

# SPORT

## Papon prefers long-term too

SPORTS REPORTER



Although having recently appointed Mushfiqur Rahim for only six months Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon, like the outspoken Mushfiqur, is also in favour of long-term captaincy.

When asked about Mushfiqur's criticism of BCB's practice of appointing captain series by series, the BCB boss said during the Bangladesh Umpires' and Scorers' Association website launching programme at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday: "I don't see any reason for not appointing someone for long-term but we have to decide it in the board meeting. I agree that it's not a good idea to appoint captains on a series by series basis because the players and captain both feel comfortable if someone is given enough time."

"We are thinking about the matter. We will take the final decision after watching the next series. We will appoint a captain for the long-term before the World Cup (ICC T20 World Cup in March 2014)," he added.

Ad-hoc committee member Mahbul Anam, who was also present, however stated that the elected body will take the decision regarding this matter.

Earlier, Mushfiqur blasted his short-term appointment as a 'very wrong' concept saying that it hinders progress in setting long-term goals for the team, a view supported by former captains Roquibul Hasan and Faruque Ahmed.

Regarding the board elections, Papon said that he has yet to decide whether he will contest but welcomed former board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury to contest the election.

"I had never planned to become president of the cricket board. The Prime Minister (Sheikh Hasina) gave me the responsibility, so I have to talk with her before taking any decision whatsoever if I even want to quit. But at this moment I can't say whether I will contest the election," said Papon.

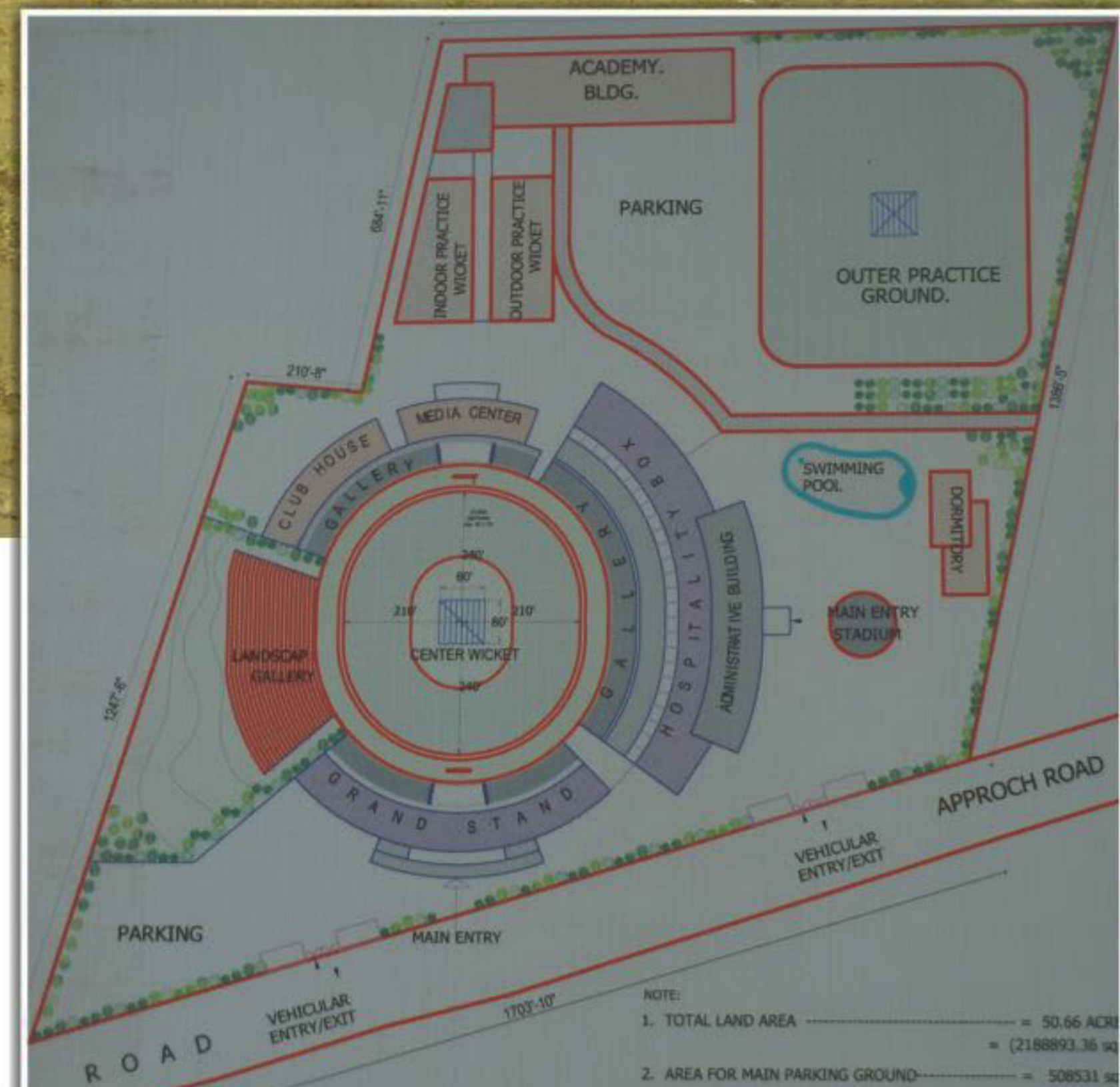
"I learned that Saber Bhai (Saber Hossain Chowdhury) will contest the board elections. I will be happy if he contests because I believe many things will be solved if he does," he added.



