

## B. League begins October 25

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday decided to start the third edition of B. League from October 25, four days after the completion of the ongoing Citycell Federation Cup.

The decision was taken at a deferred meeting of the B. League committee, which sat with all representatives from 13 professional clubs except Chittagong Mohammadi after the National Team Management Committee sought a time period from November 1 to December 15 for the national football team's preparation for the SAFF Championship.

The meeting also decided to continue the professional football league up to the third round and then suspend the league for the preparation of the national footballers and resume the league again after the completion of the SAFF Championship, scheduled for December 4-14 in Dhaka.

"After having consulted with the NTMC, we took this decision and we will try to complete the first three

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Beanibazar captain Faisal Mahmud (L) and Zamiruddin of Chittagong Abahani are in pursuit of the ball during their Citycell Federation Cup quarterfinal clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Beanibazar won 2-0.

## Beanibazar in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

**Citycell  
FEDERATION  
CUP '09**

Newcomers Beanibazar Sporting Club moved into the semifinals of the Citycell Federation Cup with a 2-0 win over Chittagong Abahani in the third quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Toufiq Hasan Gafur gave Beanibazar an eight-minute lead before captain Faisal Mahmud ensured the last four berths for Beanibazar netting the second four minutes before the break.

The Sylhet outfit will now face the winners between Abahani and Sheikh Russel KC, who are scheduled to square off today, at the same venue on Sunday.

"This achievement was a result of teamwork as the boys have been working hard in a disciplined way and today (Wednesday) they played their own game in line with game plan. So we deserved this triumph," said Beanibazar coach Kazi Jasimuddin Ahmed after the match.

The former Bangladesh international also promised to put up a fighting show in the semifinals though the club officials had earlier demanded to the coach only one win in their first-ever appearance in the season-curtain raiser tournament.

He, however, was worried over the unavailability of Guinean defender Mohammad Conte Bangura, who will miss the semifinals for his second bookable offence in the tournament.

Abahani coach Ali Ashgor Nasir blamed the lack of practice that caused them dearly.

"With lack of practice, the boys played aim-

less in the first half and the opponents availed the chances," said Nasir. "We controlled the second half, but could not make real chances."

Beanibazar started brightly from the word go and went ahead in the eighth minute when Gafur hammered a powerful drive from the left to force Abahani defender Jamiruddin to clear it with a diving header. The ball unfortunately rebounded into the net though goalkeeper Khaled Azam Biplob got a hand on the ball. Referee Shahidul Islam awarded the goal for Gafur, who later drove another shot following Biplob's failure to clear a Faisal Mahmud cross, but Gafur's shot to far post drifted away on the half-way mark of the first half.

Having controlled the midfield consisting of Hasan Imam Rikto, Rashed Ahmed Pappu and Faisal, Beanibazar kept on creating chances and came close to doubling the margin when Faisal dragged a grounder at the edge of the box, but his shot narrowly went wide of the far post.

He finally found the back of the Abahani net in the 41st minute. The midfielder lashed a low drive past goalkeeper Biplob after a free kick taken by Pappu from the left came in his way with a little deflection off Gafur and Beanibazar went into the breather with a comfortable 2-0 lead.

However, after resumption, Beanibazar passed looked nervous in the face of some combined attacks from Abahani as striker Mithun Chowdhury came close twice to reducing the margin in the beginning moments of the second half.

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## Younus hurt, resigns

**Cricket**

AFP, Islamabad

it," said Butt. "The matter will be discussed at a governing board meeting on October 19."

Pakistan's close, one-wicket loss to Australia in a group match last month and their defeat by New Zealand in the semifinal earlier this month sparked allegations from a lawmaker that the team threw the matches.

The 31-year-old said he was appalled and disappointed at being summoned by the Pakistan National Assembly's committee on sports.

"I tender my resignation and if captains are summoned like this, no one will be eager to lead the Pakistan team," Younus said at the start of the meeting.

"I have resigned as a captain," he later told reporters. "I won't say a word more."

Younus's initial offer of resignation was rejected by Ijaz Butt, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"It's an emotional decision and I reject it," Butt said during the meeting but Younus stuck to his guns.

"I had absolutely no idea that he had the resignation letter in his jacket and I was surprised when he produced

Australia won the tournament, which was held in South Africa.

Jamshed Dasti, chairman of the sports committee, alleged last week that Pakistan deliberately lost the match against Australia, a result which threw arch-rivals India out of the Champions Trophy.

Australia's win sent them

and Pakistan into the semifinals, while India was eliminated in the first round.

Dasti later withdrew his allegations, which the PCB had already rejected, but Younus defended his performance and said he felt disappointed at being summoned for investigation.

"I set an example and led the team from the front despite having my finger injured," said Younus, who suffered the injury during a warm-up match and had to miss the Champions Trophy's opening match against the West Indies.

