

Transfers in limbo

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's premier league runners-up Abahani Limited yesterday asked the hockey league committee to explain its decision to extend the date of the inter-club players' transfers for the Premier Hockey League.

"According to the last meeting of the league committee, the transfer was slated for October 6-8, but the committee later without taking any consent from participating teams extended the date up to October 15, which was totally unconstitutional. We [Abahani] sincerely ask the league committee to explain it," read a written paper, signed by Abahani director Afzalur Rahman Sinha, which was submitted to the league committee yesterday.

Abahani's query came just two days after Dhaka Mariners Club, who also asked the league committee to clarify whether the players of the national youth team as well as the BKSP would be available for the Club Cup and the Premier Hockey League as both teams have international commitments in November and December.

The much-awaited players' transfers had started on October 6 though giants Abahani and Mohammedan appeared unwilling to take part in the bourse because of the shortage of the quality

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Disha Islam (L) and Amol Roy show victory signs after becoming champions in the women's and men's singles respectively in the Anlene National Tennis Tournament 2009 at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

PHOTOS: BANGLARCHOKH.COM



Did U Know?

Andrea de Cesaris of Italy holds the record of making most starts in the Formula One, about 208 starts without winning the game.



Sourav Ganguly, (Former India cricket captain) "Virender Sehwag has it in him to lead India. Sehwag still has at least five or six years of cricket in him and even if any chance of captaining the side comes his way in the last two years of his career he should not pass it on."



STAR Sports
Champions League T20
Cape Cobras v Otago Volts
Live from 5:15pm
Deccan Chargers v Somerset Sabres
Live from 8:15pm
SuperSport3
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Russia v Germany
Live from 9:30pm
France v Faroe Islands
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)
Argentina v Peru
Live from 5:00am (Sunday)
SuperSport5
FIFA WC Qualifier
Portugal v Hungary
Live from 2:30am (Sunday)
SuperSport7
FIFA WC Qualifier
Czech Republic v Poland
Live from 1:15am (Sunday)

Life in the fast lane

INTERNET, undated

Brett Lee loves to bowl fast. And he doesn't want to make any compromises.

Looking a fatigued man on Thursday morning after the long journey from South Africa after the Champions Trophy, Lee said he would not cut on his pace for anything. "I enjoy bowling fast and it means a lot to me to be the world's fastest bowler."

"If you think I will bowl outswingers at 130 kph, sorry that's not going to happen. If it happens that I am not going at 150 kph, then I will think of an

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NSW overwhelm Eagles

CRICINFO, undated

After a smorgasbord of hitting under lights in Bangalore, the ball dominated proceedings in the first game of a Friday double-header in Delhi. Simon Katich wasted no time in asserting his decision to bat with some sparkling strokeplay, and though Eagles hit back in the last seven overs a total of 144 proved more than plenty. Up against arguably the strongest bowling attack in the tournament, spearheaded by Brett Lee and backed up by the accurate Stuart Clark, the Eagles were blitzed. They limped to 91 -- the lowest Twenty20 score at the Feroz Shah Kotla -- thanks largely to Ryan McLaren's 40.

Katich took one look at "a typical wicket without a blade of grass" and decided to bat, and found himself in early after Philip Hughes missed an ugly heave. Katich relied on timing instead of force, taking three fours off Dillon du Preez; not one shot was crude, yet each raced away to the boundary after being struck with superb wristwork and placement. Ryan McLaren was welcomed with a drive through extra cover and an effortless six off Katich's pads; again, these shots were more for their placement rather than ferocity.

It was an approach David Warner struggled to adopt, swinging and missing regularly. He managed three fours in one over off Shadley van Schalkwyk in which he peppered the long-on, deep cover and midwicket boundaries, but his timing was nowhere as fluent as Katich's.

Thandi Tshabalala's offspin and Ryan Bailey's slow-medium deliveries slowed the pace and accounted for Warner's wicket, a result of his frustration.

From here the Eagles fielded with vigour and took all but one of the chances that came their way, never letting their tempo slip. A six off Tshabalala took Katich past 50 in 37 balls but he fell soon after Warner, chipping van Schalkwyk to long-off. Bailey continued to tie down the batsmen, allowing just ten runs in his four overs without conceding a boundary. Tshabalala's figures were spoiled by two sixes from Moises Henriques, who looked capable of taking the score past 150 but fell in the 18th over to a good catch at backward point. NSW proceeded to lose two wickets in two balls and finished with 144.

