

SPORT

How much will be revealed?

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Ever since Mohammad Ashraful confessed to fixing in cricket there have been many questions that have been doing the rounds among the general public: How many games did he fix? Was he compelled to fix those games? Is there any other Bangladeshi involved in fixing?

On Sunday, when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced that top ICC officials, would arrive here on Monday with the ACSU report and that the governing body would hold a joint press conference with the BCB the day after, many might have thought there would finally be some answers.

An ICC delegation, led by its CEO Dave Richardson, arrived here yesterday evening. It was learnt that both the BCB and the ICC officials did not waste any time to sit for a meeting last night to outline the proposed press conference.

It could also be learnt, after the meeting, that neither party would prefer naming any name to the media though the BCB was reportedly in favour of revealing as much information as possible. Besides, there would be no revelation regarding the accusations raised with regard to match-fixing in international matches.

The ICC had earlier also informed the BCB through a letter that the two parties would not disclose any names with regard

to the investigation in order to avoid legal complications. Instead, the ICC would provide the BCB with its findings and recommendations, after which the BCB will have to follow the ICC's disciplinary procedure before deeming anybody as guilty.

As per the disciplinary procedure, if the designated anti-corruption official alleges that a participant has committed an offence under the anti-corruption code, and the participant denies the allegation, then the matter shall be referred to the chairman of the disciplinary panel after which a tribunal will be formed.

If the ICC decides not to disclose names then the question remains as to what they would be addressing at the press conference, which will include Richardson and BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon, scheduled to take place at a city hotel this afternoon.

While the disciplinary procedure is a customary one and was adhered to in banning umpire Nadir Shah earlier this year, members of the board had earlier stated that in order to speed up the decision-making process they would form a tribunal only if there was not enough evidence against the accused.

In order to discuss these issues the BCB will have a board meeting today morning. The meeting will apprise the board members of the ACSU report, besides discussing the BCB election issues.



PHOTO: AFP

England's Stuart Broad is ecstatic after taking the last wicket to win the fourth Ashes test match against Australia in Durham yesterday.

BD U-19s lose again

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A brilliant unbeaten century by Harry Finch led England Under-19s to a five wicket victory over Bangladesh U-19s at Grace Road, Leicester last night. Chasing a target of 171, the hosts chased down the target with three balls remaining. It was England's first win of the tri-nation tournament, involving Pakistan as well.

Earlier, after an early hiccup, a captain's knock from Mehedy Hasan helped Bangladesh Under-19 to a decent total of 170.

Mehedy hit a 61-ball 41 that included eight boundaries as Bangladesh Under-19s recovered from 61 for five to score 170 all out in 42.3 overs. Joyraz Sheikh was the other notable scorer with a 51-ball 29 and shared in a 69-run sixth wicket partnership with Mehedy.

Right-arm paceman Jack Winslade was the most successful bowler, taking four wickets for 39 runs.

Bangladesh Under-19s won their first match against their English counterparts by 38 runs.

Meanwhile, pacer Mustafizur Rahman returned home yesterday, laid low by an ankle injury which will take six weeks to heal.

Shakib takes 2 wickets in Tridents' loss

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Ace allrounder Shakib Al Hasan finished with figures of 2 for 25 for the Barbados Tridents in Sunday's Caribbean Premier League match against Guyana Amazon Warriors but could not prevent his side from sliding to a 27-run defeat.

Shakib took his total tally of wickets to nine in the tournament but continued his disappointing form with the bat as he scored just three runs in the game. Batting first the Warriors posted 149. In reply Tridents were bowled out for 122 in 19.4 overs. Tridents will play their next game against Antigua Hawksbills at North Sound on the night of August 13. Viewers in Dhaka will be able to watch the game on Sony Six at 6 am on August 14.

Injured Pat back home

AFP, Sydney

Young fast bowler Pat Cummins has returned home early from Australia A's tour of South Africa with a back complaint in yet another injury setback. Cricket Australia (CA) said Monday.

Cummins took six wickets in three tour matches against Zimbabwe, South Africa A and India A over the past month, but CA said he would return early to have his injury treated.

Malaysia being wooed

More local matches for booters

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The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is trying to arrange a couple of practice matches for the national team ahead of the SAFF Championship to make up for the loss of the cancelled August 16 friendly against Pakistan.

The game was important for coach Lodewijk de Kruif to rectify the mistakes his charges made in the two practice matches against Thai club Osotspa Saraburi and the Thailand U-19 team during their eight-day tour and fine-tune his starting combination before leaving for Nepal for the SAFF Championship which will be held from August 31 to September 11.

The football's governing body has already taken initiatives to arrange a couple of matches against a local side, which will be comprised of players who were dropped from the SAFF preliminary squad as well as three to four foreign players, who are at the moment in Bangladesh. The first match is scheduled to take place today.

"After the cancellation of Pakistan's tour to Bangladesh, we have two options -- holding a couple of matches against a local side and playing a practice match outside country. We are going to form a local side consisting of national discarded players as well as three to four foreign players. We have also requested the Malaysian Football Federation to arrange a match between Bangladesh and Malaysia. If Malaysia national side is not available, then they

might arrange a match against a top club of the Malaysian Premier League," said BFF vice president and National Teams Committee chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed yesterday.

Bangladesh have requested Malaysia to host the match on either August 22 or 23 so that they can fly straight to Nepal on August 24, seven days before the start of the championship in a bid to acclimatise with the conditions.

Nabil also informed that if the tour of Malaysia does not materialise, then the national team would play one more match against the local side.

Meanwhile, title contenders India, Maldives, hopeful Afghanistan and hosts Nepal are all getting their last-minute preparations abroad ahead of the regional extravaganza.



