



Shakib Al Hasan (R) will begin his second stint as T20I captain, but unlike the 22-year-old who shouldered the responsibility last time, he will now have a wealth of experience and years of learning from inspirational captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. FILE PHOTO: STAR

## Umpires fear clubs & directors: Hassan

SPORTS REPORTER



A few days ago, a second division cricket match in Bangladesh unexpectedly grabbed the attention of the cricketing world. The reason behind that of course was visible in the scorecard of that match.

A bowler had leaked 92 runs off just four balls. The bowler had bowled wides and no-balls until the game was over. Later on, the team representative told journalists that this was done in order to protest the 'biased umpiring' that had taken place in the first innings of that game.

Yesterday, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan had a meeting with the BCB umpires committee regarding the issue and decided to bring about a few changes to the current system.

According to the changes, the board is going to place cameras for first and second division matches in the country. The cameras will assess the umpires' performance.

"If required I will bring trainers from the ICC to train and improve our umpires. However, at the same time we will assess the umpires' performance," said Hassan.

For a while, there have been talks about how Bangladesh's clubs and cricketing organisers influence umpires and how

umpires are scared of various club officials. Complaints have been made against certain umpires to no avail.

"Look, forget the clubs [and] the organisers. If you want to do well in the future, you have to have a strong umpiring committee. If you remove umpires after each complaint, it won't do you any good.

"Already umpires are fearful of clubs and directors. You have to make umpires and match referees more powerful," said Hassan.

"We need a review system to assess the umpires. If you don't have that then how can you say whether an umpire is biased or is not working properly. Because of the cameras, there will be a check and balance," he added.

Furthermore, Hassan said that the Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) had already submitted a report regarding the incident in the match. But aside from that the BCB itself has formed a three-member committee to find out why exactly the bowler leaked 92 runs in four balls.

"This issue has received international coverage and that's not good for our cricket. We are taking this up seriously," said Hassan.

Apart from that, Hassan also said that BCB director Sheikh Sohel would be replacing Nazmul Karim Tinku, who unfortunately passed away last week, as the chairman of the umpires committee.

## Decent day for Siddikur

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace golfer Siddikur Rahman had a decent outing on the third round of the Panasonic Open in Japan, finishing the round with an overall score of two-under-par (211) to share the 37th position.

The 32-year-old, who started the round tied for 46th with a par score, hit three birdies on the seventh, ninth and 10th holes before returning a bogey on the 15th to card two-under-par (69) at the Chiba Country Club's Umesato Course on Saturday.

Meanwhile overnight leader Jason Knutzon had a torrid outing, slipping all the way to 15th. The American hit a double-bogey on the second hole, before carding two further bogeys which saw his overall score plummet to 5-under-par (208).

Junggon Hwang, who was 11th, leaped to the top of the leaderboard with an overall score of 10-under-par (203) after trading eight birdies for two bogeys on a brilliant day.

Local golfer Mikumu Horikawa was hot on his heels after rising 30 places to the second position. He traded nine birdies for one bogey after an incredible day's work to notch up a nine-under-par (204). Joining him in second were Thailand's Prayad Marksaeng and another local, Hiroshi Iwata.

## Saudi beat China by 390 runs!

STAR SPORT DESK

Saudi Arabia and China's one-day match in the ICC World Cricket League Asia Region Division One produced one of the more stunning scorecards in recent memory as the Middle Eastern side defeated their counterparts by a staggering 390 runs in 50 overs.

The Saudis opted to bat first and piled on a mammoth 418 runs, with Mohammad Afzal scoring a 100-ball 120 and Shoaib Ali blasting 91 off 41.

After the exchange, seven Chinese batsmen were dismissed for ducks and one was absent due to injury as they scored 28 in 12.4 overs. The top score of 13 came from the extras column while opener Zhuang Zelin made the next highest with 6.

## Highest salary Tk 4 lakh

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) approved a new salary structure for the national cricketers, with top grade players getting a 63 per cent increment in their monthly salaries, at a board meeting at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur yesterday.

The old contract had expired in December last year and the players will get their outstanding salaries as per the new structure.

The board increased the salary after the players made their demands known over the past few months, citing that even lower-ranked teams earned more than them.

The final list of the players of each grade is yet to be announced. While a preliminary list was submitted to the board, it was not accepted since there were questions regarding the fate of the newer players in the national team.

The board is likely to fix a new mechanism to grade the players. Aside from looking at the existing points system, which focuses more on the number of international games that a player has played, they will also be

### MONTHLY SALARY STRUCTURE (EFFECTIVE FROM JAN, 2017)

GRADE	OLD	NEW
A+	Tk 2,50,000	Tk 4,00,000
A	Tk 2,00,000	Tk 3,00,000
B	Tk 1,50,000	Tk 2,00,000
C	Tk 1,00,000	Tk 1,50,000
D	Tk 75,000	Tk 1,00,000
MATCH FEE		
TEST:	Tk 2,00,000 to Tk 3,50,000	
ODI:	Tk 1,00,000 to Tk 2,00,000	

adding a performance criterion to this system.

"We had a list of players, but there was confusion regarding one or two players. Until now we followed the points system, but that depends on which player plays more matches. But some of the good performers are not there because they haven't played as many games.

"For example, a Mosaddek Hossain or a Mehedi Hasan Miraz, they are not in the rating. We have said yes to the points system, but performance will also be looked into and then we will make the list again. I think around 15 to 18 players will be included in the new contract," explained Hassan.

When the last contracts were given, five players had been included in the A+ category -- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah Riyad.

This time around, there is a good chance that Taskin Ahmed, Mehedi Hasan, Kamrul Islam and Mosaddek Hossain will be given national contracts in place of Nasir Hossain, Arifat Sunny and Al-Amin Hossain.

Bangladesh have done very well recently, their tour of Sri Lanka was an especially memorable one, where they won their 100th Test to level the Test series and also secured draws in the ODI and T20I series. To encourage the cricketers, the board is also considering increasing the winning bonus.

On another note, it was decided that the auction for the national team sponsorship would take place on April 29 with a floor price of Tk 60 crore. The current floor price is almost Tk 20 crore more than what the BCB had received two years ago when Robi Axiata Limited were won the rights to sponsor the team.

Hassan will be leaving for Dubai today in order to attend an International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting which will discuss issues relating to the proposed changes to the ICC's constitution and revenue sharing.

## Younis may continue 'if needed'

AGENCIES, Lahore



Pakistan's veteran batsman Younis Khan, who needs only 23 runs to become the country's first batsman to reach 10000 Test runs, has said that he would be willing to prolong his Test career should the team need him.

The 39-year-old had earlier announced that he will bid adieu to international cricket after the ongoing three-match Test series against West Indies. However, he said he's open to reconsidering his decision if the team

requests him.

"I could have played more. But I think the right time to retire is when people want you to stay, not when they are thinking your time is up. So I think it is a good time for me retire," Younis told cricket.com.au before the start of the Jamaica Test. "Yeah, I will think about it (coming out of retirement). It all depends on if my team needs me. If they request me or people want me then why not? But it all depends on my team," he added.

Younis, who had retired from ODIs in 2011 and last played a T20I in 2010, has led Pakistan in all three formats

and even helped them achieve their only World T20 title in 2009.

Younis has been one of Pakistan's mainstays alongside Misbah-ul-Haq for the last few years. In his last eight Tests, the right-handed batsman has notched up three 100-plus scores - including a match-winning double-hundred against England at The Oval and twice surpassed fifty.

Skipper Misbah, who will also be retiring after the conclusion of the West Indies Tests, urged Younis to carry on for a while, insisting that his absence would come as a big blow for a side that lacks experienced players.

## Chase, Dowrich frustrate Pakistan

AFP, Kingston



Half-centuries by Roston Chase and Shane Dowrich engineered a West Indies revival in reaching 244 for seven at stumps against Pakistan on the opening day of the first Test at Sabina Park on Friday.

Coming together immediately after lunch when opener Kieran Powell became Mohammad Amir's third wicket with the innings in tatters at 71 for five, Chase batted with confidence and fluency for a top score of 63.

His sixth-wicket partnership with Dowrich was worth 118 runs, the wicketkeeper-batsman enhancing his reputation with a polished 56, the pair making a mockery of the West Indies' earlier struggles after they were put in to bat.

On the same ground where an unbeaten hundred in just his second Test match saved the West Indies from defeat against India a year earlier, Chase looked at ease against all bowlers although his penchant for the uncontrolled hook resulted in a couple of narrow escapes.

Yet it was Yasir Shah who removed both him and Dowrich off successive deliveries in the final session.

Made to look ordinary by the pair's positive play through the afternoon, the leg-spinner had the last laugh when he lured Chase into the lofied stroke and Wahab Riaz held an outstanding catch running back from mid-off almost to the boundary rope. Dowrich was then completely deceived and bowled by the next delivery.

At 189 for seven, Pakistan's hopes of dismissing the West Indies on the opening day were revived, only for captain Jason Holder and Devendra Bishoo to frustrate the visitors with an enterprising unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 55.

Earlier, Mohammad Abbas had a dream start to his Test career, having Kraigg Brathwaite caught at second slip by Younis Khan without scoring with his second delivery sharing the new ball with Amir.

It was an important early breakthrough as the opener had made history in their last Test match meeting with unbeaten scores of 142 and 60 that earned the Caribbean side a five-wicket win in Sharjah last November at the end of an otherwise miserable tour of the United Arab Emirates.

SCORES IN BRIEF: WEST INDIES: First innings 244 for 7 (Powell 33, Chase 63, Dowrich 56; Amir 3-28, Shah 2-91)

## Vintage Dhoni powers Pune

IANS, Pune

Former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's late order blitzkrieg guided Rising Pune Supergiant to a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a last ball thriller at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Saturday.

With 47 needed off the last three overs, the situation was tailor made for one of the best finishers in world cricket, and Dhoni started in his usual fashion, taking the time to settle down before unleashing his power.

The penultimate over witnessed a vintage Dhoni smashing two consecutive boundaries before using his bottom hand to launch Bhuvneshwar for a powerful six to reach his half century and leave Pune needing 11 from the final over.

The final over had medium pacer Siddharth Kaul going for a six in the very first ball from Manoj Tiwary before Dhoni finished off in style with a boundary through extra cover.

SCORES IN BRIEF: HYDERABAD: 176 for 3 in 20 overs (Warner 43, Henriques 55 not out; Christian 1-20) PUNE: 179 for 4 in 20 overs (Tripathi 59, Dhoni 61 not out; Rashid 1-17) Result: Pune won by 6 wickets. Player-of-the-match: MS Dhoni.



Shane Dowrich scored a patient 56 and stitched together a 118-run partnership with Roston Chase to give the West Indies a chance at a decent total on the first day of the first Test against Pakistan. PHOTO: AFP