

Star SPORT

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Wozniacki, coach part company

Former women's world number one Caroline Wozniacki has parted company with her Spanish coach Ricardo Sanchez after only two months of collaboration, the Ekstra Bladet daily reported on Wednesday.

The decision, announced by Wozniacki's father and confirmed by Sanchez, comes after her elimination in the quarterfinals at the Australian Open, which saw her fall to fourth place in the WTA ranking.

In December, Sanchez broke off his partnership with Serbian former world number one Jelena Jankovic to work with Wozniacki, who had dropped her father, Piotr, as her coach in August.



Kamal's future in limbo

ICC comes up with new idea about president!

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

The Board of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday recommended to split the role of president with a new chairman's post from 2014, and deferred the nomination of Bangladesh's Mustafa Kamal as vice-president.

Following Board discussions since October 2011 and consistent with the recommendations in the Justice Woolf's report, the Board passed a unanimous resolution recommending to the ICC Council an amendment to the ICC article of association so that from 2014 the current presidency role is split," said an ICC release after a meeting here.

The recommendations create a new system whereby the presidency will be an ambassadorial role appointed on a one-year rotational basis, while a chairman will lead the board.

The name of Mustafa Kamal (Bangladesh Cricket Board president) was put forward for nomination jointly by Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The amendment will be discussed at the next ICC Board meeting before being submitted for approval by the ICC annual meeting in June this year, the ICC said.

India's Sharad Pawar is the current ICC president while New Zealand's Alan Isaac, the current vice-president will take over from Pawar in June this year.

The ICC had said the governance review was conducted in April last year in order to adopt a new strategic plan as one of the key initiatives to build a bigger and better global game.

The Board will also consider the position and role, if any, of the ICC vice-president between 2012 and 2014.

Accordingly, the nomination received of Kamal, the Bangladesh Cricket Board president from 2012-14 will be considered as a part of this process.

Kamal said he was not disappointed over his nomination being deferred.

"Why should I be disappointed," Kamal told AFP. "The Board had been thinking along the lines of these recommendations for some time now and we have found the best possible solution in

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Team BJMC striker Ismael Bangoura dodges a Sheikh Jamal defender in his attempt to score during his side's 3-1 victory in their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

DOHS's spin formula exposes pace famine

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Old DOHS coach Khaled Mahmud took the 'spin-only' route to success, an unconventional move in the extent to which it has been implemented. It was his team's needs that brought about this new mechanism which has exposed a lack of faith in pace bowlers.

At the top of the Dhaka Premier League points table sits Victoria Sporting Club but they are only ahead of Old DOHS because of a head-to-head advantage as both are equal on 16 points from nine games. Old DOHS's tremendous run made everyone sit up and take notice; and it was the bowling line-up that took everyone by surprise.

In the last three games where they defeated big guns Gazi Tank, Abahani and Mohammedan, Mahmud employed an all-spin attack, literally from the first ball. Two of the trio of spinners -- left-armers Nabil Samad, Enamul Haque and off-spinner Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury -- took

the new ball. In all, they have used spin to open the bowling from the fourth game against Cricket Coaching School when left-armers Saeed Anwar and Zohaib Khan took up the task.

Mahmud has been encouraged to take this decision after his pace bowlers -- Rizwan Haider, Mohammad Sharif and Ziaur Rahman -- didn't deliver the desired results. One look at his roster and the former national captain was convinced that Shuvogoto's off-spin could contain batsmen like Tamim Iqbal and that Nabil would be able to handle the shiny white ball. Breakthroughs came thick and fast as the opposition lost two or more wickets in the first ten overs every time the spinners started off.

PACERS IN PREMIER LEAGUE

	M	W	Econ	SR	Avg
Peter Trego	9	19	4.82	24.95	20.05
Shahadat Hossain	7	16	4.97	21.94	18.19
Al-Amin Hossain	8	16	5.18	21.63	18.69
Alauddin Babu	8	13	4.50	24.62	18.46
Mohammad Sami	5	11	3.46	20.82	12.00
Abul Hasan	7	11	5.32	32.27	28.64

"I think it was the third or fourth match when we decided to try this method," said Mahmud. "I was really impressed seeing Shuvogoto bowl off-spin so I told him to have a go at Tamim Iqbal early. He got him in the fourth over."

"I also had Nabil Samad in the wings so I thought, 'why not play three left-arm spinners?'"

Against Abahani, Nabil and Enamul didn't take wickets early but it was skipper Mohammad Ashraf and Faisal Hossain who were successful in taking out the openers by the eleventh over.

The trend has also been replicated by some of the other top sides; Shakib Al Hasan (of Victoria) opening against Abahani, Nasir (of Gazi Tank) opening against Victoria and Mohammedan. Abahani, Mohammedan and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club have all tried spinners with the new ball.

All this obviously means that pace bowling has taken a major beating this Premier League season. Out of the 23 bowlers who have taken a minimum of ten wickets, only six are pacers with

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TIGERS' PAK TOUR ICC to have its security assessment

AFP, Dubai

Cricket's governing body will carry out a proper assessment of security in Pakistan before deciding on sending match officials for a proposed tour by Bangladesh, an official said Wednesday.

International cricket has been suspended in Pakistan since the terrorist attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in March 2009, which killed eight people and left seven visiting players and their assistant coach wounded in Lahore.

The attacks also injured reserve umpire Ahsan Raza of Pakistan and horrified match referee Chris Broad of England and Australian match umpires Simon Taufel and Steve Davis.

The incident forced Pakistan to play their home series at neutral venues. Their team is currently playing England in the United Arab

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BJMC's stunning start

SPORTS REPORTER



Newcomers Team BJMC gave the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League a spectacular start when they upended holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club 3-1 in the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The stunning win exacted swift revenge for BJMC for their 3-1 reverse at the hands of Sheikh Jamal in the Federation Cup final a week ago.

After conceding an early goal, BJMC weathered the early storm and scored three goals in an impressive display of determination and skill to mark their return to the top-tier league with a memorable victory.

Sheikh Jamal were reduced to 10 men in the 65th minute when Nigerian midfielder Assogba Allen was shown direct red after hitting BJMC defender Baybeck in an off-the-ball incident. BJMC, leading the proceedings 2-1 at the time, took full toll of their man advantage and nailed the final peg.

Like their Federation Cup final, this match too turned out to be a classic battle, with only the roles reversed. The defending champions got off to a positive start as their Nigerian striker Kester Akon slapped a diving header home on a Feni Orunnimi free-kick to give their side a sixth-minute lead. The Dhanmondi Club kept the pressure for the first twenty minutes before losing control in the midfield and BJMC

started to penetrate the opposition defence. It became a one-way traffic for the rest of the match as Sheikh Jamal players were confined to their own half clearing the attacks of BJMC.

"This defeat may work as a wake-up call for us," Sheikh Jamal coach Saiful Bari Titu said after the match. "We were initially ahead, but despite taking an early lead we gave away the match. To be honest, we were beaten in every department."

Jeans Jules Ikanga levelled the margin in the 28th minute for BJMC, who should have taken at least a 3-1 lead in the first half but for some superb saves from the Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Piaruzzaman Piru who was playing in place of injured Aminul Haq.

Midfielder Khokon Das made it 2-1 for BJMC in the 61st minute with a spectacular dipping shot from outside the box before Guinean striker Ismael Bangoura, who caused havoc in the Sheikh Jamal defence throughout the game, sealed the victory in the 75th minute by sending the ball over the advancing keeper. Piru later thwarted two more attempts from BJMC strikers to keep the margin of defeat to a respectable one.

As soon as the final whistle blew, Team BJMC players hugged and shook hands in celebrating their victory.

"We were disappointed losing the Federation Cup final as we felt we were the superior side, which proved today," said Bangoura adding that it was sweet revenge

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Sylhet Royals managing director Mizanur Rahman (4th from L) shakes hands with Navaratanam Sri Narayantha, chairman of Global Neway, during a signing ceremony at a local hotel yesterday. Neway bought the franchisee's title sponsorship for Tk 10 crore.

PHOTO: STAR

League suspended, CCDM chief quits

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Domestic cricket was thrown into disarray after the Dhaka Premier League was suspended due to demands of the BPL while the CCDM chairman also resigned yesterday.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis was told explicitly by the BPL governing council to stop the league, confirmed later by a letter from the Bangladesh Cricket Board's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

"There was a BPL coordination meeting where Lipu bhai informed me that the Dhaka Premier League will be stopped for an indefinite period. Later we got a letter from the acting CEO that the board president ordered the postponement," said CCDM member-secretary Iqbal Yusuf Chowdhury.

At the business end of the Premier League, the matches that were scheduled to be held today were Abahani-Gazi Tank, Mohammedan-Brothers Union and Old DOHS-Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

In another development, GS Hasan Tamim tendered his resignation as CCDM chairman, a decision taken after the league authorities scratched Surjo Torun from the tournament for not turning up in the match against Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the BKSP on Tuesday.

"I gave my resignation letter to the board on Wednesday because it was not possible for me to hold the post. I'm really upset with the decision we have taken yesterday [Tuesday] against Surjo Torun Club," said a disappointed Tamim.

"I believe in democratic practices and that's why we took

such a decision. But I believe it would have been fair if Kalabagan agreed to play a fresh match and in that case nobody would be the loser. We might have upheld the by-laws by taking this decision, but we failed to go with the spirit of the game," added Tamim, also a BCB director. He however suggested that the board can review the whole issue and take a decision in this regard if Surjo Torun go to the board with

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08 days to go... Starts from 10 February 2012 Keep your eyes on Channel 9