

BCB eager to hold Pakistan series

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is working hard to get the green signal from the government to save the postponed limited-overs home series against Pakistan.

Pakistan were scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on March 7 to play two Twenty20 matches and five ODIs from March 10-22. But it was postponed due to security situation after the carnage at the BDR headquarters in Dhaka as well as the terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team bus in Lahore.

The board is now planning to stage it in the last week of this month subject to government approval. It was learnt that the new proposal will offer one T20 game and all the matches will take place at one venue (Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur) instead of two in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The board has prepared a fresh schedule and submitted it to the Youth and

Sports Ministry yesterday by seeking a permission to hold the series. The letter would be forwarded to the Home Ministry and the other concerned authorities for confirmation.

"Life must go on and that's why we are trying hard to get the green signal from the concern authorities. There are cricketers and financial aspects but there are also some other major issues which we should give priorities above everything," said a BCB official on condition of anonymity.

The BCB has already suffered financially because of the postponement of the series with Nimbus set to slash nearly Tk three crore as part of penalty clause prescribed in the million-dollar TV deal with the board.

Nimbus had to retreat all the equipment from the Benapole border following the postponement decision. Besides, the board also spent money for the build-up of the series.

The re-arrangement of the series may make up some losses but the BCB is not considering the financial loss rather they

believe it will enhance the image of the country if they can ultimately hold the series.

"We want to have it now because it will enhance the image of the country. So, we are not too concerned with the financial losses," he added.

The BCB official believes that the government is very sincere about holding the series but he wanted a quick decision in this matter.

"We need an immediate go-ahead signal because of time constraints. Otherwise it would not be possible for Nimbus to bring in the equipments," said the pensioner official.

With other international commitments in recent near future, the board has to hold the series from March 26 to April 10. Beyond that deadline, Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraf and his deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza would not be available due to their involvement in the Indian Premier League (IPL). There is a busy international schedule for the Tigers after the IPL with the T20 World Cup in England

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The captains of the Super Cup teams show the team shirts along with models at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Did U Know?

Italian referee Marcello Donadini was taken to hospital in 1973 after being bitten in the back by a player who didn't agree with a decision.



TEN Sports

South Africa v Australia
Second Test, Day Five
Live from 2:00pm
West Indies v England
Fifth Test, Day Five
Live from 8:00pm
UEFA Champions League
Juventus v Chelsea
Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)

BTv

Super Cup Football
Abahani v Rahmatganj
Live from 4:30pm (Wednesday)

ZEE Sports

UEFA Champions League
Liverpool v Real Madrid
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

ESPN

ICC Women's World Cup
India v England
Live from 5:00am

Neo Cricket

New Zealand v India
Fourth ODI
Live from 7:00am (Wednesday)



Premier Div Cricket League

Old DCBS v Young Pegasus
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

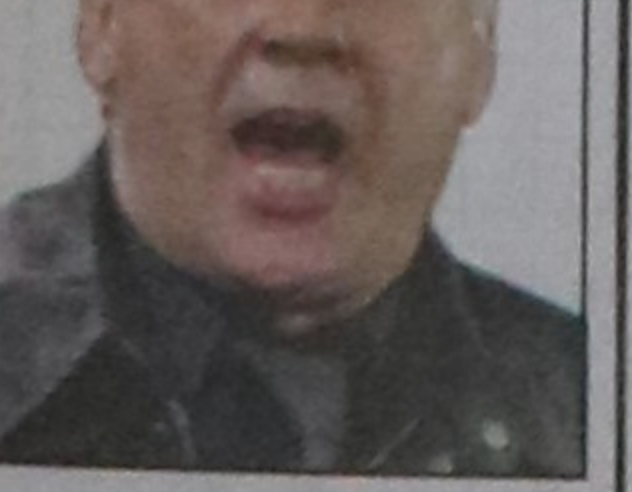
Victoria v Partex
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

City Club v Gazi Tank
Venue: BKSP

Super Cup Football
Abahani v Rahmatganj

Time: 4:30pm (Wednesday)

Sheikh Russel v Ctg Mohammedan
Time: 6:30pm (Wednesday)



Carlo Ancelotti

(AC Milan coach)
"I don't want to make comparisons with what Inter win or what (Jose) Mourinho said, we have our objectives and we are going to go after those."

Biman, MSC coast

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Biman and Mohammedan sailed to easy victories in the Premier Division Cricket League matches at different venues yesterday.

Smaring from defeat in the last match against Surjo Torun, Biman rode on a 140-run opening stand between Nazmus Sadat and Zahid Niaz to secure a five-wicket victory over BKSP at BKSP.

With the outcome Biman are sharing the lead with defending champions Abahani on 14 points from eight matches.