**GREEN STADIUM TAKING SHAPE**

In between the Laboni Point and Hotel Shaibal on the Cox's Bazar's golf course lies the proposed venue for the Women's World Twenty20 next year, which promises to be an environment-friendly venue. The International Cricket Council's requirements are the bare minimum -- a cricket ground with dressing rooms. The boundary made by the bricks in the above picture indicates where the five pitches are going to be laid. The outfield stretches up to 90 yards from the position of the pitch. Since May 29 this year, workers have been levelling the ground. The work on the pitch area began only yesterday. So far the curators have been depending on manual labour, which could eat up the entire month to complete the groundwork. They await machines such as bulldozers, which will arrive only when the army joins in the construction work on July 11, according to Bangladesh Cricket Board officials. A layout of the venue is on the right.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN (POLTU)



## TV STING SLC bans 2 ump

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka cricket bosses on Tuesday banned two umpires named by an Indian television programme last year that claimed they were willing to make favourable decisions during matches for cash.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said it banned Sagara Gallage for 10 years from umpiring in domestic matches, and Maurice de la Zilwa for three years after a disciplinary hearing over allegations in the television sting.

SLC did not give details of the hearing nor the allegations against the pair, but official cricket sources said the disciplinary panel found sufficient evidence to punish them.

Three of the six named by the TV programme were from Sri Lanka, while two were from Pakistan. The sixth was Nadir Shah, who was banned for 10 years by Bangladesh authorities in March.

## Hype worries England

Ashes series starts in Nottingham today

AFP, Nottingham



These are good times to be a British sports fan.

Last weekend saw the British and Irish Lions win their first series in 16 years when they defeated Australia in Sydney and Andy Murray become the first British winner of the Wimbledon Men's Singles title since Fred Perry in 1936.

Murray's victory over Novak Djokovic sparked a mood of national sporting euphoria not seen since ... well in fact seen as recently as last year's London Olympics when British competitors won a clutch of gold medals.

But euphoria is a hard thing to translate from one sport to another.

England are favourites as they bid for a third straight Test series win over arch rivals Australia starting in Nottingham on Wednesday.

However, the lesson of history is that touring Australia parties billed as "the weakest to travel for an Ashes" are rarely that. The last time that line was used was in 1989 when Australia regained the Ashes by a 4-0 margin.

Australia were thrashed 4-0 in India, where England won late last



England captain Alastair Cook (L) and his Australia counterpart Michael Clarke pose with the Ashes urn at Trent Bridge yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

year, in March and come into this series with huge question marks over their batting which, with the exception of captain Michael Clarke, battling a longstanding back problem, lacks proven world-class performers.

However, an attack set to be led by Peter Siddle -- fifth in the world rankings -- and likely to feature promising pacesman James Pattinson could cause England problems.

"We're not going into this game viewing the Australians as anything other than a very difficult team to beat - despite recent results in India ... we're not viewing them as a pushover at all," said England off-spinner Graeme Swann, "set to play on his Trent Bridge home ground on Wednesday."

"[Favourites] tags like that are quite dangerous if you start believing them -- start believing your own hype."

## De Kruif takes test of technique, stamina

SPORTS REPORTER



Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif has been scrutinising every aspect of the footballers at the camp before picking a 23-member squad for the SAFF Championship.

On the eleventh day after training started, the Dutch coach took two sessions to test out his players' technique and stamina.

The coaching staff is seemingly increasing the load so that they can pick the right choices for the regional football extravaganza where Bangladesh have set their sights on the coveted title they clinched in 2003.

Yesterday, the second session was comparatively a light one where the coaches worked on techniques and tactics, but the fitness level of the players still remained a worry for the coaches.

De Kruif even talked to the BFF president about the players' fitness and expressed his disappointment saying that he had to start from the scratch as the fitness level of the players are more or less similar to what he had seen during the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers in March.

In the second session, the booters went through thirty minutes of passing session in

a certain circle before they, split into two groups, had the same routine in smaller circles. The goal-keeping coach Jahidul Islam Milon worked with four goalkeepers.

The booters will get nearly 27 hours of rest before they play their first practice match against Team BJMC today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Though de Kruif had earlier said they would pick the final squad by this week, but he may take a few more days as there is another practice match lined up for Saturday.

The booters will also get some international practice matches as well before the SAFF Championship as Pakistan have showed their interest to play two matches against Bangladesh in August. Bangladesh have agreed to play one match on August 13 or 14. However, the BFF may provide a club side for the second match against Pakistan.

Meanwhile, another expatriate booter named Farhan Khan joined the national camp yesterday. Farhan, a student of economics at the George Washington University in United States, plays for the university side as a midfielder. Farhan left Bangladesh six years ago after completing his schooling from the International School, Dhaka.

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