

BCB TV in the offing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday and announced that amendments have been made to two clauses in the constitution in order to facilitate the launching of BCB TV.

The amendments were passed by the councillors present in the meeting at a hotel in the capital with the aim of facilitating risk-free and profitable investment arrangements to finance cricketing development.

BCB TV will focus on promoting domestic cricket matches that do not usually garner broadcasters' attention. "The concept of BCB TV came because we want to promote our domestic cricket," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told members of the media on Sunday.

According to the BCB CEO, the initiative would increase the commercial value of domestic matches alongside solving some other issues as well.

"For instance, if we can broadcast Dhaka Premier League, we can enhance its commercial value. There are certain series that we play abroad that do not attract broadcasters like when play in New Zealand, there are few who show their willingness to broadcast the series.

"If those rights are not sold, we can communicate with the New Zealand board and try to telecast it [on BCB TV]. And, it will be the same case with others as well if we see that our countrymen are having difficulty watching our boys playing cricket against other international teams," Nizamuddin added.

He also mentioned that they are not planning to challenge their broadcasting partners.

"We are not targeting any commercial channels. We plan to telecast those matches that are not practically viable for commercial houses [to telecast]. We will try to promote that," he added.

The AGM also saw discussions on Regional Cricket Associations (RCAs). BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon said in the press conference that there will be central influence in the regional committees until BCB is satisfied that the bodies can run independently.

"First thing is that they have to run a T20 tournament which will be a test-case basis for the committees. They will be given 20 lakh Taka and evaluated on how they are performing," Nazmul said.

Nazmul also added that the the freedom to run independently will not be handed blindly to the regional associations.

"No, it will not be free of central interference. It will not happen until and unless we are satisfied that they will be able to run independently. Because we are giving the money on a test-case basis, we will have to see how it's spent. We will not give it blindly. As I said, not every district gets money. Our intent, obviously, in the future is for the regional associations to work independently. So it's not decentralisation, rather deconcentration," he said.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Gazi Tyres Cricket Academy opener Mohobbot Hossen won the player of the match award in his List A debut with a 47-ball 63 which included seven sixes and three fours that powered his side to a 71-run win over Rugganj Tigers Cricket Club in their Dhaka Premier League (DPL) match at the BKSP Ground 3 in Savar yesterday.



An epic three-way fumble at slip cordon was brought to the fans by Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, Shahadat Hossain Dipu, and Zakir Hasan on Day 2 of the Tigers' second Test against Sri Lanka in Chattogram yesterday. Providing a life to Prabath Jayasuriya off a Khaled Ahmed delivery and epitomising the subpar game the hosts had so far in the field, the three slip fielders could not hold onto what could have been a simple catch. [Bottom] Despite getting their best start in the format in 13 innings, Bangladesh lost opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy in the final session.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Butterfingers worsen Tigers' plight

SPORTS REPORTER

In modern cricket, two fielders working in tandem to complete a catch, with one parrying the ball from the edge of the ropes and the other fielder grabbing the ball, is a fairly common scenario.

However, yesterday fans witnessed something truly unusual as three Bangladesh fielders — skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, Shahadat Hossain Dipu and Zakir Hasan — jointly dropped the catch of Prabath Jayasuriya, an effort that encapsulates Bangladesh inept catching in the first two days of the Chattogram Test against Sri Lanka.

The incident occurred in the 121st over of the Sri Lanka innings and the unlucky bowler was Khaled Ahmed, who, after going wicketless on Day 1, finally managed to induce an outside edge only to see three fielders making a mess of it.

After taking the edge, the ball flew to Shanto at first slip, who couldn't hold on to the ball as it rebounded to Dipu at second slip, who also fumbled the catch. The ball, still in the air, now went towards third slip where Zakir dived to catch the ball but grassed it.

The team's batting coach David Hemp claimed that the comedy of errors from the trio was highly unusual and unfortunate for the hosts.

"Dipu was the one I thought had the best chance of getting it. Both

of them [Dipu and Zakir] field at short-leg, so their reaction is pretty good. So, I actually thought when it popped up that one of them would grab it but unfortunately not. We don't see that too often," Hemp said after the day's play.

Bangladesh's misfortune continued as the Tigers dropped two more chances in the day, taking the



number of dropped catches in Sri Lanka's first innings to six, worsening the plight of bowlers on a pitch which had very little on offer for them in the first two days.

Prabath, who got his first life on six, got another reprieve on 23 — this time wicketkeeper Liton Das failing to grab an under-edge off the bowling of Taijul Islam.

Taijul, who went wicketless in the innings, saw another catch go down off his bowling in the final session, this time debutant Hasan Mahmud dropping Kamindu Mendis on 60

at deep mid-wicket.

Mendis went onto to add another 32 runs to remain unbeaten on 92 to push Sri Lanka's first innings total to 531.

With yesterday's three dropped chances, the Tigers have now grassed 83 catches in Tests since 2019.

Hemp had no clear explanation behind the team's shocking catching, saying the players are working to improve upon it.

"This is something that we have been working on and we will continue working on. No-one means to drop catches. The bowlers were working hard to create opportunities; you have got to take those opportunities," he said.

Bangladesh have dropped three catches at the slip cordon in the match, with Joy and Dipu dropping one each on Day 1.

Hemp said that to be a good catcher at slip, fielders need to expect that a catch could be coming every ball, something the Bangladesh fielders did not do in the first innings.

"Slip fielding is a difficult job. It's not easy. A lot of it is anticipation and expectation. It's expecting the ball to come to you every ball. Unless you have got that mindset, it does make it a bit difficult," the Bermudian said.

Bangladesh reached 55-1 at stumps and are trailing the visitors by another 476 runs.

Tigresses 'happy with batting' in big defeat

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Bangladesh slumped to a 10-wicket defeat in the first T20I against Australia women's team yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, despite putting on a better show with the bat.

The Tigresses' head coach Hashan Tillakaratne was happy with the recovery work after losing early wickets but said there were areas that needed to be worked on.

Bangladesh lost two wickets for two runs inside the first two overs before Murshida Khatun, who struck 20 off 27, and skipper Nigar Sultana Joty strung together a 57-run stand for the third-wicket. Joty and Fahima Khatun then managed a 60-run stand as Bangladesh reached 126 for four, with Joty unbeaten on 63 off 64 deliveries.

Bangladesh did not cross the 100-run threshold in any of the three ODIs against Australia earlier during the tour, and Hashan lauded the intent.

"Firstly, I thought we were 15-20 runs short. We played about 50 dot balls. Apart from that, I am happy with the batting today, especially the way Joty batted," he said.

But with fifty dot balls in the innings, there was a missing intent required in T20Is. Australia openers showed their intent in chasing down the target in 13 overs.

"This is a different format and if we are playing on a very good track, we could have shown a bit of intent in the first six overs. But I think the recovery was very good when they put up 60-70 runs for the third wicket," Hashan said.

"I'm very happy with Joty's batting and Fahima's batting, especially how they batted together and took a few calculated risks at the right time," he added.



Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah celebrates after scoring his team's second goal during their Premier League fixture against Brighton and Hove Albion at Anfield on Sunday. Despite falling behind to an early goal, the All Reds bounced back and eventually won 2-1, taking their points tally to 67 from 29 matches — three clear of Arsenal in second position.

PHOTO: AFP

Fahad relishes 'long-awaited' first GM norm

Mohammad Fahad Rahman has long been considered the country's most potential chess player, but the 21-year-old could hardly show his talent on the board of black and whites since achieving the International Master title in 2019. Having spent five years, Fahad finally achieved one of three GM norms yesterday after beating FIDE Master Banh Gia Hay of Vietnam in the ninth and final round of the Hanoi GM3 Chess to secure seven points from nine matches and is now looking forward to securing two more GM norms by the end of this year. During a conversation with *The Daily Star's* Anisur Rahman over the phone from Vietnam, Fahad talked about different aspects of his game among a few other topics. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): How do you feel right now after achieving the long-aspired first GM norms?

Mohammad Fahad Rahman (MFR): I am really feeling well and feeling pressure-free because I could not achieve the GM norms before even after getting very close to it on a few occasions.

DS: It took you five years to achieve the first GM norms after getting the IM (International Master) title. Isn't it too long?

MFR: After becoming IM, I tried to increase the standard of my game in the next three years and was never serious about GM norms. Truth be told, I started playing seriously to achieve GM norms in 2022. During this period, I went very close to achieving the first norm, but it sort of fell apart. There might have been a psychological pressure that comes when you are representing your country in different tournaments.



DS: How long do you think it would need you to secure two more GM norms and become the country's sixth GM?

MFR: Who knows, I can achieve two more GM norms in the next two tournaments if luck favours me. However, all of it depends on time, opportunities, and me being able to keep up my performance. I am hoping to achieve two more GM norms by this

year because I have a plan to take part in a few more tournaments in 2024.

DS: You failed to perform in the first GM tournament in Hanoi but managed to shine this time around. Tell us about the process you followed.

MFR: I performed poorly in the first tournament as I earned only 3.5 points. I did not expect to achieve the GM norm in the second tournament which was more challenging due to the strong participants and the fact that I had to start with the black pieces five times and white pieces four times. I started playing by forgetting the result of the first one and without taking any sort of pressure which I always felt before. I earned only four points in the first six matches and needed three straight wins in the last three rounds to achieve the norm. Finally, I did it despite being under pressure in the last three rounds. I am relieved to secure the long-awaited first GM norm.