ICC's chief executive officer Dave Richardson (R) on his arrival at the Hazrat Shahjajal International Airport yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

Broad makes it 3-0

AFP, Chester-le-street



Stuart Broad bowled England to a stunning 74-run fourth Test win over Australia with more than a day to spare as they took

an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match Ashes series.

Australia, set 299 to win on Monday's fourth day at Chester-le-Street, were well-placed at 168 for two but slumped to 224 all out as paceman Broad took six wickets for 50 runs for a Test-best match haul of 11 for 121.

The victory means England, who had already retained the Ashes, have won three successive Test series against Australia for the first time since the 1950s.

Australia, looking for their first win in eight Tests, lost five wickets for 13 runs as 168 for two was transformed into 181 for seven.

Man-of-the-match Broad, who had taken five first-innings wickets, enjoyed a purple patch of six wickets for 20 runs in 45 balls, with Tim Bresnan taking two for eight in 24.

David Warner and fellow left-hander Chris Rogers gave Australia a solid platform with an opening stand of 109 before first-innings century-maker Rogers edged off-spinner Graeme Swann to Jonathan Trott at slip on 49.

Swann then had Usman Khawaja lbw for 21.

Warner, who missed the first two Tests of the series, both of which Australia lost, after being banned for punching home batsman Joe

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings 238				
AUSTRALIA: First innings 270				
ENGLAND: Second innings				
(overnight 234-5)				
Cook c Haddin b Harris		22		
Root b Harris		2		
Trott c Haddin b Harris		23		
Pietersen c Rogers b Lyon		44		
Bell b Harris		113		
Bairstow c Haddin b Lyon		28		
Bresnan c & b Harris		45		
Prior b Harris		0		
Broad c Smith b Harris		13		
Swann not out		30		
Anderson c Haddin b Lyon		0		
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-1)		10		
Total: (All out in 95.1 overs)		330		
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-42, 3-49, 4-155, 5-221, 6-251, 7-251, 8-275, 9-317				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harris	28	2	117	7
Bird	20.3	6	67	0
Watson	6.3	1	22	0
Siddle	17	4	59	0
Lyon	22.1	3	55	3
Smith	1	0	1	0
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (target 299)				
Rogers c Trott b Swann		49		
Warner c Prior b Bresnan		71		
Khawaja lbw b Swann		21		
Clarke b Broad		21		
Smith b Broad		2		
Watson lbw b Bresnan		2		
Haddin lbw b Broad		4		
Siddle c Anderson b Broad		23		
Harris lbw b Broad		11		
Lyon b Broad		8		
Bird not out		1		
Extras: (b-6, lb-5)		11		
Total: (all out in 68.3 overs)		224		
Fall of wicket: 1-109, 2-147, 3-168, 4-174, 5-175, 6-179, 7-181, 8-199, 9-211, 10-224				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	16	1	73	0
Broad	18.3	3	50	6
Bresnan	13	2	36	2
Swann	18	6	53	2
Root	3	2	1	0

'Simply have not adjusted'

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Three defeats in the first three games of the tour, against England's county sides, wasn't exactly the start that many expected from a strong Bangladesh A team. While the first two matches— which they lost by eight and seven runs respectively—yielded close results, the seven-wicket defeat against Lancashire on Sunday proved that the A team is yet to adjust to the foreign conditions.

The batsmen have been hit the worst. Each of the last three games saw the side lose their top seven players by the time the score reached the 150-mark.

"We simply have not been able to

adjust to the conditions as yet. It's raining a bit here and the ball is swinging a lot and also has an extra bounce. The batsmen are finding it difficult," manager Nasir Ahmed Nasu told The Daily Star over the phone. "The county teams are really good as well. Their professional setup is almost similar to our national setup," he added.

The constant travelling has been another issue. "We haven't received a break from travelling. Each of the three matches was played in different venues. We just play a match and then get ready to go to another venue to play another the next day," he added.

With Bangladesh expected to face similarly daunting conditions in Australia and New Zealand in the 2015 world cup and with no away tours scheduled for the next six months, the

current tour is bound to play a significant role in the national team management's future plans. Also, many players currently playing for the A team have recently been part of the senior side such as batsmen Anamul Haque, Naeem Islam, Jahurul Islam and off-spinner Shohag Gazi.

As Nasir puts it, "The wickets back home are flat and slow. We need to simulate the conditions abroad and build something like that in our own country."

Despite the bad start Nasir was confident of a turnaround over the rest of the tour. "They haven't broken down and they are confident. I believe that if we score around 230 plus, we can comfortably win the games because our bowling and fielding have been good so far."

Nadal routs Raonic

AFP, Montreal



Spain's Rafael Nadal took just 68 minutes to deliver a body-blow to Canada's biggest tennis week, hammering out a 6-2, 6-2 win

over Milos Raonic in the final of the Montreal Masters.

The dominating victory, in which the big-hitting Canadian's serve was all but nullified by precision returns from Nadal, marked the 25th Masters 1000 title for the 12-time Grand Slam champion who now owns eight trophies this season and 58 in his career.

Nadal showed no weakness on Sunday as he broke Raonic twice in the opening set, broke on a double-fault to start the second and claimed his

fourth Masters title of the season after Indian Wells, Madrid and Rome.

"This was an amazing victory for me," said Nadal, who lost only one point in the opening set on serve.

"I knew my serve would be very important and I felt consistent. My returns were also unbelievable.

"I played a fantastic match against a tough opponent. He just had a few more mistakes today than usual."

Nadal will move back to third place on the ATP world rankings on Monday while Raonic moves to No. 10, becoming the first Canadian to reach the magic number.

Nadal remains undefeated this season on the hardcourts after winning the Indian Wells title in March. He also won in Canada in 2005 and 2008.



PHOTO: AFP

Rafael Nadal of Spain displays his Montreal Masters trophy.