

## 2025 BCB election irregularities

STAR SPORTS DESK

Based on the investigation report by a five-member committee, the National Sports Council (NSC) dissolved the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) elected body on Tuesday due to systemic irregularities, power abuses, and lack of transparency during the 2025 election.

The key findings and points from the report are as follows:

### 1. Unethical influence and intervention

**Government interference:** The committee found that the former Sports Advisor (Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain) and his Private Secretary (Saiful Islam) exerted undue pressure on District and Divisional Presidents to nominate specific individuals as councilors.

**Manipulation of adhoc committees:** The NSC and the Sports Advisor's office allegedly altered the structure of local adhoc committees (increasing member numbers beyond the constitutional limit of seven) to include preferred individuals who would then vote for specific candidates.

### Targeted nominations:

Specific influence was used to ensure Aminul Islam Bulbul and Nazmul Abedeen Fahim were included in the Dhaka Division and District adhoc committees to secure their councilorship and eventual director positions.

### 2. Election process irregularities

**Deadline manipulation:** The deadline for submitting councilor names was extended multiple times without valid reasons, allegedly to allow for the replacement of previously nominated councilors with "preferred" candidates.

**Voter list discrepancies:** The final voter list was not published on time, and multiple versions were released. Voters from five districts were added to a revised list just days before the election, raising transparency concerns.

**Illegal benefits for candidates:** The report notes that Faruque Ahmed received illegal benefits, such as his nomination being accepted after the deadline, which compromised the integrity of the election.



### 3. Misuse of e-voting system

**Lack of secrecy:** The e-voting process was criticised for lacking privacy. Many voters were gathered at a specific location (Hotel Sheraton, Banani) to cast their electronic votes under the supervision of government officials, which the committee deemed a form of vote rigging.

**System design:** The committee found that the e-voting system appeared pre-planned and designed to control the election results rather than ensure a fair process.

### 4. Constitutional violations by the BCB president

**Abuse of power:** Former BCB President Aminul Islam Bulbul was found to have unilaterally nominated 10 former cricketers as councilors.

**Constitutional breach:** Under Article 93.3 of the BCB Constitution, the president does not have the power to nominate these councilors single-handedly. The committee concluded this was a clear abuse of power intended to influence the election outcome.

**5. Lack of cooperation and transparency**  
**Withholding evidence:** The BCB CEO and other officials failed to provide audio/video recordings of board meetings despite repeated requests, leading the committee to believe the board was intentionally uncooperative.

### Recommended reforms

To prevent future occurrences, the report suggests:

**Constitutional reform:** Clearly separating executive and electoral functions and forming an independent Governance and Ethics Committee.

**Independent Election Commission:** Establishing a permanent commission led by retired judges.

**E-voting audits:** Making third-party security audits mandatory for all electronic voting systems.

**Whistleblower protection:** Implementing a mechanism to report corruption and rigging safely.

**\*\* Visit The Daily Star's website to read the detailed report on the irregularities found in the last BCB elections**



## Tamim prioritises Bangladesh cricket's reputation rebuild

SPORTS REPORTER

Newly appointed Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) adhoc committee president Tamim Iqbal said restoring the reputation of Bangladesh cricket will be the top priority of his 11-member committee.

The former national captain chaired his first board meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday, shortly after the National Sports Council dissolved the Aminul Islam Bulbul-led elected board and appointed him as head of the adhoc committee.

"We strongly feel that our first task is to restore the reputation of

Bangladesh cricket. The damage done over the past one to one-and-a-half years makes this our most important priority," Tamim said at a press conference following the meeting.

He added that the committee has been tasked with ensuring a free and fair election within three months.

"We will carry out this responsibility as honestly and as quickly as possible," he said.

When asked whether members of the adhoc committee would contest the upcoming election, Tamim confirmed their participation.

"Yes, of course, we will take part in the election," he said.

64 DAYS TO GO



## Sweet and sour

The late Nils Liedholm remains the oldest player to ever score in a World Cup final. Captaining Sweden on home soil in 1958 at 35 years and 264 days, Liedholm gave his side an early spark by finding the net against Brazil. Yet, despite his historic strike, Sweden could not contain the legendary duo of Pele and Vava, who powered Brazil to a 5-2 comeback and their first-ever World Cup title.

**\*\*Visit The Daily Star website to also read "When rivalry turned ugly: Remembering the Rijkaard-Völler flashpoint."**

## PSG's title defence faces LIVERPOOL TEST

STAR SPORTS DESK

PSG coach Luis Enrique has downplayed his side's favourites tag ahead of Wednesday's mouthwatering Champions League quarterfinal first leg against Liverpool, insisting form will carry little weight in such a high-stakes clash.

PSG, Ligue 1 leaders and defending European champions, host an inconsistent Liverpool side who sit fifth in the Premier League and have suffered 15 defeats in all competitions this season -- their highest since 2014-15.

"Everyone is trying to work out who the favourites are, but in this sort of match that means nothing," Enrique said. "It will be tough for both teams."

The tie revives last season's round of 16 meeting when PSG progressed on penalties despite Liverpool being widely tipped to advance. The head-to-head record remains even, with three wins apiece from six European encounters.

