



Kenya's Abel Kirui celebrates after winning the men's marathon at the IAAF Athletics World Championships in Berlin yesterday.

2 teams to be demoted in B. League

SPORTS REPORTER

The B. League Committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday back-tracked on their decision to relegate three teams in the professional football league.

The decision to relegate two teams was taken at the meeting as many clubs verbally approached the football's governing body to reconsider the decision on demoting three teams.

The meeting also vowed to start the season opening tournament, the Federation Cup, as scheduled on September 10 and the teams' draw and the tournament format would be declared this month, said BFF general secretary Al Musabir Said.

It also decided to invite the possible teams this year for the second-tier B. League that will get underway in the next year.

Dhaka Club's sports day

SPORTS REPORTER

To mark the 98th founding anniversary, the Dhaka Club on Thursday organised a sports event consisting of billiards and snooker, squash, and tennis amid fun and festivity on Thursday.

The members of the club and their children took part in the competition.

Sadat Hossain Salim, president of the club, Abrar Anwar, head of Global Cooperation and Commercial Bank, Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh and Ashraffuzzaman Khan were present during the prize distribution ceremony.

Reefat takes

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who started campaign bidding to earn his second norm for International Master, drew with G M Anuar Ismagambetov in his respective second round game.

In the 2nd round, Georgian Mchedlishvili beat Indian IM Vishal Sareen, Rausis beat Indian Praveen Kumar, Neelotpal beat Hasan Enam of Air Destiny, Dibyendu beat Nepalese Hamal Manish, FM Abu Sufian Shakil beat Nepalese Badre Nepali and FM Kh. Aminul Islam beat Jamal Uddin.

Maruful gets

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unpaid wages.

But this time around Maruful could be rest assured that money would not be a problem with Mohammad already lurking last season's star striker Zahid Hossain Emili and star defender Wali Faisal from Abahani.

Besides, MA Salam said that they were on the verge of retaining Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola Olalekan, who scored the highest 18 goals in B. League last season.

Bangladesh

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wanted 20,000 dollars per team for 10 days, but the AFC awarded the event to Philippines and each participant will have to pay 22,000 dollars to the hosts for accommodation, food and local transportation," said BFF general secretary Al Musabir Said.

"Now we will have to spend Tk 25 lakh if we want to take part in the meet. We are unlikely to send the team to the Philippines, but the decision has yet to be finalised," said Said.

The U-16 squad has been training in Khulna for one month.

Eng build big lead

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He struck North for several elegant, straight driven boundaries before holing out to Ponting for a 29 featuring five fours.

England resumed Saturday on 58 for three, already a lead of 230.

They were contemplating victory after pace bowler Broad took five for 37 on Friday in reply to England's first innings 332.

Although the pitch was not the ideal batting surface usually associated with the Oval, it was no terror track and the conditions could not explain a third first innings collapse by Australia this series.

Instead, Broad, well supported by off-spinner Swann (four for 38), bowled with good accuracy and control.

Strauss, England's lone century-maker this series, resumed Saturday on 32 not out with Trott unbroken on eight.

Trott survived a huge appeal for caught behind off the day's first ball from Siddle. But Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf was unmoved and replays suggested Trott had missed the ball.

Australia, retaining the same side that won the fourth Test at Headingley by an innings and 80 runs, had chosen not to recall off-spinner Nathan Hauritz on a pitch with a reputation for taking turn.

Their decision to remain loyal to a four-man pace attack

left Ponting having to call upon the services of North.

England were in danger of squandering their advantage when Trott came to the crease.

But the 28-year-old

Warwickshire batsman held his nerve and a four off Michael Clarke saw him to a maiden Test fifty in 89 balls with five fours.

However, when it seemed England would get through the morning session without losing a wicket, Strauss guided North to Clarke at first slip after nearly four hours at the crease.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the fifth Ashes Test between England and Australia at The Oval in London on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 332 (Bell 72, Strauss 55; Siddle 4-75, Hilfenhaus 3-71)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 160 (Katich 50; Broad 5-37, Swann 4-38)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 58-3)

Strauss c Clarke b North 75

Cook c Clarke b North 9

Bell c Katich b Johnson 4

Collingwood c Katich b Johnson 1

Trott not out 83

Prior run out (Katich) 4

Flintoff c Siddle b North 22

Broad c Ponting b North 29

Swann not out 34

Extras: (b-1, lb-15, w-6, nb-7) 29

Total: (For 7 wkt in 83 overs) 290

To bat: Anderson, Harmison

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-34, 3-39,

4-157, 5-168, 6-200, 7-243

Bowler O M R W

Hilfenhaus 7 1 24 0

Siddle 15 3 48 0

North 30 4 98 4

Johnson 15 1 56 2

Katich 5 2 9 0

Clark 8 2 19 0

Clarke 3 0 20 0

Jadeja blames players

CRICINFO, undated

Ajay Jadeja, the former India batsman and captain of Delhi for two seasons, has backed Virender Sehwag in his criticism of the state's cricket administration but said players are to blame for the dismal situation that exists today.

"We need to look within ourselves," Jadeja was quoted as saying in the Hindu. "If we (cricketers) don't go begging for small favours from the administrators such situations would not arise at all. Can you have any selection in India without the involvement of a player? The selection committee is made up of former players only and if they don't do their job properly, who do you blame? This sports committee is elected by cricketers only. Why don't they send honest cricketers to do the job?"

for conserving water-bodies in and around project sites.

"It makes me unhappy when I see our children in the urban areas do not have enough space to play. Without involvement in sports, a child cannot grow up with full mental and physical health, confidence and bravery," she said.

Hasina stressed the need for introducing modern technologies and equipment in training facilities for the cricketers to keep the winning streak on stream in the days to come.

"From the government, we will do everything possible for development of the sports sector," she promised while announcing the perks.

She asked the developers to ensure playground whenever the real-estate companies implement any housing project. She also asked

said adding that loss and win will remain in competition.

Reciprocating her compliments, Ahad Ali Sarker and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Lt General Sina Ibd Jamali also greeted the prime minister with flowers. She was also honoured with a crest from the BCB.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Youth and Sports Affairs Jahid Ahsan Russel MP also addressed the function moderated by Awami League sports affairs secretary Dewan Shafiq Arefin Tutul.

PM calls cricketers

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promote sports and culture, a country cannot have significant achievements in the fields," she said.

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SL post easy win

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The Kiwis, who had 13 of their 15 players affected by a stomach bug and viral fever, had been left hoping the weather might do them a favour -- only for clear skies to break over the coastal town for the first time since the Test began.

Skipper Daniel Vettori battled bravely for two-and-a-half hours to make 67, his 20th Test fifty, sparking a brief resistance by the lower order after the Kiwis were reduced to 86-5.

Jesse Ryder, one of the players worst affected by the virus, defended for almost an hour to add 48 for the sixth wicket with his captain before he was caught behind off Muralidaran for 22 soon after lunch.

Jeetan Patel hit 22 and Brendon McCullum, who was confined to bed on Friday due to fever, made 29 before he was last man to be dismissed, a run-out victim of a direct throw from Muralidaran.

Wicket-keeper Prasanna Jayawardene, returning to the side after missing the previous series against Pakistan with a knee injury, chipped in with three catches and a stumping.

Vettori refused to blame illness for New Zealand's defeat, saying the lack of big scores cost the tourists the match.

The key to the match was how well Dilshan played and

how poorly we responded to the challenge with both bat and ball," the 93-Test veteran said.

"We needed to bat long periods of time and the top order had to stand up and be counted.

"I think some of us tackled the spinners well but the most disappointing aspect of the defeat was we lost about eight wickets to seam bowlers.

"Having so many players ill during the match was not the ideal situation, but we could have fought better. I look forward to the next Test and hopefully we will have learnt our lessons."

The second and final Test will be played at the Sinhalese sports club in Colombo from Wednesday.

New Zealand will also play two Twenty20 internationals against Sri Lanka and a limited-overs tri-series with India as the third team.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 452 (Samaraweera 159, M Jayawardene 114, Dilshan 92; Martin 4-77, Vettori 4-78)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

299 (McIntosh 69; Muralidaran 4-73, Thushara

2-73, Patel 4-73, Jayawardene 4-73, Vettori 4-73)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 202 runs.

Man o'f the match: Tillakaratne Dilshan.

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Daryl Harper and Nigel Llong.

Joshi probable Biyanibazar coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Jasimuddin Ahmed Joshi is tipped to become the coach of newcomers Biyanibazar Sporting Club of Sylhet in the upcoming season.

"They confirmed me verbally," said Joshi. "I will sit with the club president Monday and expect that the things will be finalised on the same day."

Joshi, the former winger of the national team who was renowned for his speed, coached Mohammmedan in 2005 to help the popular Black and Whites finish second beyond champions Brothers Union in the Premier Division League. He was also the assistant coach of the Motijheel-based outfit for two years over 1997-98.

Biyanibazar, one of three newcomers in the 13-team Professional Football League, reportedly talked with former Bangladeshi captain Jewel Rana, but later dropped the idea of getting him as the coach because of Jewel's high demand.

The Sylhet outfit are said to be forming a good side after confirming some players like goalkeeper Mohammad Ali, Biplob, Bappy, Rony, Ashraf Kader, Rikto, Pappu, Faisal Mahmud, Monju and Sohel.

"I can't say anything at the moment about how far I can take them until I see the condition of the players' fitness. It is unfortunate that the clubs confirm players before confirming the coach. I hope that this culture will change in the future."

Football turns violent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

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