

BCB's director Akram hopes for the best

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board's director-elect Akram Khan said he expects his new job as a director to be more challenging than his previous experiences as a player, captain and chief selector.

Speaking to reporters at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Akram said, "It was my dream to become a director. One can't talk about it much right now. The result of my work can only be seen in four years time and hopefully it will be a good period."

"There are high expectations on me. I feel that this might be a bigger challenge than when I played or was the selector, or captain. I will have to work with everyone together and will need their cooperation," he added.

Corruption tribunals in 2-3 days

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday informed it will take more time to form the tribunals which will be responsible for conducting the trials of the nine cricketers and officials accused of breaching the board's anti-corruption code.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon recently told a press conference that the tribunal would be formed by October 6, but BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed yesterday that: "We are hopeful that we can complete the procedure within the next two or three days."

A 40-day deadline to form the tribunal passed last month.

Bond plans with pace

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong



New Zealand's fast-bowling coach Shane Bond has said that he expects his pacers to perform well in the upcoming Test series despite the 'low and slow' wickets in

Bangladesh. He also said that the pacers had been asked to maintain an aggressive mindset.

"Look I think even though the wickets are low and slow, history suggests that the quick bowlers have done well against Bangladesh," Bond told reporters at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here yesterday.

"It's going to be hard work, it's going to be hot and humid and the wickets are going to be flat, but they are willing to bowl short deliveries and pitch the ball up," he added.

The coach has been particularly impressed with young left-arm pacer Trent Boult, who he expects to be the danger-man in the Tests. Boult has been in prime form of late. His best figures in Test cricket, 6 for 68, came against England in March this year. He also picked up seven wickets against Sri Lanka in November last year, the last time he played a Test match on the sub-continent.

"He is going to be dangerous over here. He had success in Sri Lanka swinging the ball, caused their very good batting order a lot of problems. If he swings the ball and bowls full length, like he can, I am sure he can take wickets," said Bond.

Pacer Tim Southee, who will not be playing the first Test due to injury, is the other bowler that Bond has been impressed with. "He had an outstanding year last year and has the potential to be the best fast bowler in the world. We are healing him up," said Bond.

The 38-year-old, who is often considered to be New Zealand's best pace bowler after Richard Hadlee, retired from international cricket in 2010, following a series of injuries and was named New Zealand's bowling coach in 2012. Bond claims that this was a role that was made for him.

"It's different. You don't have to stress the nerves or have the anxiety of playing, from a coaching point of view that is out of your control, all you can do is prepare the players as best as you can. And then trust them and allow them to go on the field and play," he went on.

Bond's 150 kmph-plus deliveries along with his toe-crushing yorkers and his ability to dominate the world's best batsmen were his special features as a player. The only negative aspect though, was his constant injury-problems, something which led him to miss a number of games.

As a coach though, Bond has no worries regarding the latter aspect.

"The only injury I am going to have in the dressing room is probably burning my hand with something hot," he joked.



BOND! SHANE BOND: Revered former New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond, now travelling with the Kiwis as the bowling coach, walks amidst rain at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

BCB polls to be held on Oct 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to hold its elections on schedule, which is October 10.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, rejected a plea seeking its directive on the authorities concerned to announce a fresh date.

In the petition it was said the schedule has to be announced giving at least 45 days for holding the elections as per its constitution which was not followed while announcing the October 10 date.

The apex court also kept in record another petition filed by former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury. The court said the petition will be heard during the hearing on the appeal against the High Court verdict that declared the amendment to the BCB constitution illegal on January 27 this year.

Novak defeats Rafa & keeps China Open

AFP, Beijing

World number one Novak Djokovic overcame Spain's Rafael Nadal in straight sets on Sunday to win the China Open and maintain a remarkable 100 per cent record in the Beijing tournament.

The defending champion, who has won the event the four times he has entered, was at his ruthless best to defeat Nadal 6-3, 6-4, a day before he is set to be unseated at the top of the world rankings by the number two Spaniard. The result was Nadal's first hardcourt loss of the season.

The second seed in Beijing only showed rare glimpses of the form that has seen him win 10 titles this year, with his Serbian opponent racing to a 3-0 lead in the first ten minutes.

Top seed Djokovic then powered ahead, showing formidable power-hitting to take the first set 25 minutes later.

The pair displayed incredible movement in the opening game of the second set, engaging in quickfire net-play, much to the delight of the crowd.

Nadal came out on top of that duel, winning the point, but Djokovic took the game to break serve.

Djokovic then kept his nerve, holding serve until the conclusion of the match on one hour 27 minutes.

Vettel wins Korean GP

AFP, Yeongam

Sebastian Vettel is within touching distance of a fourth world title in succession after he powered away from pole position to win a fiery Korean Grand Prix on Sunday.

Not even two appearances by the safety car, or the worrying sight of his team-mate Mark Webber climbing out of his burning Red Bull, was enough to stop the German's fourth win on the bounce.

The unstoppable Vettel took the chequered flag ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Lotus, who just beat team-mate Romain Grosjean to the line for second.

Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, who started second on the grid, were fourth and fifth.



U-19s' good warm-up

SPORTS REPORTER

Mosaddek Hossain continued his good form as Bangladesh Under-19 cricketers warmed up well before their seven-match one-day series with a 111-run victory over Guyana Under-19s at the Georgetown Cricket Club in Bourda on Saturday.

Mosaddek hit 75 and Jasim Uddin added an unbeaten 65 as the visitors scored 242 for 5 in 50 overs. Other notable scorers were Nazmul Hossain (43) and Shadman Islam (33).

In reply, the Guyanese were bundled out for 131 in 44.3 overs. Jubair Hossain claimed three wickets for 19 and Abu Saeed took two for 19.

The visitors play the first one-dayer of the series against their West Indies counterparts today.

Tushar can dream again

SPORTS REPORTER

Motor racing is a sport which most Bangladeshis can only watch on TV screens. There is no infrastructure here for the sport, and lack financial resources and sponsorship makes this sport an unimaginable passion to pursue.

But one young man's passion, with a little help, has driven him to defy all the odds. Mahfujul Rahman Tushar, a young man from a non-descript family in Dhaka, is embarking on the fourth round of Formula 4 which will be held New Delhi India from November 27 to December 1. Once disqualified and one having left due to lack of funds, Tushar kept persisting with his passion.

"My parents admitted me to Madrasa but I had immense interest about motor cars and I switched to automobile education after completing my madrasa studies (SSC equivalent). Now I am a Formula 4 driver," said the young man from Bangshal.

Tushar, who developed his interest in

racing after taking part in the online world cyber game, finished 11th out of 22 racers in the first round of 16 JK Tyre Racing Championship in July 17-19 before crashing out in the second round, having completed seven out of 15 laps, each lap being 2.2 km long.

Tushar has clocked 175kmph and took only 1:15.527 seconds to complete a lap (2.2km) during his first round competition in India with his Maruti Esteem MPFI 1300 CC.

But financial constraints had all but put paid to Tushar's dreams. However, Tushar has now found a benevolent partner in Shah Cement Industries Ltd, which has vowed to provide him all the support in his latest venture.

"We always give priority to youth as we did it for Everest conquer Musa Ibrahim. As part of our preference, we came forward to help Tushar and we will provide all the assistance to him whenever he takes part in racing championships," said senior brand executive of Shah Cement, Masud Rana at a press conference yesterday.

Gazi under no pressure

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

On a chilly November morning, Mushfiqur Rahim surprised the country's cricketing fraternity when he handed the new bowl to young Shohag Gazi against the might of Chris Gayle in the first Test of the series at Mirpur. The move seemed like putting the debuting bowler in a cyclone after Gayle smacked the bowler for a six on the very first ball, a record in Test cricket.

Gayle-struck, the off-spinner stuck to his guns and removed him in his third over. He went on to pick up nine wickets in that match and from then on became a regular in the

side. While he could not better his opening performance in the following Tests in Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, he has been in the wickets and bowled with plenty of spirit.

And that's the reason why Gazi's role is expected to be vital here. In conditions that are expected to support the slower bowlers, he along with Shakib Al Hasan will hold the key for the Tigers.

That's a lot of expectations from a player who has just played six Tests, but according to Gazi -- who is yet to play a Test in the port city -- there's no extra pressure on him.

"I never really take any pressure for anything. I just try to do my best. It's quite simple, there are really good

spinners in the side, so if I play well I will be in the team, if I don't then I won't. I stay free, whether I have a bad day or good," said Gazi.

"Everyone in the side has been really supportive of me because I did not play a Test here before. I have discussed things with Shakib bhai and [Abdur] Razzak bhai. They have asked me to bowl in the right areas and the rest will be okay," he added.

New Zealand's woes against spin bowling on the sub-continent are nothing new. The two Test series that they played in India and Sri Lanka last year, saw them lose 70 per cent of their wickets to spinners. They lost 31 wickets to India and 26 in Sri Lanka.

It's the statistics that the team management is well aware of.



Organisers speak at a press conference to announce the details of bti International Golf Championship which starts at Kurmitola in Dhaka today. PHOTO: COURTESY

bti Int'l golf from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The bti (Building Technology & Ideas Ltd) International Golf Championship tees off at the Kurmitola Golf Club today with 72 golfers from Bangladesh, India and Nepal taking part. The strong Bangladesh contingent will be led by former champions Shakhawat Hossain Sohel and Jamal Mollah -- both regular participants at the PGTI (Professional Golfers Tour of India) circuit -- apart from Dulal Hossain, Zakir Mollah and most other professional golfers of the country. Defending champion Siddikur Rahman could not be part of this 7th edition of the event due to his busy schedule at the Asian

Tour circuit. The 7-man Indian contingent will be led by Shamim Khan and Sukhbinder Singh while there are three Nepalese to complete the line-up. The winner will receive 18 per cent of the total prize money of 30 lakh taka.

A press conference in this connection was organised at the bti head office in Gulshan where managing director of the company, FR Khan, Arshi Haider, president of Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF), among others were present.

The tee off will take place at 7:30pm at the Kurmitola Golf Club today while the proceedings will be wrapped off after the four rounds of, hopefully competitive and intriguing golf, on Thursday.