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Shamsur Rahman slammed a stroke-filled half-century as Mohammedan handed a six-wicket defeat to Cricket Coaching School (CCS) to improve their tally to nine points from eight matches.

After the defeats, CCS and BKSP both remained at six points from eight matches.

BIMAN-BKSP

National pacer Mahbul Alam set the tone by taking three wickets for 37 runs as BKSP were restricted to 200-9 after deciding to bat first.

Anamul Haque top scored with 53 off 57 balls with four boundaries and a six.

It was however man-of-the-match Nazmus who followed up his two-wicket haul with a 82-ball 79 that featured six fours and two sixes as Biman posted to 201-5 in 48.2 overs.

Zahid contributed 52 off 84 balls before he was retired hurt.

Biman lost three quick wickets in the span of ten runs as Tanveer Haider claimed three for 27 but it was too little too late for BKSP to bounce back in the game.

MOHAMMEDAN-CCS

Sri Lankan great Sanath Jayasuriya returned home after playing only one match but Mohammedan still continued their winning run thanks to a strong top-order performance.

In reply to a winning target of 235 runs, Nadimuddin and Nasiruddin Faruque got off to a good start and added 85 runs in the opening stand. And then Shamsur Rahman took charge to confirm the easy victory as Mohammedan raced to 239-4 in 49.1 overs.

Shamsur smashed three fours and two sixes during his unbeaten 79-run knock.

Nadimuddin contributed 42 off 51 balls with

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Australia fast bowler Peter Siddle (L) celebrates the dismissal of South Africa batsman Hashim Amla on the fourth day of the second Test at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

S Africa fight back

Cricket

APP, Durban

Jacques Kallis and AB de Villiers shared an unbeaten 164-run partnership and gave South Africa a chance of saving the second Test on the fourth day at Kingsmead here on Monday.

Kallis, who was dropped off the first ball he faced, made 83 not out and De Villiers 67 not out as South Africa reached 244 for two at the close of play.

They had been set to make 546 to win.

Fast bowler Peter Siddle made a double breakthrough as Australia pushed for a series-clinching win but the rest of the bowlers toiled without success.

Siddle dismissed opening batsmen Neil McKenzie and Hashim Amla during a hostile post-lunch spell. He finished the day with two for 39.

The hosts' realistic objective was to survive a potential 170 overs to prevent Australia from taking a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

McKenzie and Amla put on 63 and defied the Australian bowlers until the 23rd over when McKenzie pushed at a lifting delivery just outside his off stump and edged a catch to wicketkeeper Brad Haddin.

New batsman Jacques Kallis was dropped first ball off a similar delivery from Siddle, edging a chance to a diving Marcus North at first slip.

Siddle struck again half an hour later when Amla edged a drive to Australian captain Ricky Ponting at second slip.

Kallis took advantage of his let-off and showed his best form of the summer as he battled for 224 minutes, facing 161 balls and hitting 11 fours.

De Villiers faced 166 deliveries and hit seven boundaries on a pitch which played easily apart from occasional uneven bounce.

Amla opened with McKenzie in the absence of injured captain Graeme Smith, who suffered a broken bone in his right hand while batting Saturday.

Australia batted for 35 minutes at the start of play, adding 39 runs in 7.4 overs.

Opening batsman Phil Hughes went from 136 to 160 with audacious stroke play before he slashed a catch to third man off Makhaya Ntini.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting declared when new batsman North fell without scoring, edging Dale Steyn to third slip.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the second Test between South Africa and Australia at Kingsmead on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 352

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 138

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 292-3)

Hughes c Morkel b Ntini 160

Katich c Harris b Kallis 30

Ponting c McKenzie b Morkel 81

Hussey c Kallis b Duminy 19

Clarke not out 23

North c De Villiers b Steyn 0

Extras: (b-12, lb-2, nb-4) 18

Total: (For 5 wks decl in 94.4 overs) 331

Did not bat: Haddin, McDonald, Johnson, Siddle, Hilfenhaus.

Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-219.

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Ctg seeks two WC matches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sports organisers here sought at least two matches of the 2011 Cricket World Cup and urged the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to take immediate steps in this regard.

Chittagong has two ICC recognised Test venues in MA Aziz Stadium (MAAS) and Chittagong Divisional Stadium (CDS) -- a rare possession that very few cities of the 10 Test playing nations possess.

Besides, the port city has already proved its capability by hosting a number of international cricket matches including Test and ODIs.

Abdul Hannan Akbar, the convener of cricket committee of CJKS, made the demand on behalf of the sports organisers of the port city at a local hotel yesterday. He also read out a statement where it said: "Chittagong deserves to be awarded at least two matches of the 2011 World Cup and its up to the authorities concerned to choose any of the two venues or both."

