

SPORT

BCB silent on PCB's demands

SPORTS REPORTER

According to Pakistani media reports, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had sought one week's time to reply to the Pakistan Cricket Board's demands regarding the sharing of revenue generated from the scheduled series in April this year.

Media reports suggest that the representatives of both boards discussed the issue on the sideline of an ICC meeting on January 28 at the UAE.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury however stated that he was not aware of such a decision. "A decision regarding the tour is yet to be made and I am not aware any such time-frame. The decision will take place once the chiefs of the two boards communicate and a date for that is yet to be scheduled," Nizamuddin told The Daily Star.

Earlier media reports in Pakistan revealed that the PCB had asked for half the revenue generated from the series due in April in Bangladesh. The demand was made as Bangladesh refrained from touring Pakistan due to security concerns back in 2012.

The BCB however, stated in a letter to the PCB that they had toured Pakistan in 2008 after New Zealand cancelled their tour and that it was Pakistan's turn to arrive.

Faulkner's World Cup in doubt

CRICINFO, Perth

James Faulkner scored a 24-ball fifty in the final that buried England, and took a wicket first ball to provide a nice little icing, but he walked off midway in his third over with what seemed like a side strain. The exact nature and extent of the injury is not known yet, but the Australian camp did not sound too optimistic about his World Cup chances. At the post-match presentation George Bailey joked that Faulkner can be dramatic at times, but man-of-the-match Glenn Maxwell was left hoping against all signs.

"I think he's pretty down at the moment," Maxwell said.

If Faulkner is indeed ruled out, it will be a big blow for Australia.



EXPECTATIONS DOWN UNDER

'Practice matches will be the key'

SPORTS REPORTER

When one talks about Bangladesh's cricketing literature, there's always room for Akram Khan. The burly batsman, whose lofty hits took Bangladesh into their first ever World Cup, needs no introduction. What he did is now a glorious part of Bangladesh's cricket history.

The big man knows better than anybody else as to what kind of emotions develop among the country's cricket fraternity when it comes to World Cup.

But when he says that the current team is capable of beating any team in the world, he is not filling the shoes of just another overly dramatic fan; he has after all seen these boys up close.

According to the former national captain, momentum is all what this team needs. And for that, he wants the Tigers to do well in their first four practice matches.

"The four practice matches will be really important, especially the one against Pakistan, because we are yet to beat them after 1999. If everyone plays well, we will get the momentum, which is very important for us. We all know consistency is a big problem," he opined.

"I am not worried about the strengths of the other team. Instead of targeting just one team, the players should focus on their own strengths. I have worked closely with these boys and I believe that on their day they can beat any team in the world," he added.



AKRAM KHAN

The fluctuation of the players' confidence levels, according to Akram, is Bangladesh's biggest problem.

"When we win a match our confidence level is very high, but the opposite happens when we lose. We depend a lot on the rhythm and that's why I am emphasising on the practice matches. That was the sole difference between our performances in 2013 and 2014" said Akram.

As a player Akram was a part of two World Cup squads which witnessed opposite results. In 1999, they beat Pakistan and made history, where as in 2003, disputes between the players led to a disastrous World Cup for the Tigers. Akram however, reckoned that team spirit would not be an issue with the current group.

"They talk a lot more among themselves compared to us back in the days. They are close to each other and the communication is really good. So I don't think team spirit will be an issue here," he said.

And on that note, Akram recalled Bangladesh's sweet success in their first World Cup when they beat Pakistan.

"That was our moment. We were so busy celebrating our win that I actually forgot that I was supposed to go out with Wasim Akram. He said that we would take me out if we could beat them. But I had to politely decline because we were having our own party," he recalled.

Tigers sans Tamim in Brisbane warm-ups

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite making good progress with his fitness levels, opener Tamim Iqbal is unlikely to take part in Bangladesh's unofficial practice matches in Brisbane. The Tigers are scheduled to play two matches against Australia XI on Tuesday and Thursday respectively, with Australia captain Michael Clarke featuring in the second match.

"Tamim's chances of playing either of the first two practice matches are very slim. But he will play the official practice matches in Sydney. We don't want to do anything rash with him. We want him to be completely fit before the match against Afghanistan. He will begin fielding sessions tomorrow," team manager Khaled Mahmud told The Daily Star over the phone.

Prior to leaving the country the left-hander had expressed his desire of trying to play at least one match in Brisbane in order to adjust to the conditions in the city.

Mahmud further said that the players



were working hard to cope with the heat.

"The training's been okay but the one thing that the players have had to work hard to battle is the heat. Players are getting tired after short stints. But come to think of it, it's a good test for them. They are getting the right feel," said Mahmud, adding that an optional training session has been arranged for the Tigers today.



Dhaka Division's Abdul Majid (L) and Rony Talukdar scored 314 runs for the first wicket, a record in Bangladesh's first-class cricket, in the second round of the NCL at Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

An opening record

SPORTS REPORTER



Rony Talukdar emerged as a run-machine as he hit yet another hundred and amassed 314 runs along with Abdul Majid to create a new opening partnership record in the National Cricket League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Big hundreds from the two openers helped Dhaka Division continue their run-fest as they finished the first day's play in the second round with 360 for two against Dhaka Metro.

On their way to making hundreds, Rony and Majid eclipsed the earlier best opening stand between Rajshahi's Junaed Siddiqui and Mizanur Rahman, who made 277 against Barisal in 2013.

Fresh from his double hundred in the first round, Rony hit 163 off 224

balls, smashing 18 fours and two sixes, before left-arm spinner Elias Sunny stopped his onslaught. Majid remained not out at 173 runs.

At BKSP, it was a show from left-

SCORES IN BRIEF

DHAKA DIVISION: 360-2 in 90 overs (Majid 173 not out, Rony 163; Shohid 1-68, Elias 1-81)

BARISAL: 271 all out in 62.3 overs (Nafees 55, Rabbi 85, Al-Amin 64; Razzak 8-100)

KHULNA: 73-2 in 32 overs (Amit 30, Robi 26)

RANGPUR: 297-6 in 90 overs (Liton 49, Tarik 35, Tanvir 73, Mahmud 60, Dhiman 27 not out, Ariful 37 not out; Rahatul 2-82, Enamul 4-90)

CHITTAGONG: 209 all out in 91 overs (Irfan 55, Mamun 33, Nazimuddin 36; Shafiu 2-43, Forhad 5-45, Saqlain 3-25)

arm spinner and Khulna skipper Abdur Razzak who continued his success with an eight-wicket haul against Barisal. Half centuries from Fazle Rabbi (85), Shahriar Nafees (55) and Al-Amin (64) however improved Barisal's batting from their first game, as they scored 271 runs before being bowled out.

Khulna lost two wickets for 73 runs before stumps were drawn for the day.

In another match at BKSP, Rangpur had a good first day despite left-arm spinner Enamul Haque's four-wicket haul, finishing at 297 for six thanks to Tanvir Haider (73) and Mahmudul Hasan (60).

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, pacer Forhad Reza made Rajshahi's day as his five wickets for 45 runs helped his side wrap up Chittagong's first innings for 209 runs.

Andy finds it okay

INTERNET

In a cheeky display of nonchalance, Andy Murray's fiancée Kim Sears has taken her place on the sidelines of the Australian Open Men's final wearing a shirt with a parental advisory logo, presumably in response to the media flurry around her outburst during Murray's semi-final.

The black and white t-shirt warning others of "explicit content" raised some eyebrows, but not as many as the 27-year-old's tirade during Murray's match against Czech number 7, Tomas Berdych.

She was captured shouting gleeful profanities as Murray secured a break in the first set.

Murray has since defended his fiancée, saying it was "completely normal" amid "tension".

Fifth jewel in Novak's crown



NUMBERS GAME

3 Djokovic has bested Andy Murray three times in the Australian Open Finals.

25 The duo have met 25 times, with Djokovic leading the head to head 17-8.

50% In their 10 tour and Grand Slam final duels, they are tied at 5-5.

100% - Djokovic has never lost an Australian Open final.

DJOKOVIC	MURRAY
8	10
1	3
53	41
40	49
9/16	5/12
136	118
Match Time: 3hr 39min	

FINAL SCORE: 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-0

TRIVA → They are the only two players in the Open Era to contest three Australian Open finals.
→ Murray has had 10 career wins against opponents ranked No 1 at the time.

AFP, Melbourne



World number one Novak Djokovic won a fifth Australian Open title and his eighth Grand Slam Sunday,

grinding down Britain's Andy Murray in four sets to heap more misery on the Scot.

Djokovic won 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-0 in 3hr 39min to stretch his formidable record on the Melbourne hardcourts to winning five from five finals in eight years.

Only Australian Roy Emerson, who was in the crowd and handed him the trophy, has won more Australian Opens with six in the 1960s.

"I am so privileged and honoured and grateful to be standing here as a champion for the fifth time and to be in the elite group of players with Sir Roy Emerson and Rod Laver and all the legends of our sport," said the Serb.

"Tough luck tonight, Andy, you are a great competitor, you fight a lot and I want to congratulate your team and wish you all the best for the rest of the season," he said.

The victory means Djokovic stays at world number one on the next ATP rankings when they are released on Monday, with Murray moving to four from his current sixth.

"We have put in a lot of hard work to try and get back in this position after what was a difficult year last year," said Murray, referring to injuries that dogged his 2014 season.

"Unfortunately, I couldn't quite do it tonight but I was a little bit closer than I was a few months ago and I will keep working hard to get there."

Murray put Djokovic under immediate pressure with three break points in the third game of the opening set, played in cool and windy conditions on Rod Laver Arena.

But the Serb fought back to hold after an almighty 27-stroke rally to set the tone of his victory.

RICHARDS' TOP 10

One of the most aggressive and destructive batsmen ever to play the game, Sir Vivian Richards picked up his top 10 ODI batsmen of all time in a column that appeared in the ICC's official website Media Zone yesterday.



SACHIN TENDULKAR
- If ever there is a team picked without him, it would be of great shame

BRIAN LARA
- I would pay again and again to watch him bat

CHRIS GAYLE
- He is a batsman that I would optimally describe as bowlers' nightmare

CLIVE LLOYD
- Not many batsmen have scored a century in a World Cup final and he did it for us.

RICKY PONTING
- The most remarkable thing about him was that he was a wonderful worker of the ball.

MATTHEW HAYDEN
- With his powerful & ferocious hitting he made it easier for anyone coming in to bat after him

VIRENDER SEHWAG
- He made batting look so easy and had the capability to demolish any bowling attack in the world

MICHAEL HUSSEY
- He was one batsman who had the uncanny knack of scoring all the time

AB DE VILLIERS.
- Sometimes when I watch him, it seems like I am watching myself

VIRAT KOHLI
- He is simply magnificent and will only get better with time.

Aussies take tri-series

AFP, Perth



A career-best performance by much-maligned all-rounder Glenn Maxwell inspired Australia to a crushing win over England in the one-day international tri-series final at the WACA Ground on Sunday.

Maxwell took the highest score of 95 to help Australia recover from a poor start to make 278 for eight, winning by 112 runs.

He then took four wickets and a fine catch as England crumbled in the run chase to be dismissed for just 166 in 39.1 overs.

England, who will face Australia in the World Cup opener later this month, were never in the hunt after returning paceman Mitchell Johnson (3-27) claimed three quick wickets to have them 46 for four.

He made a hatrick after removing Moeen Ali for 26 and then England skipper Eoin Morgan, who was bowled without offering a shot from successive balls.

Maxwell (4-46) also found himself on a hatrick after removing Jos Buttler (17) and the hapless Chris Woakes, who had a match to forget, with successive deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF
AUSTRALIA: 278 for 8 in 50 overs (Smith 40, Maxwell 95, Marsh 60, Faulkner 50 not out; Anderson 2-38, Broad 3-55)
ENGLAND: 166 all out in 39.1 overs (Ali 26, Root 25, Bopara 33, Buttler 17, Broad 24; Hazlewood 2-13, Johnson 3-27, Maxwell 4-46)
Result: Australia won by 112 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Glenn Maxwell.
Player-of-the-series: Mitchell Starc.