

Star SPORT

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Lukas German Mike Tyson

German international striker Lukas Podolski was described as "football's little Mike Tyson" on Friday by the player's club coach Stale Solbakken. "When I see his physique, Lukas Podolski is football's little Mike Tyson," said Cologne's Norwegian boss Solbakken as he reflected on the striker's 1.82m and 83kg build in an interview with Sky. The coach insisted that he has an excellent working relationship with Podolski despite relieving him of the captaincy at the start of the season. "I have spoken to Lukas a lot about this. He was obviously disappointed but he understood the reasons."



Jamal finish registration

Match-fixing issue tops the bill

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, defending champions of the Bangladesh League, completed the formalities of player registration, signing 20 booters with three foreign players, on the opening day of the transfer bourse yesterday. The young contingent, led by their skipper Aminul Haque and club officials, were subject to questions regarding their lack of strength this season after most of their star players left for other tents even before the start of the bourse.

Last season Sheikh Jamal were the newcomers and assembled 16 national team players and all they can show for it was a tainted league title. This time though, they have a very young side, as most of the stalwarts have left for either Abahani or Muktijoddha Sangsad. Zahid Hossain, Wali Faisal, Nasirul

Islam, Mohammad Sujan, Enamul Haque and Shahedul Alam have left for Abahani while Zahid Hasan Emily, Rezaul Karim, Shakil Ahmed and Mamunul Islam left for Muktijoddha.

Of the twenty players registered, only three represent the national side while the rest are mostly young and fringe players. Among the new recruits, young striker Sohel Rana from Farashganj, Brothers' Brazilian striker Everton Souza and defender Yusuf Ali seem to be the best buys. Needless to say, these buys suffer in comparison to the stars that they lost.

Anwarul Karim Helal, manager of the club said they were hopeful of retaining the title despite forming a young side. "We think we have a team that can become champions. It's a balanced side in which there is a blend of youth and experience."

Sheikh Jamal officials said they will decide on the rest of the foreign recruits only after the decision is made by the

league committee on how many foreigners can be registered.

The transfer window will stay open till November 30 for the local players and December 15 for the foreign players.

Apart from the strengths and weaknesses issues, another thing that resurfaced before the commencement of the transfer window was Sheikh Jamal's involvement in the 'compromise-match' against Rahmatganj MFS last season that paved their way to the title. The Dhanmondi club are yet to pay the Tk 20 Lac fine imposed on them by the league committee after an investigation into the affair. The issue was rekindled after the recent submission of match-fixing claims by the Rahmatganj goalkeeper Iran Sheikh on a television channel on Friday night.

Enayet Kabir Chanchal, director of the club, however warded off the question of match-fixing by saying:

"Allegations are one thing, proof is

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A young Sheikh Jamal brigade, led by veteran goalkeeper Aminul Haque (C), enters the BFF House yesterday to complete the players' registration on the first day of the pre-season transfer.

PHOTO: STAR

No DRS in WI series

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The use of the Decision Review System (DRS) for the Bangladesh-West Indies series has been shelved, according to the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

BCB media chairman Jalal Yunus said yesterday that according to the board's agreement with Nimbus, the facilities for DRS use are not enough.

"It would be difficult to use DRS given our agreement with Nimbus," said Yunus.

"The replays for DRS won't be clear. We have consulted with the ICC and they have also agreed with the issue," he added.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) in its annual conference in June had agreed to make the DRS mandatory for all Tests and ODIs, subject to commercial considerations. Among the three options regarding use of DRS, one allows the host board to pass up on technology with the ICC's consent apart from following the minimum and enhanced standard options that force the use of the expensive Hawkeye.

At first the BCB considered following the minimum standard but their broadcaster Nimbus could only fulfil three requirements -- slow motion, super slow motion and audio vision on stumps -- out of five. Hot Spot and Ultra slow motion are the other technologies required for the minimum standard.

During the recently concluded Sri Lanka-Australia series, the broadcasters used three of those and still used the DRS.

In the course of the Tigers' contract with Nimbus (which was signed in 2006), the DRS hasn't been used simply because the advent of the new hi-tech stipulation came into use very recently.

Bangladesh will play two Tests, three ODIs and a Twenty20 international against the West Indies this month.

More matches for Tigers

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers will return to training today split into two groups -- BCB Red and BCB Green -- as they prepare for the two practice Twenty20 games this week.

The Mushfiqur Rahim-led BCB Red side will train from 9:00am while Shahriar Nafees's BCB Green will be on from 2:00pm. The two sides will meet tomorrow evening to play a Twenty20 game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while on October 6 they will play a second Twenty20 at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Among those picked in the two teams, Tanvir Haider, Mominul Haque, Sahagir Hossain, Robiul Islam, Nur Hossain Munna, Alauddin Babu, Nazmul Hossain Apu, Junaed Siddiqui and Rokibul Hasan are not part of the Tigers' Twenty20 side. Tanvir and Munna will give the batsmen some practice playing leg-spin.

After the Zimbabwe debacle, there was a lot of hue and cry regarding the lack of preparation of the Tigers. Ahead of the series against West Indies, who arrive on October 4, the Tigers have already played a one-day tournament and a four-day and in the course of this week, they will have two T20s under their belt.

Another factor for coach Stuart Law to prepare his charges through matches is the lack of Twenty20s in the country.

There have been no domestic Twenty20 matches since the 2009-10 season, while the first and only Twenty20 international played in the country was five years ago in 2006.

TEAMS

BCB RED: Mushfiqur Rahim (captain & wicketkeeper), Mahmudullah Riyad, Imrul Kayes, Tamim Iqbal, Nasir

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Amla to lead SA in Aussie one-dayers

INTERNET, Johannesburg

Hashim Amla will lead South Africa during the upcoming Twenty20 and one-day internationals against Australia.

Afrikaans daily Beeld reports that Proteas coach Gary Kirsten confirmed on Friday that the number three batsman will take over the captaincy from the injured AB de Villiers.

Wicketkeeper-batsman de Villiers was ruled out for between four and six weeks after fracturing his left hand during a practice session with the Bangalore Royal Challengers at the Champions League. "It is always difficult when you lose a world-class player like AB," Kirsten told the paper.

As for the series against Australia which starts on October 13 in Cape Town with a Twenty20, Kirsten knows they will need to play well if they want to win.

Australia arrive in South Africa on the back of an ODI and Test series win in Sri Lanka while the Proteas haven't played international cricket since the World Cup.

National athletics starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Walton 11th National Summer Athletics Championships start today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with more than 400 athletes taking part in the event. Athletes from different districts, divisions, education boards universities and services will compete in 54 events during the two-day meet, it was revealed at a press conference yesterday at the Bangladesh Athletics Federation.

A total of 26 events will take place today starting from 8am and continuing till 5pm while the main events of the meet, the 100m sprint for men and women, will be held on the last day -- tomorrow.

Hammer throw, marathon and 20km walk events will take place at the Army Stadium.

The meet has a total budget of Tk 8 lakh out of which Tk 3 lakh will be provided by sponsors Walton, while the rest will be borne by the federation.

Shah Alam, the president of the federation also informed that Bangladesh will not send an athletics team to the Olympic Games in London next year, as decided by BOA, as only teams of archery and shooting will be sent considering their potential.

"It is very sad that we will not be talking part in the main event of the Olympics. We will send a letter to BOA within three days to know the reason of athletics' omission from the list," said Shah Alam.

Meanwhile, Shah Alam said they were trying their best to utilise the electronic scoreboard during the meet. It has become a regular scenario that the electronic scoreboard lies unused as the athletics meets go on under hand timing, despite repeated promises made from the federation of use of the electronic system.

The meet will be declared open by the president of the parliamentary committee for youth and sports, Zahid Ahsan Russell MP.

'Akhtar made Tendulkar's legs shake'

ANI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has supported retired fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's claims that Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar was scared of his pace, saying that he was a witness of "Tendulkar's legs shivering" in front of the Rawalpindi Express.

In his book, 'Controversially Yours', Akhtar wrote that Tendulkar was scared of his bowling, a comment that has caused furore across the border, forcing publishers to cancel all launch-related and publicity events.

When asked about Akhtar's claims in his book, Afridi showed no hesitation in backing the controversial bowler.

"Shoaib is telling the truth. Tendulkar was afraid of him, and while fielding, I saw Tendulkar's legs shivering while facing his bowling," the Express Tribune quoted Afridi, assaying.

However, the all-rounder added that it was not an unusual feature of a batsman.

"There are times when every batsman feels the pressure, it happens against [Pakistani off-spinner] Saeed Ajmal even," said Afridi.

The former captain, however, was critical of Akhtar's comments blaming Afridi for his omission from the 2011 ICC World Cup semi-final squad against India.

"Shoaib should remember that I apologised to the chairman and manager on his behalf and got him back

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WOMEN'S HANDBALL BJMC dethrone Ansar

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) clinched the title of the EXIM Bank 22nd National Women's Handball outing champions of the last three editions Bangladesh Ansar by 22-19 goals in a hard-fought final at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

This is the sixth title won by BJMC against Ansar's record 15 titles.

BJMC were trailing the first half by 8-9 goals, before launching a superb offensive in the second half to win the game by three points.

Tripti scored highest seven goals for the winners while Rupa netted five goals for the losing side. Dalia of BJMC was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

Earlier in the morning, Dhaka DSA finished third beating Naogaon 22-3 in the place deciding match at the

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A BJMC player shapes up to score against Bangladesh Ansar during their final of the EXIM Bank 22nd National Women's Handball at the Handball Stadium yesterday. (INSET) BJMC players celebrate their victory with the winners' trophy.

PHOTOS: STAR



ERRATUM

In our Saturday's story titled "Finally discovered", the stats box wrongly showed Elias Sunny played 55 Twenty20 games. He has in fact played seven games, scored four runs and taken four wickets. We regret the error.

-- SPORT EDITOR