

SPORT



Dhaka Dynamites skipper Shakib Al Hasan (R) talks with Chittagong Vikings' Anamul Haque during a practice session at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Decentralisation top priority'

SPORTS REPORTER

The formation of the regional cricket association or decentralisation of cricket has been a long-standing demand but it remained unfulfilled for a decade. However, like his predecessors, Nazmul Hasan, who was re-elected Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president yesterday, said that he would decentralize cricket within the shortest possible time.

"Our first job will be to form the regional cricket association and we will try to finalise that in the next six months. We will move forward with a special plan. If we select the region and play it might not work that much. So first and the most important thing will be to engage the grassroots level organisers before forming the regional cricket association. We may even outline everything by the next three months and will look to pass that in the EGM," Hassan said while complying with reporters after emerging from the board meeting

where the 26 directors save him wanted him to occupy the hot seat of the country's richest sports federation.

There was little doubt that Hassan would continue, especially after his successful four years at the helm, although he publicly wanted to quit after claiming it too demanding a job for a ruling party

lawmaker and a CEO of a multinational company.

"As you know after serving as the president for the last four years I personally wanted only to work as a director. I wanted someone else to become president as it was getting very challenging for me personally with the amount of time I had to give here. However the previous

directors along with the two new directors wanted to me become president again and reasoned that there would be hard times ahead for Bangladesh cricket. And it's important for me to stay," said Hassan to the media.

Hassan informed that there would be drastic changes to most of the sub-committees apart from the cricket operations and technical committee. He added the election for the two vice-president posts along with the new committee would be formed during the Dhaka phase of the Bangladesh Premier League that starts in Sylhet on November 4.

"For the vice-presidents post there are a few interested candidates this time as well and we will sit and decide whatever is good for us," Hassan said. Changes will definitely come however there may not be major changes in the cricket operations and technical committee as it's a very difficult and technical thing. However there will be changes in the other committees where we are looking to have some new faces along with the older members," he added.



Nazmul Hasan (2nd from L) is congratulated by the BCB directors after being re-elected as the board's president in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

India wallop Kiwis in Nehra's last match

AFP, New Delhi

A record opening partnership between Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma powered India to a 53-run victory over New Zealand in the opening Twenty20 international in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Invited to bat, Dhawan, who hit a career-best 80, and Sharma, who also made 80, put together 158 runs to give the hosts a resounding total of 202-3.

The India bowlers then came good too as they restricted the visitors to 149-8 in what was the farewell match for paceman Ashish Nehra. Tom Latham top-scored with 39 runs, but

he hardly found the support he needed from the others. Nehra failed to get a wicket in his four-overs spell.

Earlier, the Dhawan-Sharma pair put up India's best partnership for any wicket in T20s, surpassing the 136-run opening show between Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir against England in the 2007 World Cup.

Indian batsmen also benefited from a sloppy effort by New Zealand fielders with Dhawan, on eight, and Sharma, on 16, surviving dropped chances.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi got Dhawan caught behind in the 17th over but the washbuckling opener had done enough damage with 10 fours and 2 sixes in his 52-ball knock.

Sodhi also got Hardik Pandya for nought two balls later but the unstoppable Sharma, who hit 6 fours and 4 sixes, continued to entertain a raucous home crowd.

Sharma fell to fast bowler Trent Boult in the penultimate over but skipper Virat Kohli, who was also dropped on eight, finished unbeaten on 26 off 11 deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 202 for 3 in 20 overs (Sharma 80, Dhawan 80, Kohli 26 not out; Sodhi 2-25)

NEW ZEALAND: 149 for 8 in 20 overs (Williamson 28, Latham 39, Santner 27 not out; Patel 2-20, Chahal 2-26, Nehra 0-29)
Result: India won by 53 runs



India opener Shikhar Dhawan (C) and Rohit Sharma run between the wickets as New Zealand bowler Ish Sodhi (R) looks on during the first T20I at the Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

No Tension with Digestion

Fighting for too little on offer

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Sylhet



The chaos for Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) tickets continued in Sylhet yesterday as fans who turned up were ultimately involved in a clash with police after failing to get their hands on tickets.

The fans made their anger known by vandalising windows of the Sylhet District Stadium once the selling booths were closed after an hour of selling tickets for the second day's matches.

Tickets for the opening day's matches (November 4) had sold out earlier and a huge number of cricket lovers gathered at the stadium to buy tickets for the November 5 matches but only a few were fortunate. When it was declared after an hour that gallery tickets for the second day's matches were sold out, people started to show their anger which ended in a clash with police that left a few fans slightly injured.

Gousul Alam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the police were forced to change the mob to clear the stadium area and had to close the ticket selling in booths.

However, fans complained that tickets were available on the black market but the price was five times higher. In the booths people could buy only one ticket at a time

but ticket touts were selling bulks of tickets near the stadium and through Facebook.

Nirjhor Tapadar, who failed to buy any tickets on Tuesday and came for a second time yesterday only to return empty-handed again, alleged that ticket touts were selling a ticket worth Tk 200 for between Tk 1,000-1,200.

When journalists tried to speak to authorised vendors at the Sylhet District Stadium, they hid to avoid cameras and were unwilling to talk.

BPL governing council member secretary and BCB director IH Mallik however said that they were helpless to meet the huge demand.

The stadium capacity is only 17,000. Twenty five per cent of the tickets are sold online and we had to give more than twenty five per cent of the remaining tickets as complimentary tickets. On the other hand Sylhet Sixers bought more than one thousand tickets as the home team. Our local board director got some to distribute among the local administrations and other dignitaries. So, everybody has to accept the reality."

Shafiqul Alam Nadel, BCB director from Sylhet, said that the huge demand and overcrowding led to the chaos.

However the organizers informed that they would sell tickets of the November 7 and 8 matches at the booths today.



Ruins of the queues after a second day of trouble over BPL ticket sales at the Sylhet District Sports Association yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Hazlewood to step up Ashes preparation

AGENCIES, Sydney

Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood is expected to play for his state side in a four-day match this week as he steps up his preparation for the first Ashes Test against England.

Hazlewood returned to action in club cricket last weekend after being out with a side strain he picked up in the Test series against Bangladesh in August.

The 26-year-old will now play for New South Wales against Western Australia in a four-day Sheffield Shield clash in Sydney starting on Saturday.

Hazlewood will be joined in the New South Wales attack by fellow Australia pacers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins as well as Aussie spinner Nathan Lyon.

If he gets through the Western Australia

game uncashed, Hazlewood will play for the his domestic side in their next Shield match against Queensland from 13 November, which would give him two first-class matches under the belt before the Ashes gets underway on the 23rd of this month.

Australia physio David Beakley said of Hazlewood: "Until he suffered the side strain, ultimately we wanted him playing the first Shield game like the other boys."

"He hasn't played that match but he played Premier (cricket last weekend), is expected to play this week."

"If he still gets a couple of Shield games in it's pretty good preparation."

Cummins and Starc, who played for New South Wales in their opening Shield clash last week, are not expected to play the third game as they will be rested before the first Ashes Test.

Zimbabwe take slim lead

AFP, Bulawayo

Zimbabwe live to fight another day after an unbroke partnership of 94 between Sikandar Raza and Peter Moor gave them the lead against West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test at Queens Sports Club.

Sikandar Raza and Moor came together with Zimbabwe reeling on 46 for four in their second innings on Wednesday, still needing 76 runs to make the West Indies bat again.

By the close they had carried the home side to 140 for four to claim an 18-run lead, with Raza adding his second half-century in a match where he has also claimed a five-wicket haul.

After spending 178 overs in the field, when they conceded a record 212-run partnership for the eighth wicket to centuriesmen Dowrich and Jason Holder.

Zimbabwe's punch-drunk top order were easily knocked over as West Indies delivered some heavy blows. But Raza made an unbeaten 58 and Moor batted out 152 deliveries for his 39 not out to ensure that the two-match series, which the West Indies lead 1-0, will go into a final day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: First innings 326

WEST INDIES: First innings 448 (Powell 90, S Hope 40, Dowrich 103, Holder 110; Raza 5-99, Chiroso 3-113)

ZIMBABWE: Second

innings 140 for 4 (Ervine

22, Moor 38 not out, Raza

58 not out; Roach 2-14)



JUST LANDED AND MARRIED: Bangladesh fast bowler Taskin Ahmed tied the knot with Sayeda Rabeya Naima in the presence of family and friends the day he returned from South Africa on Tuesday, which came as a surprise to many, especially his female followers.

PHOTO: STAR