



Will the BCB take allegations seriously?

SPORTS REPORTER

Will the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) investigate Afghanistan A's allegation sincerely, for the greater interest of the country's cricket? It remains to be seen whether the BCB will take the allegation seriously or let it fade into the background like many previous such allegations in the domestic competitions, especially in the lower tiers.

As custodians of the game in the country, only the BCB can take proper action after Afghanistan A captain Nasir Jamal said that the groundsman denied them a series victory against Bangladesh A. Jamal said that the groundsman ruined the fourth one-day for them and they complained to match referee Showkatul Rahman Chinu regarding the allegedly unprofessional approach of the groundsman in the match that was called off due to rain.

"As they [Afghanistan A] did not give any official complaint, we will look into the matter internally," said BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury yesterday.

Former national captain and BCB director Gazi Ashraf Hossain however said that the BCB can form an inquiry committee to unearth the truth.

"It's very difficult for me to comment on the issue as I am not aware of what actually happened there. But it's unfortunate that this kind of allegation came from a visiting side. I think BCB can form an inquiry committee to find out whether the incident took place or not. If anything happened like this, then the board should ensure exemplary punishment for the culprits," said Gazi Ashraf. "The match referee is the representative of the board, so if they submitted a complaint with him, it means they have complained to the board," he added.

Match referee Chinu already informed that there was an observation in the captain's report similar to what Jamal told The Daily Star on Tuesday, so the BCB can ask him to submit the full report and then disclose inform the public to clear the air, besides investigating it thoroughly.



The procession of Bangladesh batsmen making their way back to the dressing room was everpresent in yesterday's third and final ODI against Sri Lanka as almost every player, barring Soumya Sarkar and, surprisingly, Taijul Islam, struggled for runs.

PHOTO: AFP

SL-BD SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA	R/B	45/65
Fernando lbw b Shaful	6/14	0/0
Karunaratne c Mushfiqur b Taijul	46/60	6/0
Perera c Mushfiqur b Rubel	42/51	5/0
Mendis c Sabbir b Soumya	54/58	5/1
Mathews c Mushfiqur b Soumya	87/90	8/1
Shanaka c Sabbir b Shaful	30/14	2/2
Jayasuriya c Tamim b Shaful	13/7	1/1
Hasaranga not out	12/5	2/0
Dananjaya c Sabbir b Soumya	0/1	0/0
Rajitha not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (w-4)		4
Total: (For eight wickets in 50 overs)	294	

Shakib returns to Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER

After playing for the Dhaka Dynamites in the last three editions of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was yesterday signed to a one-year deal by Rangpur Riders to play in the upcoming edition of the tournament, slated to begin from December 6.

Shakib was excited to be back to the franchise and said that expectations have to be fulfilled.

"I am very excited. There will be a lot of expectations which I will try to fulfil," Shakib told reporters yesterday.

Rangpur took Shakib on board as their icon player and rumours suggest that it leaves the door open for current skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who led Rangpur to their maiden title in 2017-18, to move to a new franchise.

Shakib, who led Rangpur in 2015-16 before captaining Dhaka for the next three years, hinted that the responsibility will be on him to fulfil some sort of leadership role.

"The responsibility will perhaps be on me to bring out the best in the team either as captain or as a leader. Having played for so long I know the overseas players and I don't think there will be a problem," the all-rounder said.

BCB XI crash out of 'mini-Ranji'

SPORTS REPORTER

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangha registered a seven-wicket victory and ousted BCB XI from the ongoing Dr (Capt) K. Thimmappiah Memorial tournament at the Alur-1 (Platinum Oval) in India yesterday.

Chasing a 228-run target, Chhattisgarh State took 53.5 overs on the last day of the four day to wrap the game up. Opener Jivanjot Singh's 50 off 74 balls and an unbeaten 92-ball 86 from Amandeep Khare helped them over the line with seven wickets to spare.

For BCB XI, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Ebadot Hossain and Mominul Haque took one wicket each on the day.

Lack of clarity on and off the field

MAZHAR UDDIN from Colombo



Many may blame Bangladesh's abject performance in the three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka on their on-field actions but perhaps the cricketing problems has their roots in a lack of clarity when it comes to game planning, thought process and their execution by the team management.

After defeat in the second ODI on Sunday, which cost Bangladesh the series with yesterday's third ODI still to be played, stand-in captain Tamim Iqbal defended interim head coach Khaled Mahmud, saying that he tried something out of the box but things did not go in their favour.

"Out of the box", however, probably does not mean taking decisions devoid of cricketing logic, but instead adopting an unusual method that is the result of proper planning and belief in the process.

When it came to the game plan and forming a playing eleven for the third and final ODI to avoid the humiliation of a whitewash against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh surprisingly opted to pick four genuine bowlers and three wicketkeepers.

Left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman suffered a niggle during the warm-up before the start and was replaced by Rubel Hossain while Mosaddek Hossain made way for Anamul Haque, who became the third wicketkeeper-batsman alongside Mushfiqur Rahim and Mohammad Mithun.

Soumya Sarkar and Mahmudullah



Bangladesh dropped Mosaddek Hossain yesterday, bringing the unorthodox action of Mahmudullah Riyad to the fore.

PHOTO: BCB

Riyad were considered the fifth bowling option, but that could not have provided much assurance as the latter is recovering from a shoulder injury and has had to adopt a rather awkward round-arm action.

Anamul made a comeback to the team after last playing an ODI in July 2018, and opened the innings with regular opener Soumya batting at number three. Mohammad Mithun, who failed to make an impact in the first two ODIs at number three, was still kept present, only to prolong the batting order.

It was unclear what the cricketing reasons were to drop Mosaddek, who has been able to provide the odd breakthrough as well as bowl his off-spin with control and is also

runs, leaving Tamim helpless to put pressure on the Lankan batsmen.

Many will blame Bangladesh's death-overs bowling as they conceded 106 runs in the last 10 overs after Sri Lanka seemed at one point to be eyeing a total near the 260 mark. However, the end-overs carnage was on the cards as the home side knew the opposition's slim resources and waited to launch the offensive, eventually swelling their total to 294 for eight.

It seems that sacrificing a player who gave them an extra bowling option was to prolong the struggling batting order. But it is an indication on how muddled the team management's thought process was because the bowling has been a much bigger concern for Bangladesh for a longer span - from the start of the World Cup. Bangladesh's top order failures in the series seemed to have swayed the team management into taking a defensive decision rather than go all out in search for a winning end to a sordid series.

The inclusion of all-rounder Forhad Reza or pacer Taskin Ahmed in the squad does not make sense if the think tank does not have the belief in those players. Forhad had previously been on the Ireland tour but did not play a game.

Overall, the poor planning and approach was reflected in the body language of the Bangladeshi cricketers. The muddled mindset has been evident throughout the series, and the only surprise yesterday would have been if the Tigers finished on a winning note.



Kusal Mendis and Angelo Mathews (R) stitched together a 101-run partnership to stage a recovery after coming together with the hosts on 98 for three against Bangladesh yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Lankans take a forward step, Bangladesh a step back

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo



There were raucous celebrations from the Sri Lankan cricketers at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo last night following their comprehensive 122-run win in the third ODI against Bangladesh, which helped them to a whitewash in the three-match series, as some of the players gave a victory lap with motor bikes around the ground.

There was a bit of concern for a few minutes during the victory lap as one of the members of the team, who was riding a bike with Shehan Jayasuriya, suddenly fell to the ground.

However, with no serious injury, both managed to stand up on their feet as the crowd cheered them with a huge applause.

Much like the way those two managed to get up and start their celebrations again, Sri Lanka skipper

Dimuth Karunaratne said that the comprehensive series win against Bangladesh is the beginning of a new journey for his team.

And why not? It's the first-ever series win for Sri Lanka at home after nearly four years, and it's a great start for Karunaratne and his troops after a somewhat disappointing sixth-place finish in the World Cup earlier in the month.

"I think after the World Cup we have to start again and I think this time we have to find some new talents. We have a couple of tours both home and away and we are looking forward to giving opportunity to the players and find some new talents. We want to form the best 15 players for the next World Cup," Karunaratne told reporters after the match.

From Bangladesh's point of view, it was another step back following their own disappointing World Cup, where they finished eighth. During the series, the Tigers never looked like putting up

a fight and faced crushing defeats in all three matches.

The visitors lost the first match by 91 runs, the second match by seven wickets before conceding the 122-run defeat yesterday -- the biggest margin of defeat in the series in terms of runs.

Soumya Sarkar, who was the only significant performer with the bat for the Tigers yesterday with a score of 69 in their innings of 172 in chase of 294, earmarked top-order failure along with below-par show in all three departments as the main reasons for their downfall.

"We have to admit that we played badly and failed as a team. Above that they [Sri Lanka] have won a series after almost four years at their home. They have played well and got the result. For us it was about playing our best which we couldn't do unfortunately. The pressure built on us with the top order not performing. I think a bit of indecision also played in our mind," Soumya said.