

**MINUTES OF THE APEX COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 19TH FEBRUARY, 2026
AT 3-00 PM AT DR. B.C. ROY CLUB HOUSE, EDEN GARDENS, KOLKATA.**

The following Members were present:

1. Mr. Sourav Ganguly – President
2. Mr. Nitish Ranjan Dutta – Vice – President
3. Mr. Bablu Kolay – Hony. Secretary
4. Mr. Madan Mohan Ghosh – Hony. Joint Secretary
5. Mr. Sanjay Das – Hony. Treasurer
6. Mr. Koushik Mukherjee
7. Mr. Shoumik Bose
8. Mr. Nav Ratan Jhawar
9. Ms. Nilanjana Bose
10. Mr. Surajit Lahiri
11. Mr. Joydeep Mukherjee
12. Mr. Ravi Todi
13. Mr. Soumendu Chatterjee
14. Mr. Asis Chakraborty
15. Mr. Goutam Goswami

The meeting commenced as scheduled upon achievement of quorum.

Mr. Sourav Ganguly, President, presided over the proceedings and extended a warm welcome to all members present.

Leave of absence granted for: Mr. Vivek Lohia/Ms Mithu Mukherjee/Mr. Pranab Roy

The agenda items were taken up in sequence.

AGENDA 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Apex Council Meeting held on 17th December, 2025.

The Chairman updated the House on the following issues arising out of the previous meeting:

* It was earlier expected that the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) would receive Rs. 5 crores per match for hosting seven matches of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 at Eden Gardens. However, it has now been informed that CAB would receive approximately Rs. 2.5 crores per match.

*With regard to the proposal for sale of 250 MT of fabricated materials stored in a rented godown, as discussed in the last Apex Council Meeting, CAB had floated a tender and received the highest bid amounting to Rs. 1.10 crores.

*It was informed that in Season 3 of the Bengal Pro T20 League, a new franchise would be inducted in addition to the existing eight franchisees, at a higher participation fee.

*The Chairman invited the Hony. Secretary to update the House regarding the Dumurjala Cricket Stadium project. The Hony. Secretary informed that approximately 85% of the total area has been demarcated. There are certain issues concerning demarcation of the remaining portion, which are expected to be resolved shortly after a meeting with officials of HIDCO.

The CEO informed the House that CAB had floated a Request for Proposal (RFP) on its official website, inviting proposals from agencies for providing architectural and structural design services for the Dumurjala Cricket Stadium project. However, no response has been received to date.

The Chairman proposed extending the deadline for submission of proposals and publishing a paper advertisement in this regard.

The aforesaid matters were placed before the House and were duly accepted. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th December, 2025 were unanimously approved.

Thereafter, the Chairman invited the Hony. Secretary to appraise the House of the remaining agenda items of the meeting.

AGENDA 2: To discuss and decide on the recommendations of the Tournament Committee at its Meeting held on 24th January 2026.

The Hony. Secretary informed the House that the following recommendations were placed before the Apex Council for its consideration and approval:

1) In the match between Kidderpore Sporting Club and Kalighat Club held at JU 2nd Campus Ground from 13th to 15th January, 2026, Mr. Suvankar Bal, player of Kidderpore Sporting Club, was found to have used inappropriate and abusive language towards the umpires after leaving the dug-out and entering the field. Such behaviour is wholly unacceptable and amounts to a breach of the Code of Conduct (CoC) Level 2 offence. However, since Suvankar Bal had profusely apologized to the match officials after the match the observer had booked him under CoC Level 1 offence. It was further informed that there is no previous record of misconduct against Mr. Suvankar Bal.

The Senior Tournament Committee however recommended a one-match suspension for Mr. Suvankar Bal to set an example so that such behaviour does not occur in future. However the Apex Council opined that a strong caution letter should be issued with option of severe disciplinary action in future if such misconduct is repeated.

2) In the match between Kidderpore Sporting Club and Aryan Club held at Tala Park from 16th to 18th December, 2025, Coach Mr. Abhishek Banerjee and Official Mr. Debi Prasanna Padhi of Kidderpore Sporting Club were reported to have used abusive and unparliamentary language towards the umpires over perceived unsatisfactory decisions, amounting to a breach of CoC Level 1 offence.

The Senior Tournament Committee recommended a minimum two-match suspension for Coach Mr. Abhishek Banerjee and Mr. Debi Prasanna Padhi be restrained from attending a minimum of two matches of Kidderpore Sporting Club.