The meeting, also attended by popular sports organisers Prof Shayesta Khan, Ali Abbas, Didarul Alam Chowdhury and AZM Nasirthey, called for united efforts from all including local ministers, lawmakers, professionals, journalists, sports lovers and politicians to help them push their demand into reality.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Indira Road KC brightened their super league hopes when they recorded their fifth win in six matches in the First Division Cricket League yesterday.

Indira's six-wicket victory against Rupali Bank came at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium after they bundled out the opponents for a paltry 117 in 46.5 overs with Kibria taking 3-19, Rubel 2-16 and Mohammad Isam 2-18.

In reply, Indira cruised to 119-4 in 33.4 overs with Rubel hitting 50.

In the other match, Badda Ekota (223) defeated Brothers Union (191) by 32 runs at the Dhaka University ground.

HOCKEY

Bangladesh Army finished top the table defeating Usha Kira Chakra 2-1 in the Need for Speed Shaheed Smriti hockey tournament's league stage at Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The national star-studded Usha were runners-up and will take on Army in tomorrow's final at the same venue.

Sirajul Islam struck in the 31 and 34 minutes for Army, who remained unbeaten in the competition. Mustafizur Rahman Dinar pulled one back for Usha, who suffered their first defeat, in the 55th minute.

In the other match, BKSP got walkover against Bangladesh Navy.

DIV 3 SOCCER

Rampura KC and Anirban Sangha reached the super league of the Citycell 3rd Division Football League with contrasting victories at the

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Battle for the crore begins tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER



All looks set for the launching of the Citycell Super Cup, the richest football tournament in South Asia with Tk one crore for the champions, tomorrow.

Defending two-time B. League champions Abahani will start as hot favourites when they take on Rahmatganj in the opening match of the eight-team event at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

But B. League runners-up Mohammedan, Futsal champions Brothers and the ever-threatening Sheikh Russel will not be far behind in strength and motivation to win the winners' prize money that would guarantee the team's build-up for the next season.

The tournament committee once again

revised the fixture and instead of a simple opening ceremony, it will bring the budding songsters of the country to perform a 20-minute show.

The popular TV show 'Khude Ganraj' (young songsters) participants will be the attraction of the opening ceremony before the 4.30 kick-off.

The in-form Abahani, who have won their last nine matches in a row, will look forward to extend the winning streak but Rahmatganj have had been the bogey team, having upset the professional league champions in the opening match of the B. League.

Abahani and Rahmatganj also played in the final round of the B. League with the former getting revenge in a 6-3 thriller and since then, both the sides have been trying to strengthen their squads with more foreign players.

Sheikh Russel, who take on an impressive

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Brothers rely on locals

SPORTS REPORTER



While Abahani, Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel boast foreign collection for the Citycell Super Cup, fellow title contenders Brothers Union will rely on local recruits.

While the three Dhaka giants and Chittagong Mohammedan all fulfil the quota of four foreign imports, Brothers have only one in their squad and are expected to add another before they start their campaign on Friday, the second day of the competition.

"First, I'd like to thank the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for arranging this attractive tournament," said Brothers manager Amer Khan at a press briefing yesterday at the BFF Bhaban.

"Like the B. League, local players are our strength. Also,

there was not enough time to recruit foreigners and see them in trials for selection. Those available in Dhaka are not quite

competent and we found no reason to waste our own players by using substandard booters

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Brothers captain Amit Khan Shuvra (R) addressing a press briefing at the BFF Bhaban as team manager Amer Khan looks on yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WI build on Gayle ton

Cricket

APP, Port Of Spain

England's bid for a series-leveiling victory ran into trouble when West Indies avoided following on in the fifth and final Test on Sunday.

England had a chance to put West Indies under pressure when skipper Chris Gayle hobbled away with a hamstring injury immediately after reaching his 10th Test hundred, an even, undefeated 100.

But left-handers Brendan Nash (70 not out) and Shivnarine Chanderpaul (52 not out) each hit half-centuries and shared an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 146 to carry West Indies to 349 for four, replying to England's first innings total of 546 for six declared, when stumps were drawn on the third day at Queen's Park Oval.

England looked in control when Gayle limped away after reaching his second hundred of the series, and Monty Panesar removed Lendl

Simmons for 24, as West Indies wobbled to 203 for four.

But England were stonewalled when Nash joined Chanderpaul and they batted an hour and 15 minutes before tea, and then the entire evening period to steady the ship.

Matt Prior conceded four

byes off Panesar to take West Indies over the follow-on threshold and carry the count of byes in the innings to 30 that boosted the total of extras to a huge 61.

"There's a lot of time in this cricket match, we still have

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West Indies captain Chris Gayle flicks on the on-side during the third day of the fifth and final Test against England at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP