

Hockey ropes in Green Delta

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) renewed their association long-time ally Green Delta Insurance Company to sponsor them for the leagues for the next three seasons.

An agreement to this effect was signed between BHF and the insurance company at the Bangladesh Olympic Association conference room yesterday.

According to the agreement, Green Delta Insurance Company will provide the BHF with Tk 40 lakh to host the Premier, First and Second Division Hockey Leagues for the next three seasons (2012-2014).

The insurance company will provide fifty per cent of the total amount in the current year to BHF while the remaining amount will be given equally in two phases in the next two years.

"We'll concentrate on organising the league in time. We'll start the premier division league in the first week of May and try to host the second and third division leagues as early as possible," said BHF president Shah M Ziaur Rahman after the signing ceremony.

BHF president and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Shah M Ziaur Rahman and Green Delta Insurance Company Limited's managing director Nasir Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations.

BHF general secretary Khaja Rahmatullah said, "As there are two international tournaments ahead (AHF Cup and U-21 Asia Cup), we are deferring the start of the premier league despite the transfers already being over."

Bolt, Powell

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firming his place in the race on Friday.

Bolt and Powell will also meet in the 100m in Rome on May 31.

"These two Jamaicans are the best known personalities in athletics at the moment and we are very proud and excited that they are both coming to Oslo in an Olympic year," said Oslo meet director Steinar Hoen.

Bolt holds the world record of 9.58sec with Powell's personal best at 9.72.

The first Diamond League meeting of the season takes place in Doha on May 8.

Abahani beat

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the game by whistling too many times.

Meanwhile, Congolese striker Siyo Zunapio struck twice to ensure Farshanj Sporting Club got their first win of the season as they defeated Feni Soccer Club 2-1 at the Bhasha Shaheed Abdus Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday.

The home side were given an 18th minute lead by forward Maksudul Alam Bubul but Zunapio restored parity in the 32nd minute from a penalty.

The Congolese striker then scored the second in the 39th minute to seal the victory which took the old Dhaka outfit to four points from 4 matches while Feni remain at the bottom with two points from the same number of matches.

Coach Law

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decided to start the camp from March 6," he added.

Meanwhile, the decision to start the camp on March 6 was decided during yesterday's cricket operations committee meeting where the player's contract issues was also discussed.

The committee asked the selectors to increase the number of the players for new contract. It also decided to continue with former cricketer Zahid Razzak Masum as team operations manager for the Asia Cup.



South Africa batsman Hashim Amla pulls one to the fence during his aggressive 76 in the 3rd ODI against New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

SA keep clean slate

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Marchant de Lange took four wickets as South Africa completed a 3-0 whitewash of New Zealand in a withering display of pace bowling with a five-wicket win in the third and final one-day international on Saturday.

The tourists cruised to victory with 40 balls to spare to go with the lop-sided wins in Wellington and Napier and underscore their domination of New Zealand ahead of the Test series starting in Dunedin on Wednesday.

After being sent into bat in wet and windy conditions at Eden Park, New Zealand crumbled in the face of a hostile South African bowling attack to be all out for 206 in 47 overs.

Hashim Amla then gave a masterclass in how to handle the conditions as he laid the platform for the South African reply with a contemptuous display of batting.

It began with an 80-run partnership in 15 overs with Wayne Parnell who was

surprisingly promoted to open the innings, and he then put on a further 58 in 12 overs with Albie Morkel for the second wicket.

Kyle Mills ended Amla's stand when he was caught behind by Brendon McCullum for 76 after facing 89 balls but by then the outcome was beyond doubt with South Africa 138 for two and with 22 overs left to get the remaining 69 runs.

Morkel scored 41, including two fours and three sixes before he was caught by Colin de Grandhomme trying to hit Michael Bates out of the park.

At 155 for three after 31 overs South Africa eased up on the run rate, and while Rob Nicol claimed two late wickets -- Faf du Plessis (19) and JP Duminy (25) -- New Zealand never looked to be serious contenders.

The Black Caps woes began when they were sent into bat where they found themselves immediately pinned down by an impressive display of pace and swing from Dale Steyn and Lonwabo Tsotsobe who

were aided by heavy cloud cover.

Faced with a barrage of deliveries around 145 kilometres per hour (90 miles per hour) the New Zealand batsmen were not allowed to settle.

Martin Guptill was dismissed cheaply while fellow opener Rob Nicol played cautiously for 12 off 40 deliveries before he was gone and New Zealand were 45 for two.

McCullum and Kane Williamson set about rebuilding the innings but when their partnership began to blossom the 21-year-old de Lange was unleashed.

He immediately removed McCullum for 47 to have New Zealand at 74 for three and then ripped off with the middle order to finish with an impressive four for 46 from nine overs.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: NEW ZEALAND, Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Nicol c de Villiers b Botha, Guptill c du Plessis b Tsotsobe, etc.

Table with columns: de Grandhomme run out A Morkel, McCullum c Amla b de Lange, Ellis c Amla b de Lange, etc.

Table with columns: SOUTH AFRICA, Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Amla c B McCullum b Mills, Parnell b Ellis, Morkel c de Grandhomme b Bates, etc.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Both matches of the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League ended in goalless draws yesterday. In the first match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium, Euro Famous Club were held to a 0-0 draw by Little Friends Club while East End Club too drew 0-0 with City Club in the latter match.

Nat'l School football

Janata Adarsha Bidyapith and Charghat High School emerged upazila champions to move to the next round of the National School Football Tournament at separate venues yesterday.

At the Narsingdi venue, Janata Adarsha Bidyapith edged past Khanepur High School by a solitary goal while at the Rajshahi venue, Charghat High School drubbed Choumohoni High School 6-0.

Usha's new hockey committee

Usha Krira Chakra formed a 14-member hockey committee with Ashraf Hossain Khan as chairman and Tarek A Adel as general secretary of the committee. A press release was issued on this regard, signed by senior vice-president Nuruzzaman Swapan and joint secretary Shafayet Hossain Dalim.

TG Memorial tennis

Dhaka Club emerged the champions of the TG Memorial Inter Club Tennis Tournament which concluded at the Dhaka Club on Friday. Dhaka Club defeated Gulshan Youth Club in the final on Friday. Finance Minister AMA Muhith distributed prizes among the finalists after the final.

First final of CB Series today

PTI, Brisbane

A woeful India out of the equation, Australia and Sri Lanka will battle it out in best-of-three finals with the spirited islanders well-equipped to upstage the hosts in the summit clashes starting on Sunday.

Mahela Jayawardene and his men have beaten Australia in three straight games and what's more, have bowled them out thrice which should matter more now that the first final is on a pacey and bouncy strip.

Lasith Malinga is obviously the spearhead of Lankan ambitions and his slinging action has claimed 14 scalps so far in the tournament.

He recorded his series best of 4/49 on Friday to secure a thrilling nine-run win for his team in Melbourne and a passage to the finals.

Nuwan Kulasekara has been a source of strength at the other end with nine victims at an economy rate of 4.89 in the tournament.

Angelo Mathews (7) and Thisara Perera (9) have been more than adequate support at the other end though the latter will not be there on Sunday due to injury suffered in Friday's match.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath has been outstanding with his economy rate of 4.17 in six matches even though he has had no more than three wickets. He conceded 43 runs in his 10 overs for the wicket of James Pattinson in Melbourne.

Sri Lanka's strength has been the solidity of their top order with all the top four looking more than good.

Young Dinesh Chandimal has been in fine nick with 383 runs at 63.83 average and a strike rate of 82.36. Every second innings of his in the tournament have been a score in excess of 50 runs.

Jayawardene's move to the top as an opener has been a masterstroke for his side. The Sri Lankan captain failed in the last match but he still has 297 runs at 42.42 average and a tremendous strike rate of 87.86.

TEAMS AUSTRALIA (from): Michael Clarke (captain), Shane Watson, Dan Christian, Xavier Doherty, Peter Forrest, Ben Hilfenhaus, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Brett Lee, Clint McKay, James Pattinson, Matthew Wade, David Warner.

SRI LANKA (from): Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Angelo Mathews, Tillakarathne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara, Upul Tharanga, Dinesh Chandimal, Sachithra Senanayake, Nuwan Kulasekara, Lasith Malinga, Thisara Perera, Dhammika Prasad and Lahiru Thirimanne.

Malik, Farhat left out

AFP, Lahore



Pakistan's new selection panel Saturday left out struggling all-rounder Shoaib Malik and opener Imran Farhat from the 15-man squad announced for Asia Cup in Dhaka later this month.

The four-nation event includes defending champions India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and will be held March 11-22.

Malik, 30, was controversially selected for last month's one-day and Twenty20 series against England despite being not in the best of form. Pakistan lost the ODIs 4-0 and T20 series 2-1, leading to calls for an overhaul of the team.

Misbah-ul Haq will lead the squad despite calls for his axing after he failed to win the last Twenty20 in Abu Dhabi when he was bowled off the final delivery, leaving England victorious by five runs.

Iqbal Qasim, head of the new selection committee which took charge on Thursday, said wholesale changes were not needed.

"We have selected the best possible squad for the Asia Cup in the shortest time available and since Malik was an additional member for the England series we couldn't find a place for him in the 15-man squad," Qasim told AFP.

Malik, who had 35 runs in his last eight one-day matches before the England series, man-

aged 23 and seven in the two matches he got to bat against England and was certain to be axed.

Malik was included against England on captain Misbah's insistence but Qasim said the skipper was consulted on the new lineup.

"We did consult Misbah and he agreed to the selection," said Qasim. Former opener Farhat and wicket-keeper Adnan Akmal were also left out while in-form opener Nasir Jamshed and wicket-keeper Sarfraz Ahmed were included.

"Jamshed has done well recently so we have included him," said Qasim of the 22-year-old left-handed opener.

Not considered for selection were allrounder Abdul Razzaq and wicket-keeper batsman Kamran Akmal -- not part of the team since last year.

Pakistan will also have a new coach in Dav Whatmore who is expected to sign a two-year contract later Saturday. The former Australian batsman, who guided Sri Lanka to the World Cup title in 1996, replaces interim coach Mohsin Khan.

Khan led Pakistan to 3-0 Test victory over England last month but failed in the limited over series.

SQUAD

Misbahul Haq (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Nasir Jamshed, Younis Khan, Umar Akmal, Hammad Azam, Asad Shafiq, Shahid Afrid, Azhar Ali, Sarfraz Ahmed, Saeed Ajmal, Abdul Rehman, Umar Gul, Aizaz Cheema, Wahab Riaz.

No room for Herath

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ment, to be played at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium in Dhaka from March 11 to 22.

Sri Lanka, who meet India in their opening match on March 13, also recalled fit-again fast bowler Suranga Lakmal who played his last one-day against Pakistan in November.

Pacemen Dhammika Prasad and Chanaka Welegedara, currently in Australia, also failed to find a place in the Asia Cup squad.

Sri Lanka will clash with Australia in the first of best-of-three finals in Brisbane on Sunday.

World Cup winners India, the third team, were knocked out of the competition following Sri Lanka's victory over Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

SQUAD

Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Angelo Mathews (vice-captain), Tillakarathne Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara, Dinesh Chandimal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Thisara Perera, Farveez Maharoof, Sachithra Senanayake, Nuwan Kulasekara, Lasith Malinga, Seekkuge Prasanna, Suranga Lakmal.

Jankovic in semis

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Second seed Jelena Jankovic reached the semifinals of the BMW Malaysian Open Saturday without having to pick up her racket after Ayumi Morita pulled out injured, the second withdrawal in two days.

Top seed and world number five Agnieszka Radwanska pulled out Friday due to injury after a string of rain delays caused a schedule pile-up that forced her to face two opponents the day before.

Morita, who survived a tough second round match against compatriot Misaki Doi on Thursday, said: "My shoulder had been giving me a problem since two days ago when I played Misaki."

"I don't know much about the injury, except that it's painful. I will take a few days off before deciding if I will enter the next tournament," she added.

"I enjoy playing in Malaysia as there are many Japanese fans and I hope to be back for the fourth time next year."

Jankovic will now take on fifth seed Petra Martic of Croatia, who recovered from losing the opening set on Friday to upset third seed Peng Shuai of China 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

The other semifinal will be between Taiwanese qualifier Hsieh Su-wei, who benefited from Radwanska's withdrawal, and Eleni Daniilidou, who beat Olivia Rogowska 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

Daniilidou was in action earlier Saturday as her match with Rogowska was suspended on Friday with Daniilidou leading 6-2, 3-2.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword grid with clues: ACROSS 1 By way of, briefly, 5 Impale, 9 Energy, 12 Earring shape, 13 Queue, 14 Altar, 15 Con, 16 Lip, 17 Dijon, 18 Adolescent, 19 CBS logo, 20 In pre-swam mode, 21 Recipe meas., 23 Knock, 25 Fourscore, 28 Sentimental sort, 32 Photo-copy's ancestor, for short, 33 Castles, 34 Music-makers of India, 36 Thoroughfare, 37 Mischievous kid, 38 Crone, 39 Burn, 42 Unfriendly, 44 1960s State Secretary, 48 Charged bit, 49 Chills and fever, 50 Ere long, 51 Illustrations, 52 Weeps loudly, 53 Ill will, 54 "A Chorus Line" song, 55 Undo a dele, 56 CrockPot contents, 20 Available to anyone, 22 Tempest, 24 Heart line?, 25 Type squares, 26 Mid-afternoon, in a way, 27 London hrs., 29 Pirouette pivot, 30 Harry's successor, 31 "Guinness Book" suffix, 35 Tap, 36 Least gregarious, 39 Florentine farewell, 40 Trumpet, 41 Initial stake, 43 Rubik's poser, 45 Platoon, e.g., 46 Unrivaled, 47 Recognized, 49 Fool.

Cryptogram grid with letters: SQ HGOC QCORUC HPCCT, PSAC JCPSLA NCKFRSL, TGSHGLGIH HPKIJH, NGIUA XGI, HRX FPRF CZCH IHC XCZH?

CRYPTOQUIP

Yesterday's Cryptquip: TO BREAK APART SOME HARDENED SAVORY MEAT JELLY, I BELIEVE I CAN JUST USE THIS ASPIC ICE PICK. Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals Y