

Tongi to have
new stadium

SPORTS REPORTER

The government is going to build a new stadium in Tongi in a bid to meet local demand as well as keeping a backup venue to the Dhaka stadiums.

The decision was taken in the parliamentary standing committee on youth and sports on Thursday with its chairman Jahid Ahsan Russel MP in chair.

"As per the commitment made by the then Awami League-led government, in order to reduce the load of Dhaka's hectic football and cricket schedules, we have decided to build a new stadium in the T&T ground in Tongi. The construction work of the stadium will start within the current fiscal," said Russel.

"The stadium will be of international standard so that it can stage international football or cricket tournaments," added Russel.

The committee has also proposed to name the stadium after slain Awami League leader Ahsanullah Master, father of Russel.

Dulal, Zakir
excel in golf

SPORTS REPORTER

South Asian Games gold medalist golfers Dulal Hossain and Zakiruzzaman emerged champions in team event of the 123rd Sri Lanka Open Amateur Golf Championship that concluded on Thursday at Royal Colombo Golf Club. Zakiruzzaman also became runner-up in the individual event. Bangladesh Golf Federation will accord a reception to the winners on August 2, said a press release yesterday.

Siddikur

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four birdies but was disappointed with his putting. He said his confidence has soared since securing his first top-10 on the Asian Tour at the Queen's Cup in Thailand in June.

"I'm very happy and excited with my total score as this is the first time I have been 11-under-par after the second round," said Siddikur.

"I was struggling a bit with my short putts because I found it tough to read the lines... If I had managed to get my putt working, I would have had a better score. Overall it was a good round and I'm looking forward to the weekend," added the 25-year-old.

Thammanoon, a five-time Asian Tour winner, posted two birdies in the first three holes but could not keep his momentum going before closing with bogeys on the seventh and eighth holes.

Mohammedan

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players. They are Mohammad Rony, Rajon Mia and Ramjan Ali of Sheikh Russel, Kamrul and Moly Barman of Arambagh, Akbar Hossain Ridon and Shawkat of Chittagong Mohammedan, Razib of Shukhtara Jubo Sangsad, Monu of Feni Soccer Club and Rashed of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Mohammedan manager Amirul Islam Babu said that they have made token payments to the eleven players after getting verbal assurance from them to play for Mohammedan.

The popular club from Motijheel appeared in the transfer market after newcomers Sheikh Jamal, rejuvenated Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Bangladesh League champions Abahani and new-powerhouse Sheikh Russel KC had almost ensured country's top footballers.

Colombo Test

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Mahendra Singh Dhoni hit 76. Sangakkara had top-scored in Sri Lanka's first innings with 219, while opener Tharanga Paranavitana (100) and Mahela Jayawardene (174) hit centuries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 642-4 declared (Paranavitana 100, Dilshan 54, Sangakkara 219, Jayawardene 174, Samaraweera 76 not out)

INDIA: First innings 707 (Vijay 58, Sehwag 99, Tendulkar 203, Laxman 29, Raina 120, Dhoni 76, Mithun 41, Sharma 27, Ravindra 2-108, Mendis 4-172, Dilshan 3-56)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 129 for 3 (Paranavitana 34, Sangakkara 42 not out)

Result: Match drawn



PHOTO: AFP

Serbian Ana Ivanovic serves to Marion Bartoli of France in the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford University on Thursday.

Sharapova through

Tennis

AFP, Stanford

Former world No. 1 Maria Sharapova reached the quarterfinals while Shahar Peer became the first seeded player to fall at the WTA Bank of the West Classic Thursday.

Fifth seeded Sharapova defeated Belarus' Olga Govortsova 6-3, 6-3 and the eighth-seeded Victoria Azarenka beat Melanie Oudin, of the US, 6-3, 6-1 in second round action while Maria Kirilenko sent sixth-seeded Peer crashing out of the hardcourt tournament 6-4, 6-3.

"It was a sloppy first game but the rest of it was fine," Sharapova said. "I took my chances when I could."

