



PHOTO: REUTERS

Andy Murray of Britain plays forehand against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during their Dubai Open quarterfinal yesterday.

BFF appoints special body for fixed games

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday finally assigned a five-member Special Committee to investigate the alleged fixed matches of Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League one month after the start of professional football league. The committee includes five members with Humayun Khalid, director general of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) as convener. The other four members are Dr Ruhul Amin Sarkar, additional secretary of the Commerce Ministry, Dr Mohiuddin Ahmed, deputy secretary of Health Economics Unit and Tareq Khan Mozlish, principal of Govt Physical Education College.

Goalless draw benefits none

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria SC held Cox's City FC to a goalless draw in the Premier Bank Championship League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. It was the first draw for Victoria after suffering two successive defeats. But despite earning a point, they could not budge from the bottom position of the seven-team league with four points from as many games. Cox's City FC leaptfrogged to fifth position with five points from four outings as Wari Club lead the point table with 10 points from five matches.

Andy in Dubai semis

Tennis

AFP, Dubai

Andy Murray, the first British male since the 1930's to reach three Grand Slam finals, earned a valuable revenge over Tomas Berdych as he reached the semifinals of the Dubai Open for the first time here Thursday. The third-seeded Scot won 6-3, 7-5 against the fifth-seeded Czech to whom he lost the last three times, making it his best sequence in four attempts at the lucrative Middle East tournament. The match ended in controversy as Berdych argued at length with the umpire over a Hawkeye decision when he had earned a point to break back for 6-6. Murray's appeal to the computer replay showed that the line judge's call of fault had been wrong and that his unreturned serve had in fact been in. But when the umpire awarded the point to Murray, Berdych claimed the rally should have been replayed. The Czech argued that the line judge's call had interfered with his return of serve, but TV replays showed that the call came after

Berdych had hit the ball, and that the umpire's decision was correct. Berdych said he was "shocked" by the decision of umpire Mohamed Lahyani, from Sweden.

Grand Slam record-holder Roger Federer kept on course for a Saturday showdown with top-seeded Novak Djokovic after winning a quarterfinal repeat of the 2004 Dubai Open final against Feliciano Lopez.

However Federer needed a tight mind and some outstanding serving to win 7-5, 6-3 against the fluently aggressive Spaniard who is at a career-high world number 15 and enjoyed the fast conditions here Wednesday. Lopez often attacked the net threateningly, created difficult angles with his left-handed game, and forced his legendary opponent to play somewhere near his best. Djokovic beat Sergei Stakhovsky, the dangerously hard-hitting world number 74 from Ukraine, by 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, but the top seed was break point down in the eighth game of the first set and a break of serve down early in the second set.

He served well, which got him out of trouble in the first set, and enabled him to close the match out without inhibition, finishing with an ace. "Those are areas in which we can improve as a team... bowlers taking a bit more time and maybe having a bit more of a plan about what they want to do. Even if it's something out of the box, something totally different, there's no harm in trying something like that -- which we didn't do. That's something we've spoken about with the bowlers because you have to expect these kind of situations in the future, we have to be prepared. Every game is a learning curve for everyone."

BFF polls

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the then president, SA Sultan, gave a guarantee letter to the AFC that the DFAs would not have any voting right in the 2012 election but the letter was not placed to the AGM at that time and the letter would not now be effective for the upcoming elections.

The meeting also decided to inaugurate the FIFA Goal Project-2, astro turf adjacent to the BFF House, and the Sylhet Football Academy by the FIFA president Joseph Blatter who will arrive here on March 6 for an 18-hour visit.

Constitution changes

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the country, an issue at the centre of discussion regarding BCB's policy-making since Bangladesh's elevation to Test status in 2000.

"We carried the promise for regional cricket associations for long and today we have started the journey. Initially we will start with six zones and gradually it will increase but not more than eight. We divided it zone-wise for a permanent solution because you know any time the number of divisions can increase through government order," explained Kamal.

Regarding changes to the CEO's post, Kamal said: "We brought the changes because there was a clash between the CEO and the standing committees, so a solution to this was needed to smoothly run the board's activities."

Shafiqul Arefin explained the reasons behind the abolishment of the clauses which shut the doors for former cricketers to become councillors only on their strength of their status as former cricketers.

"We reviewed other Test nations' constitutions and none had such a provision. And most importantly, it contradicted our constitution which has a specific guideline about affiliation. You have to come through an institution if you want to be a councillor. We just followed the laws. Our main focus was to put everything in a formula and wipe out the contradictions in the constitution," said Arefin, a former national footballer, adding that the AGM can do anything as it is the highest forum.

An influential BCB director, Arefin also said that the forum had decided to recognise CWAB if they could submit proper documents.

More lows than highs

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surprise that the franchises packed their squads with cricketers from Pakistan. The likes of Ahmed Shehzad, Nasir Jamshed and Kamran Akmal were motivated to prove their worth to the selectors back. Senior pros like Azhar Mahmood, Imran Nazir and Mohammad Sami simply turned back the clock; Sami picked up the only hat-trick of the competition while Nazir and Mahmood were vital in the Gladiators becoming the champions.

Despite all their crowding of the batting and bowling charts, none of these in-form Pakistani cricketers could topple Chris Gayle's batting average, the number of sixes he hit, the number of centuries he scored or his highest score. That speaks of how important (or Bradman-esque) Gayle has been for the BPL, not just the Barisal Burners.

But all of Gayle's efforts couldn't quite bring in the crowds. In fact, it was the semifinals day and the evening of the final when they really packed the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. For the most part of the tournament however, matches were played in front of half-empty stadiums in Dhaka and Chittagong. The next edition could see Sylhet hosting a few games but venues like Rajshahi, Barisal, Jessore and Bogra are apparently losing out due to logistical issues (if the BCB are to be believed).

Finally, how could one forget the epidemic of the tournament -- the dropped catches. Commentator Arun Lal claimed that the Mirpur venue was poor for catching in the evening but can he explain how, in the past six years, catches were taken in day-night games and some of them brilliant ones? A proper excuse is exhaustion as every team had to play a minimum of ten games in less than three weeks. If the BCB doesn't keep in mind the things that have dogged the tournament and rectify them through proper planning, the country's cricket would encounter a lot more pollution than it can handle.

Pushkor pulls out from AHF Cup squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Striker Pushkor Khisa Mimo yesterday pulled out from the 33-member preliminary squad for the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Cup tournament to sit for his higher secondary school examination.

The AHF Cup, which is also the qualifying tournament for the 2013 Asia Cup, will be held in Thailand from April 16 and Bangladesh were placed with hosts Thailand, Chinese Taipei and Singapore while Group B includes Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka, Hongkong and Oman.

Coach Mahbub Harun informed that nearly 30 players reported to him yesterday and the rest of the players would join the camp within a couple of days but striker Mimo withdrew himself for his HSC exam.

Haroon informed he would conduct one session practice everyday before the start of the Independence Cup Hockey Tournament this month and a residential camp will get underway after the completion of the Independence Cup.

Aus-SL 'semi'

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defend their big total and Jayawardene said, while Virat Kohli had taken the match away from Sri Lanka, there were things his bowlers could learn from the experience.

"The [fast-bowling] guys did go to their strength, which is yorkers and stuff like that, but I think they [Indian batsmen] handled that pretty well," he said. "We didn't try too many things, that was probably due to the way the Indians were batting as well... we probably just went with the momentum rather than trying to change it in the middle."

"Those are areas in which we can improve as a team... bowlers taking a bit more time and maybe having a bit more of a plan about what they want to do. Even if it's something out of the box, something totally different, there's no harm in trying something like that -- which we didn't do. That's something we've spoken about with the bowlers because you have to expect these kind of situations in the future, we have to be prepared. Every game is a learning curve for everyone."

Sajid admits

FROM PAGE 16

Wahed Samad who arranged gamblers in Pakistan and in this way they collected six lakh rupee.

The DB sources said they were now investigating whether Sajid and his accomplices had any involvement with match-fixing.

India not practising!

Cricket

PTI, Brisbane

Their fate not in their hands, India have put practice on hold depending on how the Australia-Sri Lanka match of the ongoing cricket tri-series pans out in Melbourne on Friday. Two days after that amazing 321-run chase inside 40 overs was scripted at Belleive Oval, the team is pinching itself in disbelief at that mammoth effort for it had all but given up hopes of carrying any further on this disastrous tour -- a few of them had actually booked their return tickets to home from Hobart itself.

But they have some hope now because if Australia beat Sri Lanka, Dhoni's men have a chance to make the finals.

Once again, India were able to win on the shoulders of an individual which has literally been the story of their cricketing history. Little is achieved by team together than by an individual defying all odds and playing exceptionally well.

Kapil Dev did so during the 1983 World Cup with an unbeaten 175; Gautam Gambhir played that astounding 75 in the finals of the 2007 Twenty20 World Cup and Yuvraj Singh stood out in the title triumph of the 2011 World Cup.

Virat Kohli was exceptional in Hobart and the key was how he neutralised Sri Lanka's main weapon Lasith Malinga in that ferocious assault.

Malinga's well-honed yorkers were dispatched to all parts of the ground by the youngster.

The smell of astonishing victory in Hobart has been displaced by the bad odour of team selection for Asia Cup in Bangladesh.

Chief selector Kris Srikanth actually defended India's performance in Australia, stating if that ball -- one of Malinga's over consisted of only five balls in Adelaide -- had

been bowled, India might have won rather than settled for a tie with Sri Lanka.

While Dhoni's captaincy skills at the helm, especially in Tests, has been the talking point in cricket circles, Srikanth hasn't conveyed if the Indian skipper has been asked to brush up his leadership skills.

Or if there was even a concern expressed within the selectors that losing 8-0 was an unprecedented humiliation and they owed it to the nation to have a word with the captain. To the ringside observers, the team for Asia Cup has also served to strengthen on camp to the detriment of other in the dressing room.

Sehwag has been "rested" and Gambhir has been set aside in the captaincy stakes. Dhoni, indeed, has emerged stronger from an utterly hopeless Australian tour.

Contrast this with Australia. They have announced their ODI team for the West Indies. Chairman of selectors John Inverarity has made it public that Mitchell Starc has been dropped but he would still be carried to the Caribbean as part of his overall development.

The reasoning for inclusion of Brad Haddin and Matthew Wade, two wicketkeepers for a five-match series, was also laid out in details.

India in all probability will make it to the finals. Sri Lankans are down and out. Their destroyer-in-chief, Lasith Malinga has just been taken to cleaners. Like it happens to India without Tendulkar, Sri Lanka of today has no edge if Malinga is marginalised.

But Dhoni's men need to summon all their energy to salvage something from this tour. There is lot that needs to be addressed. They need to sharpen themselves in nets for the pace and bounce of Gabba pitch. They need to have one or two intense fielding sessions.

But they believe watching Australia-Sri Lanka match is a better option.

Veeru clears the air

Cricket

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Virender Sehwag has dispelled speculation over him being 'rested' for the Asia Cup, saying he had explained his medical condition to the chairman of the selectors Kris Srikanth ahead of the selection meeting to pick the squad for the tournament.

"I have back spasms. I need some rest. I have never kept my team management in the dark as far as fitness is concerned," Sehwag told Mid-Day, after his name did not feature in the 15-member squad announced on Tuesday.

Srikanth had said Sehwag was rested based on the fitness report and recommendation of the Indian team's physiotherapist. The word 'rested' was interpreted by many as a euphemism for being dropped, given Sehwag had failed during the Test series in Australia and managed only 65 runs in five matches during the CB Series.

But Srikanth strongly denied the rumours and even lost this cool during the media briefing. Sehwag, too, made it clear that his injury was genuine. "My injury is open for everyone to see. I have never hidden my injury before, or fitness problems. Even my shoulder operation was planned after consulting the then coach Gary Kirsten and skipper MS Dhoni," Sehwag said.

A cricket board official said it was incorrect to blame on selectors for copping out over the 'resting' of Sehwag. He pointed out

that Srikanth's panel had, in the past, taken bold decisions like dropping Yuvraj Singh during the home Test series against Australia, months before the World Cup, and leaving Harbhajan Singh out after his loss of form during the tour of England last year.

"The media and critics said the selectors did not have the guts to say he [Sehwag] is dropped. I don't think that is true," the official explained. "If they wanted to unconditionally drop him, the selectors would have done that. They had dropped Yuvraj Singh four months before the World Cup. Then they dropped Harbhajan Singh after the England tour last year. They could have easily done so with Sehwag, too, now in case they wanted to."

The decision to rest Sehwag, the board official pointed out, was taken keeping in mind the long-term repercussions of playing with an injury. "Sehwag was suffering from spasms, had shoulder pains and was also having migraine. There was no option but to give him a break."

When asked if Sehwag's concerns about his fitness would be undermined should he play the CB series finals in the event of India's qualification, the official didn't think so. "If at all he goes ahead and plays the final and smacks a hundred it does not mean his body and mind does not need a break," the official said. According to him, a majority of elite cricketers are "literally stitched up together" to be fit to play, and the physio has worked hard to keep Sehwag fit on the tour of Australia.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Intention
4 Cork-board
8 accessory
12 Contemptible
13 Master of the macabre
14 Reed instrument
15 "Holy cow!"
17 Earned
18 Protracted
19 Spruced up
21 Like some summer days
22 Booty
24 Oodles
25 Strong
29 De-pressed
30 Nonsense
31 George's brother
32 In one's head, as opposed to on paper

DOWN
1 Smart-phone
2 Debtor's letters
3 Rapid decline
4 Hot rum drink
5 "Named Sue"
6 Intimidate
7 Under-standing
8 Whale variety
9 Quite enthusiastic
10 Trilled
11 Envelope-pushing
16 Light refrain
19 Scads
20 Soother
21 ... that may contain this
22 Berate
23 Part of Miss Muffet's lunch
25 Cobbler's item
26 "Hush!"
27 Get ready
28 Marquis de —
30 War-monger
33 Equipment
34 Dry
36 Cringe
37 Hearty drink
38 Stash
39 Unsigned (Abbr.)
40 Responsibility
42 That girl
43 Hem's partner
44 "Alas!" emotion
45 Without further ado

Solution time: 25 mins.

LAVA HAN SLAM
UNIT ONE KOLA
LOOT TIC IVAN
UNLACE KNEE
COLDTURKEY
GAWKY RIB NEE
ORES BYE CORA
AIL POE GATOR
TALKTURKEY
DEAL NEURON
ICON DIE SOLO
SAND ERA ELLS
OREO RED SLAY

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CRYPTOQUIP

V I Z Q O T J T L T Q V C I X O
R T Q W O E O W C T G I Q N X O T V
S O H H N , K Z O H K O G O K B T E
S A C V A C O V R K C T C L K B K B O L K B J .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN EVERY BELFRY-DWELLING CREATURE HAS GONE ON VACATION, WOULD YOU SAY THAT ALL BATS ARE OFF?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals U

আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ভর্তি চলছে
ফরাসী ও জাপানী ভাষার সংক্ষিপ্ত কোর্স
আসন সীমিত। আগে আসলে আগে পাবেন ভর্তিতে ভর্তি।
ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা : এইচএসসি/সমমান।
কোর্সের মেয়াদ : ৬০ ঘণ্টা (ক্লাস সপ্তাহে ৩ দিন)।
ক্লাশের সময় : সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৮টা/৮টা.৩০টা।
ক্লাশ করার সম্ভাব্য তারিখ : ফরাসী ১৬ই মার্চ ২০১২
জাপানী এপ্রিল ২০১২ প্রথম সপ্তাহ।
ভর্তির জন্য যোগাযোগ : ইনস্টিটিউটের অফিস (কক্ষ নং ১০৬) শনিবার হতে বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে দুপুর ১.০০টা।
বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ইনস্টিটিউটের নোটিশ বোর্ড দেখুন।
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সি-৩০৯

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