

## Big agendas at BCB meeting today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will sit for a board meeting today with important agendas such as the ODI World Cup report officially being handed out, the formation and tenure of the selection panel and central contracts for players amongst major issues.

Minhajul Abedin, who has been part of the selection committee since 2011, had been appointed as chief selector in 2016. A BCB official told The Daily Star, on condition of anonymity, that the selection panel could see one change with many board members in favour of the change. However, the meeting may also see the panel's tenure extended till the T20 World Cup. The tenure of the three-member selection panel officially ended on December 31, 2023 and has so far run through extension handed out.

"It's on the agenda [selection panel] and if there is something to disclose, you will be informed. As you know their tenure has ended and we have been giving extensions to run our selection process," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told reporters yesterday.

The World Cup debacle assessment has been going on for a while and with the T20 World Cup coming up this year, the committee's report should be a critical one. The report is to be handed out in front of the board in the meeting.

The BCB had also formed a committee to handle coach appointments with various coaches being interviewed over the past few days. "The process may complete within the next two to three days and till now what has been completed, we will try to approve it from the board," Nizamuddin further told reporters.

One or two coaches' appointments maybe confirmed in the meeting, according to BCB sources. Meanwhile, with central contracts also in the agenda, match fee increment will be discussed.

The other issue is the captaincy of the national team in three formats, with Shakib Al Hasan still at the helm of all three formats. Shakib's T20I captaincy was originally said to be till 2022 Australia World Cup while no tenure was set to his Test captaincy. He was given the ODI captaincy last year after Tamim Iqbal stepped away ahead of the ODI World Cup. Shakib had said that he would not remain captain after the World Cup. The BCB CEO, admitting that the captaincy issue will be on the agenda, that 'no information or official approach about captaincy has come in this regard to the board.'

Cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus, however, claimed that there is no captaincy issue on the agenda but if any member brings it up, it will be discussed.



PHOTO: CRICKET AUSTRALIA

Fans applaud as Glenn Maxwell walks back to the pavilion following a record-T20I ton in Australia's 34-run win over West Indies in the second T20I in Adelaide yesterday. Not only did Maxwell's unbeaten 55-ball 120 help Australia seal the three-match series but it also saw the all-rounder join India's Rohit Sharma for the most number of T20I centuries with five in the shortest format.

## Maxwell atones with a masterclass

AGENCIES

The last time Glenn Maxwell came to Adelaide, he had to leave the town red faced, having to be escorted to the hospital in an ambulance after reportedly passing out drunk at an event alongside teammates.

The incident, which took place on January 22, had greatly embarrassed the all-rounder and also turned the 35-year-old's affinity for alcohol into national news.

Yesterday, Maxwell returned to Adelaide for the first time since the incident and gave a timely reminder of his destructive capabilities, smashing the quickest Twenty20 international century in Australian soil to equal Rohit Sharma for most centuries in T20Is.

Maxwell belted 120 runs off 55 balls against the West Indies to power Australia to 241-4 and to a series clinching 34-run victory in the second T20I.

The right-hander reached the three-figure mark off 50 balls and only 22 of his runs came from running between the wickets as he smashed 12 fours and eight sixes in his exhilarating knock.

This was Maxwell's fifth T20I ton in 94 innings, the same as Rohit who has played 49 more innings.

### MOST MEN'S T20I HUNDREDS

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Glenn Maxwell (Australia)        | 5 |
| Rohit Sharma (India)             | 5 |
| Suryakumar Yadav (India)         | 4 |
| Babar Azam (Pakistan)            | 3 |
| Colin Munro (New Zealand)        | 3 |
| Sabawoon Davizi (Czech Republic) | 3 |



"I've had a few cursed Adelaide trips ... so it's nice to make this a positive one."

GLENN MAXWELL

Interestingly, Maxwell didn't look in the best form at the start of his innings. But after hammering Akeal Hosein for a six over mid-wicket in the eighth over, he found his groove.

It was a typical Maxwell innings after that, as he brought out his switch hits, made full use of his incredible hand speed and made batting look incredibly easy.

The last time Maxwell had unleashed against a team like this was when Australia took on Afghanistan in a group-phase match of last year's ICC ODI World Cup where he hit a stupendous double hundred while virtually batting on one leg for more than

half of his innings to ensure an incredible win for the Aussies.

Maxwell, as he often does, played down his incredible effort after the innings, telling Fox Cricket. "It was good fun. Just gave myself a chance. It's a really nice wicket. Nice to cash in and spend most of the time out there. I've always relied on my hand speed to get me out of trouble ... and it really seemed to work for me today [Sunday]."