The 16th-ranked Peer lost for the fourth time in her last six matches after opening the year with an 18-5 record.

"This time I decided to be a lot more aggressive," Kirilenko said. "This year has been so much better and given me a lot of confidence."

I'm not Ferrari
No. 2: Massa

AFP, Budapest



Felipe Massa

insisted on Friday

that he was not prepared to play second fiddle to Ferrari teammate Fernando Alonso as the storm over Formula One team orders continued to rage.

The Brazilian was at the wrong end of a controversial demand to pull over and let Alonso overtake and go on to claim victory in Germany last weekend.

When asked at the Hungaroring circuit ahead of Friday's first free practice for the Hungarian Grand Prix what would happen if he was faced with the same situation, he replied, "I will win."

"The time I say I am number two driver, I will not race anymore."

"I have spoken to everybody inside the team and as I said I am not here merely to race, I am here to win. That is really my point."

"As long as I am in the condition to win, we need to go to the end, to fight for the victory."

"I am a professional, I work for the team and everybody has to understand my point."

Massa added that the decisions he made in Germany were for the benefit of the team and recalled when he had supported Kimi Raikkonen in 2007, and that Raikkonen had returned the favour in 2008, when Massa was chasing the title.

"I am working for the team and we know how important it is to work for the team," he said.

"You remember what happened in 2007 and 2008, so I don't think I have to go through all the points. If the team really has the chance to win the championship, I want the best for the team."

Alonso also insisted that

Massa was not the team's number two driver and claimed that any choices made in Germany were in the team's best interests.

"I think there is not a number one or number two driver," he said.

"I think it is more about respect of each other, respect of racing for the Scuderia -- which means a lot."

The Spaniard said he was unfazed by all the criticism generated by Ferrari's instruction which earned them a 100,000 dollar fine and a disciplinary hearing date at the FIA's World Motor Sports Council.

"Of course it doesn't affect me, not at all."

"If we lost one per cent of our concentration in everything they say we'd be lost."

"Not only because of Germany, but because there's always a small anecdote in every race."

"One time is the crash between the Red Bulls in Turkey, another time is the overtaking in the pitlane between Massa and me -- there's always something to talk about next week so we can't pay too much attention."

Alonso added that he was not worried about the WMSC's pending decision and was instead focussed on his team's performance in Budapest and grabbing as many points as possible.

"Anything that happens in the future of the WMSC is not in our hands," added Alonso. "From a drivers' point of view we just need to concentrate and drive well and be okay."

"I think we are happy with the performance of the car in the last couple of races and in Germany finally there was the point we arrived with both cars at the chequered flag without problems and we scored points."

"But also in Silverstone and Valencia the car was good, so

The 27th-ranked Kirilenko is assured of her best finish at Stanford in three trips. She meets third seed Agnieszka Radwanska in the quarters.

"I played not too badly," Kirilenko said. "I can play better."

She's also had her career best results at the Australian Open, when she reached the quarterfinals, the French Open, when she made the fourth round, and at Wimbledon, when she was eliminated in the third round.

Azarenka reached her sixth quarterfinal of the year by winning her eighth in her last 10 matches. She busted into the top 10 last year.

"I think I played very well," Azarenka said. "It was a little tough at the beginning with a couple of service breaks but I felt strong the whole match. For me it's important to play every point the same, no matter what the score is. Whether I am up or down 40-love, that is always a key for me."

She next plays defending champion Marion Bartoli who defeated former world No. 1 Ana Ivanovic 6-3, 6-4 in the night match Thursday.

our aim here is to continue in this line.

"I think we will see. At the moment the drivers, now we need to concentrate on driving, we have a very interesting GP here in Hungary."

Isaac for ICC
vice-presidency

CRICINFO

Alan Isaac, the New Zealand Cricket chairman, will replace John Howard as the ICC vice-presidency nomination following Cricket Australia's refusal to choose another candidate. Howard, the country's former prime minister, was blocked last month and even though CA's board remains convinced he is the best man for the job, it will support Isaac's elevation.

Isaac and Jack Clarke, CA's chairman, were furious with Howard's rejection during the ICC annual conference in Singapore, following an exhaustive selection process for an increasingly complicated role. After being told by the ICC board to find another option by August 31, New Zealand asked Sir John Anderson, the country's original recommendation, to reconsider. When Anderson refused Isaac, 58, stepped forward.

Howard, a passionate cricket lover, was put forward as Australia and New Zealand's joint candidate for the ICC's rotating vice-presidency, with the expectation that he would be rubber-stamped as its president in two years.

But the ICC refused to vote on his nomination after a reported revolt by Asian and African cricketing powers, calling instead for Australia and New Zealand to put forward a new candidate.

"The CA board accepts that the New Zealand nominee, Mr Alan Isaac, is eminently qualified to fill the role of ICC vice-president and president, and given the stance of the ICC Executive Board with the nomination of Mr Howard, will support his name being forwarded to the ICC for ratification," CA said in a statement.

"The Board is disappointed and most concerned by the ICC Executive Board's lack of support of his (Howard's) nomination and regards it as completely unacceptable that no reason has been provided as to why he has not been accepted."

"In the circumstances, the CA Board is not prepared to

nominate any other candidate for the role."

Howard's rejection earlier this month was condemned by the Australian and New Zealand prime ministers, Julia Gillard and John Key.

Key slammed the ICC's "shocking" snub of Howard, while Gillard, facing a general election next month, said she offered her full support for Howard to get the role.

CA chairman Jack Clarke said that while his board remained strong in its view that Howard continued to be its best candidate, a fresh approach was needed.

"We are not prepared to suggest another candidate but given it is clear Mr Howard will not be supported, we clearly have to consider a new approach," Clarke said in the statement.

"Accordingly, we are pleased to support New Zealand Cricket's suggestion

Rivals slam 'unsporting' pitch

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Rivals India and Sri Lanka blasted the featherbed wicket that proved a bowlers' graveyard after the second Test ended in a high-scoring draw on Friday.

"This one was very unsporting, there was nothing in it for the bowlers," said Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, whose team posted 707 in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings score of 642-4.

India's score was just 19 runs short of their Test record of 726-9 declared against the same opposition at the Brabourne stadium in Mumbai last year.

The match was a poor advertisement for Test cricket in which 1,478 runs were scored for the loss of just 17 wickets on a flat pitch

that offered no assistance to the bowlers.

"If there is nothing for fast bowlers in a wicket, it should at least help the spinners," said Dhoni. "This one was just for batsmen, while the bowlers got spanked all around the park."

"I am glad we took the lead because when the opposition bats first and puts up more than 600 runs on the board, there is always pressure on the team batting second."

"But we played well and built partnerships, so there are a lot of positives to take away from the Test."

India's innings was marked by Sachin Tendulkar's 203, his fifth double-century, while debutant Suresh Raina made 120 and Dhoni hit 76.

Sangakkara admitted it was "hard work" for the bowlers over the five days, but praised his team's all-round perfor-

mance in the match.

"We batted and bowled well, maybe we need to buck up on the fielding," said the Sri Lankan captain, who was named man of the match for his 219.

Sri Lanka coach Trevor Bayliss said such dead wickets were unlikely to ever produce positive results in Tests.

"We need pitches which are good for batting and have something for the bowlers too," said Bayliss.

Sri Lanka now head for the final Test at the P. Sara Oval from Tuesday enjoying 1-0 lead in the series after winning the first match in Galle by 10 wickets.

A 2-0 series scoreline will lift Sangakkara's men to the top of the official Test rankings, relegating current leaders India to second spot.

India will remain number one if they win or draw the Test.

Nehwal gets
top honour

AFP, New Delhi

Indian badminton ace and world number two Saina Nehwal was awarded India's highest sporting honour on Friday.

Nehwal, 20, was named the recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award after a string of impressive performances that saw her become the first Indian to win a Super Series title when she triumphed at the 2009 Indonesia Open.

"I am really happy. It's unbelievable, a dream come true for me," she was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India.

"I have done well in the last two years and the three titles that I won recently have really boosted my confidence. I am now preparing for the World Championship and hope to win the title," she said.

Previous recipients of the award, which will be presented to Nehwal by President Pratibha Patil next month, include cricket superstar Sachin Tendulkar.

Force India
hit with fine

INTERNET

Despite being hit with a reprimand following a tyre error in Germany last weekend, Force India has now fallen foul of the regulations again in Hungary and been hit with a fine by the FIA.

The team found itself in trouble with stewards at Hockenheim after fitting tyres that should have gone on Tonio Luzzi's car onto the car of Adrian Sutil -- and vice versa -- when the pair were forced to pit at the end of the opening lap.

Following the confusion, the pair were forced to pit again for the error to be put right, although stewards still elected to reprimand the team for its mistake.

This time around, the team was found to have fitted tyres to the car of Paul di Resta that shouldn't have been used before Saturday.

As a result of the breach of the sporting regulations, the team has now been hit with a 5,000-pounds fine.

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 17

caught by Swann from a delivery by Finn, while his brother Kamran lasted just two balls before he edged Finn to Collingwood at third slip for a duck.

Malik and Aamer scrapped for every run in their unbroken stand of 43 and ensured that Pakistan surpassed their lowest test total of 87 against England, which was made at Lord's in 1954.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 354 (Strauss 45, Morgan 130, Trott 38, Collingwood 82; Aamer 3-41, Asif 5-77)

PAKISTAN: First innings 90 for 6 at tea (Farhat 19, Malik 26 not out, Aamer 22 not out; Anderson 3-21, Finn 3-12)

Karpov puts

FROM PAGE 17
compete with incumbent president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, also a Russian.

Karpov's manager made proposal to Bangladeshi Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, who let the federation know about the former world champion's desire.

"It is clear that Karpov wants to visit Bangladesh for the election campaign. But since we have good rapport with the existing president, his visit may not cause a stir. But he is welcome if he wants to visit," said Bangladesh Chess Federation general secretary Mokaddesh Hossain.

Karpov was the official world champion from 1975 to 1985, was FIDE World Champion from 1993 to 1999. For his decades-long standing among the world's elite, Karpov is considered one of the greatest chess players of all time.

Murray, Falla advance

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Colombia's Alejandro Falla and Scot Andy Murray shared top billing on centrecourt at the ATP Farmers Classic on Thursday.

Falla, who is enjoying the best season of his career, rallied to upset fifth seeded Ernests Gulbis 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (10/8) in a marathon second-round match at the ATP Farmers Classic.

The 26-year-old left-handed Falla took advantage of some sloppy tennis in the third set tiebreaker by the talented but enigmatic 21-year-old Gulbis on Thursday.

"I played well, especially in the last set," Falla said. We were both tired and trying our best. I am happy to get through to the quarter-finals."

Falla advances to the next round where he will meet top seeded Andy Murray who had little trouble with American qualifier Tim Smyczek 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.

The 23-year-old Murray was playing his first match since sacking his coach Miles Maclagan and the first tournament since reaching the semis at Wimbledon for the second consecutive year.

Murray, who is the first British player to reach the Los Angeles quarters since Greg Rusedski in 2004, has enjoyed success in California in the past, winning twice in San Jose (2007, 2006). He also finished runner up at Indian Wells in the California desert last year.

"I hope to have a good run here," said Murray, who had his best season on ATP Tour last year reaching No. 2 top ranked player in the world.

"Tonight was a good match there were a lot long rallies in the first two sets. Hopefully it will stand me in good stead."

In other play Thursday, Spanish fourth seed Feliciano Lopez defeated Dudi Sela 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 and American James Blake beat Benjamin Becker 7-5, 7-6 (7/5).

