

'Their development is getting hampered'

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Interest in youth level or age-level cricket in the country is casual at best but when an international trophy comes around, the expectations of a success-starved nation amplifies. Now the 2020 U-19 World Cup triumph fuels hope for a brighter future. However, the purpose of these international tournaments is still to unearth gems; results are only secondary at these stages.

On Saturday, Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, a mentor to many stalwarts in the national side and one who was national game development manager and head cricket coach at BKSP, pondered the situation in a Facebook message.

The eleven that played the first match of the ongoing U-19 Asia Cup for India had all made their debuts at U-19 level and Fahim asked if the scenario has any significance for us.

While talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Fahim had shed further light on the scenario.

"There are players who were in the last U-19 World Cup too and are stuck. They have been playing at this stage for a few years now and the matter of progression is missing. There is the A team, first-class and the premier league that comes next in the progression. "In U-19 you spend maybe one-and-a-half years and move to the next but there are a few who have been stuck here for three or more years. Their development is getting hampered by not taking adequate challenges at the right time," Fahim dictated.

Performance is an issue but Fahim

explained that players need the right challenge in such stages. "Instead of raising the bar of performance, we're keeping it at the same level or even lowering it in some cases. Already they are in a lower phase of development than they should be," he analysed. Majority of cricketers in the Bangladesh squad played 9 to 10 one-dayers at U-19 level. But there are few who have experience of over 30 matches.

"We're trying to show everybody that we're doing well and winning an international trophy but it will not be of any benefit.

Doesn't India want to win a trophy? We are putting someone who has over 30 matches under the belt in U-19 level through the same challenges that India are exposing ones with no experience at this level," Fahim dictated. Not only would this hamper individual players that were included, but also hinder the growth of upcoming players, who could have featured in the U-19 level.

"In our local cricket, often it's encouraged to reduce one's age and perform well to come to the limelight. We don't see a 15-year-old playing well against 18-year-olds. Somehow, it doesn't appeal to us to highlight the success of someone who performed above his age-level," Fahim explained before noting that this mindset needs to change. Without the foresight of what challenges are fit for what level, Bangladesh will struggle to get their quality to the optimum level and the challenges in international cricket then would be far steeper if this line of thinking continues.



India opener KL Rahul celebrates his seventh Test hundred during the opening day of the first Test against South Africa in Centurion yesterday. [Bottom] South Africa's Quinton de Kock takes a knee ahead of the match.

PHOTO: AFP

Rahul masterclass puts India in charge

REUTERS, PRETORIA

Opener KL Rahul showed superb application to score a seventh Test century with an unbeaten 122 and steer India to a commanding 272 for three at the close of play on day one of the first test against South Africa on Sunday.

Vice-captain Rahul, who averaged 7.50 in four innings with a top score of 16 in South Africa three years ago, reached his ton off 218 balls as he toyed with a blunt home bowling attack on a slow wicket.

He will resume on the second morning with Ajinkya Rahane (40 not out), whose place in the side had been under scrutiny but played some wonderful shots to share an unbeaten fourth-wicket stand of 73.

Ragged South Africa looked like a side who have not played Test cricket since June, with a number of their players having had no red-ball cricket at any level in the last six months. They bowled too short on a wicket providing little assistance.

Guardiola urges fans to get vaccinated

REUTERS

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola called on supporters to get vaccinated and wear masks in stadiums to limit the spread of COVID-19 and avoid the possibility of games again being played behind closed doors.

Premier League clubs have been enjoying capacity crowds this season after playing virtually the whole of last term and part of the campaign before that in front of empty or restricted stands after the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020. Britain reported a record 122,186 new daily COVID-19 cases on Friday as it battles a surge in infections fuelled by the Omicron variant.

"I would not love it, honestly," Guardiola said of the prospect of playing in closed stadiums. "But cases are rising all around the world, not only in the UK. These people go to the stadiums and they can contaminate. In the stadiums, people don't wear masks. It's what I'm surprised about the most ... We should start again -- vaccination, booster if this is what is decided, but as part of that hand sanitizer, social distancing and masks too.

'Best pace attack makes India favourites'

AGENCIES

Former South African captain and administrator Ali Bacher has termed India as favourites in the three-match Test series against the home team as the tourists have the "best pace attack" he has seen in the past 30 years.

India have enjoyed recent success in Australia and England, but South Africa remains a mighty challenge for the top ranked Test side, though they will arguably never have had a better chance against a home team going through a transition period and with far less experience than in the past.

"The first two Tests are to be played in Centurion, which is nearly 5000 feet above sea level and the Wanderers, Johannesburg which is nearly 6000 feet above sea level.

