

SPORTS

BCB won't propose a nominee

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided that it will not propose a name to replace former International Cricket Council president AHM Mustafa Kamal.

Kamal had resigned three months before the end of his tenure and as a result the ICC had verbally asked the BCB to propose a name for the vacancy ahead of the ICC's board meeting on April 15.

"The stand that we have taken is that we will wait until the next board meeting in the ICC. While the ICC verbally asked us to send a name, they haven't officially sent us anything yet. There is a possibility that we may not send a name at all," said Papon following yesterday's board meeting at its Mirpur headquarters.

Explaining the reasons behind the decision Papon said, "Firstly, it's only a matter of two and a half months. The only thing the president will be able to do is provide a ten-minute lecture at a meeting in Barbados within this timeframe. That's all.

"As a result we haven't received anyone who is interested. However if the government feels that we should nominate someone, we will propose. But as per the board's opinion, we don't think it's required as of now," he added.

As per the ICC constitution, if the BCB does not propose a name, the ICC can then ask the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to propose a name since Kamal was jointly nominated by both the country's cricket boards.

BCB OFFERS PCB \$325,000

The BCB president further revealed that the board has decided to pay the PCB a sum of 325,000 dollars as compensation.

"This is the final amount, there won't be any more talks regarding compensation. All our dues, whether it's the 2012 series or anything else, all of it will be cleared with this amount.

"The PCB wanted 900,000 dollars. We didn't want to go above 300,000 but eventually we decided to pay a little more," said the BCB president, adding that all the formalities with regards to the Pakistan series had been completed and no obstacles remained.

MASHRAFE RETAINED AS CAPTAIN

The board also re-instated Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mushfiqur Rahim as the captains of Bangladesh's ODI and Test teams respectively. However, the BCB stated vice-captain Shakib Al Hasan will be leading Bangladesh against Pakistan in the first ODI, as Mashrafe has been suspended for one match due to slow over-rate.

SPONSOR FOR TIGERS

The BCB president also revealed that they have got a number of offers with regards to the team sponsor for the home series against Pakistan. According to Papon, an advertising agency Top of Mind, Grameenphone, Total Sports and Robi Axiata Limited were the bidders.

The BCB is yet to award the contract, as none of them matched the BCB's borderline bid. According to sources Top of Mind provided the highest bid. As a result the BCB will further negotiate with the highest bidder.

RECEPTION AT MANIK MIA AVENUE

Furthermore Papon said that there will be two events to celebrate the Bangladesh team's memorable performance in the World Cup. The first one will take place on April 10 in Chittagong, while the second will take place at the Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka on April 11.



Arafat Sunny picks the ball out of thin air at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium during a Bangladesh Cricket League match yesterday. The one-day tournament involving four teams is staged as part of Tigers' preparation for the home series against Pakistan later this month.

PHOTO: STAR

A BCCI dinner for BD colts

AGENCIES, Kolkata

The relationship between Narayanswami Srinivasan and AHM Mustafa Kamal might well have been acrimonious in recent times, with the latter relinquishing his ICC president post after being deprived of the chance to give the World Cup trophy to champions Australia.

But BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya, in a show of goodwill on Saturday, hosted a dinner party for the Bangladesh under-17 side where premier Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was present.

"This has been a friendship series for last 17 years. We also travel to Bangladesh as part of the series," CAB joint secretary Subir Ganguly said.

Nasir wins a thriller

SPORTS REPORTER



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza may have enjoyed the last few months as Bangladesh skipper, but he didn't share a similar fortune at the start of the Bangladesh Cricket League's one-day version yesterday.

His side, Prime Bank South Zone, received a six-wicket thumping at the hands of Islami Bank East Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The day's other game at Fatullah witnessed a thrilling finale between Nasir Hossain's BCB North Zone and Mahmudullah Riyad's Walton Central Zone.

A heroic 76 from Nasir eventually led North Zone to a 2-wicket win with three balls remaining.

Batting first, Central rode on a 99-run stand for the seventh wicket between Shamsur Rahman and Mosharraf Hossain to recover from a 118 for 6 to post 209. Shamsur scored an unbeaten 76.

In reply, North Zone similarly slumped to 93 for 5 at the half-way mark and didn't look like they could make it through. However, a delightful 76 from Nasir took them near the end. Two wickets from Taskin Ahmed in the penultimate over

brought the equation down to eight off the last six for North Zone. Mahmudullah took it upon himself to take his side home. However, Sanjamul hammered two boundaries to complete an exciting win.

At Mirpur, East Zone's barrage of slow left-armers ripped through South Zone's batting order. Back in his favoured conditions, Arafat Sunny scalped a crucial four-wicket haul to do the most damage. He got the key wickets of Mohammad Mithun and Nurul Hasan.

Witnessing the amount of trouble Arafat was causing, skipper Mominul introduced his other left-arm Nabil Samad. Nabil's flighted

turners induced two stumpings. While the wickets tumbled at one end, opener Saykat Ali remained strong at the other. He reached his half-century off 80 balls and was looking to launch. When the two leading left-arm bowlers in the team failed to do the job, Mominul decided to introduce himself into the attack and that did the trick.

A confident Saykat attempted to attack the part-time bowler right from the word go. But the battle was won by the diminutive skipper who hit the timber. The flurry of wickets saw South Zone tumble from 96 for 4 to 122 all out.

It was always going to be an easy chase for Mominul and co even though they were about to face arguably the best bowling attack of the tournament. Things were made a lot simpler for East Zone, courtesy of a swift 45 from the in-form Liton Kumar Das. The batsman, who had hammered more than a 1000 runs in the recently concluded National Cricket League, looked in sublime touch.

The shot of the match came in the tenth over when Liton merely walked across the stumps, against a steaming Rubel Hossain, to gently swivel a boundary through fine-leg. His 54-ball knock did half the job for his side, as East Zone romped home.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH ZONE: 122 all out in 38.5 overs (Saykat 51; Arafat 4-11, Nabil 2-21)

EAST ZONE: 123 for 4 in 26 overs (Liton 45, Tasamul 22 not out; Rubel 2-28)

Result: East Zone won by 6 wickets.

CENTRAL ZONE: 209 for 6 (Shamsur 76 not out, Mosharraf 41 not out; Taijul 3-29, Nasir 2-35)

NORTH ZONE: 211 for 8 in 49.3 overs (Nasir 76, Naeem 29; Mosharraf 3-36, Shohid 3-39)

Result: North Zone won by 2 wickets.

Navy's first

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy and Faridpur set up today's final showdown in the ATN Bangla 30th National Hockey Championship after beating their respective semifinals opponents at the Manulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Star-studded Navy handed a 5-3 defeat to 13-time champions Bangladesh Army to make their maiden appearance in the final, courtesy of a hat-trick from national midfielder Moinul Islam Koushik. The national striking duo of Rasel Mahmud Jimmy and Krishna Kumar also got their names in the score-sheet.

Shuvo Kumar Ghosh, Rokonzaman and Milon Hossain netted one goal each for Bangladesh Army.

In the day's second semifinal, Faridpur came from behind to defeat nine-time champions Dhaka 2-1. Pushkor Khisha Mimo cancelled Maksudul Alam Habul's early strike, before Musa Mia struck the decisive goal in the 50th minute.

Gery in Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER

Gery Diver, a British professional football coach and University of London sports science teacher, arrived in Sylhet from London on Saturday to inspect the activities of the Canary Wharf Academy.

Refreshingly bouncy

SPORTS REPORTER



Windy conditions, good carry and neck-high bounce; for a moment it was difficult to believe that the inaugural Bangladesh Cricket League match between Prime Bank South Zone and Islami Bank East Zone was actually taking place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

While the venue has witnessed such conditions during international matches before, such a scenario with regards to Bangladesh's domestic

cricket is certainly a rarity.

As Abul Hasan and Kamrul Islam pounded in the deliveries in the first two overs, all that South Zone's openers could do was watch and respect. In a rare occasion, the first two overs yielded no runs.

South Zone's pacers enjoyed the bouncy pitch after the exchange as well. One particular bouncer from Mashrafe Bin Mortaza actually went over Liton Kumar's head and even surpassed the outstretched arms of the Kazi Nurul Hasan, South Zone's wicketkeeper; a stark difference from the slow and low wickets generally

witnessed during such tournaments.

While Mashrafe's side eventually went on to lose the game, he can't complain. He had asked for a sporting wicket during the tournament and he surely got to play on one. There seemed to be a little bit in the wicket for everyone at Mirpur yesterday.

Even the wicket at Fatullah slightly deviated from its natural display and had a bit of grass on it. The batsmen who stayed in got the runs, while the pacers who bent their backs, like Mohammad Shaheed for instance, were rewarded well.

Manyavar BPL's title sponsor

SPORTS REPORTER



Manyavar, an Indian traditional men's wear manufacturer, has earned the rights as title sponsor of the 2014-15 Bangladesh Premier League.