This was the first career ATP Tour meeting between the two players who have each reached career high rankings this year with Falla ranked 58 and Gulbis 27th in the world.

An emotional Gulbis, of Latvia, was prone to outbursts as he threw his racket numerous

times, smashing two of them during the two hour, 15 minute match.

"Nothing worked today," said Gulbis who was playing his first tournament in two months after injuring his hamstring. "I was just running like a Spanish clay court player standing on the baseline and pushing the ball back ... women's tennis."

"If you don't do something for two months it is really tough. If you don't fish for tough months then maybe you forget how to fish."

For his part, Gulbis survived five match points in the third set tiebreaker before losing on a short forehand return.

Falla thought he could have won the match four points earlier by default when Latvian got upset and fired his racket into the net in frustration but even he didn't want to see it end that way.

Gulbis had already been warned earlier by the chair umpire Fergus Murphy in the second set for a similar outburst and was penalized one point.

Gulbis thought Murphy, of Ireland, should have just let them play.

"This referee his only purpose in life is to give somebody warnings. He is like a police officer when they see a car they stop it and they have so much fun to give you a ticket. In Latvia, I stop where you cannot stop and they have a smile on their face as they give me a ticket, ha. Same with this guy."

"Whatever I would do I would get a warning."

Asked if he should have been disqualified for breaking rackets and kicking balls, Gulbis said he thought the crowd was entertained.

"He wouldn't do that (default the match). People enjoyed it."

"It wasn't the best tennis but it was good fight. I broke rackets. OK, they (crowd) booted me but I think honestly they enjoyed it. If he would have disqualified me in the tiebreaker it would have been really stupid."

Falla, who took Roger Federer to five sets earlier this year at Wimbledon, reached his second quarterfinal of 2010 by keeping his composure.

"It helped me a lot," Falla said of Gulbis' emotional play. "He gave me a few chances and I got them. I was just trying to return aggressively and be aggressive from the baseline."

No ICC renomination
for Howard

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Cricket Australia said Friday it would not renominate former Australian prime minister John Howard to take over the leadership of the sport's international governing body.

CA said Howard was its best available candidate and had decided not to consider suggesting any other names, and instead would support New Zealand Cricket's nomination of Alan Isaac for the position of vice-president of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Howard, a passionate cricket lover, was put forward as Australia and New Zealand's joint candidate for the ICC's rotating vice-presidency, with the expectation that he would be rubber-stamped as its president in two years.

But the ICC refused to vote on his nomination after a reported revolt by Asian and African cricketing powers, calling instead for Australia and New Zealand to put forward a new candidate.

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"We are not prepared to suggest another candidate but given it is clear Mr Howard will not be supported, we clearly have to consider a new approach," Clarke said in the statement.

"Accordingly, we are pleased to support New Zealand Cricket's suggestion

that Alan Isaac be nominated for the role."

"Alan has a strong cricket and sporting administrative background but the relevant benefit he brings to the table is his strong record as an expert practitioner and adviser in organisational governance and his business and financial acumen."

New Zealand Cricket chief executive Justin Vaughan told AFP that New Zealand "was also very disappointed with the rejection of John Howard's nomination by the ICC but believe Alan Isaac is an outstanding nominee."

Isaac, a chartered accountant, has been on the board of New Zealand Cricket for 20 years and became chairman in 2008. He was described by Vaughan as an excellent strategist and thinker.

Isaac said it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the nomination, given that it still required ICC acceptance.

A TT party for kids

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said Singer official Abdur Rahim.

This is only the first phase of the programme after which an inter-school tournament will be organised at the end of the three-month cycle.

In the second phase, children of ten more schools will be trained and at the end of this year, an open tournament will be held with the participation of all the interested schools of Dhaka.

While all these are designed to promote the game and the programme itself, the camp is a great way to spend weekends and vacations, especially when space is at a premium.

It was refreshing to see the kids so excited to take part in a sport other than cricket and football. The involvement of