"The rarefied atmosphere at these two Test grounds plus the fast bouncy pitches at the Wanderers and SuperSport Park generally favour fast bowlers.

"The current Indian team has the best pace attack I have seen in the past thirty years. Therefore, India will start as favourites for the first two Test matches," Bacher told an Indian news portal. Besides being a former cricketer, the 79-year-old Bacher also played a key role in the country's successful conduct of the 2003 ICC World Cup. The Indian pace attack comprises Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammad Siraj, Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav.

Heading into the first Test, India will be full of confidence having won a second consecutive Test series in Australia earlier this year and taken an unassailable 2-1 lead in England before the fifth and final Test had to be postponed to 2022 because of a coronavirus outbreak. The last time India had toured South Africa, in 2018, the Proteas had won the three-match Test series 2-1.

SA, India pay tribute to Tutu

AGENCIES

The South African and Indian teams observed a moment's silence ahead of the opening Test in honour of anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who died on Sunday.

The South Africa team wore black armbands in honour of anti-apartheid icon Desmond Tutu.

South African anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu, described as the country's moral compass, died on Sunday aged 90, sparking an outpouring of tributes for the outspoken Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Tutu, who had largely faded from public life in recent years, was remembered for his easy humour and characteristic smile -- and above all his tireless fight against injustices of all colours.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, announcing the archbishop's death on Sunday, called him a man of "extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid".

Tutu had been hospitalised several times since 2015, after being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997.



Bangladesh players try to return one during their match against Sri Lanka in the Bangabandhu Asian Central Zone Men's Volleyball Challenge Cup at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The hosts lost the match in 3-1 sets and will need to beat Uzbekistan today to make it to the final.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of Bangladesh
Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
Transport Pool Building
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000.
(Administration-1 Section)
www.molwa.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

Memo No. 48.00.0000.001.07.014.2021	Date: 23.12.2021	
1 Ministry / Division	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs	
2 Procuring Entity Name	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs	
3 Procuring Entity code	48	
4 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
5 Expression of Interest for	Selection of a Firm for "Upgradation, New Feature Development and Maintenance of MOLWA MIS"	
6 EOI Ref No. & Date	48.00.0000.001.07.014.2021- Date: 23 December 2021	
7 Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)	
8 Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)	
9 EOI Closing Date and Time	09 January 2022; 3:00 PM	
Information to Interested Applicant		
10	Brief Description of the Assignment	The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (MOLWA) has been established in 2001 with the responsibility of providing various benefits to the freedom fighters, preserving history and memories of the liberation war and developing new infrastructures as memorial of the war. MOLWA has already developed and implemented the Management Information System (MIS) for maintaining the database and allowance of freedom fighters. The system is an intergraded and web-based management information system solution which helps MOLWA and its District/Upazilla level offices to manage freedom fighters allowance related works and activities. The MOLWA now intends to revamp and enhance the existing MIS by adding new modules and features to make the system more robust, resourceful and user-friendly.
11	Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	The interested firms must have 1. Minimum 5 (five) years of experience in IT business in Bangladesh 2. Valid and up-to-date trade license, VAT registration, TIN certificate and registration from the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms 3. 5 (five) practical experiences of developing web-based enterprise solution for different government organizations within last five years. URL of live applications and work completion certificate need to be provided 4. Audited Financial Report of previous 3 years 5. Certificate of membership from Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) 6. Experts with domain and technology knowledge to handle such assignment in terms of resource (Detailed CV must be provided). In house capability of logistics will be given preference 7. Practical experience of similar MIS related work will be an added advantage. Need to provide URL, work order/copy of agreement and completion certificate to prove the experience 8. Multiple Companies having technical and legal competency for performing such project can bid jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one company needs to be lead. Lead company needs to fulfill all conditions mentioned in this ToR. Joint-venture agreement needs to have clear identification about each responsibility matrix along with IPR.
12	Other Details	It is expected that the assignment will commence in January, 2022. Total duration of the contract will be minimum for 60 Months.
Procuring Entity Details		
13	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Dabasish Nag
14	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Deputy Secretary (Administration)
15	Address of Official Inviting EOI	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
16	Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI	Phone: + 88 02 9578648; Email: info.molwa@yahoo.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs. The EOI with all supporting documents must be submitted (in person) in sealed envelopes clearly marked **Expression of Interest for Selection of a Firm for "Upgradation, New Feature Development and Maintenance of MOLWA MIS"**

(Dabasish Nag)
Deputy Secretary (Administration)
Telephone: 02-9578648

GD- 2394