

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 10, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Former Ligue 1 top scorer dies

Jules Bocande, the former Senegal international who topped the goal scoring table in 1986 while playing for French club side Metz, died on Monday aged 53, the Senegal Football Federation said in a statement.

His death following surgery in France for a heart complaint comes days after the passing of Nigeria's record scorer Rachidi Yekini.

Bocande, as famous for his flowing locks as for his goals for Senegal and Metz, was top scorer in Ligue 1 in 1986.

He also played at Paris St Germain, Nice and Racing Lens after moving first from Senegal to Belgium in 1980.

- REUTERS



Tigers' camp next week

Rubel flying to South Africa for treatment

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The conditioning camp for the national cricketers will start sometime during the next week as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is desperately trying to arrange some international matches before the Tigers' next scheduled assignment -- the ICC Twenty20 World Cup to be held in Sri Lanka in September.

The lack of international cricket is a genuine cause for concern as in the past the team has suffered a lot due to long gaps in between international assignments. Chief selector Akram Khan also seemed a bit concerned about the lack of international cricket.

"The conditioning camp will be started from next week but we are yet to decide on how many players will be selected for the camp. The board is desperately trying to arrange some international matches and we are hopeful," said Akram.

"The long gap is really a big concern for us because we have suffered a lot in the past. So it would be nice if we can arrange some international matches, otherwise we have to arrange some matches locally to make sure the players will be ready before their next assignment," he added.

There is a bright chance for the Tigers to visit Ireland in July to play five one-day internationals and a few T20 matches. According to sources, the cricket operations

committee is also communicating with some other countries to arrange some matches and they are getting positive responses from them.

The BCB may finally be able to arrange some limited-over games to play during the gap but the more alarming issue is that the national team will next play Test cricket in November, a full eleven months after their last one.

The BCB is waiting for the supporting staff to plan the conditioning camp, as Stuart Law has vacated his position as head coach two months earlier than his scheduled departure. But the board want the camp to impart both fitness and skill training to avoid the mistakes they made before the last Zimbabwe trip where Bangladesh lost both the Test and one-day series, eliciting severe criticism.

Akram however was also in favour of arranging a special camp for the pace bowlers as his selection panel is concerned about the lack of pace bowlers in the pipeline.

"You know Rubel (Hossain) is out of cricket for a long period of time while another regular pace bowler Shafiqul Islam is also not fit, so we have to think about the alternatives and that is why it will be nice if we can arrange a special camp for the pace bowlers. The worrying factor is that we don't have enough quality pace bowlers in the pipeline," observed Akram.

Meanwhile, Rubel Hossain will fly for South Africa on May 14 and it will be determined whether there is surgery needed on his shoulder the following day.



Siddikur Rahman putts on the green of the Kurmitola Golf Club on the third day of the bti International Golf Championship yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE Second-leg from today

SPORTS REPORTER



The Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League resumes today with the expectation of more competitive second-leg showings from new-look squads following a two-week break for the mid-term players' transfers window.

Most of the 11 participating teams have roped in new, mostly foreign, players to strengthen their respective squads with Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Mohammedan SC and Sheikh Russel KC in particular bringing about wholesale changes to their foreign contingent to find a way out mid-table mediocrity.

But even leaders Abahani and second placed Muktiyoddha Sangsad and relegation candidates Farashganj SC, Rahmatganj MFS, Arambagh KS and Feni Soccer have all dipped into the market for new players.

The race for the title is still wide open with a three-way battle between Abahani (24 points), Muktiyoddha (21 points) and newcomers Team BJMC (16 points).

The biggest fear though for many coaches is the possibility for fixed matches dominating the calendar in this second leg. To avert this, the Bangladesh Football Federation is scheduled to provide a stern warning message to the teams after the special committee will sit today to examine allegations of fixed matches.

The second leg resumes with Muktiyoddha Sangsad taking on Farashganj SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Team BJMC will host defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Tangail Stadium today.

Muktiyoddha Sangsad coach Shafiqul Islam Manik is optimistic about toppling leaders Abahani and expects a more competitive second leg.

"We are just three points behind leaders Abahani and we would have been ahead had it not been for our strikers," said Manik. "Like the competitive first leg, I am also expecting competitive matches in the second leg subject to the aggressive attitude of other teams who showed it in the first leg."

Defending champions Sheikh Jamal's coach Abu Yousuf wants to start the second leg with a victory over Team BJMC

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Legendary Mari breathes his last

SPORTS REPORTER

Former footballer Chinghla Mong Chowdhury Mari breathed his last yesterday morning due to multiple diseases at the Holy Family Hospital at the age of 74.

Mari had been suffering from Alzheimer since 2008 and the inclusion of skin cirrhoses made his condition worse and subsequently he was admitted to Holy Family Hospital on April 6 after his condition deteriorated.

The former forward left behind a wife, three sons and a lot of well-wishers to mourn his death as he was taken home to Chandraghona, Rangamati to complete his funeral.

Though Mari was not well-known to the new generation, he was a super star of his time and was a fantastic left-footed forward which helped him secure a place in the then Pakistan national football team in the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan. "That time Mari dada was the most valuable player and every team was eager to rope him in to ensure their victory," recalled Mostafa Kamal, his Azad Sporting Club teammate and now a volleyball organiser.