He then played in Pakistan's 58-run win against India and also featured in the matches against Australia and New Zealand.

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam said Younus's decision to resign was a knee-jerk reaction to the allegations.

"Naturally, Younus got emotional and resigned, but there has been no decision taken by the PCB," Alam told AFP. "The fixing allegations were first raised by Indian media, which were shameful and unacceptable."

Dasti said that no proof had

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Pakistan cricket captain Younus Khan (L) and coach Intikhab Alam arrive to attend a parliamentary lower house sports committee meeting in Islamabad yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Victoria thru' despite loss

CRICINFO, undated

The Twenty20 format is supposed to be about big hits and large crowds. There wasn't much of either at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Tuesday evening as Victoria qualified for the next stage despite losing to Wayamba, who were eliminated in a low-scoring scrap on a sluggish pitch.

Both teams competed in the go-slows stakes: Wayamba making the fewest runs in the Powerplay (16) in Champions League Twenty20, and Victoria taking until the 13th over to reach 50.

After a disciplined performance from their bowlers who kept Wayamba to 118, Victoria were never really in danger of elimination, as they needed only 84 to make it through. The Sri Lankan side remained in contention till the start of the 18th over of the second innings: Victoria were still 11 adrift of assured qualification, but

allrounder Andrew McDonald put the issue to rest by powerfully driving the first three balls of legspinner Kaushal Lokurachchi for four.

The first inkling that Wayamba weren't going to be easily rolled over was in the third ball of the chase. Chanaka Welegedara pulled off an astonishing reflex catch-and-bowled, plucking a full-blooded Rob Quiney drive low to his left, changing direction in his follow-through.

Victoria seemed to be back in cruise control when Brad Hodge slammed a six over long-on in the fourth over and Aiden Blizzard swiped a boundary to midwicket three balls later. However, Blizzard was bowled next delivery by Welegedara, bringing together Hodge and David Hussey, the two leading run-getters in Twenty20s.

They hardly looked like the most accomplished of Twenty20 batsmen, though, as Wayamba's attack maintained a disciplined line and length. Much-improved left-arm

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## EBL will sell cricket tickets

SPORTS REPORTER

Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) has earned the rights of selling tickets for the upcoming one-day international series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

A memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed yesterday at Bangladesh Cricket Board's the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium office yesterday.

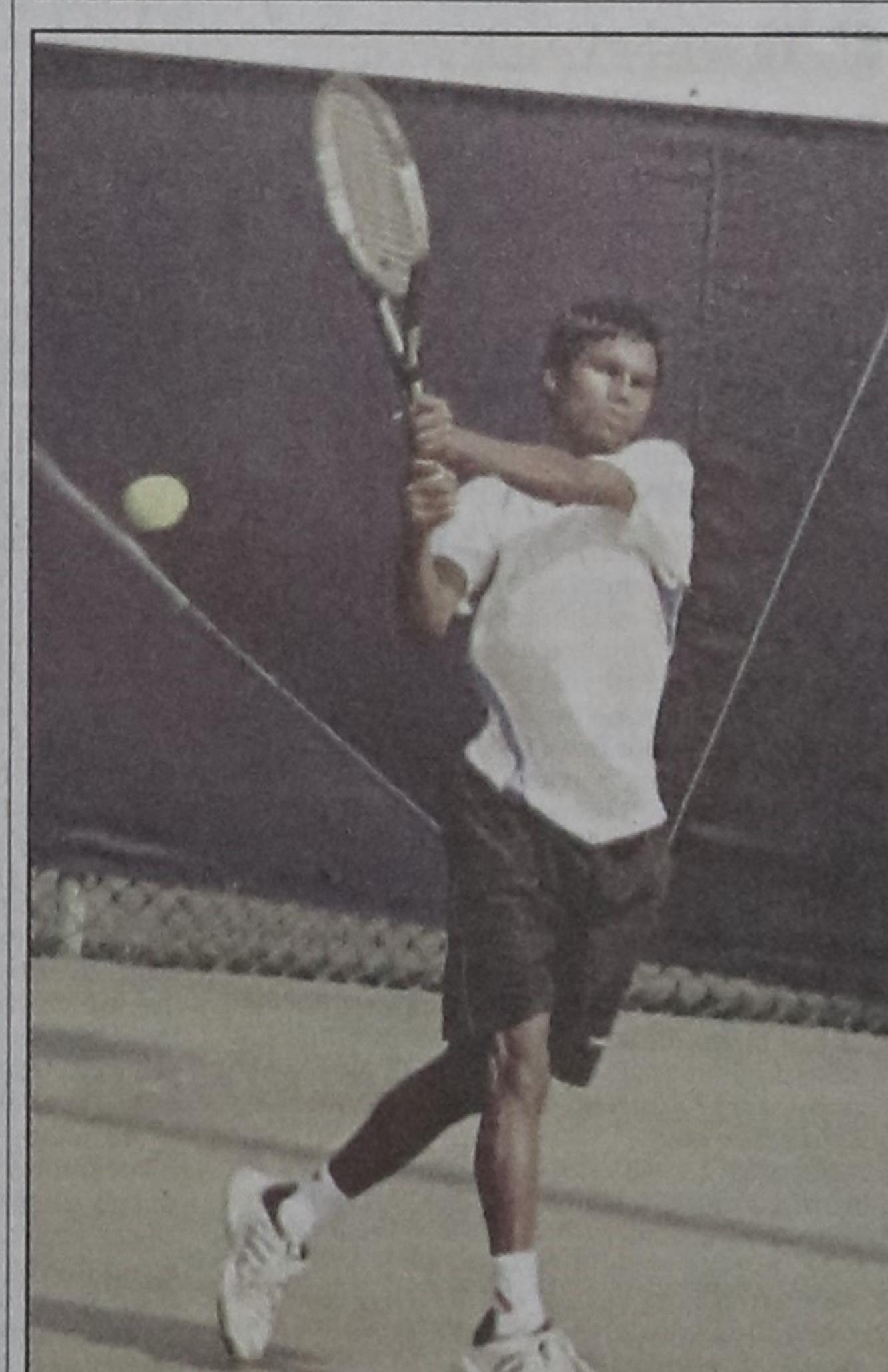
The five-ODI Grameenphone Cup will get underway on October 27 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (SBNB) in Mirpur, which will also host the second and third matches on October 29 and October 31. The last two matches will take place in Chittagong on November 3 and 5.

"This is just the beginning and our involvement with Bangladesh Cricket Board will continue to grow in the coming days," said Ali Reza Iftekhar, the managing director and CEO of EBL.

Aziz-Al Kaiser, chairman of BCB's marketing & commercial committee, informed that tickets for the series would be available from October 18 and the names of nominated EBL branches in Dhaka and Chittagong would be declared later.

The price of gallery tickets at the SBNB has been fixed at Tk 100, special enclosure at Tk 200, clubhouse at Tk 300 and the VIP Grand Stand at Tk 1,000.

Meanwhile, the prices of gallery, special enclosure and clubhouse tickets at Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong have been fixed at Tk 100, 200 and 300 respectively.



Rustom Ali of Bangladesh plays a backhand shot against Duzbionjit Singh of Malaysia during their quarterfinal match of the Prime Bank ATF under-14 Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

## ATF U-14 TENNIS Local lads spring surprise

SPORTS REPORTER

Local boys Rustom Ali and Biplob Ram upset the top seeds to advance into the semifinals of the Prime Bank ATF under-14 Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Rustom Ali beat tournament's highest seed Duzbionjit Singh of Malaysia in straight sets 6-4, 6-2. Biplob Ram got rid of the second seed Prajwal Dev of India in a hard-fought three-setter. Biplob won the first set 7-5, but lost the second set 4-6 to the Indian. However, in the third set Biplob displayed exquisite tennis to devastate his opponent 6-1. Another Bangladeshi Tanvir Ahmed lost to India's Pranav Malhotra 6-2, 6-2. Dhankar Shaurya of India completed the semifinal lineup with a three-set win over compatriot Mehrotra Raghav.

In the girls' group, the only Bangladeshi contender to have come so far went down to India's Shambhavi Dixit 6-0, 6-4. Second seed Ka Man Carin of Hong Kong got better of her compatriot Ching Chan

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## Oram's bye to Tests

**Cricket**

AFP, Wellington

36.32, including five centuries. He took 60 wickets at 33.05, taking over from Chris Cairns as New Zealand's top all-rounder.

His international one-day batting average is a more modest 24.40, and he has taken 132 wickets at 30.99 in 132 matches.

Oram had put off a decision about his career despite a spate of injuries over the past year.

"However, in light of my latest injury at the Champions Trophy it has become clear to me that now is the time to sacrifice something to training and stay in the game longer," he said.

The 2011 World Cup is in his sights and he said he would like to continue for a couple of seasons after that his body holds out.

New Zealand Cricket chief executive Justin Vaughan said he understood Oram's decision.

"Jacob has made a tremendous contribution to our Test team over the past seven seasons, and his experience will be missed," Vaughan said.

"But we fully understand the difficulties he's faced with injuries and we hope this decision will help him prolong his playing career."

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**Diego Maradona**  
(Argentine soccer coach)  
"When the wind and rain and cold began and allowed Peru to draw level, we could not do anything, but the miracle of Palermo has given us a longer life. The goals I scored were normal, Saint Palermo makes miracles."

While hailing Martin Palermo as a 'miracle maker' after the veteran striker's last-gasp goal against Peru gave Argentina a 2-1 win on Saturday and renewed hope of qualifying directly for next year's FIFA World Cup finals.

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