

SAFF DEBACLE Stern action advised

SPORTS REPORTER



10 days after it was formed the fact-finding committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), formed to investigate the failure at the SAFF Championship, came out with a number of recommendations yesterday. The convenor of the three-member committee, BFF vice-president Badal Roy -- Tabith Awal and Shamsul Alam Chowdhury being the other two members -- read out the findings and recommendations which they handed over to president Kazi Salahuddin at the BFF House.

The committee recommended stern punishment against winger Zahid Hossain, who has been found guilty of gross negligence in his commitment to the team during the tournament and also in the past, and who failed to appear before the fact-finding committee for an interview. Although Roy did not articulate any specific punishment, he hinted that the talented winger must be banned from the national team and also club engagement.

"Zahid was irregular in training, avoided his duties and failed to perform which disappointed the nation greatly. His response to the fact-finding committee was also very disrespectful," Badal Roy read.

Roy also said that some of the key players -- Mamunul Islam, Sohel Rana and Shakhawat Hossain -- who have either underperformed or hid injuries, should be cautioned against repeats of such behaviour in the future.

The committee also found goalkeeping coach Kees Kalk's teaching unsatisfactory. But since Kalk's two-month tenure is going to come to an end soon, no action was recommended.

The committee identified some cases of negligence or indifference against head coach Lodewijk de Kruif and cautioned him, as far as his training methods and discipline were concerned.

Zia takes lead

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GM Ziaur Rahman took the lead in the Berger Paints 39th National 'A' Chess Championship with 6 points after the 7th round at the Media Centre of Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday. In the 7th round, Zia beat FM Aminul Islam. GM Abdullah Al Rakib and IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar were in joint second position with 5.5 points each after Rakib beat Sagar in this round. GM Enamul Hossain Razib beat FM Debaraj Chatterjee to collect five points and positioned himself in third place.

BHF president takes time

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) president Air Marshal Enamul Bari sought time before taking any decisions about the debacle in the Asia Cup, as he was handed the report of the fact-finding committee along with the coach's and manager's reports, after a governing body meeting yesterday.

Bari said he would analyse all the three reports and call for a meeting on October 10 or 11 to come to a decision on the issue.

"I'm working with three different reports issued by coach, manager and the fact-finding committee. I believe that after assessing all the reports, we can take the necessary decision in our next meeting," said Bari.

BHF president also mentioned that he would talk to the coach, the captain, the team manager and other concerned people if necessary. "Whatever we do will be for the betterment of hockey, as we don't want to blame anyone purposefully," Bari said.



PHOTO: STAR

Prime Doleswar's captain and hero of the match Forhad Reza is having a ride on the shoulders of his teammates after their dramatic win over Gazi Tank in the Dhaka Premier League in Mirpur yesterday. Forhad took two crucial wickets and defended eleven runs in the last over of the match.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Relieve fitness trainer
- Punish Zahid Hossain
- Caution three players (Mamunul, Sohel, Shakhawat)
- Tag a person with the coach
- Make premier league more competitive
- Create a national pool of 20-25 players

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Titans stay afloat

CRICINFO, Ranchi



Group B might still be the more open of the two groups, but Titans gave their chances of progressing quite a boost with a thumping victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in Ranchi on Saturday.

That didn't look likely when Shikhar Dhawan and Parthiv Patel were belting some wayward bowling from Titans around in a rapid half-century opening stand, but, as has always been the worry for Sunrisers, their middle-order frailty was exposed and, this time, their bowlers failed to bail them out.

Captain Henry Davids, who has been prolific in most domestic games recently, and Jacques Rudolph -- who had got into double digits only three times in his previous eight T20 innings -- were involved in what was only the second century stand of the tournament, as Titans chased down 146 without breaking a sweat.

Davids took the early initiative, hitting six boundaries in the Powerplay, the highlight being an inside-hit off Dale Steyn over the covers for six. By the time he was dis-

missed for 64 in the 13th over, Titans needed just 34 more and Rudolph saw them through though he couldn't secure a half-century. Victory was sealed in the 17th over, with eight wickets to spare.

Sunrisers' openers had got off to a similarly dominating start after being inserted. Dhawan and Parthiv took advantage, lofting the repeated deliveries comfortably outside off stump over the infield. But, playing primarily in the air cost Dhawan when he picked out third man in the first over after the Powerplay.

Medium pacer David Wiese was the bowler and, buoyed by that big wicket, he went on to turn the tide of the match. He had Patel bowled with a slower ball while hitting across the line and Hanuma Vihari caught brilliantly at midwicket with a well-directed short delivery.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 145 for 7 in 20 overs (Dhawan 37, Steyn 27 not out, Patel 26; Wiese 3-17)

TITANS: 147 for 2 in 16.3 overs (Davids 64, Rudolph 49 not out; Steyn 1-23)

Result: Titans won by 8 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Henry Davids.



Titans captain Henry Davids attacks off the front foot on way to hammering 64 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Champions League T20 in Ranchi yesterday.

Siddikur slips

SPORTS REPORTER

A day after getting the good news that he will be participating in the World Cup in November this year, Siddikur Rahman endured a frustrating third round in the Asia-Pacific Panasonic Open as he played a three-over-par (74).

The 29-year old golfer, who had even par scores in the first two rounds, had a difficult third round as he traded three birdies for four bogeys and a double-bogey at the Ibaraki Country Club on Saturday. That performance saw him slip from overnight 25th to 33rd position out of 60 players on the leaderboard.

Park Sung-Joon of Korea took a two-shot lead after firing a three-under-par 68 and took his tally to seven-under-par 206.



Shakib Al Hasan is recovering from a thumb injury and expected to play for Kalabagan Krira Chakra tomorrow, his first Premier League game this season.

PHOTO: STAR

Sibley out, finally!

REUTERS, London

Eighteen-year-old Surrey batsman Dominic Sibley was bowled out for 242 against Yorkshire on Friday after entering the record books as the youngest double centurion in English county cricket.

Aged 18 years and 21 days, the schoolboy batted for 599 minutes and faced 536 balls in an innings that included two sixes and 24 fours before he was bowled by Ryan Sidebottom.

Sibley's maiden first-class century arrived off 301 deliveries, making him the youngest Surrey player to reach that landmark. The previous record was set by Jack Crawford in 1905 at the age of 18 and 257 days.

The 200 came 183 balls later, with a boundary that brought the crowd to its feet and made Sibley the second youngest Englishman to score a first-class double century since WG Grace -- who did it against Surrey at The Oval in 1866.

Naimur rejects Forum claims

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national skipper Naimur Rahman, who has been nominated as councillor from the Manikganj district, has refuted Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers Council's claims of irregularities in the councillor's nomination from the district.

The organisation alleged that the process of nomination of the councillor from certain districts did not follow the constitution and was influenced by the government.

Speaking to reporters in an impromptu press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, the former national captain said: "The claims are baseless. I had expressed my interest in becoming councillor from Manikganj a long time back and I had done nothing more than that. I have complete support from the Manikganj district," said Rahman.

The organisation, known as Forum, had made similar claims against the nomination of Akram Khan from the Chittagong Division and Akram too had refuted the claims, stating that the entire process had taken place 'according to the constitution' and in a 'democratic manner'.

The councillors will be responsible for electing 26 directors in the board who will in turn elect the next president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

The elections which are scheduled for October 10 will clash with Bangladesh's first Test against New Zealand, set to begin on October 9, making things rather difficult for officials who are participating in both the events. Rahman, who has been named the manager of the national team, is one of them.

"It will no doubt be challenging since the elections and the series will go side by side. I have to motivate the team and at the same time I might be a bit tense about the elections. However, I will still try my best to encourage the team," said Rahman.

Four new records

SPORTS REPORTER

Four new national records were set on the second day of the Bashundhara 29th National Age-group Swimming Competition at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday. BKSP's Zahidul Islam set a new record in the 100m butterfly (boys' 13-14 years) at 1:04:07 minutes to win the gold medal. Nayan Ali (boys' u-12) of Lalon Shah academy won the 200m freestyle event in record time (2:22:39 mins). Rasheda Khatun (girls' U-10) of Meherpur Swimming Club won the 50m freestyle gold in a record 36:59 seconds while Marium Khatun (Girls 15-17) of Sagarkhali Swimming Club won the gold in the 200m butterfly event in record time (3:03:17 mins).

Agrani Bank to fund Nat'l Youth C'ship

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Agrani Bank Limited yesterday to hold the National Youth Championship from 2013 to 2015, at the Bangladesh Olympic Association Auditorium yesterday. According to the MoU, Agrani Bank will provide Tk 36 lakh for staging of the competition over three years, the first instalment of which (Tk 11 lakh) was handed over yesterday.

Syed Abdul Hamid, MD and CEO of Agrani Bank Limited, said that as a state-owned bank it is part of their corporate social responsibility to be associated with the long-term development of the game.

Rangamati, BJMC in final

SPORTS REPORTER

BJMC and Rangamati District reached the final of the Walton Invitational National Women's Handball Tournament beating their respective semifinal opponents at the National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Shahida scored six goals as BJMC thrashed Dinajpur 21-1 in the day's first semifinal while Rangamati defeated Dhaka by 25-18 goals in the second semifinal.

The final and third-place deciding matches will be held today at the same venue.