

## SPORT

# Can the BCB boss answer so many questions today?

SPORTS REPORTER



Where is the report of anti corruption and security unit (ACSU)? When will ACSU submit it? Will Mohammad Ashrafal be banned? What will actually happen regarding allegations of fixing in international cricket? These were the questions that were floating in the cricketering circles yesterday as soon as news came that members of the ACSU had left the country in the morning.

According to reports, their two-day visit comprised interviews of certain officials of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) franchise Dhaka Gladiators and a meeting with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon on Sunday night.

As a result, the board has decided to hold a press conference, with an aim to explain its position regarding the recent fixing allegations that have rocked the game in the country.

Speaking on the progress of the ACSU investigation, BCB officials said that the delegation was just one interview away from completing their report on match-fixing in the BPL. There are speculations that that interviewee could well be Salim Chowdhury, owner of the Gladiators, who is expected to return to the country today.

While the complete report will be received by the BCB only by the end of the week, it was learnt that a section of the BCB is putting pressure on the board to take a decision on Ashrafal's fate based on ACSU's

unofficial updates. Another section was in favour of waiting for the entire report before making the final call.

The decision will be taken in a meeting of the board directors, which will take place an hour before the scheduled press conference.

BCB sources have also revealed that the investigation regarding fixing in international cricket, an accusation made by a Bengali daily against a number of Bangladeshi cricketers, will take place separately within the ICC and that it will take a long time. ACSU's report on match-fixing in the BPL, on the other hand, is on the verge of completion and will be received by the BCB by the end of the week, informed the sources.

The sources further stated that the BCB would not form its own investigation committee upon receiving the ACSU report, something that the board was initially planning to do. If the report has enough evidence then a verdict will be declared.

However, the BCB will form its own committee to investigate allegations against the players against whom there is not enough evidence in the near future.

Various reports of match-fixing in the BPL and in international cricket hit the media over the past two weeks. A Bengali daily on Friday had alleged that Ashrafal was involved in spot-fixing on the international circuit since 2004. The daily also accused former cricketers of introducing Ashrafal to bookies at different points of the batsman's career.



Ariful Islam Orange gestures after winning gold in the 100m sprint of the 18-19 age group on the last day of the Walton 29th National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Ctg Abahani on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani dislodged Uttar Baridhara from the top of the Bangladesh Championship League after beating Agrani Bank 3-2 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shohel, Titon and Shawkat scored one each for Abahani while Sumon and Opu pulled back a goal each for Agrani bank, who stuck to the sixth position with 12 points from as many matches. Abahani lead the table with 24 points from 12 matches, one ahead of second-placed Uttar Baridhara.

## NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETICS Ariful, Irene fastest

SPORTS REPORTER

Ariful Islam Orange and Irene Akter retained titles in the 100m sprint of 18-19 age group category as they won gold medal in the Walton 29th National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The feat from Orange and Irene helped Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) retain their supremacy at the junior championships with 20 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals, and were followed by Narail DSA who won three gold, four silver and three bronze medals.

Orange, an intermediate level student, became the fastest for the third time in a row at the junior meet after beating Abu Abdullah of Natore

with a timing of 11.30 seconds while Irene, a class-11 student, won the 100m sprint gold for the second successive time after putting behind her teammate Tamanna Akter (12.67 seconds) with a timing of 12.32 seconds.

Orange came into this championship after missing out on the Bangladesh Games due to hamstring injury, but proved his worth by retaining the title yesterday.

"It is an outcome of hard work as I had to toil hard to recover from my injury. Now I am looking forward to taking part at the senior level," said Orange, who also set a new record in long jump after clearing 7.07 metres. The previous record was 6.81 metres.

Irene, meanwhile, had the confidence of retaining her title as she was

taking part in the junior level for the fifth time.

"I am happy to win the 100m gold medal again," said Irene. "I believe this achievement will boost me to do well in the Asian Youth Games in China."

However, it was double delight for Ayesha Siddiqua, who won the 200m gold (17-18 age-group) yesterday, having won the 100m sprint on the opening day. She took 27.00 seconds to finish.

After being beaten by ultimate winner Ulzaz Chandra Sutradhar in the 100m sprint (17-18 age-group), Ashik Kumar Halder was determined to go one better in the 200m and the class-11 student did it with a time of 22.90 seconds.

## Dhoni bags ICC honour

ANI, Cardiff

India cricket skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Monday received the prestigious Reliance ICC ODI Championship Shield and a cheque of 175,000 dollars for leading his side to the top of the Reliance ICC ODI Championship table on the annual April 1 cut-off date.

Dhoni on his part expressed his delight to receive this shield from former International Cricket Council (ICC) president David Morgan.

India had claimed the number one spot from England after winning the series 3-2 in January, and, in the 12-month period between 1 April 2012 and 1 April 2013, they won eight out of 13 ODIs while losing five.

## Rajib draws again

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib drew against IM Ramnath Bhuvanesh in the eighth round of the 6th Mayor Cup Chess International Open Chess Tournament being held in Mumbai yesterday.

Rajib has now five points from eight matches while his senior teammate GM Ziaur Rahman stuck to 4.5 points as he lost against IM Swayams Mishra. FM Mehdi Hasan and Zoar Haque Pradhan earned 3.5 points each.

## BD U-14s lose last match

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh completed their qualifying campaign of the AFC Under-14 Championship with a 0-2 goal defeat against Indonesia at the Zeyar Thiri Stadium in the Myanmar capital Naypyidaw yesterday.

Maulana Vikri scored both the goals for Indonesia in the 6th and 54th minutes of the match.

## Rafa, Novak in last eight

AFP, Paris



World number one Novak Djokovic reached his 16th consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final while seven-time champion Rafael Nadal marked his 27th birthday by also reaching the French Open last eight Monday.

Top seed Djokovic carved out a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over 16th seed Philipp Kohlschreiber with the German paying a high price for converting just two of 13 break points.

World number one Djokovic goes on to face German 35-year-old Tommy Haas, who became the third oldest man to reach the last-eight with a comfortable 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win over volatile Russian Mikhail Youzhny.

Nadal, bidding to become the first man to win the same Grand Slam title eight times, trounced Japanese 13th seed Kei Nishikori 6-4, 6-1, 6-3.

It was third-seeded Nadal's 56th win in 57 career matches at Roland Garros.

The defending champion next faces either French seventh seed Richard Gasquet or Stanislas Wawrinka, the Swiss ninth seed, with a potential semi-final blockbuster with Djokovic just around the corner.

In the women's draw third seed Victoria Azarenka reached the quarterfinals for the third time with a 6-3, 6-0 win over 2010 champion Francesca Schiavone.

The double Australian open champion will now face Russian 12th seed Maria Kirilenko for a semifinal place.

The protagonists know each other well, not least as erst-while doubles partners -- they were notably runners-up at the 2011 Australian Open while Azarenka saw off Kirilenko in the London Olympics bronze medal match last summer.

In her fourth round match, Kirilenko, despite needing treatment for a sore shoulder, saw off unseeded Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States 7-5, 6-4 to reach the last eight at Roland Garros for the first time after recovering from losing the opening three games.

The 26-year-old from Moscow, who broke in the sixth and eighth games to make up for her slow start and then overcame an opening service loss at the start of the second set, has now equalled her best ever Grand Slam showing of runs to the quarters at Wimbledon 2012 and the Australian Open three seasons ago.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates his victory over Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber in the French Open at the Roland Garros in Paris on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

## No worse time to start

AFP, Southampton



The world's leading cricketers gather for the Champions Trophy in the UK that starts this week against the backdrop of a growing fixing scandal emerging from the Indian Premier League (IPL), which has already claimed several high-profile casualties.

Such is the extent of the crisis, Narayanswamy Srinivasan, the seemingly all-powerful president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) temporarily stood down from his post on Sunday.

He stepped aside, but did not resign, while police investigations into his son-in-law Gurunath Meiyappan, arrested on May 24 for allegedly taking part in illegal betting on the lucrative IPL, remained ongoing.

Meiyappan is a business executive for the most successful IPL franchise, the Chennai Super Kings, which is owned by the 68-year-old Srinivasan.

The arrest of Srinivasan's son-in-law came after three players including India

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.

Meanwhile leading Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf was withdrawn from officiating in the Champions Trophy after fixing allegations against him, which he too denies, were published in the Indian media.

It was just the sort of build-up the International Cricket Council (ICC) did not want ahead of a tournament which sees Pakistan returning to England for the first time since 2010.

On that occasion, three players including Test captain Salman Butt and paceman Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif were banned and jailed after being caught up in a newspaper sting operation to expose match-fixing.

Officials had wanted to scrap what is now the seventh and final edition of the 'mini World Cup' with an inaugural World Test Championship, in a bid to boost flagging global interest in the five-day game.

## SHOOTING CAMP Ratna, Chandan, Miti allowed in

SPORTS REPORTER

SA Games gold medallist Sharmin Akter Ratna, Shahriar Chandan and Miti Dewan have been allowed to join shooting's three-month long training camp, which started on Sunday at three different venues -- BKSP, Bangladesh Army Shooting Range and National Shooting Complex.

Ratna, Chandan and Miti were served show-cause notices through their respective organisations -- Bangladesh Ansar, Kushtia Rifles Club and Dhaka Rifles Club following allegation of misbehaviour with the accountant of the federation during the Bangladesh Games.

"All three of them (Ratna, Chandan, Miti) have joined the camp yesterday (Sunday)," said training committee head Ishfaq Ahmed. "We can't stop them from joining the camp just because they have been served show-cause notices."

Tripti, who was initially kept out of the training list, failed to turn up at the training camp despite being given a chance. It has been learnt that she could not attend training due to a problem with her rifle.

Out of 55 shooters, 46 joined the camp while the rest, all of whom are skeet shooters, will join the training on June 20.

## Media slate BCCI over Srinivasan stand

AFP, New Delhi

India's media on Monday lashed out at the country's cricket board for "shaming the nation" after it allowed president N Srinivasan to avoid resigning over a spot-fixing and betting scandal that has engulfed the national sport.

The 68-year-old, considered the most powerful man in world cricket because of India's financial clout, resisted calls to quit on Sunday at an emergency meeting in Chennai, but agreed to "step aside" until a probe into the alleged betting is completed.

### FIXTURES

**Jun 06: India v South Africa** Cardiff (3:30pm)  
**Jun 07: Pakistan v West Indies** The Oval (3:30pm)  
**Jun 08: England v Australia** Edgbaston (3:30pm)  
**Jun 09: New Zealand v Sri Lanka** Cardiff (3:30pm)  
**Jun 10: Pakistan v South Africa** Edgbaston (6:00pm)  
**Jun 11: India v West Indies** The Oval (3:30pm)  
**Jun 12: Australia v New Zealand** Edgbaston (3:30pm)  
**Jun 13: England v Sri Lanka** The Oval (6:00pm)  
**Jun 14: West Indies v South Africa** Cardiff (3:30pm)  
**Jun 15: India v Pakistan** Edgbaston (3:30pm)  
**Jun 16: England v New Zealand** Cardiff (3:30pm)  
**Jun 17: Sri Lanka v Australia** The Oval (6:00pm)  
**Jun 19: Semifinal A1 v B2** The Oval (3:30pm)  
**Jun 20: Semifinal A2 v B1** Cardiff (3:30pm)  
**Jun 23: Final**, Edgbaston (3:30pm)  
*(All are Bangladesh times)*

## Div-3 football from today

SPORTS REPORTER

After a gap of one year, the Third Division Football League gets underway today at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium with 20 teams fighting it out for the title.

The participating clubs, split into two groups, will play round-robin games and later five teams from each of the group will advance to the Super League. A total of three teams will be promoted to the second Division while two sides to finish at the bottom will be relegated to the Pioneer League.

Out of an estimated budget of Tk 25 lakh, sponsor Super Sign Cables will provide Tk 10 lakh, it was revealed at a press conference yesterday.

## Hockey camp called from June 7

SPORTS REPORTER

Amid the current unrest regarding the players' demands ahead of July's inter-club players' transfers, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday decided to start the preparation camp for the national team from June 7 at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkah Protisthan (BKSP).

"The BHF president (Air Marshal Enamul Bari) and all members are expecting the players to join the camp," said BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah. "A total of 33 players, who were called to join the camp initially on May 15, have been asked to report to coach Mahbub Harun at the BKSP on June 7."

The players had earlier threatened to boycott the camp in demand of immediate players' transfers and later they placed three-point demand before demanding resigning of Rahmatullah.

If the players do not join the camp, the matter would be discussed in the next executive committee meeting, scheduled to be held on June 8.

It has been learnt that the BHF president has agreed to sit with the players in a bid to solve the ongoing crisis and he is prepared to discuss issues regarding the game and the facilities but not anything regarding allegation against any person.