1st Division transfers from Sept 29

SPORTS REPORTER

The two-day players' transfer for the Dhaka First Division Cricket League will be held from September 29 to 30.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) said in a statement: "For the 2010-2011 cricket season the players from First Division Cricket League teams who want to transfer to the Premier League/2nd Division/3rd Division League must acquire the token during the First Division players' transfer of the League."

The statement also read: "They must submit an application with the token to the member secretary of CCDM before the players' transfer of the First Division League and with the permission they can take part in the players' transfer of the Premier/2nd/3rd Division Leagues."

The CCDM took the decision to make things easy for the players ahead of the ICC 2011 World Cup.

The committee also brought changes in the players' contract system.

"The player's contract must be done through BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) and the payment system will be done on a match-by-match basis," said Qazi Aynul Islam, CCDM coordinator.

The players' transfer for the Premier Division Cricket League, the most coveted domestic competition, will be held from November 7 to 8.

2nd Councilor Gold Cup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi

Ward No. 5 defeated Ward No. 13 4-1 in the day's first match of the 2nd Councilor Gold Cup Football tournament at the

Rajshahi Stadium yesterday. Sagar scored two goals while Nasir and Jamil added one each. Riyad netted the lone goal for the losing team. Raju was adjudged man of the match.

In the second match, Ward No. 24 beat Ward No. 12 2-1 goals at the same venue.

Babu and Kurban netted one each for the winners.

Habib was adjudged man of the match.

DRU football

SPORTS REPORTER

Four teams moved into the second round of the DRU-Rapid Securities Media football tournament at the Bangabandhu National

Stadium yesterday. Boishakhi crushed Bhorer Dak 7-0, Naya Diganta outplayed Sangbad 5-0 and Bangladesh Protidin beat Bangla Bazar Patrika 2-1, while a 2-2 draw with Ittefaq was enough for Independent to

move into the next round. Amader Arthoniti earned a 3-1 win over Janapad while the other three matches of the day were drawn.

Rubcic

FROM PAGE 17

"I won't say everything is in place. But there are signs of improvement," he admitted.

While the teams will be busy with their club's camps in Dhaka and BKSP, Rubcic will stay for four days a week where he will have opportunity to see some of his charges in training and will talk with the club coaches about the players' improvements.

Fed Cup

FROM PAGE 17

Cup, twelve from the Bangladesh League and eight more from other leagues including senior division and service sides.

But due to the reluctance of the two sides, it has been decided that the tournament

will go ahead with 18 teams.

Dhaka

From page 17 Dhaka have been training for the last four days but rain has hurt their preparations and the team is likely to continue to train into the first week of October as the tournament now starts on the fourth. Last year's position: Third.

Strength: Big name players. Player to watch out for: Anamul Haque Bijoy.



Australia opener Shane Watson plays an uppercut on way to scoring a century during the first day of the three-day practice match against the Indian Board President's XI in Chandigarh yesterday. Australia will play two Tests and three ODIs in India.

Schumacher to carry on

INTERNET

Michael Schumacher has again played down suggestions that he will head back into retirement when the

current F1 campaign comes to a close in Abu Dhabi in November, insisting that he is already looking ahead to next season.

The German was the subject of renewed speculation amid reports of heightened activity in and around the Mercedes motorhome at Monza, but quickly put reporters straight when the question of his future was raised in Singapore ahead of this weekend's night race. Even though the motorsport press has been hinting that Mercedes is poised to offer the seven-time world champion a management role -- possibly even in preparation to succeed Ross Brawn as team principal --Schumacher maintains that he is still working towards better performances in 2011.

"You won't get rid of me that easily, put it that way!" Schumacher claimed, without confirming whether he would be a driver or administrator, "It's certainly the case that we know that we have nothing to win this year so, whereas [Red Bull, McLaren and Ferrari] are contending for the championship, we have a little bit of a time advantage [for next season]. Don't forget we are [operating] with slightly smaller resources as well, and we hope that this can compensate and we can do a very good job [next year]. Focusing on next year's car is vital in our position and hopefully we can have similar playing fields from then on. Our goal is the world championship -- and the sooner the better -- but we are in a process. We are not magicians."

An improved 2011 car is seen as key to Schumacher's prolonged presence in the top flight, as he has openly struggled to get the best from the WO1, which did not benefit from the same advance planning as its successor because of the success of the Brawn car in 2009. Having had three years on the sidelines prior to his 2010 return, the German has also struggled to adapt his driving style to the current breed of Bridgestone tyre, and many are suggesting that this winter's first tests with new supplier Pirelli

could also play a part in shaping his future. "Naturally, if we knew exactly what the prob-

lem was, we would simply stop it and change it," he reasoned, "But it's a process. If you think about it, it took me about four years to build up to finally being able to win a championship with Benetton, and, at Ferrari, it took me five years, so I hope we're much more efficient here. It's a process of getting things together with the engineer, working very closely, and setting the car up as much as possible to your own needs.

"We are obviously more limited because we have tyres that are given and you have a car that has a certain characteristic, so certainly, in a way, I do feel that the harmony between these two components and myself is not yet there. But we are working on it to make it in harmony."

The German is quick to insist, however, that the Abu Dhabi test will not be as critical as many are making out.

"I think there are two questions that need to be asked," he noted, "One is what I will experience at the first test, and the other thing is how much it will develop from there to the beginning of the season and through the season. It's a question mark whether the tyres we have in Abu Dhabi will be the tyres that we start the season with -- and

continue the season with. "But, yes, you get a quick read [about future potential] because you know what your car has been like with the Bridgestone tyres and then you understand quickly what it will be like with Pirelli

After a difficult season, Schumacher enjoyed an upturn during the first day of action in Singapore -- a circuit he has not raced at before -placing second fastest in the wet-dry opening session and remaining in the top ten in the later outing.

"It has been a lot of fun driving this track today, even in the dark," he reported, "It is my first time driving here in Singapore and I was curious to experience how it would be -- and I have to say that I liked it. I had heard that the track is quite bumpy, but I didn't find that it was too much, just in one sector. The rest is pretty good and exciting.

"This morning, well actually early evening, when the conditions were mixed, we looked quite good whereas, in the later second practice, we seemed to struggle more. Let's see what we can do here tomorrow."

Australians show form

AFP, Chandigarh

Australian openers Shane Watson and Simon Katich geared up for an upcoming Test series against India with impressive centuries in a practice match on Saturday.

Watson scored 115 and Katich made 104 as the tourists posted 319-1 in their first innings at stumps on the opening day of a three-day game against an Indian Board President's XI in Chandigarh.

Michael Clarke was unbeaten on 43 and skipper Ricky Ponting on 42 not out.

Watson cracked 16 fours in his 199-ball knock before being bowled by leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, while Katich smashed 15 boundaries in a 178-ball knock before retiring.

Australia will play two Tests, in Mohali (October 1-5) and Bangalore (October 9-13), and three one-day internationals in Kochi (October 17), Visakhapatnam (October 20) and Goa (October 24).

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIANS:First innings 319 for 1 (Watson 115, Katich 104 retired, Clarke 43 not out, Ponting 42notout; Chawla 1-120)

Khulna off to winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna posted an eightwicket victory over Rajshahi in the rain-interrupted opening match of the Women's National Cricket League at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The T20 match was reduced to a five-over affair where Rajshahi managed 37 runs for five wickets after being sent into bat.

Farjana Haq was the only player reaching double figure with 10 runs off nine balls.

In reply, Khulna scored 38 runs for two wickets in their five overs.

Player of the match Rumana Ahmed made an unbeaten 16 off 13 balls that contained one boundary while Salma Khatun added an unbeaten 10 runs.

To facilitate the preparation for the XVI Asiad in Guangzhou, the BCB Women's Wing has decided to hold this year's league in Twenty20 format.

Chess teams

FROM PAGE 17 (ICSC) 3-1.

In the open section, FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar beat Mwale Chuma, FM Abu Sufian Shakil beat Chipanga Chiletso, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag beat Nyambalo Joseph Xavier and Debaraj Chatterjee beat Mfune Petros.

With the victory, the men's team secured four match points and tengame points.

In the women' section, WFM Shamima Akter Liza beat IM Baklanova Tatiana, Sharmin Sultana Shirin beat WCM Mucha Annegret, WIM Rani Hamid drew with WFM Ryvova Anna and Masuda Begum drew withWIM Gerasimova Olga.

Women's team earned five match points and nine game points.

ACROSS

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Peers put Federer above Nadal

Tennis

AFP, Macau

Roger Federer trumps Rafael Nadal as a tennis great despite the Spaniard's stellar season, world number five Robin Soderling said in Macau Saturday.

The Spanish number one became the seventh man in history to achieve a career Grand Slam as he earned his first US Open title with victory over Novak Djokovic in this month's final at Flushing Meadows.

The 24-year-old Spaniard has notched up nine major titles -- leaving him seven behind his Swiss rival, whose tally of 16 Grand Slams is the most in men's tennis history. Soderling has lost to both players in consec-

utive years in the French Open final but said despite Nadal's completion of a career Grand Slam, Federer, currently the world number three, remains the yardstick for men's tennis.

"He's won so many Grand Slams already, so many titles but to me, Roger is still the best. "But Rafa is still very young so if he's going to

be healthy, he has a lot more years to play and he could definitely give it a shot."

world's best player ever," added Soderling, in wouldn't be in the draw, in the tournament Macau for an exhibition tournament featuring maybe it could be a bigger chance to win a three other players ranked in the top 11 --

Nikolay Davydenko, Tomas Berdych and David

World number seven Berdych, who beat Federer in this year's Wimbledon quarterfinal only to fall to Nadal in straight sets in the final,

said the Spaniard had enjoyed a stellar year. "It's not easy to win three Grand Slams [French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open]."

"Still, I think it's a lot to go for him to get the best player so far in history but he's a great athlete and a great person."

And David Ferrer, world number 11, said his fellow countryman, although the best player in Spain's history, could not yet claim to be the greatest ever.

"I think Rafa is the best player in history for Spain," he said.

But "in this moment maybe it's Federer because he has more Grand Slams and more titles," he said ahead of Sunday's Venetian Macau Tennis Showdown.

Nadal and Federer have won 25 of the past 30 Grand Slams, setting a blistering pace that the rest of men's tennis has failed to match.

But Berdych said: "For me, it's a good time to be in this era that you can be competing against these two great players.

"Of course, you can see it from the other 'He has the chance to be known as the point of view that maybe if these two guys Grand Slam."

Waqar calls for 'education'

Cricket

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan cricket coach Waqar Younis has stressed the need of imparting education to young cricketers in avoiding controversy, after his embattled team arrived home from their England tour to a quiet reception in the home country.

Talking to reporters at Lahore airport, Younis said that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) needed to start educating players from the under-17 and under-19 age groups on how to conduct themselves after joining the senior national team, the Dawn reported.

"We need to educate our players on how to carry themselves, on how to avoid controversies and not get entangled with shady characters," he said. In the wake of the spot-fixing allegations engulfing the visit-

ing team, Younis noted that the England tour had been a testing and difficult one for the Pakistani side. "It was not an easy tour at all in cricketing terms and also

because of the off the field controversies. But we have learnt a lot from it," he said. However, the former Test captain appreciated that the team had done well to win matches in difficult circumstances, but added that there was still a need for the selectors and coaching

staff to reassess the team. "Hopefully before our next series against South Africa we will know the fate of the three players and the situation would be

clearer, but we need more young blood for the team," he added. Pakistan is scheduled to play a test series against South Africa in the United Arab Emirates in October and November.

Open tennis from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Shahjalal Islami Bank Open Tennis tournament starts today at the National Tennis Court Complex in Ramna. A total of 260 participants

try will take part in the nine events of the five-day meet. Secretary of Youth and Sports Mahbub Ahmed will inaugurate the tourna-

from 26 clubs across the coun-

ment. Sponsors will bear Tk 200,000 out of the total budget ofTk311,800.

The winner in the men's singles will bag Tk 20,000 while the women's singles winner will get half the amount.

Vice-president of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) Mohammad Ali Din disclosed the details of the meet at a press conference at the federation conference room yesterday.



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Two Japanese Sensais demonstrate the art of karate during a training session at the Bangladesh Shitokai Kararate-do Academy auditorium in Gulshan yesterday.

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20 Comfort-

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26 Churchill

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27 Screw up

29 Colorado

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40-Down

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22 Arm bones

Suresh accepts

FROM PAGE 17 has to hand the venues over to OC and then it is our responsibility. As far as the Games Village is concerned, 18 towers were handed to us and we completed the work on time. The rest 18 were handed over

is," he said. Kalmadi sought to blame various agencies who were handed the rights for construction and renovation of the stadiums and Games

late and that what the problem

"Contrary to popular belief that OC had the right to spend Rs 30-40,000 crores on the organisation, we only had 1,600 crore rupees allotted. The rest was taken care by the government and Indian Olympic Association.

"Everyone had fixed responsibilities. Our job was to ensure that the athletes of all countries would reach safely, ensure that there safety is comfortable," Kalmadi said. On security, he said they

had been having meetings for the last couple of years. The home ministry and Delhi Lt Governor Tejinder Khanna have been holding constant

meetings. "We have had a CGF advisor who has been monitoring the progress of the work every

second month," he said.

Kalmadi tried to play down the issue of Jama Masjid firing incident last Sunday and saying it has been blown out of proportion. "The Jama Masjid [shoot-

out] incident is not related to

the Games. These are minor issues, blown out of proportion. There was already a proper security in place and it has been beefed up further," he said. Elaborating on the security arrangements, Kalmadi explained that there will be

front and the other behind every team bus. An armed police personnel will also be present in the bus. "The international chefs de mission have also found the security to be fine," Kalmadi said adding there were defi-

two Police patrol cars -- one in

ciencies but in another couple of days, all work will be completed. "We have some issues in the Games Village but I think it is a fine Village. Only that some blocks have to be cleaned up.

But all the infrastructure is good... I can assure you that our aim is to host a good Games. Our aim is to do as good as Melbourne did in 2006," he said.

stay in a University Hostel during the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002 but they did not complain.

the pathetic staying conditions that athletes encountered during the Manchester edition. When a member of the Australian media asked whether this entire mess

pointed out on Friday about

"Kalmadi was asked how

choice. The Indian athletes have felt that arrangements are fine. Also the part of the Village where they are staying, the work has been completed," Fennell said.

34 Antenna could not answer a question as 36 Draws a to why the fixtures of various events apart from squash and badminton have not been He told an English journal- released.

ist that athletes were made to Incidentally, Pakistan's star hockey player Rehan Butt had

meant the end of the Olympic dream for India, he replied: "we will answer that question once the Games are over.

the Indian contingent has checked in the Games Village when foreign athletes still have reservation staying over there, Fennell jumped to Kalmadi's defence. It's a matter of personal

Both Fennell and Kalmadi

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE REALLY

BELIEVE THAT POLICEMAN SHOULD'VE BECOME

AN ARTIST. HE'S ALWAYS DRAWING HIS GUN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals N