

SPORT



The Bangladesh team are welcomed by Bangladesh Cricket Supporters Association of United Kingdom members after touching down in London yesterday, from where they will depart for Sussex for a 10-day training camp ahead of the tri-series in Ireland and the Champions Trophy in England.

PHOTO: BCSA

BCB won't bow to PCB pressure

SPORTS REPORTER



Did the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) indulge in a ploy to put pressure on Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) regarding their scheduled tour to Bangladesh later this year?

The question was raised after the PCB disclosed to the media late on Wednesday that their team will not tour Bangladesh this year to play two Tests, three ODIs and a T20i series in July and August as scheduled.

The BCB however will not bow down to any pressure; they will rather stick to the original schedule according to Future Tours Programme (FTP).

"We were really surprised but we haven't heard anything from them through official correspondence. We got the news through the media that they want to cancel the tour but we believe that the tour is on as scheduled," said BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus in response to the news from PCB.

"We also read that it has been postponed indefinitely by mutual consent but this is not true because we didn't know anything regarding PCB's change of plans. But the one thing I can assure is that we will stick to the original schedule," he continued.

"There was a discussion between both board chiefs during this week's ICC meeting in Dubai. This upcoming series was ours to host according to the FTP. In 2015 the two boards struck a deal that we will play two series for the following two years in Bangladesh.

"There was even a financial issue, which was dealt with at the time. They said they wanted to play in Bangladesh till 2017. They wanted Bangladesh to play two T20s in Pakistan before continuing the series here. We don't want to play there. We want to stick to our schedule, which has the whole series being played in Bangladesh. We have cleared the financial issues so there's no need to talk about those things now," he explained.

Meanwhile, PCB chairman Shahryar Khan told ESPNcricinfo that: "We had spoken about the possibility of hosting them [Bangladesh in Pakistan] this year. Pakistan have now toured Bangladesh twice without them reciprocating, and we feel we cannot tour Bangladesh for the third straight time. Therefore, we have decided to postpone the tour, and will explore another window in the next year or so."

Bangladesh last toured Pakistan in 2007-08, for a five-ODI series. Since then, Pakistan have toured Bangladesh twice, in 2011-12 and 2015. The PCB had invited Bangladesh for a two-match T20I series this year, only for the BCB to rebuff the invitation.

The leading cricket nations have not visited Pakistan for security reasons ever since the 2009 Lahore attack on the Sri Lanka team bus.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY India yet to name squad

AFP, New Delhi

India are refusing to unveil their squad for the Champions Trophy amid speculation they might pull out because of a row with the sport's governing body over revenue sharing.

The powerful Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has already missed the agreed April 25 deadline for naming their squad for the eight-nation event beginning in England and Wales on June 1.

The other seven nations have named their squads but India are unlikely to face any sanction from the International Cricket Council (ICC) under the rules of the 50-over tournament.

India's reluctance stems from their long-running opposition to changes in the financial and governance structure of the ICC which would reduce their influence and earnings along with the other members of the so-called "big three" Australia and England.

The dispute has raised speculation in India that the cricket-mad nation could pull out of the 50-over Champions Trophy tournament, an event they won in 2013, an option the BCCI was not ruling out.

"It is too early to make predictions since the event is more than a month away, but nothing can be ruled out. Let's wait and watch," a BCCI board official told.

Maruf makes up for Tigers' absence

Rakibul brings MSC back on track; Brothers thrash Partex

SPORTS REPORTER



Mehedi Maruf led from the front with a hundred to maintain Prime

Bank Cricket Club's winning streak while Rakibul Hasan's captain's knock guided Mohammedan back to the winning track in the fourth round of the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League yesterday.

Prime Bank outclassed Victoria Sporting Club by 130 runs at BKSP thanks to Maruf's 101 off 103 balls that featured 12 fours and two sixes. Prime Bank put on a challenging total of 283 on the board and then dismissed their opponents for 153 runs in 33.5 overs.

"There was some pressure

SCORES IN BRIEF	
KHELAGHAR: 189-10 in 45.4 overs (Robi 63, Amit 53, Nafis 19; Enamul 3-33, Azim 2-25, Rabbi 2-28)	4-21, Nayem 2-16, Kamrul 2-32
MOHAMMEDAN: 190-6 in 44.5 overs (Rakibul 76 not out, Mukund 35, Rony 27; Robi 3-20, Tanvir 1-26, Nazmus 1-28)	BROTHERS: 103-3 in 17.5 overs (Farhad 35 not out, Mizanur 33, Zunaid 20; Rajibul 1-9, Zakaria 1-19, Nuruzzaman 1-40)
Result: Mohammedan Sporting Club won by 4 wickets.	Result: Brothers Union won by 7 wickets.
PARTEX: 102-10 in 30.5 overs (Sazzadul 42, Dogra 12, Nuruzzaman 10; Nehaduzzaman	PRIME BANK: 283-10 in 49.4 overs (Mehedi 101, Asif 37, Easwaran 33; Monir 3-44, Isamul 2-49, Rubel 2-56)
	VICTORIA: 153-10 in 33.5 overs (Ridoy 42, Nasiruddin 27, Monir 25; Ariful 3-14,

because we lost three players from the national team and our foreign recruit Unmukt Chand also left. So we had to play with four new players and that added some pressure.

My century helped the team win and the rest of the team also performed. The bowlers also made a good contribution. As a captain it always feels good to win matches,"

said Maruf after the match.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Rakibul's unbeaten 76 helped Mohammedan beat Khelaghar Samaj Kallayan Samiti by four wickets.

Rakibul's 92-ball innings featured six fours and three sixes as Mohammedan overtook Khelaghar's 189 runs comfortably.

Earlier, Khelaghar rode on Robiul Islam Robi's 63 and Amit Majumdar's 53 to make 189 in 45.4 overs. Enamul Haque picked up three wickets for 33.

In the other match at the BKSP, Brothers Union thrashed Partex Sporting Club by seven wickets in a low-scoring encounter. Partex were bowled out for 102 runs in 30.5 overs, a total Brothers overcame in 17.5 overs with seven wickets in hand.



Prime Bank captain Mehedi Maruf (L) smashed 12 fours and two sixes as he scored an unbeaten 103-ball 101 to help his side defeat Victoria at BKSP yesterday. His Mohammedan counterpart Rakibul Hasan scored an unbeaten 76 to condemn Khelaghar Samaj Kallayan Samiti to defeat at Fatullah.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

Temporary ban for Jimmy

SPORTS REPORTER



National striker Raseel Mahmud Jimmy has been temporarily banned from representing the national hockey team and participating in foreign leagues until the executive committee of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) sits in its next meeting to take a final decision on him.

The decision was made at the BHF working committee yesterday after a four-member committee recommended a three-year suspension for Jimmy from the national team following his criticism of the federation officials in a TV interview during the World Hockey League round-2 held in Dhaka. He was also accused of misbehaving with Bangladesh Army players.

"The working committee temporarily suspended Jimmy from the national hockey team and participation in foreign leagues," said BHF general secretary Abdus Sadeque. "We have also referred the recommendations of the four-member committee to the executive committee, which will take the final decision on Jimmy."

The former national captain is however permitted to take part in domestic games.

Apart from the suspension recommendation on Jimmy, the four-member committee also recommended that a show-cause notice be served to German coach Oliver Kurtz asking why Jimmy was allowed to take part in the publicity activities of the national hockey team during the World Hockey League. The committee also suggested that when a captain is selected for the national team, the player's his past record and behaviour is taken into account.

BCCI out in the cold, but door still open

STAR SPORT DESK



The International Cricket Council (ICC) concluded a five-day meeting at its headquarters in Dubai yesterday with the members deciding to proceed with the new financial model, passing it with a vote of 13 to one, the game's governing body said in a statement on its website yesterday.

The approval of the new distribution model may effectively bring about the end of the Big 3 system of governance—which saw India, England and Australia take the biggest chunks of ICC's lucrative pie—but there is still time before the changes are ratified by the ICC's full council in an annual conference in June.

The financial restructure was agreed to in principle in February, but India remained strongly opposed to the reforms and they were reportedly the only country to vote against it.

The ICC-appointed working group proposed the new financial model has to be guided by the following principles: equity, good conscience, common sense and simplicity, enabling every member to grow, revenue generated by members and greater transparency. Another principle was the recognition of interdependency among members -- that cricket playing nations need each other and the more strong nations there are, the better for the sport.

100M OFFER TO INDIA STILL ON
According to reports from ESPNcricinfo, immediately after the BCCI was outvoted at the ICC board meeting on Wednesday, Manohar informed BCCI secretary Amitabh Choudhury that the settlement offer of an additional USD 100 million was still on the table.

The BCCI seemed confident of stopping the vote from passing, but they were blindsided when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC), long-standing allies of the Indian board, all voted in favour of the proposal.

ESPNcricinfo quoted one official as

saying that the main reason behind these three boards changing their stances was the ICC's offer to provide them financial help, adding that ZC could be given USD 19 million to clear its debt while the WICB maybe be given a USD 40 million grant.

A source who has worked closely with Manohar since he arrived at the ICC last year said he has no "desire to alienate" the BCCI. He has asked the ICC to continue engaging with the BCCI.

Choudhury told the ICC that he would need to head back to the BCCI, which will take a final decision at a special general body meeting (SGM).

The official said India still had the bargaining power because of its importance in bilateral cricket. He pointed out that the ICC might need to increase its settlement offer and "go beyond" the proposed \$100 million.

"There are two ways of resolving this now. One is the SGM says okay, 390 [USD 293 million plus 100 million] is good. Let us go ahead. The ICC will agree immediately and resolve it. Or [the SGM] says we need more time.

NEW FINANCIAL MODEL

REVENUE DISTRIBUTION FOR 2016-2023

Board	New (USD in millions)
India	293
England	143
New Zealand	132
South Africa	132
Australia	132
West Indies	132
Bangladesh	132
Sri Lanka	132
Pakistan	132
Zimbabwe Cricket	94

Then there will be another round of negotiations [with the ICC]."

However, the scope of any further negotiations, the source pointed out, was remote. "He [Manohar] would still want to negotiate with the BCCI, but would he take it beyond \$390 million? Questionable."

One other interested party, which could play the catalyst, is the Committee of Administrators (CoA). Any decision taken by the BCCI office bearers would need to be conveyed to the CoA, which would need to approve anything that is sent in writing to the ICC as per the court order. "The CoA can step in, but it will only step in also at USD 445 million [which the BCCI considers a middle ground]," the official said.

NEW CONSTITUTION AGREED

The members of the ICC also voted 12 to two on a new constitution to be put before the ICC full council in the ICC's annual conference.

The major changes include the potential to include additional Full Members in the future subject to meeting membership criteria and the removal of the Affiliate Members. A membership criteria and a membership committee will be established to consider membership applications, while the potential for reclassification of Full Membership -- one of the clauses which Bangladesh was strongly opposed to -- was removed.

All the board members will also have an equal weight of votes regardless of membership status and all members will be entitled to attend the AGM. Other changes include the introduction of an independent female director and a deputy chairman of the board who will be a sitting director elected by the board.

OTHER ISSUES

Talks about bringing more context to international bilateral cricket are ongoing and the board noted the collective will to resolve the current calendar congestion in order to bring a clear framework to all three formats.

The ICC board also considered an update following the ICC delegation to the Pakistan Super League final in Lahore as part of its commitment to support the return of international bilateral cricket to Pakistan as long as it is safe. The feasibility of further matches in Pakistan involving a World XI is now being considered from a security and budget perspective.

The chief executives' committee also reconfirmed its support for cricket's inclusion in the Olympics.