



## 'I wanted a suspended sentence for Shakib'

NAIMUL KARIM

A dream series win over the West Indies, who had just finished dancing to the tune of the Gangnam Style celebrating their World T20 championship in 2012; an unexpectedly appropriate follow-up with the first 'Banglawash' of the Kiwis; and then taking the fight to the Lankans in the Lions' den, Shane Jurgensen has undoubtedly been a part of Bangladesh's best period of cricket.

And yet through his departure he had probably witnessed the worst of Bangladesh's cricket. On April 28, Jurgensen, embarrassed and irked by comments made by a BCB director to the media regarding the need for a new coach, submitted his resignation and brought an end to his two-and-a-half-year career with the Tigers.

While the director's comments put in the final punch, Jurgensen, during his various interactions with the media, stated that there were a number of off-field issues that he had to evade during his tenure and in the end, it was on his birthday last month that he decided to take the final call.

Speaking to The Daily Star regarding some of the off-field issues that irked him, the Australian spoke of an instance right before the World T20 when he wanted the board to punish a player, for not following the team's schedule appropriately. He however, did not get the support he needed. Oddly enough, he was then criticised by many in the cricketing fraternity for being too 'soft' on the players.

"I suppose there were probably a couple of times when I wanted some action to be taken against a player and as a coach you need the support just to make a player understand that this is not acceptable. It just would have been nicer to have had some support at that point of time," rued Jurgensen.

"And then some people go on to question me and say that I had been soft on the players," added the Australian with a grin.

An opposing factor almost led the Australian to lose his job. When Shakib Al Hasan was banned and fined for his



Outgoing Bangladesh coach Shane Jurgensen

PHOTO: STAR FILE

inappropriate gesture on live TV, Jurgensen requested the board to modify the decision, something that led to him getting a warning from the CEO.

"With the Shakib incident one of my suggestions was for a suspended sentence, he still got punished, I just cupped it on the chin. But I sort of also thought that maybe he could have missed a one-dayer or two against India as opposed to playing the World Cup," explained the Australian.

Consistent instructions from the board, in the middle of a tournament too proved to be an aspect the Australian did not enjoy as much.

"We had to attend a couple of meetings after we had losses during the World Cup and the Sri Lanka series. The reaction to the losses was disappointing and was sort of tough to handle sometimes, since we were already in pressure situations. It made it difficult to coach," he said.

The 'systemic' battles was one which Jurgensen won in most cases, as he always managed to find a way to sync in with the system. The manner in which he created an alternative fast-bowling programme -- a proposal which he had reportedly submitted back in 2011 only for it to gather dust -- for instance, showed exactly that.

"There will always need to be a fast

bowling development programme which I proposed ever since I was a bowling coach, unfortunately that didn't happen. But we found ways to continue doing something like that by working on our pacers' fitness. Taskin [Ahmed], Al-Amin and even Robiul [Islam] are testament to that programme," he said.

No matter how high-profile Bangladesh's next coach turns out to be, Jurgensen reckons that adapting to the systems and the culture in the country -- something which he did well -- will be the first obstacle that will be needed to overcome.

Despite the disappointing departure, the Australian, who leaves here tonight, hoped for better results in Bangladesh's cricket and said that 'cricket needed to be the priority' for the board.

"Unfortunately my name getting questioned, it was disappointing, whoever it was, it would have been nice to have it discuss face to face, it made me feel really uncomfortable about my role.

"But rather than looking back, it's important to look forward, I think cricket needs to be the priority. Everything has got to be in place to make sure the players have every opportunity for success and the team really works hard for its goals," said

## No Kaka, no Coutinho

AFF, Rio De Janeiro



Brazil manager Luiz Felipe Scolari on Wednesday unveiled the 23 men he trusts can deliver a sixth World Cup ahead of this year's event starting June 12 on

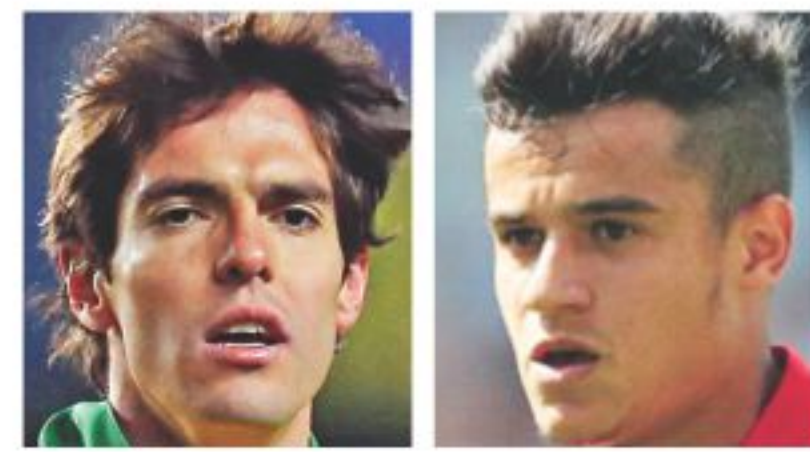
home soil.

Having already led the most successful nation in the tournament's history to their fifth title in Japan in 2002, Scolari is now out to lay the ghosts of 1950, when the Selecao lost the trophy match to Uruguay in Rio.

His list contained no major surprises, although Milan forward Robinho (92 caps) missed the cut along with former world players of the year Ronaldinho (97 caps) and Kaka (87 caps), an echo of his decision to dump Romario more than a decade ago.

Robinho missed the cut despite facing Chile in a recent friendly. Youngster Philippe Coutinho also missed the cut despite having a wonderful season with Liverpool.

With Scolari having said for months he knew in his own mind who he wanted



KAKA

COUTINHO

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Julio Cesar (Toronto FC), Jefferson (Botafogo), Victor (Atletico Mineiro)  
**Defenders:** Marcelo (Real Madrid), Daniel Alves (Barcelona), Maicon (AS Roma), Maxwell, Thiago Silva (both Paris St Germain), David Luiz (Chelsea), Dante (Bayern Munich), Henrique (Napoli)  
**Midfielders:** Paulinho (Tottenham Hotspur), Ramires, Willian, Oscar (all Chelsea), Hernanes (Inter Milan), Luiz Gustavo (VfL Wolfsburg), Fernandinho (Manchester City)  
**Forwards:** Bernard (Shakhtar Donetsk), Neymar (Barcelona), Fred (Fluminense), Jo (Atletico Mineiro), Hulk (Zenit St Petersburg) (Compiled by

to pick, the focus was on who would provide back-up for a first eleven who saw off world champions Spain in last year's Confederations Cup warm-up.

For the defensive second string, Paris St Germain's Maxwell edged out Atletico Madrid's Felipe Luis, while veteran defender Maicon won out at the expense of Bayern Munich's Rafinha, even though the latter had played in a March friendly romp against South Africa.

Henrique of Napoli, fresh from lifting the Coppa Italia, also claimed a berth while in the middle, Scolari completed his contingent with Manchester City's Fernandinho and also Inter Milan's Hernanes.

Scolari had already named as his four captains defensive linchpins Tiago Silva and David Luiz, veteran striker Fred of Fluminense and goalkeeper Julio Cesar, despite Cesar now playing in Major League Soccer with Toronto FC.

In 2002, Scolari preferred a 3-4-3 line up with Ronaldo at its apex.

But now he will likely base their hopes on a 4-2-3-1 permutation with the idea that star man Neymar of Barcelona can enjoy a free role.

## AFC PRESIDENTS' CUP

### Sk Russel hold KRL

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC played out a goalless draw against Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) Football Club of Pakistan in their opening match in Group A of the AFC Presidents' Cup at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The stalemate keeps alive Sheikh Russel's hope of qualify for the final round, a stage no Bangladeshi club ever made it since the introduction of the third-tier club competition of Asia.

Last season's treble winners Sheikh Russel will play their second match on Friday against Sri Lanka Air Force Club, who had a winning start with a 1-0 victory over Ugyen Academy of Bhutan in the opening fixture of the group at the same venue.

According to message received here,

Sheikh Russel survived twice from conceding the lead in the first half as the woodwork denied KRL strikers Rizwan Asif and Daud.

However, the defending champions of Bangladesh Premier League played better in the second half but failed to create any scoring chances except for one occasion when substitute Sabuz, who replaced Mithun Chowdhury, saw his curving shot drift away from the target after he had beaten the goalkeeper.

Before the match, sports minister Biren Shikdar, who is in an official tour to Sri Lanka, met with the players of Sheikh Russel KC.

"We played better in the second half but could not put our best effort. We believe we could have won the match but securing one point is not bad," said Sheikh Russel's Montenegrin coach Dragan Djukanovic at the post match briefing, further hoping that they would put up a better show in next two matches.

## Winning start for Nadal

AFF, Madrid

World number one Rafael Nadal dismissed lingering doubts over his form after shock defeats in Monte Carlo and Barcelona in recent weeks with a resounding 6-1, 6-0 win over Juan Monaco to reach the third round of the Madrid Masters on Wednesday.

Monaco failed to win a game on serve all match as Nadal rolled off 10 straight games to seal victory in little over an hour and set up a meeting with Finland's Jarko Nieminen.

## Wari thrash Badda

SPORTS REPORTER

Wari Club beat Badda Jagoroni Sangsad by 3-0 goals in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League match at Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Arif scored twice in the 13th and 62nd minutes while Babuamun scored the other goal in 33rd minute for the winners.

## UAE to host Pak-Kiwi series

AFF, Karachi

Pakistan cricket officials on Wednesday announced details of their series against New Zealand in the United Arab Emirates in November and December.

The two sides will play three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 in the UAE between November 11 and December 19, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said.

Pakistan has been forced to play all of its home series in neutral countries, usually the UAE, since militants attacked the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in 2009.

Since then all foreign teams have refused to tour Pakistan over security fears.

This will be the first time Pakistan and New Zealand have met in Tests in the UAE, having previously played one-day internationals and Twenty20s in the Gulf state in 2009.

The first Test will start in Abu Dhabi on November 11, followed by Tests in Dubai and Sharjah and a one-off T20 on December 5, before the ODIs from December 8.

New Zealand will play the Pakistan A team in a three-day warm up game ahead of the Test series.

## Sk Jamal v MSC pick of the day

SPORTS REPORTER



After a two-day break, the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League resumes today with three matches taking place at two different venues. At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, leaders Sheikh Jamal DC lock horns against

Mohammedan SC in a crucial encounter before second-placed Abahani face-off against Team BJMC. Away at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, Chittagong Abahani will host Feni Soccer Club in the battle of the bottom-siders.

The focus, however, is on the encounter between Mohammedan and Sheikh Jamal, with the latter holding a formidable record in the professional league encounters over their rivals. The Dhanmondi outfit handed six straight defeats to Mohammedan in the league before being held to a 1-1 draw in their last meeting, which was in the first-leg match of the league this season. Sheikh Jamal had also beaten Mohammedan 3-1 in the season's first meeting in the Federation Cup.

Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi though is aware of the strength of his opponents and stated that Mohammedan have a good

defence as well as good forwards upfront and anything can happen in this match.

"They have been playing well under the new coach and they stick to their game plan. Whatever the previous record, it is not going to be easy for us. But we are going there for a win, which we need to extend our lead up to nine points," said Afusi after yesterday's training session.

Mohammedan, on the other hand, will be looking forward to overtaking second-placed Abahani and go close to the leaders, taking inspiration from their 1-0 win over archrivals Abahani in the previous match.

"Though there is still a long way to go but the match against Sheikh Jamal is very important for us if we want to see ourselves in the title race. A win will reduce the gap with Sheikh Jamal but a defeat will almost derail us from the title race," said Mohammedan captain Zahid Hasan Emily.

Four-time champions Abahani will also be hoping Sheikh Jamal drop points and then a win over BJMC will take them within three points of the leaders, who are on the top with 31 points from 13 matches, six clear of Abahani and eight ahead of Mohammedan.

## Big win for Punjab, KKR

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia's Glenn Maxwell slammed a 38-ball 90 and George Bailey plundered unbeaten 40 off just 13 balls as King's XI Punjab thrashed Chennai Super Kings by 44 runs in a top-of-the-table clash of the Indian Premier League Twenty20 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack yesterday. The two Australian's effort, together with South African David Miller's 47, helped Punjab post a mammoth 231 for four, before they restricted the opposition to 187 for six in their twenty overs.

Elsewhere, Kolkata Knight Riders got back to winning ways after beating Delhi Daredevils by eight wickets at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium. Skipper Gautam Gambhir (69) snared a 106-run partnership with other opener Robin Uthappa (44) as Kolkata chased down 161 in 18.2 overs with eight wickets in hand, after Shakib Al Hasan's miserly spell of one for 13 had helped restrict Delhi to a modest total of 160.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**KING'S XI PUNJAB:** 231 for 4 (Maxwell 90, Miller 37, Bailey 40 not out; Sharma 2-38)  
**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:** 187 for 6 (Du Plessis 52, Raina 35; Johnson 2-37)  
**Result:** King's XI Punjab won by 44 runs.  
**DELHI DAREDEVILS:** 160 for 5 in 20 in 20 overs (Vijay 24, Karthik 36, Duminy 40 not out, Jadhav 26 not out; Shakib 1-13)  
**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS:** 161 for 2 in 18.2 overs (Uthappa 47, Gambhir 69, Pandey 23 not out; Parnell 2-21)  
**Result:** KKR won by 8 wickets.



Preparations are complete and now it's time for the seven lucky Grameenphone players to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Anfield, the home of English football giants Liverpool FC. The GP team will represent Bangladesh in the SC Trophy finals at Anfield on May 13. The trip is sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, which is organising the tournament for the third time. Also seen in the picture, snapped at Baridhata on Wednesday, is the head of corporate affairs of SCB Bitopi Das Chowdhury who will also be a part of the 10-member team that leaves Dhaka on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR