

# SPORT

## Decision 'not an emotional one'

SPORTS REPORTER



Contrary to the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) theory, head coach Shane Jurgensen's decision to quit was based on many factors over a period of time and not an emotional one, said the Australian who arrived in Dhaka on Thursday.

"Look I don't have really much to comment on it now. All I can say is that it was not an emotional decision at all. A serious decision like that is not an emotional one.

"It was a build-up of a number of different things over a long period of time. I am not going to take such a decision like that just straight away. I won't give away much detail as of now," said Jurgensen.

The BCB is yet to accept Jurgensen's resignation and a final decision will be taken after a meeting with the Australian. When asked if he would reconsider his decision, Jurgensen said, "I can't talk about that right now because I need to talk to the people in charge. For the moment I have taken my decision, we can have a bit of a chat about it, there are a number of reasons for this decision; everything needs to be taken into account.

"People who know me quite well, they all know that it would have to be a build-up of a number of different things. I had the opportunity to sit back at home with my wife and kids and sort of look at life in general and it allowed me to take a step back and have a think about all the different things," said the Australian.

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim earlier this week had said that he hoped Jurgensen reconsidered his decision. Jurgensen, however, was not ready to provide a clear answer regarding the matter.

"Look, at the moment it is what it is. Mushy is a fantastic leader and a great captain. It's nice of him to say that. I really enjoyed working with the guys. They are a bunch of young boys who are growing into men. They were fantastic to work with," said Jurgensen.

## Papon seeks to clear the air with Shane

Meeting with outgoing coach next week

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon has said that the BCB, in its meeting with coach Shane Jurgensen -- set

to take place next week -- will reassert that the BCB had no plans of removing Jurgensen from his post.

Jurgensen, irked by comments -- made by certain board directors to the media -- regarding the need for a new head coach, submitted his resignation this past Monday. The BCB is yet to accept it and Papon, hopes to get a clearer picture of Jurgensen's reasoning in the upcoming meeting.

"If it is the case that he (Jurgensen) is feeling insecure then we will give him the reassurance that there was no plan made to send him out and that he can stay. He might have thought that we were going to announce his departure during the board meeting last week and that may have led to the resignation. It is after all, a matter of respect," Papon told The Daily Star.

"If that is not the case and he has made up his mind, then we obviously will not force him to stay. He can coach the team till the India series in June and in the meanwhile we will be looking for coaches. We might even

appoint a local coach," he added.

Papon, however, admitted that it would be difficult to find a foreign coach to adjust to the requirements of the BCB.

"I personally feel that finding a good coach will be difficult, especially in our country. Specialist coaches can come here for brief periods and go back. However, staying here and continuously coaching, that's a different aspect," explained Papon.

Furthermore, the president criticised the statements made by some of the board directors to the media.

"Those statements should not have been made. We did not have any plans to find a new coach and that is why it should not have been said. Because of that statement, there is now a gap with no prospective coaches," said Papon.

**Finding specialised players**

Jurgensen's departure is not the only worry that is keeping the president busy. Papon, who received the World T20 performance reports from the physio and coach, is yet to discuss them with the board and take actions accordingly.

"According to the physio's report, almost every player had some sort of an injury and that is what they played with. Injury was a major concern. The coach's report pointed to some vital aspects. One is that players morale

becomes significantly low after losing a game.

"The report also stated that they just played too many games before the tournament which did not give the coach a sufficient amount of time to prepare them for T20s," said Papon.

Having received the reports, Papon hopes to make long-term plans based on them. One avenue that he desperately wants to pursue is finding specialised players for each format.

"Personally I think that we don't have too many good players. If you see the last few months, apart from Shakib (Al Hasan) there was no other bowler who was threatening. We need to find more specialist players,

"Take for instance, Mominul Haque. He is a great Test batsman, but I feel that T20 cricket will spoil his game. So, when it comes to T20 cricket, we need to find at least four specialist players," said Papon.

According to Papon, changes in the culture of domestic cricket are also required in order to successfully implement the plan.

"We have to come out of the concept that only a couple of superstars can get us to domestic championships. A larger group of players need exposure, something which will help them when they play international cricket," said Papon.



**FIFA WORLD CUP Brasil**

**39 DAYS TO GO**

With the FIFA World Cup 2014 only 39 days away, The Daily Star looks back at each of the 19 editions taken place so far, with pieces on the World Cup and some of the star players.



Uruguay beat Argentina 4-2 at the Estadio Centenario in Montevideo on July 1930 to lift the first FIFA World Cup title. PHOTO: DAILY STAR ARCHIVES

## URUGUAY 1930 Where it all began

Although FIFA had been formed in 1904, the prevailing belief of the game's governing body was that they needed to wrest control of it from the IOC, and thus, in 1928, the decision was made to host a tournament in two years' time. There was, perhaps surprisingly, no shortage of applicants to stage the first tournament, at least in the first place.

The varying competing interests into blocs, and pretty soon six applicants had been dwindled down to just two, Italy and Uruguay. The key reasons behind Uruguay getting the nod were two-fold. Firstly, the Europeans were split over whether to support them, whereas South America. Secondly, Uruguay were the reigning Olympic champions, and was also celebrating its centenary as a republic. Uruguay got the nod.

Of course, in 1930, there were no planes. Anybody wishing to take part had to endure a six week boat journey to get there. The home nations, even though they had recently joined FIFA, declined to have anything to do with it. In the end, only four European nations, Romania, Yugoslavia, France and Belgium could make the trip.

All of which did not really matter very much. Even against Europe's finest, Uruguay would have been expected to win. In 1924 they had played outside South America for the first time, winning the Olympic title in Paris. After thrashing Yugoslavia 7-0 and the hosts 5-1, they outplayed the Swiss 3-0 in the final, their stern defence buttressing some dazzling interpassing up front. Four years later they won it again.

TO BE CONTINUED

## Mushfiqur recovering in hospital

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim has contracted viral hepatitis and has been admitted to a city hospital.

Mushfiqur, who was admitted on Thursday, is doing a lot better than before, according to Bangladesh Cricket Board's sports physician Dr Debasish Chowdhury.

"He has been affected by viral hepatitis. There's a bit of pain in his liver. He is doing a lot better today (Friday) and the fever has gone down as well. We are waiting for more reports after which we will determine how long he needs to rest," he said

Mushfiqur's fever has put him out of the third round of the Bangladesh Cricket League which is scheduled to begin on Saturday at the BKSP. The national captain was supposed to lead BCB North Zone in the competition.

## BCL last round resumes today

SPORTS REPORTER

The last-round matches of the franchise-based Bangladesh Cricket League begin today at two different venues in BKSP.

The matches were scheduled to kick off yesterday at Fatullah but the tournament committee shifted the venue due to the ongoing violence in the area since Thursday, following a spate of kidnappings and killings in the Narayanganj district.

"The recent situation in the area was the reason behind the decision to change the venue," said Ziaur Rahman Topu, The Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) tournament committee secretary.

Walton Central Zone face off with BCB North Zone at BKSP 3 while Prime Bank South Zone meet Islami Bank East Zone at BKSP 4.

The final will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from May 9.

The first two rounds of the tournament were held in January before the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Test series.



Sheikh Jamal's Haitian recruit Wedson Anselme (L) heads the ball into the net to score the first goal against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Sk Jamal brush aside Muktis to extend lead

SPORTS REPORTER



Title aspirants Sheikh Jamal extended their lead in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-0 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After the barren first half, Haitian Wedson Anselme and Nigerian Emeka Darlington struck one goal each to push Sheikh Jamal's lead to 31, six points ahead of second-placed Abahani, who have played a match less than the leaders' 13 matches.

On the other hand, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, after two successive defeats, remained in fourth position with 18 points from 13 games.

Shrugging off their poor performance in the 2-2 draw against Feni Soccer Club, Sheikh Jamal put up an improved performance to dominate Muktiyoddha Sangsad, who could hardly penetrate the Sheikh Jamal backline without their Nigerian striking duo of Nkowcha Kingsley and

Sunday Chizoba.

"We have dropped Nkowcha and Sunday for strategic reasons as we adopted the counter-attacking game and held them in the first half. But conceding a bad goal early in the second half due to Eleta Benjamin, who wanted to leave the pitch after the first half, sank us," said Muktiyoddha Sangsad coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who apparently aimed to snatch a point from the leaders following two defeats against Abahani and Mohammedan in three matches.

Manik's charges played according to plan to hold the opponents in the first half. Sheikh Jamal however could have taken the lead in the first half were it not for two superb saves from Muktiyoddha Sangsad goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton, who denied Alamgir Kabir Rana and Emeka Darlington in the last five minutes of the break.

After resumption, Sheikh Jamal exerted immense pressure on Muktiyoddha and it paid off within five minutes of resumption after Haitian Sony Norde floated a chance over the crosspiece on the edge of the box. Alamgir Rana, playing in the

starting 11 for the first time, put a nice lob outside the danger zone in the 50th minute for Wedson, who stabbed a glancing header to beat goalkeeper Liton, the goal putting him level with league top-scorer Emeka on 11 goals.

However, Wedson's joint lead lasted only 27 minutes as he fed the team's second goal for Emeka, who nodded in a Wedson chip to confirm the victory and re-established his solo lead.

After taking the double lead, Sheikh Jamal strengthened the backline sending in Didarul Haque in place of midfielder Alamgir Rana and the move eventually provided Muktiyoddha Sangsad access to some space in the later stages with captain Maruful Ahmed being denied first by goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman and then the woodwork.

"We had worked hard on the defence after the 2-2 draw against Feni Soccer and the boys also gave their full concentration in the game," said Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi. "When a team plays defensive, it is easy to put pressure on them and then goals will come eventually, but I want to give all credit to my boys who really played better today (Friday)."

AFP, Sydney



Australia have reclaimed the number one Test ranking for the first time in five years, with captain Michael Clarke calling it the most satisfying day of his career.

They also remain the top-rated one day international side in the latest official rankings from the International Cricket Council (ICC).

It is the first time since December 2008 that the country has been ranked number one in Tests and ODIs at the same time. They last held the top Test ranking in August 2009, when they were displaced after losing the Ashes 2-1 to England.

Darren Lehmann's Australians nudged out South Africa, who had held the top Test spot since August 2012 following their Ashes whitewash of England and a series defeat of the Proteas.

Australia gained eight ratings points to move up from 115 to 123 points to be equal with South Africa, who dropped from 127, but Australia moved ahead by a fraction of a point.

England are currently third, ahead of Pakistan and India.

Clarke said Australia's ascension was the highlight of his decorated career.

## Australia back on Test summit

"I don't think I have had a more satisfying day or feeling in my career," he said.

"For me, as captain, No.1 was my goal. I said from day one -- I think we were third or fourth when I took over from Ricky (Ponting) -- and then I know we got to fifth after losing in India.

"My goal never changed, I wanted to help this team get back to being the No.1 team in the world and I know the players were exactly the same."

Clarke said achieving the top Test spot was more satisfying than the one-day mantle because they had got there from such a low ebb, including being labelled the worst Australian team ever to tour India after plummeting to a 4-0 defeat there early last year.

"We are incredibly proud to be the number-one ranked team in the world in both Test and ODI cricket, which are two of the team's most important goals," he said.

"There has been an enormous amount of hard work and effort on and off the field that has led to this result. However, the true test of a great side is sustained success and now our goal is to maintain these rankings and continue to play great cricket as we lead into challenging Test series against Pakistan and India, and the ICC Cricket World Cup at home."