

### HASSAN'S REACTION **TO NEW DEMANDS**



There is no use adding new demands. First they had an 11-point demand, now they added two more. They may come up with more. We accepted what they first placed. If you heard their full press conference today.... I could not understand what they were actually saying. We have to pay a non-performer! Comparing a foreign coach's salary to local coaches! I cannot understand. I cannot understand whether this lawyer [the cricketers' spokesman Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan] knows anything. Our prime minister [Sheikh Hasina] clearly told me today why they stopped playing. They could have come to me or [Naimur Rahman] Durjoy or the prime minister because they have access to everybody. The biggest question is why they stopped playing.

## New demands mirror Cricket Australia's 2017 gridlock

SPORTS REPORTER



While the national cricketers' sudden strike following the announcement of an 11-point demand on Monday had taken Bangladesh cricket by storm, the cricketers yesterday added two

more points to their list of demands, which would see a radical shake-up in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

During a press conference at a city hotel in Gulshan yesterday, Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan spoke on the cricketers' behalf and said that, in addition the original 11 demands, the cricketers wanted a revenue sharing model similar to what Australian cricketers negotiated through the Australian Cricketers Association (ACA) and also that women cricketers be afforded the same provisions where 'practically and commercially viable'.

"In Australia, cricketers get a share of the revenue from Cricket Australia (CA) alongside their regular salary. The Australian players get a negotiated share of the revenue from the Big Bash League. We want a similar system for our players, which will allow cricketers to get a share from the board's revenue after negotiations each year," said Mustafizur, who was employed as the cricketers' spokesman.

The two newly added demand by the players

is given in its entirety here:

12. Going forward, there should be transparency and accountability of income and expenditure and maintenance of accounts in Bangladeshi cricket in the interests of all its stakeholders. Arrangements will have to be made where professional cricketers are given international cricketers in Australia." a fair share of the revenue generated by BCB through commercial exploitation of cricket and its associated interests, which, after all, is made possible through the toil and performance of professional cricketers. A cricketers' welfare, provident and compensation fund and insurance scheme has to be established and administered, which will ensure welfare of cricketers who have fallen on the hard times, provide pensions to retired cricketers and compensation to injured cricketers on fulfilment of objectively defined and administered criteria.

13. To the extent practical and commercially feasible, similar provisions as above will have to be made for female cricketers, with the ultimate objective of attaining gender parity as early as

There was also an alteration to the demand that the committee of the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) resign immediately. The cricketers now want the formation of a professional cricketer's association similar to those in England and Australia in order

to negotiate matters with the board

The official website of the Australian Cricketers' Association Inc. (ACA), which was established in 1997, states that it is "the collective and representative voice of past and present male and female elite domestic and

Meanwhile, the Professional Association (PCA), which is the representative body of past and present first-class cricketers in England and Wales, have been working with the development and welfare programme of its member since 1967.

However, revenue sharing has always been a bone of contention and never easy to negotiate. CA had attempted to scrap revenue sharing in 2017 and that led to a prolonged and bitter public dispute between all sides. The fixed percentage of revenue share agreement has existed in Australian cricket since 1998 and it was ultimately retained, but getting it instated is

CA also had to deal with the issue of women's payments, with the 2017 pay deal applying to all female players for the first time in Australian cricket and increasing their payments from AUD 7.5 million to 55.2 million.

However, as Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan said yesterday, he will not be entertaining either of the new demands.

## Gulshan keeps Mirpur waiting

SPORTS REPORTER



Shakib Al Hasan sat in the fourth row, amid fellow cricketers and journalists. Tamim Iqbal was walking around ensuring that the journalists had enough

places to sit.

"Bhai, if you don't find seats up front, ask one of the cricketers and he will gladly give up his," Bangladesh's highest run-scorer was overheard telling a reporter. Shohag Gazi was peering around a pillar close to the stage, which was occupied by senior domestic cricketers like Tushar Imran and Abdur Razzak, while the players' appointed spokesperson, Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan, sat in the middle behind the microphone.

It was an occasion unlike any that Bangladesh cricket has witnessed, taking place not at the cricket headquarters of Mirpur but on the first floor of a hotel in Gulshan on the third day of an eventful period that started with players boycotting cricketing activities unless certain demands

That was Monday, and on Tuesday Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan fired back with a lengthy press conference of his own, the main thrust of which was that the cricketers' strike had been orchestrated by conspirators who wished to destabilise Bangladesh cricket. He was also not above making thinlyveiled personal attacks on players.

Yesterday, the 11-point demand grew to 13-strong as a revenue sharing model and the inclusion of women cricketers in the reforms were added. The players had already made most of the demands more succinctly than the spokesperson, who displayed a tendency to over-explain every point he was making. Between those, some



**MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN KHAN** 

of the causes for the cricketers' simmering discontent came through.

"On tours, cricketers get a per diem of 50 dollars, while for directors it is 500 dollars," was one such that seemed like the public should know.

It was learnt that after Hassan's provocative press conference, more cricketers had called the original strikers and wanted to join the cause, and that was in evidence at the press conference teeming with as many cricketers as there were journalists -- certainly a first in Bangladesh cricket.

But if the BCB boss's words had caused injury, that was not in evidence vesterday. After a clamour to hear from a cricketer, Shakib made it to the front and said: "As we said, this movement is not against anyone. We have the same amount of respect we

did for the BCB." Some of the demands will no doubt be seen as ambitious and may be seen as things for the distant future.

But that is why yesterday seemed important; it was a small but significant step towards a future where power is shared more equitably. For a while at least, while Hassan and other board high-ups were waiting in Mirpur since 5:00pm, the power in Bangladesh cricket resided with the players.

#### All of us want a Ganguly takes **BCCI** reins

REUTERS, Mumbai

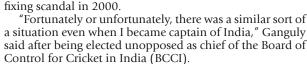


Sourav Ganguly will lead the Indian board like he led the national team, the former captain said as he promised a fair and untainted administration after taking over as president of the world's richest cricket board on Wednesday.

One of India's most successful captains, Ganguly took over the reins from a court-

appointed panel which governed the game in the country for nearly three

His transition from player to top administrator is seen as a natural progression for a captain who helped India emerge a damaging match-



"It is a similar sort of situation where things need to be brought back in place and reforms need to be done ... It's a

complete new start.' Ganguly wore an India blazer from his playing days in his conference and said he was happy to lead reforms but

was not fond of the word "control" "I find myself very fortunate to be in a position where I can make a change. It's a challenge. I'll do it the way I know, with no compromise on credibility, corruption-free and same-for-all in BCCI," he said.

# solution: Shakib

SPORTS REPORTER



A positive vibe prevailed from the morning yesterday with indications that a resolution regarding the national cricketers' strike that started on Monday

would be made by the end of the day. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials were not able to contact any national cricketer since the announcement of the strike after putting forth an 11-point demand on Monday evening.

However, BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed yesterday that he had been able to reach Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal on Tuesday evening and that the opener said he would have to sit with other players before coming to a decision.

Yesterday morning, BCB President Nazmul Hassan and Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) President Naimur Rahman met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to discuss, and try to put and an end to, the strike called by the cricketers ahead of the national team's tour of India next month and the third round of the National Cricket League from Thursday.

After Hassan and Naimur returned to the BCB offices in Mirpur from Gono Bhaban, waiting for the players' response, the national players gathered at a hotel in Gulshan to discuss amongst themselves before meeting with board officials.

Their discussions were followed by a press conference, where they put forth an updated list of demands with two new points added. Bangladesh T20I and Test skipper Shakib Al Hasan said that even the players wanted to get back to cricketing activities and that they were hoping the BCB and the players would be able to come to a solution following the national cricketers' strike.

"Even we hope that it will be solved. None of us are far from the BCB. The two parts [players and directors] combine to form the board. There are also other parts but these are the two basic parts. We all have the same respect towards the BCB and none of us want to attack any BCB official or others personally. All the players here want to play, to stay healthy and to support their families through cricket. For this reason, sometimes they need to make such demands and that's what they did," Shakib

"If you give us privacy, then we will discuss it among ourselves and either call you people and let you know about our decision or we will tell you about our decision before going to the BCB." said



The Bangladesh women's team arrived at the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore vesterday to play a three-match T20I and two-match ODI series against Pakistan. The tour will start with first T20I on October 26. PHOTO: COLLECTED