



PHOTO: AFP

Russia's Daria Kondakova performs with the ball during the 31st Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships in Montpellier, southern France yesterday.

INDIA'S UDRS REJECTION ICC to discuss the issue

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said on Wednesday cricket's world governing body could discuss India's opposition to the Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS) at a high-level meeting next month.

tive board "could take up" India's stance in October, he added. "India is entitled to its opinion. But in my view, the full system should be used. A half-way house gets you nowhere."

JFA Cup U-15 FOOTBALL Chittagong, Chapai win

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong and Chapaina-wabganj kept their JFA Cup U-15 semifinals hope alive as they beat Narayanganj and Dhaka Metropolis School XI respectively at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Chittagong overcame Narayanganj's challenge with a 2-1 victory, courtesy of a goal apiece from Zahid and Rezaul Karim. Jhantu reduced the margin for the losing side.

BCB TV?

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time in February next year. We will float a tender very soon to appoint an event management committee for the franchise-based tournament," said committee chairman Gazi Ashraf.

Six divisional teams will be formed as franchises and take part in the competition which will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka and the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

In Tuesday's meeting it has also been decided that the National Cricket League, the lone first-class competition in the country, will be an eight-team competition instead of six teams.

The draft of the regional cricket association concept has also been approved in principle in the meeting and board members have been asked to come up with observations, suggestions and recommendations within the next seven days.

Meanwhile, the board has approved the appointment of 39 assistant district coaches.

Karim urges

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principle among the members. But one thing that should unite all the members is the interest of the club. "Irrespective of parties, opinions and beliefs, I urge all the members, including those who skipped the election, to come under an umbrella to work together in a bid to develop the club because it is not possible for the directors to do it all alone," said Karim at a press briefing at following a brief meeting of the board of directors after the completion of AGM.

Organisers like Abdus Salam Murshedy, Mahub Anam, Badal Roy, Mustaqur Rahman, Sajed AA Adel, Shariful Alam, Lutfur Rahman Badal have long been associated with the club and have assisted the club in various capacities but all of them skipped the election after failing to form a consensus committee.

Replying to a query, Karim said, "I initially welcomed the concept of consensus committee. However not everything is over yet and I am hopeful of working with everyone and I have already started to communicate with them. As a president, I urge them to come and discuss the matter."

Ticket rates

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3000, VIP Grand Stand Tk 1000, International Gallery Tk 300, Shaheed Mushtaque & Shaheed Jewel Stands Tk 200, North & South Galleries--Tk 100 and Eastern Gallery--Tk 50.

1st & 2nd ODIs (Mirpur): Grand Stand Hospitality Box--Tk 5000, BCB Hospitality Box--Tk 3000, VIP Grand Stand--Tk 1000, International Gallery--Tk 300, Shaheed Mushtaque & Shaheed Jewel Stands--Tk 200, North & South Galleries--Tk 100 and Eastern Gallery--Tk 50.

3rd ODI (Chittagong): Hospitality Box--Tk 5000, Grand Stand--Tk 1000, International Gallery--Tk 300, Club House--Tk 200, Eastern & Western Galleries Tk 50.

1st Test (Chittagong): Hospitality Box--Tk 3000, Grand Stand--Tk 500, International Gallery--Tk 75, Club House Tk 50, Eastern & Western Galleries--Tk 20.

2nd Test (Mirpur): Grand Stand Hospitality Box--Tk 3000, BCB Hospitality Box--Tk 2000, VIP Grand Stand--Tk 500, International Gallery--Tk 75, Shaheed Mushtaque & Shaheed Jewel Stands--Tk 50, North & South Galleries--Tk 30 and Eastern Gallery--Tk 20.

Not a surprise

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are also keen to impress the selectors as they try to make a return to the national team.

The BCB Cup was arranged so that the likes of Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Shafiqul Islam and Rubel Hossain get the feel of competitive cricket, something that was amiss before the Zimbabwe series. Tamim has gone on record saying that such a tournament is vital for a season of cricket like Bangladesh's, asking the authorities to hold it every year.

The weather too hasn't been kind as it has shifted between extreme hot conditions or rain. And it has rained. During all the matches, rain has played some part be it before the game, during it or even after.

But none of these, or other reasons, deterred the crowd who turned up at the Mirpur venue which was free of charge except for the grandstand which was priced at Tk 30.

On their side are several factors. One of the reasons for turning up is obviously the star factor. Cricketers like Tamim and Mohammad Ashraful now have a bigger following in this country than players from the other Test playing nations.

the national team draws the crowd. At the moment, it is also the new captain who has brought a lot of interest but there are moments when it is compelling that the crowd reacts to everything on the field.

Mirpur's heavily populated neighborhoods also play a part as most of those who've turned up are from the nearby localities. Sadi, a student from a local college, said that he comes to the cricket regularly. "I live nearby and my college is also close to my house. I come here whenever I get the chance," he said.

Shamim, who has brought his wife to the ground, came on the belief that cricket is no less an entertainment. "I always come here. I love watching cricket and there's not much to do in the evenings. So I bring the family along. Everyone likes to sit in the open and watch cricket," he said.

There was also a well-known face in the crowd, a man called Sajid Hassan. He is the former national cricketer who now resides in New York. Sajid, the son of former national cricketer Raquibul Hassan, was also amazed to see the crowd turnout.

The atmosphere has certainly started to give the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium a bit of the feel of the Big Bowl that is situated across town the Bangabandhu National Stadium. In time, one feels, this Mirpur venue will be as much part of Dhakaite's lives that BNS was.

In the day's other match, Chapainawabganj beat Dhaka Metropolis School XI by the same margin. Moni put the Northern district ahead before Nowshadul Alam doubled the lead. Anando struck the lone goal for Dhaka Metropolis.

All the four teams have three points each from two outings.

PREMIER DIV KABADDI Faruque Smriti go down

SPORTS REPORTER

Jatrabari Faruque Smriti Sangsad have been relegated from the Premier Division Kabaddi League when they went down 41-36 against Shaheed Mofazzar Smriti Sangsad at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 22-18 points. Shaheed Mofazzar Smriti Sangsad however lost to Jurain Janata Club by 55-44 points in the earlier match of the day.

Dilkusha Sporting Club defeated Jatrabari Faruque SS 56-17 in the second match of the day.

Lorgat happy with ODI format

AFP, Colombo

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Haroon Lorgat has ruled out changes to 50-over cricket despite a proposal put forward by Indian great Sachin Tendulkar.

Despite the success of the World Cup earlier this year Tendulkar, the most prolific batsman in one-day internationals, wrote to Lorgat last month suggesting four 25-over innings rather than the traditional 50-over format.

However, Lorgat said the ICC saw no reason to change.

"I was engaged with Sachin a long time back on his thinking on the 50-over format," Lorgat said at the launch of the ICC's Twenty20 World Cup which will be hosted by Sri Lanka next year.

"I met with him during the World Cup and he gave me a written proposal which we took to the cricket committee in May."

TESTS AGAINST PAKISTAN SL leave out Samaraweera

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka left out experienced middle-order batsman Thilan Samaraweera from a squad of 16 named on Wednesday for the three-match Test series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates next month.

Samaraweera, who turns 35 on Thursday and has a test average of over 52 in 68 Tests, was dropped for the third and final Test against Australia which ended in a draw on Tuesday to make way for young opener Lahiru Thirimanne.

Thirimanne opened the batting with Tharanga Paranavitana after captain Tillakaratne Dilshan decided to drop down the order to try and regain form.

Dilshan made an attractive 83 batting

in Samaraweera's position at number five and later said that he would prefer batting in that position in the future.

"Thilan will not come into the reckoning in our long term plans," said chairman of selectors Duleep Mendis.

"We intend giving youngsters an opportunity while the seniors are around. He might be considered on a short term basis."

Mendis said spinner Ajantha Mendis was not considered for selection as he was undergoing treatment for a recurring back injury.

The squad comprises all 11 players who played in the final Test against Australia plus five others -- batsman Dinesh Chandimal, bowlers Dammika Prasad, Suraj Randiv, Nuwan Pradeep and wicketkeeper Kaushal Silva.

All-rounder Angelo Mathews, named vice captain to Dilshan for the first time, will only play as a batsman.

"Angelo has gone to Australia for treatment for his left knee and we will not risk bowling him in the series," said Mendis.

Sri Lanka play Pakistan in a series of three Tests in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah starting on Oct. 18.

Sri Lanka will name a new squad for the five-match one-day international series and one-off Twenty20 at the end of the Test series.

SQUAD Tillakaratne Dilshan (captain), Angelo Mathews (vice-captain), Tharanga Paranavitana, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Prasanna Jayawardene (wicketkeeper), Dinesh Chandimal, Rangana Herath, Suraj Randiv, Chanaka Welagedara, Suranga Lakmal, Shaminda Eranga, Dammika Prasad, Nuwan Pradeep, Kaushal Silva.

WORLD TWENTY20 BD to open with NZ

Cricket

AGENCIES, Colombo

The 2012 World Twenty20 will be held between September 18 and October 12, 2012 in Sri Lanka the ICC has confirmed. Colombo, Pallekele and Hambantota will be venues for the men's tournament, while the women's group games will be played in Galle.

The format will see four groups of three in a preliminary round. England, the defending champions, and India are in Group A and will be joined by one of the associate or affiliate teams that qualify. The other qualifying team will be in Group B with West Indies and Australia.

The top two teams in each group will make it through the preliminary round, after which there will be a Super Eight stage, featuring two groups. The format is essentially the same as the last edition in 2010, though there are four fewer teams this time.

The tournament will include two teams qualifying from the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier 2012, which will be staged in the United Arab Emirates from March 13-14 2012.

Hosts Sri Lanka will play the tournament's opening fixture against Zimbabwe in Hambantota. England begin their defence against a qualifying team on September 21 and will then play India in Colombo on September 23.

The women's tournament has Australia, India and England in one group with a qualifying team, and New Zealand, West Indies and Sri Lanka with the other qualifying team in the other. The men's and women's semi-finals and finals will be played on the same day, in Colombo. The semi-finals are on October 4 and October 5 with the finals on October 7.

Tickets for the tournament are planned to go on sale to the public from March 1, 2012 and will be available via website and box-office sales in Sri Lanka. The ICC's chief executive Haroon Lorgat assured they would be reasonably priced.

SCHEDULE

GROUPINGS Group A: England, India, Qualifier 2 Group B: Australia, West Indies, Qualifier 1 Group C: Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zimbabwe Group D: Pakistan, New Zealand, Bangladesh

Table with columns: Date, Match, Venue. Rows include matches from Sept 18 to Sept 25.

SUPER EIGHTS Group One: A1, B2, C1, D2 Group Two: A2, B1, C2, D1

Table with columns: Date, Match, Venue. Rows include matches from Sept 27 to Oct 2.

SEMIFINALS Oct 4: Group One winners v Group Two runners-up, Colombo Oct 5: Group One runners-up v Group Two champions, Colombo FINAL: Oct 7, Colombo.

Riyad wins clash

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mid-on after Mushfiqur had mistimed a slog off Shahadat.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH: 185 all out in 46 overs (Kapali 68, Imrul 26, Shuvo 26; Forhad 3-54, Saqlain 2-17, Elias 2-13, Shahadat 2-46).

BANGLADESHA: 187-6 in 49 overs (Riyad 78 not out, Rokibul 32, Forhad 27 not out; Rubel 2-36, Kapali 2-22).

Result: Bangladesh A won by four wickets.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Take to the pool 5 Book-keeper (Abbr.) 8 Harvest 12 Houston acronym 13 Talk on and on 14 Being (Lat.) 15 Without doing anything 16 Slapstick missile 18 Mouth, slangily 20 Queenly 21 First lady? 22 Over-weight 23 Andean pack animal 26 Sink a putt 30 A billion years 31 Peace, to Caesar 32 Lingerie item 33 Where oaters take place 36 Make like Manet 38 Wall climber 39 Solo 40 Sierra 43 "The Great Gatsby" locale 47 Chocolate syrup + milk + seltzer 49 Perjurer 50 Strong wind 51 Khan title 52 Therefore 53 Praiseful works 54 Sawbuck 55 Stench 3 Capri or Wight 4 Needless violence 5 Recurring sequence of events 6 Remove rind 7 Gorilla 8 Couch potato's device 9 Catch sight of 10 Largest continent 11 See 6-Down 17 Sea that's really a lake 19 Eggs 22 "The Simpsons" network Solution time: 21 mins.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-36 indicating starting positions for words.

CRYPTOQUIP

H Z F F N H P D M G D G Y X K P B G D F K X H P A X D J Q K N V X G U G O O I P U X Q G H V P D M N D G H I N K X , O N Z U A I X M X J P Y - Q X G B I X A ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FILM ABOUT A GROUP OF FEDAYS WHO SIMPLY COULD NOT LEARN ANYTHING NEW: "THE UNTEACHABLES."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals N