

# SPORT



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## BCB pays BPL debts

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Players flocked in the Bangladesh Cricket Board's headquarters in Mirpur yesterday afternoon as the board finally began dispatching their dues from the second season of the Bangladesh Premier League.

According to board officials, the BCB has dispatched a little more than Tk 2 crores for 60 to 70 Bangladeshi players. These are players who weren't paid by their respective franchises at the end of second BPL. The BCB is clearing off the debts since it had taken the role of a guarantor prior to the start of the second BPL.

BCB director Naimur Rahman, who was entrusted with the responsibility to clear the players' payments, admitted that the board was unable to pay every player exactly the amount that the franchises owed them. He however stated that the players were satisfied having received a portion of the sum.

"It was a difficult task since some players had huge amount of dues and we paid them lesser than that. The satisfaction level may not be much. I understand the frustration. I met them individually and at the end, came to a balanced solution.

"At first we saw how much each player required. And then we analysed how needy the players were. There are some players who are earning from various sources. And then there are others who aren't. We didn't follow any particular mechanism, but we tried to keep this factor in mind," said Naimur.

"With respect to that I will have to say that the senior players have made a big

sacrifice. We tried to manage money for those players who haven't been earning much from other competitions," he added.

Naimur further revealed that on an average around 11 to 12 players from each team were left unpaid. The BCB has prepared payments for all the players except for those who played for Rangpur.

"The owners of the Rangpur franchise have said that they themselves will clear the payments and have asked for some time. If they don't, then the BCB will clear those dues," informed Naimur.

The national players were given their cheques during a meeting yesterday afternoon, while the others received their payments upon their arrival.

"I am very relieved and happy to get the payment. It may not be the full amount but at least it's something. And I really hope that the BPL can be a regular tournament now," said Alok Kapali.

The likes of Muktar Ali, Enamul Haque Jr and a host of other players echoed a similar sentiment.

Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh general secretary Debabrata Paul stated that a majority of the players were happy that they received their payments, although a reduced amount.

While there were certain players who weren't happy with the amount they received, both Naimur and Debabrata indicated that there wasn't any possibility for a better solution.

"The fact remains that they were unsure if they were going to get any money at all. It wouldn't have been possible to make everyone extremely happy," said Naimur.



A smiling Mushfiqur Rahim receives a cheque meant to cover his dues from the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League from the chairman of the tournament's governing council Afzalur Rahman Sinha at the BCB headquarters yesterday. PHOTO: BCB



Bangladesh players will expectedly need to defend with a lot of solidity, especially against set-pieces, in their game against Jordan on Tuesday. Here the players are seen trying to head clear the ball during a practice session at the Sheikh Jamal DC Ground yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Gearing up for Tuesday's game

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Both Bangladesh and Jordan are apparently looking forward to put on an improved performance as they square off in the World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifier on Tuesday.

Bangladesh, who are currently at the bottom of Group B with only one point from three games, feel they have learnt a lot from the 5-0 defeat against the Socceroos and want to use that experience and rectify the mistakes against Jordan. On the other hand, Jordan, having made it to the play-off stage for the last edition of the World Cup quali-

fiers where they eventually lost against Uruguay by 5-0 goals on aggregate, are in a dicey situation currently. They are second in group, with four points after being held by Kyrgyzstan on Thursday and face a tough challenge to get into the 12-team final round.

"I played against Uruguay (last edition's play-off) too. But this time it's a difficult situation for us because we are two points behind Australia. So we have to collect a lot of points from the away matches," said Jordan's Romania-based striker Thaeb Bawab after the team's first training session at the Sheikh Jamal DC ground yesterday afternoon.

Nevertheless, Jordan have been gearing up to come hard on Bangladesh and the statement of

Thaeb clearly shows how eager Jordan are to return to winning ways.

"Everyone in the Jordan national team will try their best to win the day after tomorrow (Tuesday) and return to Jordan with full points," said Thaeb, who is the only Europe-based player in the side and had stints with the Barcelona's B team and Real Madrid's C team previously.

"I don't know Bangladesh team very well but our technical staff saw Bangladesh's last match against Australia and we analysed them. I hope we can win against Bangladesh," said the striker adding that the weather here is completely different from back home, but they would hopefully acclimatise before the match.

Bangladesh midfielder Jamal

Bhuiyan believes the performance against Australia gave them a lesson and a spirit to come back stronger and do better against Jordan.

"It was not good against Australia and I am not happy. We have to do better in our next game against Jordan. We have to give 110 per cent. I need points in the next game," said Jamal, who believes Bangladesh would have the advantage of playing in familiar conditions.

"The players are ready to show that the Australia game was a mistake. In this one year in Bangladesh I only won (referring King's Cup, second in Bangabandhu Cup, Federation Cup, AFC Cup). I want to win every competition I go. I am not a loser. I want this mentality to be in every other Bengali players," said Jamal.

## Shahdat sued for 'torturing house help'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A house help yesterday brought allegations of torture by national cricketer Shahadat Hossain and his wife.

"A girl has verbally complained before us of being tortured by national cricketer Sahadat Hossain and his wife when some locals brought her here," Dadan Fakir, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, told The Daily Star last night over phone.

He also said the 11-year-old was brought to the police station around 9:00pm and was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Dadan Fakir also said a case has been filed with Mirpur Police Station accusing the couple.

When contacted, duty officer Abdul Salam of Mirpur Police Station last night confirmed the filing of a case by one Khandaker Mozammel.

Interestingly, the Mirpur police also confirmed that Sahadat had filed a general diary around noon regarding his house help going missing.

However, Shahadat could not be reached over phone for comments last night.

Pace bowler Shahdat, who sustained a knee injury while playing in the second Test against Pakistan earlier this year, lives at Mirpur-2, adjacent to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

## Lot of emphasis on A team tour

**SPORTS REPORTER**

It might be just a series between the second stringed sides, but there seems to be no shortage of excitement.

A host of cameras and reporters lined up outside the selectors' room, in which, Faruque Ahmed and company were busy preparing Bangladesh A's 15-member squad for their series in India against their opposite number later this month. The scenario seemed to reflect that of any other normal international series.

One of the crucial reasons behind this increased fervour is that both Bangladesh and India are likely to field very strong sides for the upcoming matches. The second string sides of both the nations will face-off in three one-day matches and a three-day match in Bangalore.

"The tour is very important because their A team I believe is not too far behind from their national team. That's the reason why we are preparing a strong A team for the series. I think they will be doing the same," said Faruque.

"We have an important series against Australia in October, so if some of them can get match-practice, that will be great. The likes of Soumya [Sarker], Nasir [Hossain], Sabbir [Rahman] didn't get much of an opportunity. Neither did Rony Talukdar or Anamul Haque. So that's an idea we are trying to follow," he added.

The selection committee submitted the team to the board yesterday and it is likely to be revealed today.

There is a possibility for Bangladesh to send a team with a number of players from the national side. The senior players though are not likely to make the tour.

After the India series, Bangladesh A will travel to South Africa and then to Zimbabwe. Faruque indicated that the newer players are more likely to get their chances in the Zimbabwe series.

"There is nothing like a series win. But what I want most for my players is to play good cricket," said Faruque when asked about his expectations from the India tour.

According to a report from the Press Trust of India, there is a chance for a number of players from India's senior team to take part in this tour, as they require match practice ahead of their series against South Africa in October.

The tour of India comprises three one-dayers -- on September 16, 18 and 20 in Bangalore -- and two three-day matches. The first three-day is in Mysore over September 22-24 while the second game is again in Bangalore over September 27-29.

## Watson walks out of Tests

**CRICKET.COM.AU**

One of Australia's most maligned players says he didn't achieve everything he wanted to in the baggy green but bows out of the game knowing that he gave his heart and soul for his country.

An emotional Watson addressed teammates in London on Sunday morning, and was given a rousing round of applause.

He is flying home immediately due to a calf strain which has ruled him out of the remainder of the ODI series against England, however he intends to continue trying to represent Australia in one-day and Twenty20 cricket.

Watson was dropped



from the Test side after the first Ashes Test and after weeks of deliberating whether to fight on, decided it was time to go.

There is no cricketer in recent times who has been subjected to more vitriolic criticism than Watson, but one of the game's humble personalities says he hasn't been marked harder than anyone else and gave up long ago worrying about what people thought of him.

"That's not what I am about so whatever people think they're going to think either way," said Watson.

Watson said Australian

selectors had talked to him about staying on so that his experience could help young captain Steve Smith, however with his place in the Test XI looking increasingly unlikely -- the star said he didn't want to simply hang around.

Watson admitted the spirit to continue had left him.

TEST STATS	
Matches	59
Runs	3731
Highest Score	176
Average	35.19
100	4
50	24
4's	483
6's	31
Wickets	75
Best figures	6-61
Economy rate	2.75

## De Kruif's fine not paid yet

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is apparently in dark over whether head coach Lodewijk de Kruif will be allowed to stand in the dug-out in the World Cup/Asian Cup Qualifier against Jordan on Tuesday.

The Dutch coach served out his two-match suspension handed by FIFA after the game against Australia on Thursday, but the accompanying fine of 8,500 dollars is yet to be deposited to the FIFA account. The suspension and fine were imposed on August 3 after the coach had allegedly hurled abuse at a fourth official during June 6 fixture against Kyrgyzstan in Dhaka, and the deadline for payment was September 3.

"We received FIFA's letter on Aug 16 or 17 and in principle, the 30-day period will count from the time we received the letter. Despite that we wrote to the FIFA today (Sunday) asking them whether de Kruif will be able to stand at the dug-out during the match against Jordan. However, we have not received any response from FIFA but hope to get it by tomorrow (Monday)," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

The BFF general secretary also claimed that the fine will have to be paid by the coach, and in case he doesn't pay, the coach himself will bear the consequences.

## IN A NUTSHELL

### Sachin inspects villa

Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar on Saturday undertook a boat journey through Kerala's scenic backwaters to reach nearby Panangad to see a luxury waterfront villa which he plans to buy from a private developer.

Tendulkar, who co-owns ISL team Kerala Blasters, said it was for the first time he was enjoying the beauty of Kerala backwaters about which he had "heard so much".

The developer said the master blaster was impressed with the idyllic location of the villa and was in the process of finalising the 5,000 square feet three-storey villa.



Stanislas Wawrinka throws his broken racquet to the crowd during his US Open third round game. PHOTO: AFP

### 'India must reward us'

Shaminder Singh bought parts from around the world, spending nearly 3,000 pounds and seven months putting his creation together at his Coventry home.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan feels India must fulfil its promise of 'rewarding' Pakistan for its support for the 'Big Three' governance system introduced in the International Cricket Council last year.

Khan told on Saturday night that Pakistan had its own reasons for supporting the 'Big Three' but one of them was that it would eventually lead to restoration of bilateral ties with India.

Compiled by Star Sport Desk

### A stadium for Hughes

A cricket fan has painstakingly hand-built a plastic miniature stadium in memory of Australian batsman Phillip Hughes.