PSG come into the match in dominant form, having thrashed Chelsea 8-2 on aggregate in the last 16, while Liverpool overturned a first-leg deficit to beat Galatasaray 4-1 overall.

The French giants have also excelled against English opposition recently, going unbeaten in their last six Champions League games against



Premier League clubs (W5 D1) and progressing from all four knockout ties against them since last season.

Both teams promise attacking intent, with PSG (90) and Liverpool (85) registering the most shots on target in this season's competition so far. However, the odds are up against PSG as the holders have been eliminated in four of the last five quarterfinals, with Real Madrid in 2022-23 the exception in that run.

Elsewhere, Barcelona face Atletico Madrid in another quarterfinal clash just days after their La Liga meeting.

Hansi Flick's side won that



encounter 2-1, extending their unbeaten run to nine matches and maintaining a seven-point league lead.

Barcelona beat Newcastle United 8-3 on aggregate in the last 16, scoring 73 Champions League goals since Flick's arrival -- more than any other side. However, they have not kept a clean sheet in their last 13 matches in the competition.

Wednesday's tie will be the fifth European meeting between Barcelona and Atletico -- all in the quarterfinals -- while Atletico have never won an away Champions League match against Spanish opposition (D1 L4).

## U-20s bow out with three straight defeats

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ended their maiden AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup campaign with three consecutive defeats, following a 1-0 loss to Vietnam in their final group match at Nonthaburi Stadium in Thailand on Tuesday.

Despite the disappointing finish, Bangladesh came close to pushing for a quarterfinal berth in their debut appearance, needing a win -- or potentially even a draw, depending on other results -- to progress as one of the best third-placed teams. The decisive moment came early in the second half when goalkeeper Mile Akter misjudged a long free-kick, allowing Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Thuy Linh to tap in the winner in the 49th minute.

Bangladesh, who had shown promise against continental heavyweights like China, Vietnam and Thailand, were left to rue missed opportunities and costly errors. They had earlier squandered a two-goal lead in a 3-2 defeat to Thailand before losing 2-0 to China.

Coach Peter Butler opted for a compact approach, relying on counter-attacks led by forward Mosammat Sagorika, who had an early chance but failed to beat the advancing Vietnamese goalkeeper.

Vietnam continued to apply pressure, though Bangladesh's defence held firm for much of the first half. After the break, Butler introduced fresh legs in midfield, but the goalkeeping error proved decisive. Bangladesh showed improved urgency in the second half, with Umehla Marma coming close to equalising, but they ultimately lacked the cutting edge to break down Vietnam's defence.

## Kings, Police stay alive in Fed Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings and Bangladesh Police kept their hopes of reaching the Federation Cup knockout stage alive after securing crucial wins at separate venues on Tuesday.

Defending champions Kings thrashed Arambagh 5-0 at Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla, while Police staged a comeback to beat Fortis 2-1 at the Bashundhara Kings Arena.

The results saw Police climb to the top of the five-team Group B with six points from three matches, one point ahead of Kings, Mohammedan and Fortis, with the former two having a game in hand.

The race for the knockout stage remains wide open, with Bangladesh Police, Kings and Mohammedan all in contention. Police need only a draw against Kings in their final match, while Kings must secure a win -- especially if Mohammedan defeat winless Arambagh.

At the Kings Arena, Fortis had the opportunity to seal qualification but suffered late heartbreak. Nigerian forward Onyekachi Okafor put Fortis ahead in the 37th minute with a spectacular bicycle kick. However,

Police responded strongly after the break.

Ugandan striker Shafiq Kagimu equalised in the 66th minute with a clever backheel before teenager Rabby Hossain Rahul sealed the win three minutes later with a fine strike, combining with Brazilian Paulo Santos De Azevedo.



In Cumilla, Kings dominated throughout against Arambagh. Brazilian forward Dorielton opened the scoring with a header in the 16th minute before Faisal Hossain Fahim doubled the lead.

After the break, Emmanuel Sunday made it 3-0 before Dorielton grabbed his second. Sohel Rana Jr completed the rout in the 67th minute, handing Kings their first win in three matches and keeping their knockout hopes firmly alive.

## Bangladesh to play against San Marino

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced a landmark FIFA international friendly between Bangladesh and San Marino, scheduled to take place on June 5, 2026 in San Marino.

The fixture will mark a historic first for Bangladesh football, as it will be the team's maiden international match against a European opponent and their first-ever match played on European soil, according to a press release from the BFF. For San Marino, the encounter will also be unique, as they are set to face an Asian national side for the first time in their history.

According to the latest FIFA rankings, Bangladesh are currently placed around 181st in the world, while San Marino sit at the bottom of the rankings, at 211th. Despite their low ranking, San Marino have shown signs of improvement in recent years, particularly in competitive fixtures within UEFA competitions, including a historic 1-0 win over Liechtenstein in the UEFA Nations League -- only their second competitive victory in history.



Olympic gold medallist gymnast Margarita Mamun (C) poses for a photograph with young Bangladeshi gymnasts at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Dhaka yesterday during a visit to Dhaka. The Russian gymnast, whose father hailed from Bangladesh, won the all-around gold during the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. She is currently in Bangladesh on a personal visit.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED