

Cricketer Lee to turn musician

Cricketer Brett Lee, who does the back-up vocals and plays bass for the band 'White Shoe Theory', is all set to launch music career in Australia. He has revealed that the band would be launching its first local singles. "We're going to launch our single shortly, so it's all happening," the Telegraph quoted Lee, who had returned to Australia this weekend for a six-week stay as saying. "We're working out which one we want to release first," he added.

—INTERNET



Players of Mohammedan Sporting Club are over the moon after they became the 3rd Women's Club Cup champions at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Club Cup MSC's

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club made light work of arch-rivals Abahani on way to lifting the 3rd Women's Club Cup cricket tournament yesterday.

The nine-wicket victory paved the way for the Motijheel giants to a second triumph in this competition after they had won the inaugural edition in 2009. Also, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club finished runners-up on their maiden appearance.

"I am very pleased to have won this trophy. It makes me really proud," said Mohammedan skipper Salma Khatun.

After Abahani decided to bat first at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, the Mohammedan bowlers, especially Rumana Ahmed, used discipline as the Dhanmondi side were restricted to 94 for 8 in 40 overs with only Jahanara Alam, batting in the lower-order, scoring 20 runs from 41 balls.

Rumana took three wickets for 22 runs from six overs while Salma picked up two for 21. Tahin Tahera and Shaila Sharmin took a wicket apiece.

Rumana took the wickets of Tulika Biswas, Shahnaz Parveen and Sharmin Akhtar, making sure Abahani lost their middle-order cheaply.

Mohammedan were asked to score 83 runs from 32 overs after a spell of rain interrupted play. They managed the target quite easily, reaching 84 for one in 25.2 overs with Shaila Sharmin hammering six boundaries in her unbeaten 80-ball 39.

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June meeting pivotal in coach appointment

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

AHM Mustafa Kamal has said that next month's meeting will shape Bangladesh Cricket Board's decision towards hiring a new Tigers head coach.

The board of directors meet on June 3 in a regular meeting of the cricket board and, according to the BCB president, the handful of names will be mulled over.

"Around 7-8 coaches have applied so far. Hopefully we will be able to come to a decision soon regarding the coach. On June 3 when we will have our next board meeting, we will discuss the issue," said Kamal yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"There is no need for short listing the options that we have as they are too small in number. So if we find any one who will fulfil the needs we directly pick them from the options that we have. So there is no need of a shortlist."

"What we want is a coach who will give his hundred per cent to our team

without any circumstance of them going for any other duty," he said.

Kamal also explained why the BCB will drop one of its choices of countries when it comes to picking a coach. "Probably it won't be an Australian. It will be a South African or an Englishman because the Australians are not willing to come for the long term," he said.

According to sources, the BCB will also conduct their own searches apart from those who applied.

Former South African batsman Peter Kirsten is among the South Africans to have applied for the coach's job while it was previously reported that the BCB are in talks with Graham Ford, another South African.

Apart from finding a totally committed coach, it was learned that money has been a prime talking point in hiring a coach. Kamal, though, maintained that the financial package on offer will still attract takers.

"I don't think money will be a big problem if the coach matches our requirements. He will have to be a coach of international standard, who

will stay with us and not want to go to the IPL or the Australian Twenty-20.

"Nowadays every coach wants to be free during the IPL [Indian Premier League] as he thinks if he is not in the IPL, his potential is under-utilised.

"But we want to have a full time coach," said Kamal, who said that the cash-rich IPL is a major hindrance for Bangladesh to attract coaches.

"For IPL it is difficult to run cricket altogether. We cannot pay the way the IPL does. One of the reasons why we are not getting a coach of our liking is the IPL, as the money there is enormous," he explained.

Kamal's assertion comes as the BCB's self-declared deadline of landing a coach (June 15) is only a fortnight away with the national camp all set to begin on June 4 under trainer Grant Luden.

The board had given CEO Manzur Ahmed the corresponding authority but he will only return to office on June 7.

Kamal also confirmed that the hiring of the bowling and fielding coaches will be completed after the BCB finds a

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Sk Russel, Brothers win

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010

A stoppage-time goal from Abbas Inusah helped Sheikh Russel KC close the gap with the table-toppers after beating hosts Feni Soccer Club 2-1 in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League at the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday.

Nche Francis put Feni Soccer ahead in the first half before Mohammad Yusuf levelled the margin five minutes into the second half while Abbas ensured Sheikh Russel's 11th victory in the second-half stoppage time of the game where the spectators threw 'water bottles' on the field and later they ran after visiting team as well as the referees, who allegedly handled the match poorly.

