

Star SPORT

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Jankulovski calls it quits

Czech defender Marek Jankulovski, who won the Champions League with AC Milan in 2007, announced the end of his career Monday after grappling with a knee ligament injury for almost a year.

The 34-year-old returned from AC Milan to Czech top-flight side Banik Ostrava last summer after being sidelined with the knee injury since March 2011. But his hopes of a new start were dashed as he only managed seven minutes for his new team before hurting his knee again last October.

- AFP



Franchises yet to sign agreements?

SPORTS REPORTER



With the inaugural edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 tournament already half-way through, a sensational disclosure came out yesterday that neither of the six franchises taking part in the meet has signed a formal tripartite agreement that also involves the BPL Governing Council and Game On Sports Management.

After the auction for the teams was held on January 10, it was said that the agreement signing would take place as soon as possible before the tournament gets underway. It was also learnt that the BPL organising committee sat with the franchise owners on Sunday, where they expressed concerns over the delay in signing the agreements.

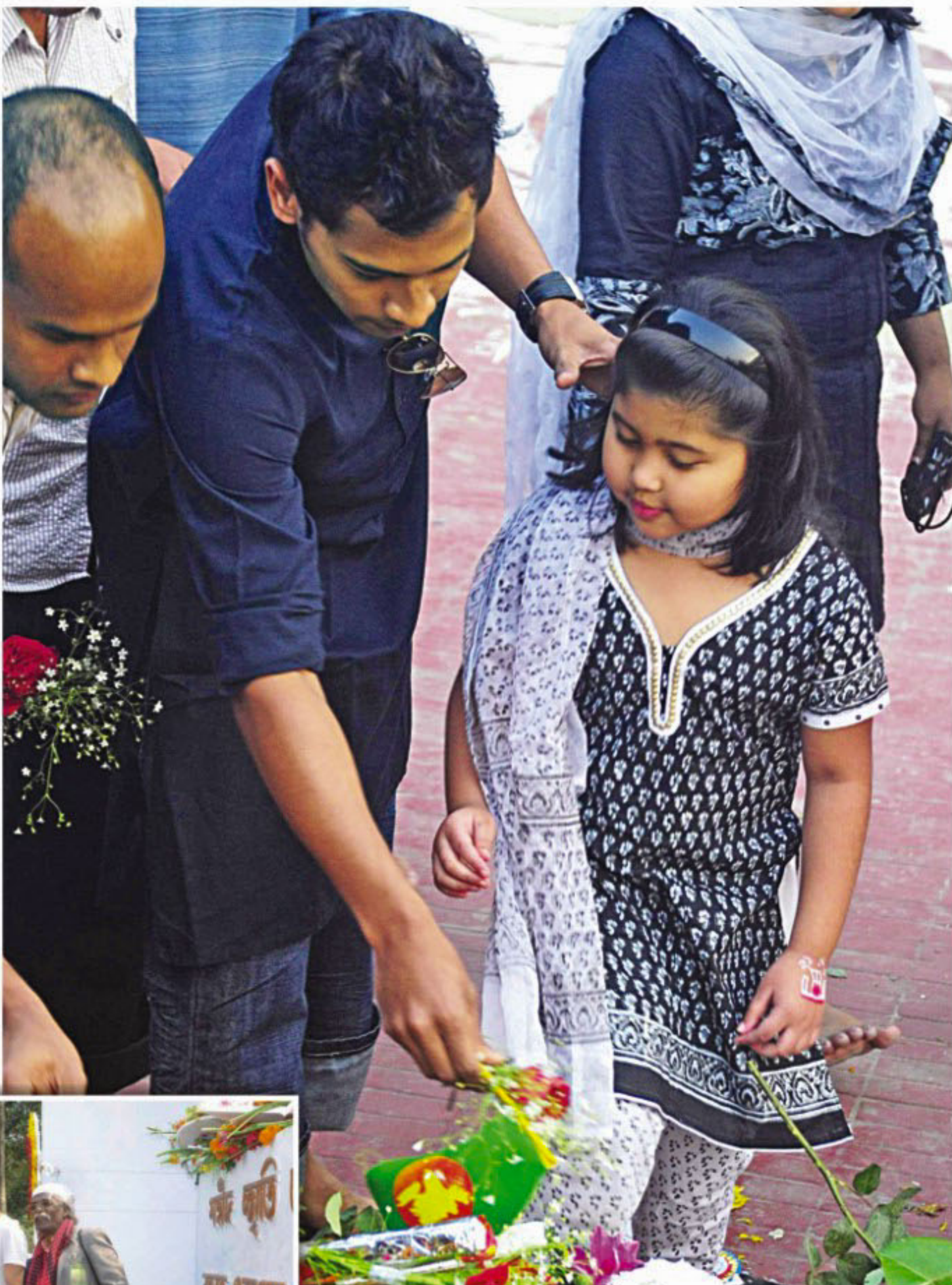
When contacted, Bangladesh Cricket Board director and BPL Governing Council secretary Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir claimed that they had already signed agreements with most of the teams.

"As far as I know five of the six franchises have signed the agreements. Since the tournament was arranged in a bit of a hurry, we could not get everything finalised before the start of the tournament."

Even if one team remains unsigned by the authority, it puts the whole tournament in a state of legal quandary and raises doubts whether the BPL authority has received any payment from the teams, and if they did, through which legal frame.

BCB's acting CEO Nijam-uddin Ahmed Chowdhury denied making any comment on the issue saying: "It is an internal matter of the BPL Governing Council and I cannot comment on the issue."

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PHOTOS: STAR

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim pays homage to the martyrs of Language Movement at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday. (Inset) Two Pakistan cricketers Imran Nazir (L) and Azhar Mahmood (2nd from L) are also seen placing their wreath at the altar of a shaheed minar in Chittagong where they are now featuring in the BPL T20.



MS worried of old legs

Cricket

MAIL TODAY, Brisbane

There is no place to hide in international cricket, especially when your captain points a finger at you in public.

After being ripped apart by Australia in their tri-series match here on Sunday, the Indians were left to lick their wounds. Sadly, they had to do it while enduring admonishment from Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

In the post-match press conference, Dhoni made it clear that the current side will always remain behind when it comes to fielding and that Australia and Sri Lanka will exploit the massive drawback.

And he took names.

"It's not only these three players [Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir] that we are talking about. We also have quite a few other players who are slow on the field. It [playing them together] will just add on to that, and we will be left with just two or three good fielders. These are not bad fielders, but in these conditions with big outfielders, they are slightly on the slower side.

Once the ball goes to them, the Australians or the Sri Lankans will try to exploit them, by taking twos and threes. It will put more pressure on their body," he said.

The senior members of the Indian team aren't used to such name-calling in team meetings, let alone in public. While he has been known to call it as he sees it, the captain is now letting loose his views left, right and centre. The danger of such assessments is that it alienates players. There is a sharp edge to the frankness of Dhoni and it is cutting the wrong way.

India were never known for their fielding and with the number of passengers in the side, runs were never going to be stopped. The team is fiddling with a rotation policy and not filling the side with youngsters so as to provide stability. In the process, the youngsters have been given a free reign, and the seniors stationed on a merry-go-round. The not-so-old brigade too hasn't set the stage alight with its fielding. So if there are only three or four good fielders in the squad, Dhoni's angst seems unwarranted.

The Indian side didn't arrive at this juncture

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BPL resumes today

SPORTS REPORTER

Barisal Burners could have to play catch-up to the Dhaka Gladiators today in the BPL T20 which resumes after a day's break for the International Mother Language Day on February 21.

On the last day of the competition's Chittagong leg, Sylhet Royals will look to break their duck but it will be the Dhaka franchise that will be hard pressed for victory to re-enter the top four. The match following the afternoon encounter will be Barisal taking on the current table toppers Khulna Royal Bengals at the same venue (Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium), making sure the Burners will have a tougher task to hold on to their fourth place.

The toss-up between Dhaka and Barisal is set to go down to the wire though the slump of the Chittagong Kings of late could make the semifinals equation even more interesting. Both the Burners and the Gladiators will face each other next Saturday, right at the business end of the tournament.

Khulna and Rajshahi are sitting pretty on top with ten points each with both sides making late forays through excellent teamwork and riding on good performances in every win that they have picked up thus far.

Sylhet will also look to pick up a win or two, given their terrible campaign, but their track record in the six games is not an encouraging sign for their fans.

POINTSTABLE

Team	M	W	L	Pts
Khulna	7	5	2	10
Rajshahi	7	5	2	10
Chittagong	7	4	3	8
Barisal	7	3	4	6
Dhaka	6	3	3	6
Sylhet	6	0	6	0

Lanka overtake India

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

An outstanding display of seam bowling from Nuwan Kulasekara and Thisara Perera helped Sri Lanka beat India by 51 runs in their one-day international tri-series match in Brisbane on Tuesday.

After Sri Lanka scored 289 for 6, man-of-the-match Kulasekara took 3-40 and Perera 4-37 as India were bowled out for 238 in 45.1 overs, their second loss in three days following their defeat by Australia at the Gabba on Sunday.

Sri Lanka moved into second on the tri-series points table following the win and are now on 11 points, three behind the Australians and one ahead of India.

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene won the toss and chose to bat on a hot and humid Brisbane afternoon and his batsmen were always on top of the Indian bowling attack.

Lahiru Thirimanne scored a quick-fire 62 in the middle of the order and big-

hitting Angelo Mathews smashed 49 not out from 37 balls as the Sri Lankans blasted 91 runs off the last 10 overs.

Off-spinner Ravi Ashwin was the pick of the Indian bowlers with 2-50 while left arm seamer Irfan Pathan took 2-54.

The Indian run-chase began badly with skipper Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar both falling early and any hopes of overhauling the Sri Lanka total were dashed as they lost wickets at crucial moments.

Virat Kohli was dropped twice by Dinesh Chandimal on his way on his way to 66, once on 14 and the second on 32, with the only other real contribution coming from Pathan, who smashed 47 from 34 deliveries to ensure Sri Lanka missed out on the bonus point win.

India's innings got off to the worst possible start when they lost Sehwag in the second ball off the innings, caught at third man going after a short ball outside off stump from Lasith Malinga.

Fellow opener Tendulkar, still hunting an elusive 100th international

century, looked in superb touch as he raced to 22 at a run a ball until he shouldered arms to Kulasekara, only for the ball to hit the inside edge of his bat and cannon into off stump.

Gautam Gambhir was next, perishing meekly after a promising start, guiding a ball from the impressive Kulasekera to Thisara Perera in the gully.

India were looking shaky at 54-3 but Kohli and Suresh Raina dug in and slowly nudged the run rate up, defying some tight bowling by the Sri Lankans.

The pair put on 92 before Raina fell, chipping a simple catch off Farveez Maharoo to Thirimanne for 32, leaving the Indians 146-4 from 31 overs.

Any hope of overhauling the Sri Lankans disappeared when Kohli was tucked up by Perera attempting a pull shot which went straight to Kulasekara at mid-on.

Pathan offered resistance but he kept losing partners and was last man out when Perera took a superb caught and bowled chance to wrap up the

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FIFA's turf consultant in town

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA astro-turf consultant Eric Harrison arrived in Dhaka yesterday to oversee the foundation laid on the 'Balur Math' adjacent to the Bangladesh Football Federation.

During his four-day stay in Bangladesh, Harrison will also provide guidelines on how to lay the turf to Bosoti, the local agent of FIFA, in a bid to complete the ground by March. However, the FIFA president Sepp Blatter is expected to inaugurate the astro-turf during his second visit to Bangladesh on March 6.

"The astro-turf has

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LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Army won their respective matches of the Exim Bank-Noorjahan Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Air Force defeated Bangladesh Police 2-1 with Mamun Hossain and Saddam Hossain scoring one goal apiece while Bangladesh Army also defeated Abahani by an identical 2-1 scoreline with Milon Hossain and Rokonzaman netting one goal each.

Div-II Football

Bangladesh Police Athletics Club played out a goalless draw against Shadharan Biman KC in the Destiny Group Second Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Pallima Badminton

Parash, Lal Chand, Rahich and Saifuddin moved to the

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Sri Lanka seamer Nuwan Kulasekara celebrates after dismissing an India batsman during their tri-series ODI in Brisbane yesterday.