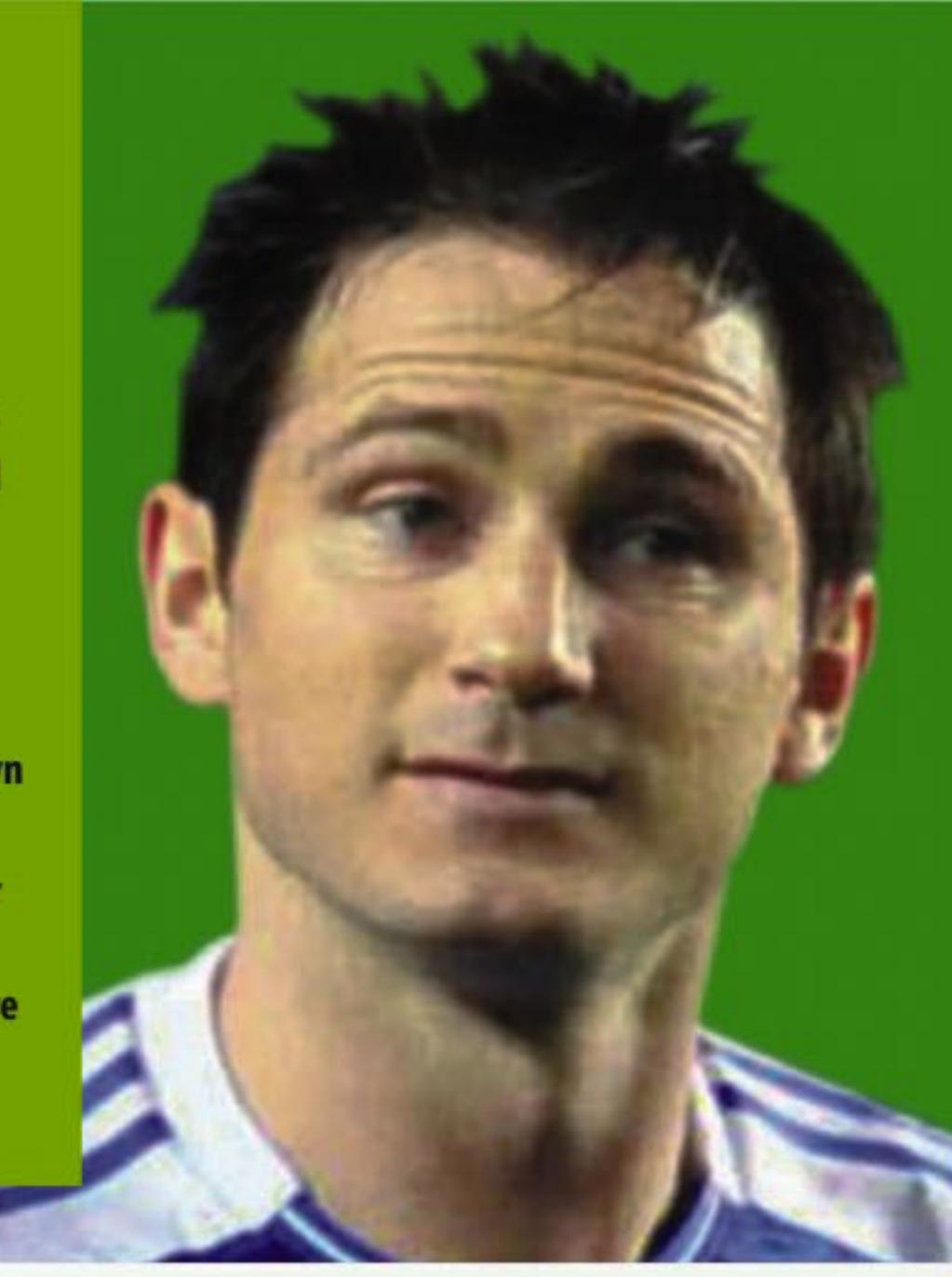


Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 11, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thecitizenstar.net

Frank reaches milestone

Frank Lampard became the first midfielder to chalk up 150 Premier League goals but it was not enough to earn Chelsea victory as they were held 1-1 at west London rivals Fulham on Monday. The 33-year-old Lampard struck from the penalty spot in the 45th minute after Salomon Kalou was brought down in dubious circumstances in the box. "This was a big missed opportunity for us," said England international Lampard. "We saw the Spurs result - we knew we could close the gap and we wanted to win the game."



Could it start on April 13?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis have come up with a new date for the resumption of the Dhaka Premier League but the lack of direction from the authorities have kept everyone guessing.

Even yesterday, nobody was sure what the top clubs have decided though they remained in training. The CCDM have however taken a surprisingly stern position after the delay had consumed thirteen days.

"If the weather stays favourable, we are determined to start by April 13," said CCDM coordinator Aynul Islam Tiash.

"We won't see who turns up and who doesn't. It is not our problem. We will make sure the league is over," he added.

It was initially announced on Saturday that

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the league would begin on April 10 but the two top clubs, Abahani and Mohammadian Sporting Club, threatened a boycott of the Super League if their demands were not met. Victoria too were not happy with the BCB decision of raising registration of foreign players from eight to ten; they wanted five foreigners to take the field rather than three.

On Monday, CCDM had announced that due to the inclement weather, the league would not resume in time. It showed the difficulty the cricket board had faced convincing the clubs to come to the field, which they termed as "unplayable" when the curators at two of the three grounds were confident even under these weather conditions.

It seemed that the BCB had broken the deadlock regarding recommencement of the league when it was announced that the league would resume on Tuesday after an emergency

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Sheikh Russel KC forward Anwar Hossain (L) celebrates one of his two goals against Farashganj SC during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sk Russel back on song

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from Anwar Hossain helped 10-man Sheikh Russel KC return to the winning ways in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League by defeating Farashganj SC 3-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Anwar's brace, Nigerian hitman Alamu Bukola Olalekan struck the other goal to take Sheikh Russel to the third position with 11 points from nine matches. Farashganj, on the other hand, are second from last with seven points from nine outings.

Sheikh Russel, who lost four matches on the trot -- against Brothers, Abahani, Muktijoddha Sagnasad and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club -- finally found their feet against a side who forced teams like Brothers and Team BJMC to drop points.

Farashganj started to assert authority in the game and yielded a few chances but failed to cash in. However, it was Sheikh Russel who made good use of a counter attack to score once more and ensure their third win in nine matches.

From a counter-attack, Moro Mohammad put through-pass to the left-wing for Anwar, who advanced to the area to place the ball past the substitute goalkeeper Mohammad Sunny in the 57th minute.

Farashganj should have pulled off a goal in the 61st minute but substitute striker Akbar Hossain Rodon saw his close-range shot blocked by Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee and then another of his shots was cleared from goalline by defender Yeamin Munna.

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BFF reveals voters' list

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday revealed a draft voters' list for its upcoming April 30 elections.

Of the 120 voters, 65 represent district and divisional football associations, 43 are from clubs, five from educational boards, six from universities and one from coaches' association. The BFF governing body has withheld names of three organisations Jessor DFF, Lalmonirhat DFF and Referees' Association.

Presidents of both Jessor DFF and Lalmonirhat DFF wanted to change the names of their delegations, overturning the previous decisions, which is why they asked for extension of time frame. The referees' association informed the BFF that the procedure regarding sending of delegation name was not followed properly.

The football's governing body will accept allegations regarding the delegation (also voters' name) today and will hold a hearing tomorrow before giving ruling.

Among the councillors, Square Toiletries' managing director Anjan Chowdhury Pintu (Pabna DFF), Awami League sports secretary and BCB director Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul (Dhaka Divisional FA), Bir Bahadur MP (Bandarban FA), Chittagong Awami League leader AJM Nasir (Ctg FA), former national football captain Arif Hossain Moon (Nilphamari FA), Manjur Kader (Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club), Juba League leader Mohiuddin Mohi (Brothers Union), Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP (Rahmatganj MFS), Mizanur Rahaman Khan M P (Farashganj SC), Kazi Enam Ahmed (Abahani Ltd), Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan

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Kolkata Knight Riders bowler Lakshmi Balaji (C) is ecstatic after taking the wicket of AB de Villiers of Royal Challengers Bangalore during their IPL match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Balaji blows RCB away

Shakib's first game, KKR's first win

INTERNET, Bangalore

Seam bowler Lakshmi Balaji produced a superb spell of 4-18 as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 42 runs in the Indian Premier League on Tuesday.

Balaji bowled an immaculate line to claim the important wickets of Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers to help restrict Bangalore to 123-9 after Kolkata had scored 165-8 in 20 overs.

South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis had earlier removed big-hitting opener Chris Gayle and Cheteshwar Pujara to complete an all-round performance of 22 and 2-7.

Captain Gautam Gambhir (64) and Manvinder Bisla (46) were the other performers for Kolkata, who won their first game after two losses. Bangalore have one win and one loss.

Kolkata made a superb start after being put in to bat, but faltered in the latter half of their innings when a total of close to 200 looked likely.

After Kallis's steady innings was brought to an end by Bangalore captain Daniel Vettori, Gautam Gambhir and Manvinder Bisla added 64 in less than eight overs.

Gambhir struck nine fours in 39 balls, the captain hitting pace bowler Harshal Patel for 15 in an over, including the lone six of his innings.

Bisla struck three sixes and two fours, the wicketkeeper-batsman using his feet well during his 29-ball innings. He was fooled by a ball that left him from Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran to be stumped as he jumped out of his crease.

Muralidaran, Zaheer Khan and Vinay Kumar took two wickets each as Kolkata slipped from 125-1 in the 14th over. Manoj Tiwary, Yusuf Pathan, Ryan ten Doeschate and Shakib Al Hasan, who got his first game of the tournament, all failed to get into double-figures.

In reply, Bangalore failed to recover from the early wickets by Kallis and Balaji was later well supported by all-rounder Rajat Bhatia in the middle of the innings to mount pressure on the batsmen. Although Shakib failed with the bat, he did

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