In a way, this innings was Maxwell's apology to the Australian fans, his way of making amends for last month's fiasco.

"I've had a few cursed Adelaide trips ... so it's nice to make this a positive one," he added.

### SHORT CORNER



#### Rifat hits first 300 in age-group cricket

BKSP's Rifat Baig has scored the first triple century in the country's age-group cricket. BKSP opener remained unbeaten with 320 runs off 483 balls against Dhaka Metro in the semi-final of the Sheikh Kamal U-18 National Cricket Competition yesterday.

#### Leach ruled out of India Tests

England spin spearhead Jack Leach will miss the rest of their five-match Test series against India due to a left knee injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Sunday.

#### 'He is a car with gears in an era of automatic cars'

Former India allrounder turned commentator Irfan Pathan was at his creative best when asked to analyse if KL Rahul batting down the order for the Lucknow Super Giants in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season will work for the franchise. "He (Rahul) is a car with gears in an era of automatic cars. He can bat in any gear from first to fifth. He even has a sixth gear. So considering that, KL Rahul batting down the order might not be bad at all (for LSG)."

\*\*Read full stories on The Daily Star Website

### 'A lot of Bangladeshis play cricket in Oman'



SCAN QR CODE TO READ BILAL KHAN'S INTERVIEW

#### ERRATUM

The news published yesterday on this page headlined "Ex-commando's shot into athletics record", we mistakenly mentioned Golam Sarwar as a former commando and a former member of the SWAT team. In fact, Golam Sarwar is still a commando and was member of the SWADS team. We deeply regret the mistake.



Real Madrid breezed past second-placed Girona with a 4-0 win at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday, thanks to a brace from in-form midfielder Jude Bellingham, a screamer from Vinicius Junior and a Rodrygo strike. Even though Real stretched their lead at the top of the La Liga table with a five-point cushion, they will have to make do without Bellingham, Madrid's top goalscorer with 20 strikes in 29 matches across all competitions, when they visit RB Leipzig for the first-leg of their Champions League last 16 tie on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## We wanted to be dominant: XABI ALONSO

AGENCIES

Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen outplayed champions Bayern Munich for a 3-0 victory on Saturday that sent them five points clear at the top of the league and put them firmly in charge of the title race.

Goals from Josip Stanisic, Alejandro Grimaldo and Jeremie Frimpong made sure of the three points as Leverkusen, who have never won a Bundesliga title, and stretched their unbeaten run to 31 matches across all competitions this season.

Bayern, chasing a 12th straight league crown, were nowhere to be seen and managed only a single shot on target over the 90 minutes.

Xabi Alonso's team, who also twice hit the woodwork, are now on 55 points, with Bayern in second place on 50.

"Today it was a very disciplined performance from my team," said Alonso. "It was not easy but we waited for our chances. Maybe we did not have the ball too much today but we wanted to be dominant even without the ball."

"It was a very important win but it is just three points," he said. "We have to keep going. It is still February and we

▶ Bayer Leverkusen are unbeaten in 31 competitive games in a row (W27, D4), and are only one game away from breaking Bayern Munich's record of remaining unbeaten in 32 games, the most by a Bundesliga side. The defending league champions built the record from 2019 to 2020 under former coach Hansi Flick.

▶ Bayern have failed to score in two of their last five Bundesliga games. This happened only twice in their previous 153 league games.

▶ Leverkusen defender Josip Stanisic, on loan from Bayern, scored only his second Bundesliga goal yesterday. He previously scored for Bayern against Wolfsburg in May 2022.

need to remain calm."

The visitors were caught napping when Robert Andrich, from a quickly taken throw-in, sent a cutback through the box with Stanisic, on loan from Bayern, left completely unmarked at the far post to tap in.

Spain international Grimaldo doubled the lead five minutes after the restart with his eighth league goal of the season before also hitting the crossbar

with a wickedly curled corner kick.

The Bavarians had no way back into the game, and even the league's top scorer Harry Kane, who managed just 18 touches and attempted a solitary shot, failed to make any impact.

"We were not able to carve out any chances, even later in the game when we had five or six attacking players. I don't have an explanation for why we did not get Harry more involved in the game," said Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel.

Frimpong hit the post in the 88th but the Dutch international finally got onto the scoresheet when he raced clear and netted into an empty net in stoppage time after Bayern keeper Manuel Neuer went into the opponents' box for a corner.

Bayern veteran Thomas Mueller criticised his side for lacking courage when it came to playing freely.

"What I am missing is that in training we seem to be much better, more courageous because we are playing more freely," Mueller told Sky Sports Germany.

"We play from A to B and then to C without any freedom and no one really takes a gamble. Today we were not there. We lost 3-0."