

BCB'S LEADERSHIP CHANGE

On Tuesday morning, it was reported that a meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) directors would occur the next day at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Directors Iftekhar Ahmed Mithu and Khaled Mahmud Sujon confirmed this to The Daily Star, but CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury remained unreachable.

Veteran organiser Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, meanwhile, claimed he had not received any notice, despite still being a board director. He had been asked to resign by the National Sports Council, but unlike Jalal Yunus, another NSC-nominated director who stepped down, he refused.

Around midnight, BCB confirmed the emergency board meeting's location (Ministry of Youth and Sports' conference room) and time (Wednesday 11:00 am) -- and that it had requested a secure venue due to the country's current situation -- further informing that there would be no media access, only recorded clips, images, and a media release afterward.

Eight board directors and former skipper Faruque Ahmed, who replaced Yunus as an NSC-nominated director, alongside CEO Nizamuddin attended the meeting, where a minute's silence was observed for the lives lost in the historic student-led anti-discrimination movement.

The meeting began by approving the previous board discussions. Faruque officially joined as a director, and Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was approved as a councillor, later joining the meeting as a new NSC-nominated director.

The discussion then turned to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which had been relocated to the UAE. Lastly, the board addressed Nazmul Hassan Papon, who had notified them via email the previous night of his resignation as board president.

Afterwards, the discussion turned to who will be Papon's successor. Iftekhar proposed Faruque, supported by Akram. With no other proposals, Faruque was declared the new president, concluding the hour-long meeting.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Faruque sheds light on his way of operation

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national team captain and selector **Faruque Ahmed** became the first-ever cricketer to become the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president on Wednesday. Following his appointment, Faruque talked to the media on various issues, providing an idea about his way of operation in the coming days, during a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. The excerpts of the press brief are as follows:

On being BCB president
 I am very proud that I have been given a very important responsibility. If I consider my playing career too, it has been more than 42 years that I have served in various roles as a player, and captain and during my two terms in the selection committee.

On changing system
 We could improve more in particular sectors, something that didn't happen. Our responsibility is to rebuild the system. There are times when you aren't able to do everything as outside pressure remains. I hope to enact a good system this time.

We have to focus on the constitution by which directors and presidents are elected. Next year there is an election and before that, we have to work on the constitution so that those who love cricket truly and want to do something are prioritised. The criterion for the stakeholders whom we want to onboard would be cricket's development. If someone says that the corruption in the board can't be completely ousted, I will not believe that person.

On media's role
 Do not blow things out of proportion. And, regarding criticism, points must be raised that are most important for our cricket.

On his level of interference
 I had once resigned complaining about the system (in 2016 from the post of chief selector). Since I did that, I can assure that there is no possibility of that (unwanted interference). The cricket board is the policy maker, so do not mix it up with selection. For instance, the board will have policies regarding

certain players and that instruction will be given to the selection panel. It will be a policy matter, and there won't be any instructions like 'don't take Shakib [Al Hasan], Tamim [Iqbal] or take them'.

On appointment of vice-president and conflict of interest among directors
 We will try to implement things according to the constitution as early as possible. A vice-president will be there, and those are in the board will work on avoiding any conflict of interest.

On player-cum politician Shakib
 We will discuss Shakib's situation and

how things should be done, whether we can find someone better or at least someone who can perform well, and then I will talk.

On Tamim Iqbal
 It's good if he can play and if he can't play and decides to join the board, I will still be very happy. He has leadership qualities and if guys like him come [to the board], we can do something good.

On corruption
 I am aware that there have been many irregularities. It's not possible to fix everything in a day. Over the past 12

BCB PRESIDENTS LIST

Name	Tenure
Faruque Ahmed	21 August 2024 – Till date
Nazmul Hassan Papon	17 October 2012 – 21 August 2024
AHM Mustafa Kamal	23 September 2009 – 17 October 2012
Lt General Sina Ibn Jamali	29 July 2007 – 23 September 2009
M Abdul Aziz	14 November 2006 – 29 July 2007
Mohammad Ali Asghar	26 November 2001 – 14 November 2006
M Akmal Hossain	19 August 2001 – 26 November 2001
Saber Hossain Chowdhury	04 July 1996 – 19 August 2001
A. S. M. Mostafizur Rahman	01 September 1991 – 04 July 1996
Kazi Bahauddin Ahmed	27 December 1990 – 01 September 1991
Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmood	18 February 1987 – 27 December 1990
K. Z. Islam	30 January 1983 – 18 February 1987
Commodore Mujibur Rahman	28 September 1981 – 30 January 1983
S. S. Huda	14 August 1976 – 28 September 1981
Professor Mohammad Yousuf Ali	1972 – 14 August 1976

whether he can continue under the current circumstances. We are also considering adding rules regarding player conduct during tours, including restrictions on endorsements.

On head coach Chandika Hathurusingha
 I am not sure about the details of the contract with Chandika Hathurusingha. I still maintain the same stance. I haven't deviated from what I said (not willing to keep Hathurusingha if elected as BCB president). I need to formally review some things. I will see

years, it has become like Frankenstein. It can't be resolved overnight. However, I assure you that there will be a focus on preventing irregularities that directly impact cricket.

On whether an investigation commission to look into past corruption will be formed
 If an investigation commission is formed, its reports will definitely be made public. Regarding an independent commission to look into corruption, we have to seek help from experts as I don't know everything.

'Awesome' fielding highlight of Day 1

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud praised his side's fielding, particularly behind the wicket, which remained as the key highlight of day one of the Rawalpindi Test against Pakistan yesterday.

After putting the hosts into bat, Bangladesh bowlers made early inroads and caused jitters, reducing Shan Masood's side to three down for 16 in a rain-delayed first session before Saim Ayub (56) and Saud Shakeel (57 not out) hit fifties to propel Pakistan to 158 for four at stumps.

Bangladesh's first session sizzle could be largely credited to the fielders as Zakir Hasan and wicketkeeper Liton Das took excellent catches.

Zakir, who was stationed at gully, dove acrobatically to the right to take hold of a sharp chance to remove Pakistan opener Abdullah Shafique while Liton lunged down the leg side to take a one-handed screamer to dismiss premier batter Babar Azam.

"It's very important to get help from the fielders. I think the boys were really good in the field. Some of the catches were wonderful today. It really feels great. They were awesome," Hasan



told reporters after the day's play.

On a rare day where Tigers practically grabbed everything that came their way, Liton took a regulation catch to send back Pakistan skipper Shan Masood, while Mehedi Hasan Miraz remained alert late in the day, taking another catch to get rid of Saim Ayub.

As expected by the green tinge on the surface, pacers were able to get purchase off the wicket. Hasan and his pace partner Shoriful Islam scalped two wickets each, three with the new ball, and looked far more threatening than the six overs of spin bowled by Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan. Hasan, however, said that the wicket did not entirely behave as expected.

"We've been practising here. The wicket was very green and I thought there was going to be pace and bounce but after the rain came it got a bit tacky and slow," Hasan said.

All sports associations dissolved

SPORTS REPORTER

The Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday dissolved all executive committees of divisional, district and upazila sports associations as well as divisional, district and upazila women's sports associations.

"In a bid to keeping activities of all sports associations fair, active, and seamless, all divisional sports associations, divisional women's sports associations, district sports associations, district women's sports associations, upazila sports associations and upazila women's sports associations have been dissolved under the existing law of the government's delegated power," read a circular from the youth and sports ministry.

The authorities concerned [divisional commissioners, district collectors and upazila nirbahi officers] have been asked to form ad-hoc committees comprising of respectable and acceptable sports-loving and sports-related people and send the list of those committees to the National Sports Council for final approval.



England pacer Chris Woakes celebrates taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews as the hosts assumed control on the opening day of the first Test in Manchester yesterday. Woakes claimed three wickets, helping England reduce Sri Lanka to 178 for eight at tea.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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