man himself was little worried about that. "I always love to take on challenges and I am really excited to prove my credentials as a captain. True, I don't talk too much but that doesn't mean I will not talk when it is required," explained the Bogra-lad.

Shakib was exceptional in that his captaincy role hardly hindered his own performance, and Mushfiqur was also confident that the third and most crucial role, in addition to wicketkeeping and batting, will not be an extra burden for him.

"I believe this new challenge will make me more confident so I am little worried. As a team we are improving and you see there are a number of players in the team who can win the match for us. So, I am really confident with the team," said a confident Mushfiqur, who once again said that this is the most disciplined team in the world.

Mushfiqur also sought full freedom as captain.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Preliminary squad for WI named

SPORTS REPORTER

A predictable 23-member preliminary squad was named yesterday for the upcoming West Indies series to be held next month.

Mushfiqur Rahim will have all the players who toured Zimbabwe at his disposal while a few who returned will appease the new skipper as he takes over.

Alok Kapali, Naem Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Rokibul Hasan, Syed Rassel, Elias Sunny and Sahagir Hossain were all named among the probables, signalling hope among some of these performers of being picked.

Chief among them would be paceman Shahadat who missed the Zimbabwe series after breaking his foot in a freak incident in Cox's Bazar while Naem's century during the BCB Cup has earned him a spot.

The inclusion of Sunny could also be seen as a sign from the selectors to shake up the spin department with Abdur Razzak having offered very little against Zimbabwe.

After the BCB Cup concludes today, the Tigers will play a four-day game, two one-dayers and a Twenty20 to prepare for the West Indies series.

SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah Riyad (vice-captain), Imrul Kayes, Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Mohammad Ashraful, Junaed Siddiqui, Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Abdur Razzak, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Nasir Hossain, Naem Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Nazmul Hossain, Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury, Sohrawardi Shuvo, Rokibul Hasan, Syed Rassel, Robiul Islam, Elias Sunny, Sahagir Hossain.

Let's see him first: Faruque

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

While an old teammate welcomed Mushfiqur Rahim as the leader, the man who gave him his biggest break was cautious about praising the new captain.

Tamim Iqbal, who was relieved of his duty as the vice-captain on September 5, has wished Mushfiqur well.

"From my side, I will give my 100% and help him whenever he needs me. I am sure he'll do a good job now and I wish him well," said the left-handed opener.

"I have played under him since the Under-15s and also in the Under-19s so I know his style of leadership.

"He was always involved in the field so that will not change now," added Tamim.

But Faruque Ahmed, the former chief selector who first picked Mushfiqur in 2005 as the baby-faced second

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Zahid team operations manager

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has named former selector Zahid Razzak Masum as the new team operations manager of the national cricket team.

The decision was taken in the directors' meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Masum, who was part of the last Rafiqul Islam-led selection panel, will accompany the team as a manager for the upcoming home series against West Indies and Pakistan.

In the September 5 meeting

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Early test for new leader

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Less than 24 hours after being named the Bangladesh captain, Mushfiqur Rahim will lead out the Tigers against Bangladesh A in the BCB Cup final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The importance of this tournament, styled as a season opener by the BCB tournament committee, was augmented by making the final into a day-night affair and having the game telecast live on Bangladesh Television from 1:30pm.

It was an easy route for both teams into the final as the third team, the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy, lost all of their outings while the national team won three out of the four games with the other one being rained off.

Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Mushfiqur and Mohammad Ashraful have all been

among the runs during the tournament. With the ball in hand, Rubel Hossain has continued the good work as he has picked up seven wickets from three outings.

However, the likes of Imrul Kayes, Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury, Nasir Hossain and Alok Kapali would like to nail their spot in the national side to face West Indies with a good innings in the final as they haven't hit a big one during this tournament.

For the second string side, Naem Islam has struck the only century of the tournament but the right-handed bat has been laid low by a blister on his thigh, though he is likely to play.

Apart from Naem, newly-appointed vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad has looked in bright form while Junaed Siddiqui has shown glimpses of his better days.

Two selection issues would be of interest on both sides. It is likely that Imrul Kayes will be picked for the final while for the A team,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

MSC's AGM today

SPORTS REPORTER

Directors-elect of the Mohammedan SC Ltd are all set to take over their charges through the annual general meeting today at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Following nomination withdrawal of some aggrieved organisers on Monday, 13 directors were elected unopposed while Obaidul Karim was declared president as he was the only candidate for presidency. Mohammedan SC Limited, has been subject to courtroom wrangling since its transformation into limited company on March 24.

Riaz Uddin, one of disgruntled members, yesterday filed two separate petitions in a bid to suspend the club's AGM, but the Supreme Court rejected both petitions, clearing the way for holding the general meeting. The meeting will be presided over by independent president AMM Bahauddin as per court directive.

However, there will be three-man shortage for the 16-member board of directors and director-elect Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan informed that the vacant positions will be filled through by-election after an emergency general meeting.

A section of agitated organisers, who kept themselves away from the election, on Monday pointed fingers towards Lokman for the failure of forming a consensus committee.

Lokman said nothing would be held back in the absence of others and the capable organisers would come forward to take those places.

"Respective of parties, opinions and beliefs, I urge all of the 213 Mohammedan members to attend the AGM on Wednesday," Lokman said. "A new era of Mohammedan will start tomorrow (Wednesday)."

Tommy's 'dream' dish in the making

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

The man is known worldwide for his culinary magic, delighting millions and making fans out of the high and mighty through his handiwork in his restaurants. Now Tommy Miah, the Bangladesh-born British celebrity chef, is about to venture into his childhood passion: cricket.

Next month, Tommy Miah will begin work on a cricket academy in Moulvibazar in Sylhet, where he hopes to engage local youths in the country's most popular game, calling it Tommy Miah's Cricket Academy.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport recently, the renowned chef articulated a project that is close to his heart. "It will be located in the heart of Moulvibazar, set in an area of two acres. I was born around 5-6 kilometres from the area which is called Wapda Road," he said. "It will have the usual outdoor pitches, indoor facilities, schools, hostels and an entertainment centre where there will be activities all year round. We will have the academy running from the end of 2012 or early



A computer-generated image of the proposed plan for Tommy Miah's Cricket Academy in Moulvibazar.

PHOTO: COURTESY

2013," he informed.

It will certainly not be the first in the country as Dhaka has a large number of cricket academies while Akij Group's

Clemon Cricket Academies across the country are turning out to be a huge source of support for cricket's development in the country.

But to have an international celebrity chef like Tommy Miah getting directly involved in cricket's grassroots will have a unique appeal and probably encourage other such luminaries to come forward and give youths in their hometowns a chance through cricket. The fact that he decided to open the academy in his native Moulvibazar would not only be a huge boost for cricket in Sylhet, which has been languishing for several years, but also for other districts where cricket is big but the lack of infrastructure badly hurts its development.

"I am in discussion with Bradford College, City and Guild in UK to be affiliated with us. I have Farokh Engineer with me and I have also talked to Cricket Scotland who will send us age-level teams. This will bring revenue into our country which will obviously be ploughed back into the academy," he said.

England's cricketing giant, Sir Ian Botham, could inaugurate the academy next month when he will be in India for another event. Tommy Miah has discussed the possibilities of the academy with one of the game's leading lights, as he did with the former India wicketkeeper.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1