The Eagles' task was made all the more difficult when Brett Lee got hold of the new ball. Finding a little bit of swing, and good pace and accuracy, he got Rilee Roussouw with a full ball in front of leg stump in the opening over. Adrian McLaren responded with a couple of brusque boundaries off Doug Bollinger but was run out when Katich threw down the stumps from mid-on and wickets kept falling to peg the Eagles' ambitions back. Morne van Wyk picked out short midwicket with a cross-batted shot to Stuart Clark's first ball, Boeta Dippenaar chipped to mid-off, Dean Elgar danced down and was stumped off Nathan Hauritz, and when Katich ran out Bailey, the Eagles had slumped to 36 for 6.

The Eagles weren't finished just yet. Ryan

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U-16 FOOTBALL Farhad makes the difference

SPORTS REPORTER

An early strike from Farhad-uz-Zaman helped Bangladesh defeat hosts Philippines 1-0 in the AFC Under-16 Championship qualifying round at Panned Stadium in Philippines yesterday.

Defender Farhad-uz-Zaman converted the spot kick in the very second minute after striker Sohel was brought down inside danger zone by the opponent defender.

Bangladesh, who started their campaign with a goalless draw against Indonesia and in the second match went 6-0 down to mighty Japan, hit the woodwork twice and squandered many scoring opportunities, according to a message received here yesterday.

The boys will play their last match against Chinese Taipei on Sunday.

WECCA BEACH CRICKET Renegades triumph in the surf, sand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Spahani Renegades yesterday emerged champions in the Grameenphone-WECCA Beach Cricket beating Josephites by nine runs in the four-over-a-side final at the Seagull point in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest seabeach.

Despite heavy downpour, the organisers successfully completed the beach cricket, first of its kind in Bangladesh, amid huge enthusiasm among thousand spectators, who saw the former national cricketers struck sixes or drove on the sand to take catches.

Following the depression in the Bay of Bengal for a couple of days and amid number three signal, the rain started from the beginning of the inauguration ceremony and it had given an impression that the much-hyped tournament might see a premature end, but it was completed successfully amid rains.

Ehsanul Haque Sejan was adjudged player of the tournament while Mizanur Rahman and Mashudur Rahman Mukul were named the best bowler and the best batsman respectively in the daylong cricket carnival. Former national opener Shahriar Hossain cracked a maximum 12 sixes to win a special award.

Kazi Monirul Kabir, the chief communications officer of Grameenphone, handed over the trophy among the winners. Ferdousur Rahman, AGM of market communications and Aulad Hossain, Grameenphone's Chittagong regional sales head, WECCA president Waqar Chowdhury and Obayed Nizam were among others presents on the occasion.



Chief communications officer of Grameenphone Limited Kazi Monirul Kabir hands over the champions' trophy to M Spahani Renegades team at the end of the two-day long beach cricket tournament in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

TRANSKOM CUP GOLF Hussain emerges champ

SPORTS REPORTER

The two-day long 14th Transcom Cup Golf Tournament ended yesterday at the Kurmitola Golf Club with Captain Syed Hussain Ali emerging as champion.

Maj. Gen (retd) ASM Matur Rahman also bagged a winner's medal in the senior category while Syed Moazzem Hossain captured the super-senior title. Ms Shu led the field in the ladies category. Young gun Mahi captured the junior crown.

Bangladesh Air Force chief Air Marshall SM Ziaur Rahman inaugurated the tournament on the first day and distributed prizes amongst the winners as chief guest at a gala dinner last night. Kurmitola Club senior vice-president Maj. Gen Mahboob Haider Khan and Transcom director Saifur Rahman were also present as special guests at the occasion.

Amol, Disha lift crowns

Tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Top seeds Amol Roy and Disha Islam emerged champion in men's and women's singles respectively in the Anlene National Tennis Competition at the Ramna Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Favourite Amol from Engineers' Club defeated Ranjan Ram of Dhaka DSA in straight sets 6-3, 6-1 in the men's singles final while Disha completed a fairytale week with a come-from-behind victory over perennial favourite Sathi Sarkar 0-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Disha, who had come into the tournament only to provide moral support to sister Borsha, ran away with the top prize even her sister exited in the last 16.

Disha, whose favourite player is Roger Federer, is currently residing in Canada but expressed a desire to return if invited by Bangladesh.

Rustom Ali of NTC clinched the boy's Under-14 title with a 6-4, 6-2 win over his teammate Jamil Bhuiyan while Ayesha Sultana of BKSP faced a stiff challenge before handing a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat to Mobassera Firoz Mourin of Natore to bag the girl's Under-14 singles title.

Besides, in the veteran's above-45 doubles, Jahangir Hossain Babul and Syed Abu Zahid Ziaul Haq became champions with a 6-1, 3-6 and 6-4 win over Abdur Rahman and Nasiruddin.

Commerce minister Lt Colonel (retd) Faruk Khan distributed trophies and prize money amongst the winners while SA Mallick, Managing Director of sponsor New Zealand Product Bangladesh Limited, Bangladesh Tennis Federation president Shahriar Alam MP, general secretary Istiaque Ahmed Curren were among others present.

Meanwhile, some 238 players from 24 clubs and organisations took part in the seven-day meet.

Champions League a flop?

INTERNET, undated

In a bid to fill up the empty stands at different centres, the organisers of the Twenty20 Champions League are reportedly distributing complimentary passes to fetch spectators.

A top official of the Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) told IANS that the governing council of the Champions League is sending free passes to all the local associations to distribute among fans and budding cricketers.

"Local fans are not interested in paying for a match between two non-Indian sides. Since only three of the 12 teams are from India, most of the matches would involve overseas teams. The organisers have no option but to distribute passes," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The view found support from a cricket fan.

"We have never heard of teams like Otago Volts and Wayamba and even most of the players in these teams are not known to us," said one of the regulars at the Ferozeshah

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Air Marshall SM Ziaur Rahman (5th from R, front row) poses with the winners and other dignitaries at the conclusion of the prize-giving ceremony of the 14th Transcom Cup Golf Tournament 2009 at the Kurmitola Golf Club last night.

PHOTO: STAR

Duminy douses Bangalore

CRICINFO, undated

At this venue in 2008, Brendon McCullum slammed the most famous Twenty20 century to knock the stuffing out of Royal Challengers Bangalore. On another starry South Indian night, against the hosts again, JP Duminy struck the most awesome 99 you will see in this format to take the Cape Cobras to a thrilling last-over victory.

And so a new chapter in the rapidly growing Twenty20 format has begun. After a gala opening ceremony reminiscent of the opening night of the first IPL, the two teams treated a capacity Chinnaswamy Stadium to a superb exhibition of Twenty20 overs. Anil Kumble had no hesitation in batting first on a good batting track and 20 action-packed overs later the Cobras had their task cut out, after Robin Uthappa and Ross Taylor starred in a powerful batting display. But Duminy thumped five sixes and eight fours in as clinical and perfect a display of shotmaking as you could hope to see, and

his partnership of 61 with Ryan Canning transformed the game after Bangalore had grabbed three early wickets in defence of 180.

The Cobras were in real strife early on with the bat, as Herschelle Gibbs edged Praveen Kumar behind in the first over, and captain Andrew Puttick followed suit with a leading edge to point. Henry Davids played a couple of handsome strokes but when Virat Kohli took an easy catch at point off R Vinay Kumar, the scoreboard showed 62 for 3.

As he has done at the international stage, Duminy didn't waste time in finding his range. Kumble continued to vary his pace and fed Duminy a steady diet of googlies; Duminy was beaten on occasions but replied with deft boundaries, the pick being a cut behind short third man for four. There was a moment of drama, too; Taylor dropped a dolly at long-off when Duminy was 23, after which a dead ball was called because the ball hit the cable of the fly camera.

Once he found his range, Duminy was unstoppable. Vinay was scooped for four and Roelof van der Merwe was driven over

mid-on for six. After getting to 50 in 30 balls, Duminy stepped up a notch and Canning played his part with 20 from 18 balls.

The game was wide open when the Cobras needed 54 off five overs. That was eased significantly as Kohli's part-time medium-pace went for 13 in the 16th over, Kumble and van der Merwe were struck for big sixes and Vinay was mowed for boundaries either side of the pitch. Duminy's final six took him to 99 yet, cruelly, there was to be no century as Rory Kleinveidt finished the deal with two balls remaining.

This seemed a distant possibility after 20 overs in the field, when the Cobras seemed distinctly overawed by the moment and a packed house breathing down their necks, misfielding with alarming regularity and serving up a dozen too many full tosses. Uthappa paved the way with a belligerent but plucky half-century, being dropped on 18 and miscuing more than a few between catchers, and an astonishing assault from Taylor rounded flattened the attack.

Depleted by the injury blow to Charl Langeveldt in the sixth over, the Cobras

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