

BCB VPs elected

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board directors Mahbubul Anam and AJM Nasiruddin were elected as vice-presidents of the executive committee yesterday following a board meeting at the BCB headquarters at Mirpur yesterday.

There were three contestants who participated in the elections. Anam received 21 votes, Nasiruddin received 17 votes while Sheikh Jamal director Najeeb Ahmed won eight votes.

Each of the 26 members of the executive committee were eligible to vote. President Nazmul Hassan Papon and two other directors did not vote.

"It's a great relief for me that the vice-presidents' positions have been filled. It is not possible for me to attend every programme related to the board," said Papon in a press conference following the meeting.

The newly-elected vice-presidents thanked the board for their votes and vowed to do their best for the BCB.

U-14 tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Three Bangladeshi players - Lamisa Fabiha Suchona, Popy Akhter and Ety Akhter -- reached the girls' singles semifinals of the Bengal Group Asian U-14 Series Tennis tournament defeating their compatriots at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

In the quarterfinals, Suchona beat Srabonti Dev 6-0, 6-1; Popy beat Sanjida Sohana 6-0, 6-1 while Ety beat Raisa Haider (BAN) 7-6, 6-0.

In the boys singles' matches, top seed Ali Dewani of Bahrain beat Navraj Brar of India 6-0, 6-0; Naimul Islam of Bangladesh beat compatriot Sree Ranjit Sarkar 6-1, 6-2.



West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul sweeps the ball during his unbeaten knock of 101 in the second and final Test against Bangladesh in St Lucia yesterday. He was third time lucky in the series after being stranded twice on 85 and 84 respectively in his previous two innings before finally getting his 30th Test ton.

PHOTO: AFP

'Incheon wickets to suit BD spinners'

ANISUR RAHMAN from Incheon



Bangladesh's hopes of winning gold medals in the Asian Games centres mostly around cricket and the last edition's gold medallists are expected to get familiar pitches in Incheon.

The seven newly-laid pitches at the Yeonhui Cricket Ground, which are only six months old, tend to offer low but even bounce and turn for the spinners, according to Badiul Alam Khokon, the former curator of Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium who is now in charge of preparing the pitches here.

"The pitches at Yeonhui will offer low and slow but even bounce and I think that will suit Bangladesh players, who are used to playing in similar sort of surfaces at home," said Khokon, who was appointed in April on a seven-month tenure.

At first look, the lone cricket ground of South Korea looks good except for the outfield, which looks drier than the usual greenish cricket fields. The steel structures of the dressing rooms, the pavilions, the press box, crew rooms and the umpires' rooms are all installed temporarily and are removable.

There are four pitches for practice outside the stadium even though the main practice venue is situated in Sangdo, a posh area of Incheon.

With the cricket event starting from September 20, TV broadcasters have been setting up the cables in the middle; the painters are giving their final touches to the temporary structures.

Bangladesh will be playing in the Asian Games for the second time since the discipline was introduced in the Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010, where Bangladesh won gold in the men's event and silver in the women's.

The women's event will get underway from September 20 and

Bangladesh will play directly in the quarterfinal stage against the runners-up of Group D, comprising Thailand, Nepal and Malaysia, on September 24. The men's team will start their campaign against the runners-up of Group B consisting of Nepal, Kuwait and Maldives on October 1.

Having seen the three practice matches between Japan and Korea held recently at this ground, the 50-year-old curator says the average score on these pitches could be around 130, but Test playing nations might score more than that.

The Bangladeshi curator also informed that spinners would get an edge here as the novice spinners of South Korea are doing well on these pitches.

"From what I have seen in recent practice matches held here among the local clubs and the Korean team, spinners are getting good turn on the pitch," said Khokon, who prepared pitches with black mud brought from Pakistan.

A total of 28 matches -- men's and women's combined -- will take place on this ground over 14 days. Even though there is underground drainage system at the ground, Khokon is seemingly a bit worried about the maintenance of the pitches during the competition. However, he is confident of overcoming that obstacle through the experience he had gained during the Dhaka Premier Division League.

"To be honest, it was a challenging job for me because no one here had any idea about the facilities a cricket ground requires. They thought it was a ground like baseball's. Whenever I asked for instruments, they were questioned me why I needed them and I had to tell them, they're for cricket," said Khokon.

Lee Yookyoo, in charge of the cricket ground and practice venue, is satisfied with the progress of the venue and hopes that the cricket matches would be completed successfully.

Tigers battle for survival

SPORTS REPORTER



Having been set an improbable target of 489 runs yesterday, survival will be the key for Bangladesh's batsman for the rest of the second Test at the Beausejour Stadium in St Lucia.

In their bid to achieve their target the Tigers reached a 114 for 2 at tea on day 4 yesterday. After the West Indies declared at 269 for 4 in the morning session, the visitors lost Shamsur Rahman and Anamul Haque before lunch. After lunch Tamim Iqbal and Mominul Haque shared a 66-run stand and ensured that there were no further hiccups. The only chance of the session for the West Indies came by when Mominul was dropped at first slip off Jerome Taylor.

Earlier West Indian skipper Denesh Ramdin declared their second innings soon after 40-year-old batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul reached his 30th Test hundred.

With the huge job in hand, Shamsur Rahman decided to go for the kill by hitting boundaries one after another but he had to pay the price for excessive shot-playing as the right-

hander's 27-ball 39 runs came to an end. Shamsur had no control over his hook against Jerome Taylor and was caught by Kirk Edwards on the edge of the boundary. West Indies pace bowlers started with a flurry of short balls and Shamsur might have thought it would be better for him to hit some boundaries in an otherwise poor series rather than trying to stay in the middle as much as possible and he got the result which was obvious for him.

One down Anamul Haque followed him quickly as Bangladesh went for lunch on 55 for 2 in 15 overs.

Other opener Tamim Iqbal was not out at 14 and Mominul at 2 at lunch.

Before that it was a day for Chanderpaul who achieved the milestone off 134 balls, tucking Mahmudullah Riyad round the corner for a single and celebrated it with his usual fashion by kissing the pitch. Chanderpaul hit eight boundaries in his innings.

He went past Sir Don Bradman's 29 hundreds yesterday. He has been not out in the series and by doing that he became only the second batsman to remain undefeated throughout a Test series having played a minimum of three innings and scoring 200-plus runs after South Africa's Jacques Kallis.

SCOREBOARD				
Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between the West Indies and Bangladesh on Tuesday:				
WEST INDIES: First innings 380				
BANGLADESH: First innings 161 (Tamim 48, Mahmudullah 53; Taylor 2-41, Roach 5-42, Benn 2-19)				
WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 208 for 4)				
Brathwaite c Shamsur b Mahmudullah				45
Johnson b Taijul				41
Edwards c Shamsur b Shafiu				2
Bravo b Mahmudullah				7
Chanderpaul not out				101
Blackwood not out				66
Extras: (lb-5, w-2)				7
Total: (For 4 wickets down in 77 overs)	269			
Did not bat: Ramdin, Taylor, Roach, Benn, Gabriel.				
Fall of wickets: 1-76, 2-81, 3-97, 4-100.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taijul	28	5	81	1
Al-Amin	4	0	18	0
Robiul	12	3	42	0
Shafiu	13	1	42	1
Mahmudullah	16	2	64	2
Mominul	4	0	17	0
BANGLADESH: Second innings				
Tamim not out				43
Shamsur c Edwards b Taylor				39
Anamul c Ramdin b Benn				0
Mominul not out				31
Extras: (lb-1)				1
Total: (For 2 wickets in 40.4 overs)	114			
To bat: Mahmudullah, Mushfiqur, Nasir, Shafiu, Taijul, Al-Amin, Robiul.				
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-48.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	12	3	39	1
Roach	4.4	0	18	0

Wickets fall en masse

Saqlain creates another record

SPORTS REPORTER



A topsy-turvy Day 3 at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium -- which witnessed 18 wickets fall -- saw both Bangladesh A and their Zimbabwe counterparts

get bundled out yesterday. The hosts, who finished the day on 43 for 1, now need to score 61 more runs in their second innings on the final day to win the first of two four-day encounters.

With an overnight score of 162 for 3, the hosts were expected to amble past Zimbabwe A's first innings total of 206 on the day. Instead what took place was a batting ruckus on a slow and low wicket which assisted the spinners and eventually they were bowled out for 211.

The second-stringed Bangladesh side lost their last seven wickets for just 17 runs.

Wellington Masakadza and leg-spinner Tinotenda Mutombodzi were the chief destroyers as the duo took all 10 wickets.

Masakadza finished on 6 for 63 while Mutombodzi took 4 for 38.

In trouble, the hosts needed to fire under

pressure and that's exactly what they did. With spin playing such an important role in this four-dayer, Bangladesh's Saqlain Sajib and Zubair Hossain played their part with their own brand of spin.

Saqlain took six wickets giving away 50 runs while young leg-spinner Zubair finished with figures of 4 for 18. Saqlain removed both openers in the first two overs and Zubair removed the next two batsmen and suddenly the visitors found themselves in a precarious 65 for 4 from where they failed to recover.

Saqlain's six-wicket haul took his match tally to 15 for 132, beating Abdur Razzak's 15 for 193 -- which were the previous best in first-class cricket in Bangladesh.

In pursuit of 104 to win, the hosts lost Sadman Islam early. Liton Kumar (27) and Marshall Ayub (10) steadied the innings with a 22-run stand for the second wicket.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE A: 205 and 108 all out in 48.2 overs (Chari 23, Sibanda 19; Saqlain 6-50, Zubair 4-18)

BANGLADESH A: 211 all out in 120.4 overs (Liton 54, Rakibul 43; Masakadza 6-63, Mutombodzi 4-38) and 43 for 1 (Liton 27; Masakadza 1-27)

ACTION TEST

Shohag goes to Cardiff tonight

SPORTS REPORTER

Off-spinner Shohag Gazi will leave here for Cardiff tonight at 9:30 pm to undergo a bowling test that will reveal if the bowler's action is illegal. Gazi's action was reported after the second ODI against the West Indies.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the off-spinner said that he was confident of passing the test.

"I have not tried to do anything different. I just continued with my normal practice routine. My action was analysed by [National Game Development Manager] Nazmul Abedin and he did not find any problem. I also talked to Raj [Abdur Razzak] bhai, who was also reported once in his career and he asked me to take it easy," said Gazi.

"I don't know much about the testing process. All I know is that I will be asked to bowl eight to ten overs in the test," he added.

Gazi's test will take place on September 19. He will stay in Cardiff for a night and leave for Dhaka the following day.

Booters eyeing 2nd round

SPORTS REPORTER from Incheon



After Bangladesh's brilliant victory against Afghanistan in the group opener followed by the draw between favourites Uzbekistan and Hong

Kong, the players are dreaming of making it to the 16-team second round of the Asian Games for the first time.

With the initial target of beating Afghanistan achieved, the players are resolute about qualifying for the knock-out stages.

"We all wanted to post a win out of the three matches, especially against Afghanistan. Now that we have achieved that target, our responsibility has become greater and expectation higher. Now we are more committed to our cause," said captain Mamunul Islam at the athletes' village yesterday.

The booters only had a gym session in the morning following the victory and hanged about leisurely at the athletes' village in the afternoon.

The Bangladesh captain urged his teammates to prove themselves in the next matches and avail the opportunities to be part of Bangladesh's football history.

"There was a lot of talk regarding our commitment. We want to answer the critics through our performance," said Mamunul. "I told my teammates it is time to prove that we are the best of our generation and we will be giving hundred per cent on the pitch."

Mamunul, also captain of Sheikh Jamal DC, believes Bangladesh are not



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Bangladesh players ambled about in the athletes' village in Incheon yesterday, the day after their brilliant victory against Afghanistan.

a team to be ranked 170th in the FIFA rankings, rather Bangladesh should be somewhere around 120.

"If we can play 20 to 25 international matches per year, we will certainly go up to 120th position in the FIFA rankings, but unfortunately we don't get to play too many international matches," said the lad from Chittagong.

Like his captain, striker Wahed Ahmed is also eager to celebration second round qualification.

"Our first target has been achieved and we are now looking forward to

securing a place in the second round. I think the stalemate between Uzbekistan and Hong Kong gives us hope and a draw out of the next two matches may put us in the knockout stage," said Wahed, whose pass set up Mamunul for the decisive goal against Afghanistan.

"We are really encouraged with the win and we are looking to snatch a point from Uzbekistan and full three points against Hong Kong," said the Mohammedan striker.

Bangladesh will play against Uzbekistan on September 18 and Hong Kong on September 22.

One vote sometimes costs a lot. This chopper landed at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur yesterday carrying board director Saifur Rahman Swapan all the way from Pabna so that he could cast his vote in time for the BCB's vice-president elections. When asked Swapan said: "I'm ill, so I opted to use the chopper. It's not my first time, I frequently use it when I am in a rush."

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