Sheikh Russel are just a point behind leaders Muktijodha Sangsad on 38 points, equal with second-placed Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club. However, Sheikh Russel have played 18 matches, one more than the other two. At the other hand, Feni remain at the eighth position with 14 points from 18 matches.

Feni Soccer, who had earlier played out a goalless draw against Sheikh Jamal at home, were also unlucky not to secure full three points as two of their efforts were denied by woodwork either half of the break. Francis saw his low-ranger come off the bar in the first half while Towhidul's powerful shot rattled the crosspiece in the second half.

"Usually I don't like complaining about

refereeing. But he (Jasimuddin) really conducted the game poorly today and most of his decisions went against us, even though he ignored Sheikh Russel's decider, which was handled by scorer Abbas," said Feni coach Abu Yousuf. "Luck was also not with us as two efforts were denied by woodwork."

Sheikh Russel coach Mahmudul Haq Liton also complained of poor refereeing and claimed his players and officials were chased by the opponents' officials as well as the spectators after the game.

Brothers Union leapfrogged to fifth position with an emphatic 3-1 win over bottom-table side Chittagong Abahani.

Brothers Union, on the back of a morale-boosting 3-1 win over Mohammedan SC, dominated the game from the outset to post an easy win at the home against a team they defeated 2-0 in their away game.

Brothers, who could have won the game at a bigger margin had their striker Kingsley not missed a few one-on-one chances, took 14 minutes to open the account when Brazilian Everton Santos whipped in a cross from the right and Tanmoy Hossain Taru nodded it home before Faisal Hossain doubled the lead with a solo effort from the right side three minutes into the second half.

Kingsley Chigozie, who failed to beat opponent goalkeeper on a number of occasions, finally found the back of the net and sealed the game in the 72nd minute after

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YOUTH ARCHERY Milon's bronze a solace

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's hopes of clinching a gold in the first-ever Asian Youth Archery Championships and Third Asian Archery Grand Prix evaporated as the hosts were content with a bronze won by Emdadul Haque Milon in the Youth section Prix at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan yesterday.

Gold-hopeful Emdadul Haq Milon won the bronze in the Recurve Bow event of the youth section after beating India's Parash Nath in the deciding match.

Milon, who won gold medal in the Asian Youth Qualifiers in Indonesia in 2009, lost to Hemanta Basumatary in the semifinal. Hemanta will play in the final against his compatriot Pawan Xalxo, who beat Bangladesh's Aishwarzo Rahman Titas in quarterfinal.

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Humble Pep shrugs off 'greatest' tag

AFP, London



Barcelona may have entered the pantheon of European football's greatest teams, but coach Pep Guardiola is keeping his feet on the floor following Saturday's destruction of Manchester United. Barcelona lit up Wembley with one of the great performances here Saturday, mesmerising United with a bewitching display that left the English champions grasping at shadows en route to a 3-1 defeat.

It was the Spanish side's second Champions League triumph in three years and confirmed the view of many pundits that Guardiola's men are the greatest club side football has ever seen.

Guardiola, who has amassed 10 major trophies in his three years as coach of the club he graced as a player for 17 years, resisted the invitation to compare his team with legendary side of the past.

"I don't know," said Guardiola when asked for his opinion on where his stood in the annals of history. "I didn't see the Ajax of

(Johan) Cruyff, I didn't see the Real Madrid of (Alfredo) Di Stefano and I didn't see the Santos of Pele.

"But if in 10 or 15 years time people remember us for the football that we are playing now, that will make me very happy."

Former Barcelona striker Gary Lineker wrote in his News of the World newspaper column on Sunday that Guardiola's men could eventually claim the right to be called football's best ever team.

"Other teams have played wonderful football but when you add fitness and mental strength, you have a side that are well on the way to becoming the greatest club side of all time," Lineker said.

"To achieve that status, Pep Guardiola's team will have to win the Champions League two or three more times.

"However pretty your football, your legacy is ultimately judged on silverware. The early Real Madrid teams and Arrigo Sacchi's AC Milan lifted the trophy as well as raising the bar in terms of what football could be.

"You would not bet against this Barcelona team doing it."

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Barcelona coach Josep Guardiola kisses the UEFA Champions League trophy after beating Manchester United in the final at Wembley in London on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Gayle could play India series

PTI, Kingston

They might be at loggerheads with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), but explosive batsman Chris Gayle and pacer Jerome Taylor could still make it to the national squad for the upcoming ODI series against India.

The two players' decision to compete in the Indian Premier League after recovering from injuries had not gone down well with the WICB. The duo ended up offending the Board all the more by claiming that the WICB did not check on their injuries while they were recovering.

But despite the controversy, WICB CEO Ernest Hilaire said it was up to the selectors to pick the best squad for the series starting June 4.

"I think at the end of the day the selectors will sit and

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