

# SPORT



Sheikh Jamal players engage themselves in a race against each other at their club ground yesterday as part of their preparation for today's Federation Cup quarterfinal clash against Mohammedan.

PHOTO: STAR

## New BCB gets rolling

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday made two crucial decisions in an effort to bring dynamism in its state of affairs off the field and more importantly rewarded a captain who has been leading the Tigers on the field like a true general.

The BCB board of directors, who had their second meeting at its Mirpur headquarters, extended Mushfiqur Rahim's tenure as Bangladesh captain till the end of the 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

It's not often that a Bangladeshi captain gets such a long contract, but the 25-year-old, who has led the side with great vigour, thoroughly deserves a long stint.

While Mushfiqur's role has been confirmed, it is still not certain as to whether Mahmudullah Riyad will continue his role as vice-captain of the side.

"The vice-captain would only be finalised after a detailed meeting with the Cricket Operations Committee. Riyad's lack of form in recent past has led to questions regarding his role in the team," BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon told at a press conference after the meeting.

The selection of the chairmen of the standing committees was another major pending issue that was resolved during the meeting.

Cricketer-turned director Akram Khan will lead the important cricket operations committee while Khaled Mahmud, another former national cricketer, will head the games development committee. Both were champions as cricketers but the new jobs at hand are not only extremely demanding but also require a winning formula from them, if Bangladesh are to climb up the ladder.

The financial aspect has been the other area of concern for the board and the BCB has been struggling not only with pending issues—like completing the players' dues from the BPL-2 and the long-lasting TV rights issue with Nimbus, the company which according to the board, owes the BCB

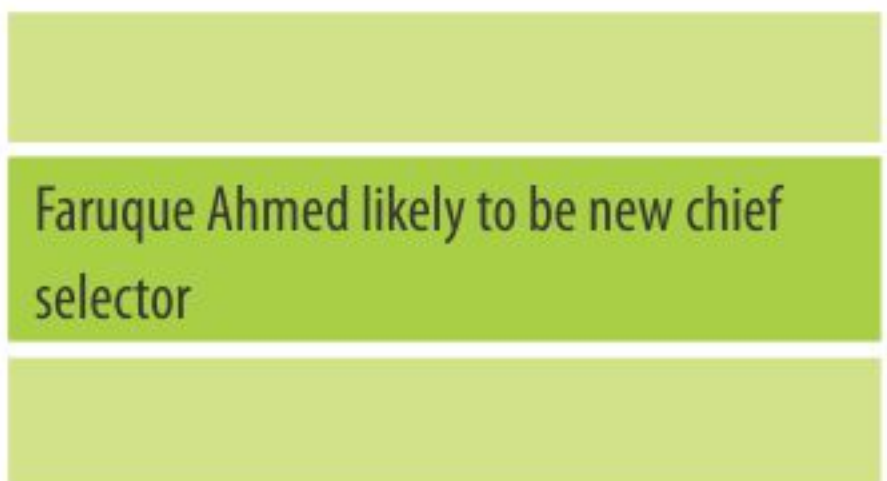
millions—but is also missing a strong and pragmatic personality to deal with the future marketing and commercial affairs. The board decided that Inam Ahmed, a successful businessman, could be the solution.

The other major agenda during yesterday's board meeting was the appointment of a chief selector, a position that has remained vacant since Akram Khan resigned in September.

While a final decision is yet to be made, Papon hinted on a possible return for former chief selector Faruque Ahmed.

"A number of names have been suggested and amongst them Faruque Ahmed has massive support. Minhajul Abedin and Khaled Mashud's names have also been raised. I will take a final decision soon," said Papon.

Furthermore the president stated the board's plans of organising a domestic



T20 tournament next month in order to help players prepare for the T20 World Cup next year.

"After the Dhaka Premier League, the players will be given a week's rest. After which they will return to fitness training and then participate in a T20 tournament," said Papon.

"The format of the tournament has not yet been decided. However, it's likely to be divided into four different zones with 60 players," he added.

The meeting also decided to donate a hefty amount of money from its coffers to the all influential Dhaka Premier League Clubs, for obliging to compete in the on-going competition after a lot of fuss. The top six clubs will receive TK 35 lakh, where as the remaining will get TK 25 lakhs.

The BCB also stated that they would provide TK five lakhs to the family of

## Shakib back, but his team Fighters lose

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan returned to competitive cricket yesterday after recovering from dengue fever, but his presence was not enough for FMC Fighters to avoid a seven-wicket defeat to Pirates of Chittagong in the CJKS Corporate T20 cricket tournament at the MA Aziz Stadium.

Shakib first scored 19 runs before bowling four overs to take one wicket. His side scored 103 for 9. Asif Ahmed made team highest 25.

In reply, local boy Nazimuddin hit an unbeaten 57 and national all-rounder Nasir Hossain added 30 as the Pirates reached their target in 17.1 overs. Nazimuddin was adjudged player-of-the-match.

In the day's second match, Four H Cricket beat BSRM by five wickets after the vanquished scored 80 for 8 wickets.

In reply, Four H Cricket posted 84 for five in 18.4 overs.

Local boy Nafis Iqbal made team highest 35. Rony Chowdhury was adjudged player-of-the-match for picking up three wickets.

## DPL's final round now on Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round matches of the Dhaka Premier League -- the country's lone 50-overs domestic cricket competition - which were rescheduled to be held on Thursday, have again been postponed after the opposition enforced country-wide blockade was extended till today evening.

All three matches will now be held on Friday.

maintain that positive vibe. I am confident that I will receive the full support of the players and the board in our continuous quest to improve," said Mushfiqur, who had quit the captaincy in May this year after Bangladesh lost an ODI series in Zimbabwe, but later said that that decision was a mistake.

However, Mushfiqur's biggest challenge would not only be to establish the Tigers' reputation as a strong unit in the 50-overs version in the next World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand, but also to make sure that they are making steady progress in the longer-version of the game as well.

The captain however was well aware of the challenge ahead of the team.

"The path ahead is a challenging one but Insha-Allah we will reach our desired goals across all formats of the

## MSC up against Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Ten-time champions Mohammedan SC will take the field as the underdogs when they face pre-tournament favourites Sheikh Jamal DC in the first quarterfinal of the Walton Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The Black and Whites had a bright start to the tournament with a 5-2 drubbing of Rahmatganj MFS, but they stumbled at the next hurdle as they lost 2-0 against archrivals Abahani, where their defensive frailties were exposed starkly. The defeat meant they had to come up against star-studded Sheikh Jamal DC, who reached the knock-out stage with two successive wins.

The silly mistakes at the back saw Mohammedan concede four goals in two matches and they have worked extensively in the last two days in that particular area, especially in man-marking.

"On paper, Sheikh Jamal are way ahead of us but we have to fight against

with what we have and anything can happen on the day as we are considering tomorrow's (Thursday) match as a final," said Mohammedan's assistant coach Jewel Rana yesterday.

National striker Zahid Hasan Emily and winger Zahid Hossain have been the top performers in Mohammedan's last two matches and definitely the team will be hoping another collective performance from the duo while the inclusion of Egyptian striker Mostafa Seddik, who missed the first two matches due to not having an ITC, will add a cutting edge to their attack.

"If the boys can keep up their fighting attitude that they showed against Rahmatganj and Abahani, then we can expect a win but we must not concede early goals," said the former Mohammedan captain.

Sheikh Jamal too had some cause for concern as their performance was not a vintage one in either of the matches, despite having nine national players and some star foreign players in their side. They only just managed to win both matches, thanks to Sony Norde, who scored all the three goals in the two matches to rescue the 2011

Federation Cup champions.

However, there are other players such as Haitian Wedson Anselme, Nigerian Emeka Darlington – who can make a difference and take the Dhanmondi outfit to their fourth consecutive semifinal.

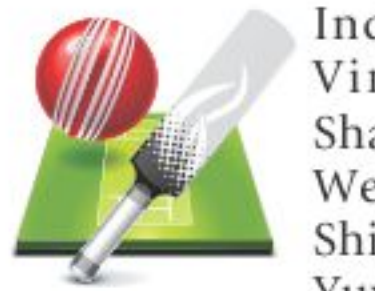
"The match will be a challenging one. Mohammedan, which is a traditional powerhouse, have got matured players. They will have the hunger and I think it will be an open match," said Sheikh Jamal's Nigerian coach Joseph Afusi.

Afusi was not happy with the way his forwards wasted chances in the last two matches. They have been asked to concentrate and focus more on their job as well as create pressure on the opponents.

"I believe my team have the ability to bounce back from any circumstance and that's the character of a champion team and we are ready to prove it on the pitch tomorrow (Thursday)," said Afusi, who had to be content with runners-up trophies in the Federation Cup, Independence Cup and Bangladesh Premier League last season.

## Dhawan's gift to India

CNN-IBN, Kanpur



India's in-form batsmen Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma didn't deliver on Wednesday, but opener Shikhar Dhawan's 119 and Yuvraj Singh's return-to-form 55 ensured India didn't need to break much sweat in chasing West Indies' competitive 263 for 5 in the third and deciding ODI of the three-match series in Kanpur.

The five-wicket win gave India a 2-1 series win after West Indies levelled the series in Vizag, where the visitors held their nerves to win by two-wickets in the last over.

Shikhar Dhawan never looked perturbed despite losing his in-form partners Rohit and Kohli and kept attacking to bring up his hundred off just 73 balls. In partnership with Yuvraj, who too played his strokes freely, Dhawan added 129 for the third wicket. That lay the foundation of India's comprehensive win.

West Indies could have scored much more,

but lost way after losing half-centurions Kieran Powell (70) and Marlon Samuels (71). But for a late flourish from Darren Bravo (51 not out) and Darren Sammy (37 not out), the visitors would not have crossed 250.

Comfortably placed at 137 for 1 at one stage, West Indies looked set for a big score but India staged a comeback with quick wickets to restrict West Indies to the manageable score.

For the hosts, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was the pick of the bowlers with figures of two for 45 from his quota of 10 overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**WEST INDIES:** 263 for 5 in 50 overs (Powell 70, Samuels 71, Darren Bravo 51 not out, Sammy 37 not out; Ashwin 2-45)

**INDIA:** 266 for five in 46.1 overs (Dhawan 119, Kohli 19, Yuvraj 55, Raina 35, Dhoni 23 not out; Rampaul 2-55, Dwayne Bravo 2-57)

**Result:** India won by 5 wickets and clinched three-match series 2-1.

**Player-of-the-match:** Shikhar Dhawan.

**Player-of-the-series:** Virat Kohli.



India opener Shikhar Dhawan spreads his arms in celebration after reaching a hundred against West Indies in their third and deciding ODI in Kanpur yesterday.

PHOTO: BCCI

## Mushfiqur feels honoured

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board finally put an end to its controversial short-term policy regarding appointment of the national captain as the BCB on Wednesday extended Mushfiqur Rahim's tenure until the 2015 ICC World Cup.

And the decision must have pleased the 25-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman the most after he had blasted his last short-term appointment in July this year as a 'very wrong' concept, saying it simply hinders the process as far as setting long-term goals for the team is concerned.

"I feel honoured by the faith the board has shown in my ability to lead the Bangladesh team. This is also a fantastic opportunity for me to plan

for the future with Shane [national team's head coach Shane Jurgensen], the players and the rest of the management," said Mushfiqur, who has been at the helm since September 2011, in his instant reaction.

Under the leadership of the little big man, Bangladesh showed significant improvement; they have especially demonstrated a lot of maturity in their performance during their last home series against New Zealand. He has led the team in 12 Tests, 24 ODIs and 15 Twenty20 Internationals where Bangladesh won one Test, 11 ODIs and six T20s.

And after getting his desired long-term appointment, Mushfiqur has targeted consistency.

"We have started to develop a better degree of consistency in recent times and I will try my heart and soul to plan