

# SPORT

## Mushfiqur retained as captain

## 'A career highlight'

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim has been retained as captain with Mahmudullah Riyad as his deputy until December 31 this year. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s ad-hoc committee took the decision in a marathon meeting yesterday at Mirpur where it also decided to extend Shane Jurgensen's tenure as national team head coach until March 31, 2015 while announcing a new schedule for the much-talked about Premier Division Cricket League.

In another major decision, the board has decided to send a letter to the National Sports Council (NSC) by this month requesting the sports regulatory body to proceed with the board elections. "We hope the BCB election dates will be announced within the next 30 days. We can't say anything about which constitution the election will be held under because it's the NSC who decides about all these matters," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus after the meeting. The amended 2012 BCB constitution now awaits a verdict from the court.

The Premier League will begin from August 29 and before that the player transfers/recruitment programme will be held on July 25.

"The decision to start the league at the



end of August was taken after considering the fact that a good number of cricketers will be unavailable during the first few weeks of that month due to the overseas tours of the Bangladesh A, Under 23 and Under 19 team," informed Yunus.

Mushfiqur's last term was ended after the Zimbabwe tour where the wicketkeeper batsman had announced that he would not continue as captain following his side's dismal show in the trip. However, he later termed it as an emotional outburst.

"He (Mushfiqur) confirmed to our board president several times that he has no problem to continue as a captain and that's why we extended his tenure," explained Yunus.

- Mushfiqur Rahim will continue as captain and Mahmudullah Riyad as vice-captain until December 31, 2013.
- Shane Jurgensen has been appointed head coach until March 31, 2015.
- The Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League will begin from August 29.
- The BCB election dates will be announced within the next 30 days.
- The tenure of the Akram Khan-led selection committee has been extended by 3 months.
- TV rights deal only for next home series against

It was quite surprising to see that Mushfiqur got a short-term extension when coach Jurgensen, who had been performing the role of interim head coach since the home series against the West Indies in November last year, was given a long-term assignment with an eye on the 2015 World Cup.

"Actually the reality is that we want the elected body to take such decision. But there was a different reason for Shane Jurgensen and I can't say anything more about the issue," said Yunus.

And the election issue was also the reason behind the Akram Khan-led selection panel, whose last tenure was expired on June 30

this year, getting a three-month extension (effective from July 1). Even physiotherapist Vibhav Singh and analyst Nasir Ahmed have received one year extensions to their contracts as there is a good chance the board elections will take place in September and Akram has good chance to contest in the battle of ballots.

When asked about the TV rights deal, Yunus said: "We discussed the matter and there is a possibility that we will float tenders only for one series (New Zealand tour in October) because it's a huge deal and the elected body should take the measure regarding the issue."

There had been also discussion on the problematic BPL, which has been termed as a 'pain' by none other than the board president. "The board members were unanimous in one thing that a stern action will be taken against the defaulters but before that the board president will meet one to one with the franchisees," said Yunus. The BPL governing council has already served termination letters to the franchisees.

He also said that board members were happy with the latest progress of the two venues—Cox's Bazar and Sylhet Divisional Stadium, for the next year's ICC Twenty20 World Cup.

Meanwhile, the board also decided that the family of deceased former national cricketer Mazharul Hoque Mridul will receive a contribution of Tk 5 lakh.

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's head coach Shane Jurgensen said he is 'excited and honoured' to be given the opportunity to lead the Tigers to the ICC World Cup in 2015. The Australian, whose contract has been extended till March 31, 2015 has described the move as a 'highlight' of his career.



SHANE JURGENSEN

"At my age, to have this opportunity is a fantastic thing. I truly believe that during my time the team can be ranked somewhere in the middle in limited overs cricket," Jurgensen told The Daily Star yesterday.

"In terms of a 50-over World Cup, this will be my first assignment. So I am very excited and honoured at the same time to have the extension. I hope I can bring in more stability to the team," he added.

While the extension was not much of a surprise -- the coach and the media being verbally informed of the decision before Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka this year -- the official approval in yesterday's board meeting ensured that both Jurgensen and the board were satisfied with the terms and conditions.

Jurgensen also stated that retaining Mushfiqur Rahim as captain of the side was a 'positive' move. "It's fantastic that he will continue. What happened in Zimbabwe was awkward and did create an uncomfortable situation for everyone, however, he is a real team man."

For now, Jurgensen has decided to take a week-long break to attend his son's birthday in Australia. Upon his return next Monday, he is going to pan out a strategy to prepare the Tigers for a series of tournaments which begins with a series against New Zealand at home in October this year.

## Modest finish for chess players

SPORTS REPORTER

IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and GM Niaz Murshed became 18th and 19th respectively in the men's individual section of the 4th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games which concluded in Incheon, South Korea yesterday.

Both Sagar and Niaz earned four points each from seven matches. In the seventh and final round, Sagar drew against Mongolian GM Bayarsaikhan Gundavaa while Niaz drew against Syrian FM Mohamed Samir.

In the women's individual section, WIM Shamima Akter Liza became 19th with four points while WFM Sharmin Sultana Shirin finished 26th with 3.5 points.

## SABA U-16 qualifying on

SPORTS REPORTER

Citycell 3rd U-16 FIBA Asia Championship Qualifying (South Asia Zone) started at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday. On the opening day, India outplayed Maldives by 95-50 points while the match between Bangladesh and Nepal was in progress when this report was filed.

President of Bangladesh Basketball Federation Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin was present as the chief guest while head of corporate affairs of Citycell, Taslim Ahmed was present as special guest at the opening ceremony.

## World Open Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Enamul Hossain Razib and FM Taibur Rahman got off to winning start in the World Open Chess Championship which began in Arlington, Virginia in USA yesterday.

Razib beat Faisal of Kuwait while Taibur beat George Lepez of South America, said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday. More than 800 players from different countries are participating in the championship.

## Murray, Djokovic in last 4 Semis line-up drawn

AFP, London



Andy Murray pulled off a dramatic comeback from two sets down to beat Fernando Verdasco in the Wimbledon quarterfinals and keep up home hopes of a first British champion since 1936.

The second seed defeated the 54th-ranked Spaniard 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 in a thrilling match on Centre Court.

"I came through an incredibly tough match. It could have gone the other way. I found a way to get through and that's all you need," said Murray.

Murray next faces Poland's Jerzy Janowicz in Friday's semifinals after the 24th seed became the first Polish man to reach a Grand Slam semifinal when he defeated compatriot Lukasz Kubot 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

Janowicz fired 30 aces and 58 winners before breaking down in tears and even exchanging shirts with his Davis Cup teammate.

Meanwhile, World number one Novak Djokovic reached his 13th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3 win over Czech seventh seed

Tomas Berdych.

Djokovic, the 2011 champion, will face Juan Martin del Potro -- the Argentine eighth seed, who put out Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer, 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) -- for a place in Sunday's final.

Djokovic will go into the semis not having dropped a set in the tournament while holding an 8-3 winning stranglehold against Del Potro.

Wednesday's win was the 26-year-old Djokovic's 14th in 16 career meetings with Berdych as he romped to victory despite having slipped a double-break down at 0-3 in the second set.

"It was a strong start from me. I had a few break points in the opening them. The set was decided by just one in the tiebreak," said Djokovic, fired 16 aces and 36 winners.

"It was a close match, it could have gone either way. He was a double-break up in the second set. I don't know how I got out of that, but I was serving and returning well."

AFP, London



French 15th seed Marion Bartoli reached the Wimbledon semifinals on Tuesday with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Sloane Stephens, the 17th-seeded American, despite being booed by the All England Club crowd.

Bartoli, the 2007 Wimbledon runner-up to Venus Williams, will face Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens on Thursday, who beat 2011 champion Petra Kvitova 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 for a place in the final.

"I don't get why the crowd was against me," said the 28-year-old Bartoli. "The courts are slippery when they are dry but they are even when wet they can be dangerous."

"It was just a precaution. I wanted to make sure I didn't get hurt. I didn't want to come off for any other reason."

The 27-year-old Flipkens, a close friend of fellow Belgian and former Grand Slam champion Kim Clijsters, wore down the more powerful Kvitova in two hours and five minutes of attritional tennis under the Centre Court roof.

Czech eighth seed Kvitova, who beat Maria Sharapova in the 2011 Wimbledon final, paid the price for an erratic display and Flipkens took full advantage.

Flipkens is the first Belgian to make the last four at Wimbledon since Justine Henin in 2007, an achievement she would have found impossible to imagine just 12 months ago.

### SEMIFINALS LINE-UP

Andy Murray v Jerzy Janowicz  
Novak Djokovic v Juan Martin del Potro

### SEMIFINALS LINE-UP

Sabine Lisicki (GER x23) v Agnieszka Radwanska (POL x4)  
Marion Bartoli (FRA x15) v Kirsten Flipkens (BEL x20)  
(x denotes seeded player)



World number one Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return against Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych during their Wimbledon quarterfinal match at the All England Club in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Abul needs surgery

SPORTS REPORTER



Promising Bangladesh paceman Abul Hasan, who has been suffering from a slipped disc, will need to undergo surgery to correct his problem. According to Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) sports physician Debasish Chowdhury, Abul has failed to respond to 'conservative' treatments and will now need to go under the knife to eradicate the problem.

"A disc on his back has been displaced which is applying slight pressure on a nerve and is causing problems," said Chowdhury. "He went through physiotherapy, performed various exercises and even took an injection to decrease the pain. While the symptoms did decrease, they did not reduce completely," he added.

The time and place of the operation has not been decided as yet. However, Chowdhury stated that it would take Abul at least eight weeks to come back to the field after the operation.

Fellow pacer Nazmul Hossain was the last bowler to get operated. He underwent a surgery on his left knee in Australia last month.

## Upul destroys India

AFP, Kingston



Upul Tharanga plundered the highest individual score in a one-day international (ODI) in the Caribbean as Sri Lanka steamrollered India by 161 runs in the third match of the Tri-Series at Sabina Park on Tuesday.

Replying to Sri Lanka's mammoth 348 for one in their 50 overs, in which Tharanga made an unbeaten 174 and Mahela Jayawardene 107, World Cup and Champions Trophy holders India were dismissed for just 187 in the 45th over.

"It was a bad day at the office," admitted India's stand-in captain Virat Kohli.

"We took some time to switch on in the field and by then the Sri Lankans were off and away, and even when we batted I don't think we applied ourselves as well as we should have."

India looked a pale shadow of the side that had gone unbeaten in lifting the Champions

Trophy in England just over a week earlier.

The dismissal of Kohli, standing in for the injured Mahendra Singh Dhoni, hooking his Sri Lankan counterpart Angelo Mathews to long-leg, virtually ended the match as a contest as India fell to 57 for three in the 16th over.

Earlier Jayawardene played a typically classy innings in compiling his first ODI hundred for two years and his 16th in all in a 213-run opening stand in which he out-scored Tharanga.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA:** 348 for 1 in 50 overs (Tharanga 174 not out, Jayawardene 107, Mathews 44; Ashwin 1-66)

**INDIA:** 187 all out in 44.5 overs (Dhawan 24, Vijay 30, Karthik 22, Raina 33, Jadeja 49 not out; Senanayake 2-46, Herath 3-37, Malinga 2-40)

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by 161 runs.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Upul Tharanga.

## Anando quits

SPORTS REPORTER



Expatriate booter Anando Rahman yesterday pulled out of the preliminary national football squad for the SAFF Championship after failing to cope with the humid conditions here.

Australian resident Anando, who plays for the Sydney University side, a team of the second division in the Sydney league, left the camp four days after joining the training under Dutch assistant coach Rene Koster.

"This (Wednesday) morning, Anando told the coach that he is not feeling well and can not carry and the coach let him go," said national team manager Iqbal Hossain.

It has been learnt that Anando wanted to leave the camp on Tuesday night after having played a warm-up match at the BFF Artificial Turf but he was asked to follow the procedure and left the camp yesterday morning after having met with coach Koster.

Meanwhile, left-back Ashraf Mahmud Linkon was admitted to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University after suffering a bout of dehydration, but is expected to leave hospital today.

Head coach Lodewijk De Kruijff is scheduled to arrive here on Friday.