After detailed deliberation, the Apex Council decided that Coach Mr. Abhishek Banerjee should be suspended for one match and considering the fact that Mr. Debi Prasanna Padhi is a committee member of the Association, the Council resolved to issue a warning letter to him instead of restraining.

3) Shambazar Club lodged a complaint against the umpires alleging violation of the Laws of Cricket, although the matter was of a technical nature.

The Senior Tournament Committee recommended adopting firm preventive measures for umpires to ensure better control of matches and to curb time wastage.

The Apex Council accepted the recommendation.

4) Dakshin Kalikata Sansad lodged a complaint alleging that players of Greer Sporting Club damaged newly installed fittings during the match between Star Sporting Club and Greer Sporting Club at Deshapriya Park.

The Senior Tournament Committee recommended that the cost of repairs be recovered by deduction from the grant payable to Greer Sporting Club.

The Apex Council advised that the extent of damage be assessed and that a bill for the cost of repairs be obtained from Dakshin Kalikata Sansad before taking further action.

On being asked by Mr. Ravi Todi, the Hony. Secretary informed the House that Observer Reports are regularly submitted to the Association.

Mr. Nitish Ranjan Dutta, Vice President informed that decisions relating to disciplinary action is being delayed as it needs the approval of the Apex Council.

After a threadbare discussion, it was decided that henceforth urgent meetings could be convened whenever such incidents occur, so that appropriate decision may be taken without delay.

It was also decided that in some cases if so required the decision of the tournament committee could be circulated by mail and opinions sought and accordingly implemented.

AGENDA 3: To discuss and decide on the recommendations of the School Committee regarding the matters discussed in the meetings of the School Sub Committee held on 24th Dec 2025 & 9th February 2026

The Hony. Secretary, Bablu Kolay, informed the House that Ayaan Shaikh, representing St. John's Public School, participated in the Mayor's Cup and is a resident of Murshidabad. Upon verification of his Aadhaar Update History, it was revealed that he had used and projected multiple identities, namely "Ayaan Shaikh" and "Afzal Allarakha Shaikh," with the apparent intention of concealing his true age, identity, and domicile.

It was found that under the name Afzal Allarakha Shaikh (Date of Birth: 21.09.2009), an Aadhaar was enrolled on 31.07.2017 in Maharashtra. Subsequently, under the name Ayaan Shaikh, the Aadhaar details were updated during July–October 2025, reflecting a changed Date of Birth of 25.10.2012 and an altered address in Murshidabad, West Bengal, thereby reducing his age by more than three years and raising serious concerns regarding his eligibility for the Mayor's Cup. Further, the player was registered with Akbar Cricket Academy for the CAB U-15 Cricket Tournament and with Bata Sports Club (Second Division Club) for the season 2025–26.

It was also reported that Md. Akbar, acting as the authorized representative of St. John's Public School, Coach of Bata Sports Club, and associated with Akbar Cricket Academy, had allegedly orchestrated the above misconduct. It was further alleged that, with his active connivance, several such incidents had occurred in junior cricket in the past. Prima facie, he seems to have played a central role in the alleged fraudulent incidents. Despite multiple allegations having been received earlier, no stringent action had been imposed upon him.

Recommendations of the School Sub - Committee:

- i) Master Ayaan Shaikh alias Afzal Allarakha Shaikh be suspended for life from participating in any tournament, match, or cricketing activity conducted under the aegis of CAB;
- ii) Md. Akbar and his close associates, along with any coaching camp, academy, or entity operated or controlled by him, be suspended for life from participating in, coaching, representing, or associating with any junior or other tournament conducted under the aegis of CAB;
- iii) St. John's Public School be suspended from participating in all CAB-organized School Cricket Tournaments;
- iv) A letter be issued to Bata Sports Club advising them not to engage Md. Akbar as Coach and to ensure that Ayaan Shaikh does not play for any CAB-affiliated club or any institute, entity, school or any other establishment associated with CAB.

The Apex Council upheld all measures taken by the School Sub - Committee and further resolved that St. John's Public School be suspended for five (5) years from participating in all CAB-organized School Cricket Tournaments.

In continuation to the discussions, the following views were placed before the House:

Mr. Surojit Lahiri proposed adopting a zero-tolerance policy towards such incidents in order to preserve the integrity and fairness of junior cricket competitions. He further stated that Aadhaar Update History must be strictly followed by the Association while selecting Bengal squads for different age groups.

Mr. Asis Chakraborty proposed for setting up a Central Verification Cell to ensure fairness in junior cricket competitions, particularly in view of the lack of adequate infrastructure in the districts.

Mr. Goutam Goswami appreciated the initiative taken by the Cricket Association of Bengal to curb fraudulent documentation.

Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee informed the House that it is extremely difficult to scrutinize such voluminous bank statements during document verification relating to junior cricket. The Hony. Secretary informed that in many cases Bank Manager's Certificate has been accepted.

Mr. Soumendu Chatterjee stated that bank statements do not reflect any change of domicile which was refuted by the Hony. Jt. Secretary, Mr. Madan Mohan Ghosh, who informed that the IFSC Code number of a player is changed if he/she transfers from another state association.

The Hony. Secretary, Mr. Bablu Kolay, informed the House that in some cases, the Association had issued letters to the concerned Branch Managers seeking confirmation regarding the authenticity of the bank statements submitted and have received positive response.

After threadbare discussions, it was unanimously decided that a Review Committee would be formed, involving personnel from M/s. Ascon, to verify the bank statements duly supported by confirmation letters from the respective Branch Managers, clearly mentioning the date from which the account has been operational in the branch.

AGENDA 4: To consider and recommend the Rules and Bye-Laws relating to Women's Club Cricket as proposed by the Women's Cricket Committee

The Hony. Secretary, Mr. Bablu Kolay, apprised the House that the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) will follow last year's bye-laws in respect of Women's Club Cricket for the current season.

He further informed that a total of 26 teams will participate in the Qualifier Stage, from which two teams will qualify for the Main Phase, thereby making a total of 16 teams in the Main Phase. In order to maintain equality and competitive balance, each Main Phase team shall mandatorily select a minimum of one and a maximum of two players from the pool, as per the list forwarded by the Association. The players who were not selected by the Main Phase teams shall remain reserved and will be available for the two teams qualifying from the Qualifier Stage to the Main Phase. The Association had constituted the players' pool in order to maintain equality and competitiveness.

The above clarification was accepted by the House.

AGENDA 5: Any other business with the permission of the Chair

- A) Ms. Nilanjana Bose brought to the notice of the House that a substantial amount of expenses is being incurred towards vendors' food boxes during matches. She suggested that instead of bearing such expenditure, CAB may charge the vendors for the food boxes supplied to them as no vendor does work free of cost.

The Hony. Secretary, Mr. Bablu Kolay, informed the House that henceforth food coupons will be issued to vendors against payment, based on their requisitions or accreditations issued by CAB.

Mr. Nitish Ranjan Dutta proposed that parity be maintained between the issuance of food coupons and the distribution of food boxes and it was resolved that office bearers will look after it.

- B) The Hony. Secretary informed the House that, of late, legal suits are being filed purposefully and intentionally against the officials of the Association. In such cases, it was proposed that the Association should bear the total legal expenses incurred in defending the said officials as they had incurred the legal expenses in course of their functions as office bearers of the Association.

The House unanimously accepted the above proposal.

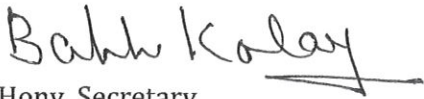
- C) The Chairman informed the House that discussions have been held with M/s. Populous, and it has been estimated that an approximate amount of Rs. 300 crores would be required for the renovation of the stadium (from 'J' Block to 'D' Block). CAB is exploring avenues to arrange the necessary funds jointly from CAB's own resources as well as from the Board of Control for Cricket in India under the Infrastructure Development Scheme.

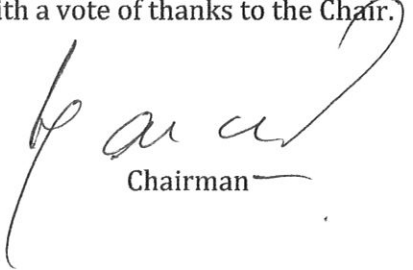
It was further informed that a Civil Engineer would be appointed with a proper qualification and experience for supervising the construction as well as for overseeing the overall maintenance of the assets of this Association.

- D) Mr. Surojit Lahiri urged the Chairman to consider increasing the number of Super League teams in the 1st Division League to provide greater opportunities to U-19 and U-23 players.
- E) Mr. Surojit Lahiri informed the House that it has been observed that Selectors are not regularly present at the venues during CAB 1st and 2nd Division matches, whereas at least one Selector should be present during such matches.

The House entrusted the Hony. Joint Secretary, Mr. Madan Ghosh, with the responsibility of speaking with the Senior and Junior Selectors to ensure their presence during matches. It was further resolved that an appropriate allowance may be granted to them for this purpose if it is to the satisfaction of the Association.

There being no other business, the meeting was called to an end with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


Hony. Secretary


Chairman