

## SAFF C'ship failure report finally tabled

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) discussed the report of the fact-finding committee on the national team's failure in the SAFF Championship yesterday, nearly nine months after the committee revealed its findings on 28 September last year.

The executive committee meeting of the game's governing body, which was last held in July last year (except five emergency meetings in the interim), could not come up with any concrete decision regarding the recommendations of the fact-finding committee.

The fact-finding committee recommended punitive action on winger Zahid Hossain, to caution players like captain Mamunul Islam, midfielder Shohel Rana, striker Shakhawat Hossain Rony and coach Lodewijk De Kruif and expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of goalkeeping coach Kees Kalk and trainer Yamali.

The latter two had already left Bangladesh following the end of their contracts.

"Members had told the meeting that more time was needed on this matter as there are many things to explore from the report, which will be discussed again in the adjourned meeting," said BFF member Satyajit Das Rupu.

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag however said that the National Teams Committee (NTC) has been asked to follow and implement the recommendations of the fact-finding committee. Meanwhile, the NTC also did not sit in nine months to assess those recommendations.

The meeting decided to place a bid at the Asian Football Confederation to host the Qualifiers of the AFC U-18 Championship next year, to hold the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Football tournament in October, to stage the Super Cup and U-16 football tournaments for the professional clubs after the completion of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League.



Uruguay's fallen star Luis Suarez holds his son Benjamin and daughter Delfina as he greets fans from his mother's home in Lagomar near Montevideo on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Suarez needs treatment

AGENCIES

Uruguay star Luis Suarez returned home to a hero's welcome on Friday after his World Cup ban for biting, as calls mounted for him to seek professional treatment.

Hundreds of well-wishers gathered in Montevideo to greet Suarez as Uruguayans, led by the country's president, closed ranks around the disgraced football star.

Suarez was hit with a worldwide four-month ban from all football on Thursday after he sank his teeth into Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini.

Luis Suárez has claimed to Fifa's disciplinary panel that he did not deliberately bite the Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup, instead claiming he lost balance and accidentally hit his face against the player. Uruguay have announced that they will appeal against his subsequent ban.

The Uruguay striker wrote in the defence he submitted to Fifa that "in no way [did] it happen how you have described, as a bite or intent to bite."

Suarez added: "after the impact ... I lost my balance, making my body unstable and falling on top of my opponent."

"At that moment I hit my face against the

player leaving a small bruise on my cheek and a strong pain in my teeth."

However, the seven-man panel wrote that the bite was "deliberate, intentional and without provocation."

Fifa general secretary Jerome Valcke led calls for Suarez to seek help, brushing off suggestions that the Liverpool star's punishment was too severe.

Asked if he had a message for Suarez, Valcke told reporters: "I think he should find a way to stop doing it."

"He should go through a treatment. It is definitely wrong."

The international professional footballer's union FIFPro said Fifa should have made mandatory treatment part of its sanction.

"Luis Suarez should receive all the support he needs to deal with any off-field issues he may be experiencing at this time," said a FIFPro statement.

"This means that the focus should be on the rehabilitation and serious treatment of the player."

"FIFPro believes that treatment must be a part of any sanction."

Suarez, 27, bid farewell to his teammates on Thursday as they prepared for Saturday's last 16 game with Colombia.

Uruguay has rallied behind the shamed goal-scorer, however.

## BD TOUR TO WEST INDIES Likhon writes his name in Sr pool

SPORTS REPORTER

18-year old leg spinner Jubair Likhon got a nod in the senior pool as the bowler was selected for the Bangladesh preliminary squad for the tour of West Indies in August-September this year.

The 25-member squad also had places for cricketers like all-rounder Muktar Ali and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, both of whom performed well in the recent Bangladesh A tour of West Indies, while the axe fell on Naem Islam, Ziaur Rahman and Forhad Reza.

The Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel was very optimistic with the prospect of Likhon, a bowler from Jamalpur. It would not be a big surprise if the bowler makes the final squad.

"He (Likhon) has impressed everybody. He had a good stint with the Under-19 team and we felt that he has got the quality to make it in the highest level. We need a bowler like him, so let's see," said chief selector Faruque.

"We have Riyad and Gazi, so we could not consider Naem while we believe Muktar can be a good replacement for Ziaur and Forhad as a pace bowling all-rounder. Muktar also performed well in the recent A team tour to West Indies," he added.

The selected players will report to the national team strength and conditioning coach Mario Villavarayan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on July 1 as initially the focus will be on fitness. The skill training will start after head coach Chandika Hathurusingha joins.

Bangladesh will play three ODIs, one T20I and two Tests during their Caribbean trip which will begin with the first ODI on August 20.



### SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim, Mominul Haque, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shamsur Rahman, Tamim Iqbal, Muktar Ali, Shohag Gazi, Rubel Hossain, Anamul Haque, Shabbir Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Nasir Hossain, Arafat Sunny, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mohammad Mithun, Shafiqul Islam, Taijul Islam, Abdur Razzak, Marshall Ayub, Imrul Kayes, Jubair Likhon, Al-Amin Hossain, Shuvagato Hom and Rubulul Islam.

## Feni hold Sk Russel

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni Soccer Club played out a goalless draw against holders Sheikh Russel KC in the Nita Tata Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With 11 draws and a single win in 22 outings, Feni Soccer Club went two points clear of bottom-placed Uttar Baridhara Club while Sheikh Russel remained at sixth position with 29 points from 22 matches.

Sheikh Russel never looked threatening for Feni Soccer, who have been struggling to avoid relegation. Instead, Feni Soccer launched sporadic attacks which Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee did not face any trouble in thwarting.

Away at the MA Aziz Stadium, hosts Chittagong Abahani notched their third successive win at home when they handed a lone-goal defeat to a spirited Brothers Union.

Guinean Osman Cherif separated both sides in the 80th minute to raise Chittagong Abahani's points tally to 19 from 22 matches while Brothers have 33 points from 22 outings to stay in fifth position.

## Serena sent packing

AFP, London

World number one and five-time champion Serena Williams crashed to her earliest defeat at Wimbledon for nine years on Saturday while Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Maria Sharapova sailed smoothly through.

Williams, the top seed, lost her third round tie to French 25th seed Alize Cornet 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a Court One clash which had been held up for over four hours because of torrential rain which saw 45 matches wiped off the schedule.

Serena could have no complaints about an embarrassing defeat which continued a disappointing campaign for the 17-time Grand Slam champion, who has failed to get beyond the fourth round at any of the three majors so far this year.

It was her earliest exit from the All England Club since 2005 when she lost to fellow American Jill Craybas at the same stage.

In stark comparison, Nadal, Federer and Sharapova all secured fourth round spots playing under the Centre Court roof.

Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 champion, dropped the opening set for the third time in three matches before turning things around in a 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin, who had never won a Wimbledon match before this year.

Nadal, the 28-year-old winner of 14 Grand Slam titles, won 17 of the last 19 games against the world number 63 and goes on to face Australia's rising star Nick Kyrgios who beat Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2.

Seven-time champion Federer breezed past Santiago Giraldo of Colombia, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 and next faces either big-serving Polish 15th seed Jerzy Janowicz, a semifinalist last year, or Tommy Robredo of Spain, seeded 23rd, for a place in the quarterfinals.

Sharapova, the 2004 champion, remained on course for a rare French Open and Wimbledon double after moving into the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over American Alison Riske.

The world number five next faces German ninth seed Angelique Kerber who beat Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Third seed Simona Halep of Romania reached the last 16 for the first time with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Swiss teenager Belinda Bencic.

## WI take slim lead

AFP, Bridgetown

New Zealand will start their second innings in deficit by 24 runs after the West Indies were dismissed for 317 at tea on the third day of the third Test at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday.

Neil Wagner, whose wickets of Darren Bravo and Shivnarine Chanderpaul in the morning session were critical to the Black Caps' effort in limiting the Caribbean team's first innings' progress, added the scalp of Sulieman Benn to finish with the best figures of four for 64.

Brendon McCullum's side had aspirations of actually earning a minimal first innings lead when Trent Boult made good use of the second new ball, trapping West Indies captain Denesh Ramdin leg-before for 45 and dispensing with new batsman Kemar Roach to a catch at the wicket to reduce the hosts to 277 for seven.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 293  
**WEST INDIES:** First innings 317 all out (Gayle 42, Brathwaite 68, Edwards 58, Bravo 24, Ramdin 45, Holder 38; Boult 2-71, Wagner 4-64, Neesham 2-12)

# WALTON

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