Besides them, KFC, Pragati Insurance, Amber Group and Treasurer have joined the country's professional football league as co-sponsors.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), which had to struggle to find a sponsor in the last edition, ensured the sponsorship deals two days before the start of the eighth edition, which begins from Tuesday.

Although the BFF did not disclose the financial details of the sponsorship deals, it was learnt that combined amount from the sponsors will only cover one-third of the total budget of Tk 5 crore, which includes appearance fees of Tk 2.75 crore for the 11 participating clubs.

"We are grateful to all those who have come forward to sponsor the Bangladesh Premier League. We need you because you (sponsors) are important cogs of developing our football. And if you continue your support to football, I'm sure that our country's football is bound to go forward," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, while he was introducing the sponsors at the BFF House yesterday.

"I first want to thank BFF for giving us an opportunity to



BFF president Kazi Salahuddin (L) introducing the sponsors at the BFF House yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

be involved with football. We have brought the Manyavar brand in Bangladesh for last three years and we want to promote Manyavar in Bangladesh with the association of football," said Manyavar's Bangladesh distributor and Vintage Denim Ltd's managing director Imran Islam Chowdhury.

BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy, BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag and representatives of other co-sponsors and members of the professional league committee were among others present during the occasion.

Ladi Feni's new coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Ladi Babalola will coach Feni Soccer Club in the Bangladesh Premier League beginning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

The Nigerian has replaced Gambian coach Omar K Sise, who led the mediocre team to the Independence Cup final last season but failed to make an impact in the League.

Ladi Babalola, a Mohammedan striker during the late 90s, had coached Brothers Union in 2012-13 season.

Rohit all praise for Ponting

PTI, Mumbai

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting knows how to win big championships and showed his selfless attitude by standing down as captain due to poor form two years ago when Mumbai Indians lifted their maiden IPL crown, said team captain Rohit Sharma today. "He has already showed it in 2013 when he led in the first six games and made the huge decision of dropping himself from the team to get the balance right. You see such things very rarely. It does not happen every day," said Rohit when asked what impact Ponting as coach would have on the team this season.

IN A NUTSHELL

Gayle backs Shehzad

AGENCIES, Karachi

Flamboyant West Indian batsman Chris Gayle has thrown his weight behind sacked Pakistan opener and Jamaica Tallawahs teammate Ahmed Shehzad, adding that the 23-year-old was too good of a talent to be wasted.

Gayle, who played alongside Shehzad for Jamaica in the first edition of the Caribbean Premier League, is an active presence on social media and took to Twitter to nudge the Pakistan selectors.

"Heard you have been dropped @Ahmed Shehzad... I know you're not a bad boy to be dropped for discipline... Come on Pakistan, don't waste this talent," Gayle tweeted on Saturday.

Shehzad replied to Gayle's tweet, tweeting "Thanks for the kind words bro! You are a big player yourself."

Narine cleared for IPL



TNN, New Delhi

Kolkata Knight Riders' mystery spinner Sunil Narine has cleared the BCCI's bowling action test conducted in Chennai and can now participate in all tournaments conducted by the Indian cricket board, including the 2015 Indian Premier League slated to start from April 8.

There were reports that KKR were threatening to withdraw from the eighth edition of the IPL if their ace spinner Narine wasn't allowed to play in the cash-rich T20 tournament.

A bowling review committee of BCCI comprising Venkatraghavan, Javagal Srinath and AV Jayaprakash examined Narine's remedial bowling action after he underwent a biomechanical assessment at the ICC accredited SRMC centre in Chennai.

The committee concluded that Narine's action was within the ICC approved limits for all types of deliveries assessed during the test.

BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur expressed his happiness over the development in a press release on Sunday.

"I am happy that we will witness Sunil Narine in action in the Pepsi IPL 8, since he is now cleared by the BCCI committee. We look forward to the opening match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai Indians on the 8th of April in Kolkata, which promises to provide an exciting start to the tournament" he said.

The best bowler

AGENCIES

When the topic of the best bowlers of all time come up, people mention Wasim Akram, Courtney Walsh and others who were prominent figures in the game of cricket. However, judging by statistics, the picture painted is more than an enigma.

Statistics can often be misleading, and cherry-picked stats can be a perfect way to illustrate a point which is not there. As such, let us introduce to you the bowler with the best strike rate in ODI's in history: Mohammad Yousuf.

Yousuf has bowled just 9 balls in his career; 6 in Tests, one in T20's and two in ODI's. And it was with his second ball of the ODI that he took the 10th Zimbabwean wicket which not only gave his team the win, but gave him bragging rights as the bowler with a strike rate of 2.00, more than any of the greats.