

# Selectors on way out, BCB on its haunches

SPORTS REPORTER



Chief selector Akram Khan said yesterday that selecting the squad for the home series against New Zealand will be his last assignment.

The former national skipper was nominated as a councillor by the Chittagong Divisional Sports Association and is eagerly looking forward to his new role as a cricket administrator.

"I will not continue as a selector as I will contest the board elections. I will meet with board president (Nazmul Hassan Papon) before tendering my resignation because we have the home series against New Zealand next month," said Akram.

"We have a meeting tomorrow where we will decide upon the preliminary squad for the series and this will be my last assignment as a chief selector. It may be that we select a big squad for the three-day practice match and pick the Test team from there, or name a separate team for the three-day match. We have talked about the team but are yet to finalise anything," he added.

The fate of the selection com-

mittee is currently fraught with uncertainty as the current panel's extended tenure will end on September 30 and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to take a decision on the matter. Meanwhile, selector Minhajul Abedin will not be available during the series even if the board decides to continue with the current committee -- the third member of which is Habibul Bashar -- as the former skipper will leave the country on September 27 to perform the Hajj.

"Yes, we are in a difficult situation. But we have to take a decision regarding the selection committee because we have a home series next month which will be followed by another home series against Sri Lanka," said Enayet Hossain Siraj, chairman of BCB's cricket operations committee and also an ad-hoc committee member.

New Zealand will arrive in Dhaka on October 1 and fly to Chittagong on the same day, where they will kick off their campaign with a three-day practice match starting from October 4 at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. The first Test of the two-match series will begin from October 9 at the same venue.

After that there will be a week-long Eid holiday. The second Test and three ODIs will take place in Dhaka and the only T20 International is likely to be held at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium, which is yet to receive ICC approval as an international venue.

# Shakib ready for cautious return

SPORTS REPORTER



Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been cleared by the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) medical team to play in the Dhaka Premier League on a 'protected participation' basis. The player, who had injured his left thumb in the West Indies during the Caribbean Premier League, went through an X-ray on Monday, which yielded positive reports.

The bowler at an event yesterday told reporters that he had the New Zealand series in mind and would return to the field for Kalabagan Krira Chakra from the fifth round onwards.

"We compared this report to the one done immediately after the injury and the injury has healed significantly. There is no problem from my side. He can play the next game if he wants to," said the national team's sports physician Debasish Chowdhury.

"He will need to take a cautious approach. He needs to play with protection on his thumb and he has been advised against fielding close to the bat in case his reflexes are a bit slow. Basically he should take it a little easy in the first game," added Debasish.

Apart from Shakib, the pace department of the national lineup-up has also been having certain small-scale issues. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's legs have swollen following Abahani's match against Mohammedan on Sunday.

"His cartilages and bones have been operated on so many times that if he takes a lot of pressure, his legs will swell due to reactive fusion. However, there's no pain, so it's not much of a worry,"

"He has been given medication and he is going through physiotherapy right now. It's still too early to say if he can't play any more matches in the league," said Debasish.

Robiul Islam too had suffered from a hamstring injury while playing football last week. He was scheduled to return to competitive cricket yesterday, but he sat out of Victoria's match as BCB sports physio Vibhav Singh decided to extend his resting period to be on the safe side.

# Wali Ullah to be terminated

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has decided in principle to terminate its high-paying Director General retired colonel Wali Ullah for his alleged 'oppression of the officials' of the different national federations in the last few years.

The decision was taken at the executive committee meeting yesterday with BOA president and Army Chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan in chair.

"We will let you know about him (Wali Ullah) through a press conference," said BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza, who did not go into details about the reasons behind such move against Wali Ullah,

But one of the BOA vice presidents, seeking anonymity said, "There is a massive amount of indignation in most of the national federations against Wali Ullah due to his dictatorship and misbehaviour."

During the care-taker government in 2007-08, Wali Ullah allegedly exercised his influence to favour his own people in different federations and interfered in polls.

There is a whisper that the BOA will have to compensate worth two years benefit if Wali Ullah is terminated. "We have also learnt that Wali Ullah made the change to the agreement during the last executive committee led by Kutubuddin Ahmed but we are still in dark about it and the secretary general will take care of it."

Wali Ullah was appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) at BOA in 2004 before he was promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He was later made Director General. Wali Ullah is reportedly paid Tk 1.5 lakh per month along with transport, mobile and others facilities.



Rokibul Hasan of Gazi Tank Cricketers launches one over long-on during his quickfire half-century against Cricket Coaching School in a Dhaka Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Styris, Rokibul clinch a thriller

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**CCS:** 255 for 7 in 50 overs (Salman 73, Gihan 55; Arafat Sunny 3-50, Rubel 2-45)  
**GAZI TANK:** 259 for 5 in 49.1 overs (Styris 102, Rokibul 58; Asif Ahmed 2-47).  
**Result:** Gazi Tank won by five wickets.

**VICTORIA:** 231 all out in 48.4 overs (Anamul 70, Shalika 70; Jehan 3-38, Forhad 2-14)  
**KALABAGAN:** 146 all out in 46.5 overs (Tasamul 34; Enamul 3-20, Nasir 3-21)  
**Result:** Victoria won by 85 runs.

**PRIME BANK:** 182 all out in 48.5 overs (Saykat 52, Thirimanne 52; Shohag Gazi 3-29, T Sampath 3-34)  
**PRIME DOLESHWAR:** 183 for 5 in 45.4 overs (Roshan 63; Enamul Haque Jr 2-42)  
**Result:** Prime Doleshwar won by five wickets.

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Scott Styris's first century (102) of the Dhaka Premier League seemed to be going in vain at Mirpur yesterday before a timely half-century from Rokibul Hasan, who scored a 51-ball 58 after coming in at five led Gazi Tank Cricketers to a five wicket win over Cricket Coaching School at Mirpur.

In the day's other games, a pair of 70s from Anamul Haque Bijoy and Sri Lankan Shalika Karunanayake led Victoria Sporting Club to an 85-run win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra at Fatullah. The day also saw

Prime Doleshwar overtake Mohammedan at the top of the table when they beat Prime Bank Cricket Club by five wickets at the BKSP.

After electing to bat at Mirpur, CCS rode on half-centuries from Barisal's Salman (73) and their foreign recruit Gihan Rupasinghe (55) to post 255 for seven. In the chase, Gazi Tank stumbled to 26 for 2 in the first six overs. A 122-run partnership for the third wicket between Imrul Kayes (54) and Styris helped them recover. Kayes, captaining the side in place of Mahmudullah Riyad who sat out the match feeling under the weather, was dropped early in the

innings and went on to score his first 50 of the tournament. Rokibul came in at five and smacked two sixes and six fours in six overs to take Gazi Tank home in the last over. There were a few close calls, which further intensified the second innings. At one stage CCS thought that they had gotten rid of Rokibul through a catch in the outfield which was eventually turned down. Replays showed that the ball had bounced just in front of the fielder.

Meanwhile at Fatullah, Victoria put up a decent 231 after electing to bat first. Kalabagan's Jehan Mubarak took his tally of wickets to 13 in the tournament after finishing with figures of three for

38 yesterday.

In reply, quick wickets pegged back Kalabagan right from the start of the chase. They were bowled out for 146 in 46.5 overs. Spinner Enamul Haque and captain Nasir Hossain chipped in with three wickets each.

The game at the BKSP saw Prime Bank Cricket Club lose their second game of the tournament. Half-centuries from Lahiru Thirimanne (51) and Saykat Ali (52) helped Prime Bank post 182. In reply Prime Doleshwar's Roshan Shiwanika Silva scored an unbeaten 63 to guide Doleshwar home. Silva with 254 runs now leads the tournament's run-scorers.

# Form submission a day-nighter!

SPORTS REPORTER



Tuesday was the last date for the clubs, DSAs and other parties concerned to send back the prescribed form by nominating their councillors to the Bangladesh Cricket

Board (BCB).

But since BCB did not mention any particular time as the deadline, officials at the board had to wait until midnight to receive the forms.

"As we didn't give any cut-off time, so we have to wait till 12 midnight," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

The home of cricket in Mirpur was abuzz with the presence of the organisers since morning, but Kazi Jahirul Islam made his presence felt to everybody as the councillor nominated by Young Cricketers, a Mirpur-based club, came to the board along with around two hundred supporters including ruling party MP Shahida Tareq Dipti.

71 district and divisional councillors will elect 10 directors, 58 councillors from the clubs will elect 12 directors, one director will be elected by the 45 councillors from Category Three and the National Sports Council (NSC) will nominate three directors in the upcoming BCB elections, the date of which has not yet been announced.

## Titans beat Brisbane

PTI, Mohali

Titans defeated Brisbane Heat by four runs in a Group B match of the Champions League Twenty20 at Mohali on Tuesday.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**TITANS:** 123 all out in 18.5 overs (Davids 39, Kuhn 31, De Villiers 28; Gale 4-10, Christain 2-16)  
**BRISBANE HEAT:** 119 all out in 20 overs (Hopes 37, Christain 21, Sabburg 19; Richards 2-20, De Lange 3-13)  
**Result:** Titans won by 4 runs.

## Sk Jamal Stadium opens today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will host Mohammedan Sporting Club today for a pre-season friendly at the newly renovated Faridpur district stadium, which has been renamed as Sheikh Jamal Stadium.

The stadium took a facelift after Tk 50m worth of work took place to turn it into a modern stadium. The Faridpur District Football Association (DFA), to mark this occasion, invited two of the giants of the Bangladesh Premier League to play a friendly match there.

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engineer Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will inaugurate the stadium as the chief guest. Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin is also expected to be present there. Faridpur District Commissioner Mainuddin Ahmed, Sheikh Jamal DC president Manjur Kader and Mohammedan's director-in-charge of administration, Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan will also be present on the occasion.

## BOA rewards record setters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) finally handed over its promised money to the athletes who produced national records during the 8th Bangladesh Games in April this year.

BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza had announced reward of Tk one lakh each for setting new national records which inspired the athletes to set 22 national records -- nine in swimming, six in weightlifting, three in cycling, two in archery and one in athletics.

The BOA, however, backtracked from its previous decision of giving Tk one lakh for each record as swimmer Mahfizur Rahman had to be content with only Tk one lakh for four records. Swimmer Romana Akter, who set two records, received only Tk one lakh.

BOA also honoured all the sponsors who came forward to hold the 8th Bangladesh Games and the Olympic Day Run.

## BSJA cricket kicks off

SPORTS REPORTER

Pran-Frooto BSJA Media Cup Cricket Tournament kicked-off at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday. The first day of the tournament witnessed six group-stage matches. The winners on the day were ATN News, The Daily Manobjabin, The Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Kaler Kantho, Channel I and Channel 24. The six-a-side tournament, sponsored by Pran RFL group will witness 26 media houses from the print, electronic and online media battle it out for the championship this week.

## Palash, Soma crowned champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Palash and Soma claimed the titles of the men's and women's singles respectively on the concluding day of Walton Mobile Open Table Tennis Competition at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday. Palash beat Ripon in 4-3 sets in the men's final while Soma beat Urmi in straight 4-0 sets to clinch the women's title. Hridoy beat Antu of Biman in 3-1 sets to win the boys' singles (U-18) title while Sabbir beat Sakib in 3-0 sets to clinch the cadet singles (U-15) title.

## Abahani shelf Dutch plans

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani is likely to backtrack from their initial plan of roping in a Dutch coach for the upcoming season as the Sky Blues yesterday interviewed Australian coach Nathan Hall and is supposed to interview an English coach within a few days.

Having met with the Abahani officials, Nathan Hall left Dhaka yesterday after the completion of two-day talks.

"Nathan arrived here on Sunday from Thailand and now we will interview an English coach or talk with him over phone in case he cannot be here," said Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu. "We are likely to appoint one of those two."

Abahani had a few Dutch coaches in their short list but might have backtracked from their plan after the failure of the Dutch coaches in the national football team.

## Shafiq loses lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, Grand Master Abdullah Al Rakib and International Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Shagor shared the lead in the Berger Paints 39th National Chess Championship at the close of the fourth round at the Bangladesh Olympic Association's Media Centre yesterday.

Zia, who played in catalan opening style with white pieces in this round, beat Jamal Uddin after 33 moves while Rakib, playing in classical variation with black pieces, beat Shafiq after 28 moves.

## Losing end for BD women

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team lost the third and last ODI against their South African counterparts by eight wickets at Centurion yesterday. Batting first, Bangladesh rode on a half-century from Ayesha Rahman (70) to post 177.

The hosts however romped to their target in just 38 overs. Trisha Chetty scored 76 while Marizanne Kapp scored 59.

With the loss, the Bangladeshis ended a disappointing away tour, losing both the ODI and T20I series by three games to