

# ACSU REPORT to be delayed

SPORTS REPORTER



Members of the International Cricket Council's Anti corruption and Security unit is set to meet the Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon today. But it is unlikely for the ACSU to submit its report on suspected fixing during the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League and beyond that in the meeting.

"The chance of getting the report is slim," said BCB's acting CEO Niazmuddin Chowdhury.

"We will get the report very soon, but the thing is that certain issues outside the BPL may have to be discussed and the process might take a little longer," he added.

By 'outside the BPL' the CEO referred to the international fixing allegations made by a Bengali daily, in a report published last Friday, against cricketer Mohammad Ashraful.

"We can't say exactly how much time they will take but we will provide the media with regular updates," said Chowdhury. He further stated that the report would 'definitely' be received before the player transfers of the Dhaka Premier League, which is scheduled to take place on June 20. It would determine whether or not certain players would be able to participate in the league.

Meanwhile, members of the ACSU, who arrived in Dhaka on Saturday, continued their investigation into the fixing allegations. It was learnt that they had a meeting with Shihab Chowdhury, one of the owners of the BPL franchise Dhaka Gladiators at a local hotel yesterday afternoon. Shihab, though denied meeting the ACSU and told The Daily Star that he attended no such meeting. Sources also revealed that officials of the 'Europa group', owners of the Dhaka Gladiators were also questioned.

Reports of match-fixing in the BPL and in international cricket have rocked the country in the past week. Prothom Alo, a leading Bengali daily, on Friday had alleged that Ashraful was involved in spot-fixing in the international circuit since 2004. The daily also accused former cricketers Khaled Mahmud, Khaled Mashud and Mohammad Rafique of introducing Ashraful to bookies at different points of the batsman's career.



Ayesha Siddiqua (L) and Uzzal Chandra Sutradhar pose for the photographers after becoming the fastest girl and boy respectively during the first day of the National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETICS Uzzal, Ayesha stars of Day 1

SPORTS REPORTER

There was no shortage of enthusiasm among the athletes on the opening day of the 29th National Junior (Age-Group) Athletics Championships but the scorching heat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium made the work hard for the athletes.

The Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) was even forced to start the second session one hour later than the scheduled time. It also looked like the athletes, in his/her respective events, were taking to the track while others took the shelter of the gallery in the face of boiling heat.

"We have some obligations by the International Athletics Federation to hold the junior meet by June but we had no time in hand after Bangladesh Games which was held in the latter part of April. We gave the affiliated bodies time to prepare in May. That's why the championship is taking place in June," explained Bangladesh Athletic Federation general secretary Ibrahim Chengis.

In the most exciting event, the boys' 100m sprint, Uzzal Chandra Sutradhar of Kishoreganj (11.12 seconds) beat BKSP students Asif Kumar (11.15 seconds) and Irfan Khan (11.45 seconds) to become the fastest boy (hand-timing).

Uzzal had a childhood dream of becoming a cricketer but his success in athletics at the inter-school, district and divisional level brought him to the higher level and he achieved gold medal in his first-ever competition at the national level.

The 17-year old athlete, who recently completed his HSC examination, later won another gold medal in long jump by clearing 6.74 metres while his nearest competitor Ibad Ali won silver clearing 6.49 metres.

However, Ayesha Siddiqua made her organisation BKSP smile after becoming the fastest girl in the 17-18 age section with a time of 12.60 seconds while her teammate Tanjila Khatun finished second after clocking 13.14 seconds.

Ayesha, a class X student, disclosed her dream to run in the Olympics after crossing the final line.

"I am really happy to become first in my first competition," said Ayesha. "I have a dream to run in the Olympics."

Ayesha informed that she usually had practice two sessions in a day with each session containing two hours.

## Hockey polls on June 27

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The much-talked-about election of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation will be held on June 27 according to the schedule released by the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

The draft voters' list will be published on June 4, objection on the draft list will be recorded on June 5-6 before the hearing takes place on June 9-10.

After disclosing the final voters' list on June 12, the nomination papers will be on sale on June 13 and the nominations to be submitted on June 16 before being scrutinised on June 18.

The date of candidature withdrawal is on June 19 and the final candidates' list will be revealed on June 20.

Meanwhile, a day after five members of the current executive committee resigned from the ad-hoc committee, Mohammedan councillor Sajed AA Adel tendered his resignation yesterday. Sajed said that he resigned because the BHF president did not take any initiative to change five councillors of NSC.

## Nazmul leaves today

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Pacer Nazmul Hossain will fly to Melbourne today to treat his injured left knee. He is expected to undergo a knee-replacement surgery. The bowler has an appointment with Dr David Young, who had earlier conducted a number of surgeries on Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, on June 5. The surgery will take place on June 6. It would take Nazmul four to six months to recover. The bowler had twisted his left knee during a training session in Sri Lanka in March.

## Kiwis ride on Guptill record

AFP, Southampton

Martin Guptill made the highest one-day international score by a New Zealand batsman as the Black Caps took an unbeatable 2-0 lead in their series with England on Sunday.

Guptill's 189 not out was the cornerstone of New Zealand's 359 for three at Southampton -- the largest total England had conceded in a home ODI.

England, despite Jonathan Trott's unbeaten 109, could only manage 273 in reply as they lost by 86 runs, with 35 balls of their innings left.

The 26-year-old Guptill's innings surpassed Lou Vincent's previous New Zealand record of 172 against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo in 2005, and was the equal fifth highest score in ODI history.

This was also the opener's second hundred in as many matches after his 103 not out powered New Zealand to a five-wicket win at Lord's on Friday.

Only Mark Greatbatch, in 1990, had previously made an ODI century for New Zealand in England, when he too scored back-to-back hundreds.

**SCORES IN BRIEF:**  
**NEW ZEALAND:** 359 for 3 (Guptill 189 not out, Taylor 60, Williamson 55)  
**ENGLAND:** 273 all out in 44.1 over (Trott 109 not out; McClenaghan 3-35)  
**Result:** New Zealand won by 86 runs.

## BANGABANDHU TOURNEY IN OCT Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday announced that the Bangabandhu International Football Tournament will take place in between the last week of September and the first week of October in the capital of Bangladesh with the participation of eight international teams.

The BFF boss had been working on it for some time, but never disclosed a time-frame earlier. But he revealed it after getting verbal assurance from Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain during the FIFA congress in Mauritius recently.

"Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain have confirmed me verbally during the FIFA congress and we will now invite them officially within a week," said Salahuddin. "The exact date of the start of the Bangabandhu International Football Tournament will be fixed soon after getting the consent of all the participating nations."

Apart from the three-middle east giants, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand, India and Bangladesh are expected to take part in the tournament, which will be organised solely by the Bangladesh Football Federation. The last edition of this tournament was held in 1999, where eight nations took part.

"To make the tournament attractive, I have thought of keeping India and Bangladesh in the same group," said Salahuddin.

## Srinivasan makes way Dalmiya to run affairs as interim chief

AFP, New Delhi



India's cricket chief Sunday defied calls to quit over a betting scandal in the country's top domestic competition but agreed to step aside to allow an investigation to take place, the board announced.

The move, a compromise negotiated by N Srinivasan at an emergency meeting in the southern city of Chennai, appeared unlikely to quell the controversy which has seen the country's sports ministry call on him to resign.

Srinivasan's son-in-law Gurunath Meiyappan was arrested on May 24 for allegedly taking part in illegal betting on the Indian Premier League (IPL) which is the subject of multiple police investigations.

Meiyappan is a business executive for the most successful IPL franchise, the Chennai Super Kings, which is owned by 68-year-old businessman Srinivasan who has headed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) since 2011.

"Mr N Srinivasan announced that he will not discharge his duties as the president of the board till such time that the probe is completed," said a statement after the meeting.

It said Jagmohan Dalmiya, a controversial former president of the BCCI from 2001-2004, "will conduct the day-to-day affairs of the board" during Srinivasan's absence.



The BCCI met Sunday amid growing rancour among the 31-member body and a series of resignations over previous days, including the secretary, the treasurer and the chairman of the IPL, Rajeev Shukla.

The scandal in the money-spinning IPL, a Twenty20 tournament which sees top international stars play alongside domestic players, has again shaken the faith of fans in what is overwhelmingly India's most popular sport.

The arrest of Srinivasan's son-in-law came after Test paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth and two teammates in the IPL's Rajasthan Royals -- Ankeet Chavan and Ajit Chandila -- were taken into custody. All the accused deny any wrongdoing.

Police allege the players deliberately bowled badly in exchange for tens of thousands of dollars after striking deals with bookmakers.

Meiyappan, who is still in custody, is being investigated for allegedly passing information to bookies and placing bets on the IPL. This is illegal under India's laws which ban gambling on all sports except horse-racing.

Srinivasan can only be impeached if three-quarters of the BCCI board vote against him.

Cricket analyst Prem Panicker told AFP that Srinivasan should take responsibility for the problems in Indian cricket.



New Zealand opener Martin Guptill celebrates after reaching his second consecutive hundred against England in their 2nd ODI at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Federer survives a scare

AGENCIES, Paris



Second seed Roger Federer produced a thrilling riposte to Gilles Simon's gallant attempt to knock him out of the French Open on Sunday, coming from behind to beat the Frenchman 6-1 4-6 2-6 6-2 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals.

Federer's proud record of consecutive 36 grand slam quarterfinal appearances stretching back to 2004 looked in jeopardy when Simon turned the match on its head with some superb tennis after being initially outclassed.

But Federer refused to panic and hit back in style for his 900th tour win in front of a raucous late-evening crowd on Philippe Chatrier Court.

The 2009 champion will now face another Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga for a place in the semifinals.

French sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who has yet to drop a set at Roland Garros this year, easily dispatched Serbian Viktor Troicki 6-3 6-3 6-3 in one hour 45 minutes.

Claycourt warrior Tommy Robredo came back from the brink yet again to beat fellow Spaniard Nicolas Almagro and reach the quarter-finals. The 31-year-old Robredo looked down and out when he trailed by two sets and 4-1 on Suzanne Lenglen court but produced a stunning fightback to outlast the 11th seed 6-7 (5) 3-6 6-4 6-4 6-4 after a three-hour-49-minute baseline battle.

It was the third match in a row that Robredo had performed a Houdini act from a two-set deficit, the first player to achieve that feat in a grand slam since Frenchman Henri Cochet at Wimbledon in 1927, and was overcome with emotion at the end.

Serena Williams bludgeoned her way to another lopsided win at the French Open on Sunday as she continued her quest for a second French Open title, 11 years after her first.

The top seeded American needed just 70 minutes to dispose of the world's top doubles player, Roberta Vinci of Italy, 6-1, 6-3 and in four matches at Roland Garros this year, she has dropped just 10 games.

The win puts her into a quarterfinal match-up against unseeded Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia who won the title in Paris in 2009 after defeating Williams in a quarterfinal thriller.

Kuznetsova, who outlasted eighth seed Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, said she would relish going up again against Williams, even given her current form.

In the men's draw David Ferrer, the quiet man of tennis, reached the quarterfinals for the fourth time.

Ferrer, the Spanish fourth seed and a semifinalist in 2012, breezed past South Africa's Kevin Anderson 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

The 31-year-old has made the last eight without dropping a set and goes on to an all-Spanish quarterfinal against either Tommy Robredo or Nicolas Almagro.