Mari started his playing career from the Chittagong Port Trust Club and then joined Azad Sporting, Fire Service, Bangladesh Railway, Wanderers, EPIDC (now

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Siddikur extends lead

SPORTS REPORTER



Siddikur Rahman carried his consistent form into the third round of the bti International Golf Championship to carve out a five-stroke lead yesterday. The 27-year old, Bangladesh's only golfer to win on the Asian Tour, played a three-under-par 69 at the Kurmitola Golf Club to forge an aggregate of 8-under 208 yesterday. Five strokes adrift in joint second position were a chasing pack of three -- bti's amateur golfer Mohammad Nazim, and KGC's professional golfers Liton Howlader and Jibon Ali -- with each carding a three-under-par 213.

KGC's Jakiruzzaman was a further stroke behind at fifth position with two-under-par, while Jamal Hossain Mollah and Sr Lanka's Mithun Perera were jointly holding the sixth position on par 216. Mohammad Ismail, Dulal

Hossain and Shakhawat Hossain Sohel were a further stroke behind on one-over-par 217.

The best scores of the day came from Siddikur and Jakiruzzaman, both of whom managed three-under.

Siddikur bogeyed on the third hole



MOHAMMAD NAZIM

of the day, before recovering with two successive birdies on the next two holes as he closed the front nine on 35. Three more birdies and a bogey in the back nine rounded off his day's work for a three-under. Jakiruzzaman managed three birdies on the front nine and one birdie and one bogey each at the back nine for a matching three-under.

Liton had a flawless start as he managed five birdies on the front nine, but a bogey and a double bogey at the back nine set him back a little. Bti's amateur golfer Nazim too had a great start as he carded four birdies on the front nine, but only one birdie thereafter with three bogeys and a double-bogey harmed his chances.

40 professional golfers and 7 amateur golfers earlier made the cut in the Tk 15 lakh event on Tuesday. The event will come to a close today with Siddikur looking like the man to beat.

WI waiting on Deonarine

Cricket

CRICINFO, Northampton

Darren Sammy, the West Indies captain, has said he has 14 fit men available for selection for the four-day tour match against the England Lions, starting on Thursday. Marlon Samuels flew in from India, where he was playing in the IPL, on Tuesday and Assad Fudadin, who was delayed due to visa issues, joined the squad on Wednesday morning. According to a West Indies spokesperson, Narsingh Deonarine, the only missing member from the 15-man Test squad, was due to arrive on Thursday, but would not be available for selection in the Lions match.

Sammy welcomed the new arrivals and said it would bolster the confidence of the team ahead of the Lord's Test, starting on May 17. Sammy was happy to have virtually a full squad to pick from. "I'm quite pleased to see Marlon and Fudadin this morning. It is very good for us," he said. "We welcome them and it's good for them they are here to practise with us today. The whole family is united and now we are preparing ourselves for the first Test match."

It is understood the visa delay in the case

of the Guyanese pair of Deonarine and Fudadin was inevitable. The West Indies selectors had waited for the home series against Australia to finish before announcing the Test squad for the England tour at the end of April. Once named, Deonarine and Fudadin then had to apply to the UK embassy for visas because nationals from Guyana and Jamaica do not get a free entry, unlike the other Caribbean countries. A further delay may have been caused by the UK Border Agency tightening its visa screening process.

But Sammy did not want to gripe about something not in his control, saying the team would move forward. "We were aware once we were leaving the Caribbean that Narsingh and Fudadin were trying to sort it out," he said, "and Marlon was with Pune Warriors in the IPL. You just move on with things and handle distractions."

Sammy said all his players, including Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Fidel Edwards, who had been reported as fitness doubts, were available for selection. "We will come up with the best eleven in these conditions to prepare ourselves for the Test match," Sammy said, adding with a smile that team manager, Richie Richardson, would not be needed to handle 12th man duties.

Army's good start in v'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the Walton 26th Men's and 21st Women's National Volleyball Championships began at Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday with Bangladesh Army outplaying Satkhira DSA in 3-0 sets in the men's opener.

Bangladesh Air Force outplayed Chittagong DSA, Bangladesh Navy defeated Narail DSA and Chittagong University beat Khulna DSA, all by straight 3-0 sets in the men's group. Bangladesh Ansar & VDP also earned a straight 3-0 set victory over Kishoregonj DSA in the day's lone women's competition. Earlier, Sports Minister for Youth and Sports M Ahad Ali Sarkar inaugurated the five-day meet.

A total of 10 teams are taking part in the men's group while nine in the women's section.

'Timely payments an image issue'

SPORTS REPORTER



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Premier League chief Gazi Ashraf Hossain has said that the country's image will be on the line if the different franchises don't pay the foreign players on time.

The governing council chairman was speaking yesterday, May 9, the deadline set to clear the foreign players' payments for the inaugural BPL T20 competition held in February. The six franchises too agreed on the deadline but it was learned that some of them have faced trouble either getting permission from the government authorities, or are simply not ready to pay yet.

"So far whatever verbal communications we have received have been positive," said Ashraf, the former national captain. "We will get it in black and white tomorrow [Thursday], after which we will do the official paperwork and scrutinise everything."

Sources have said that though two franchises have set examples by paying the overseas players, two others have not been able to pay. One of them has actually said that they require a few more days to complete the disbursement, though Ashraf denied that the BPL governing council received any communication to this effect.

"We haven't received any such correspondences yet, but it is really not desirable. Not paying the money properly will have an adverse effect on the country's image."

"The BCB will not take such delays lightly, but we can't make any comments now since we will hear about it tomorrow [Thursday]," he added.

The date was decided during an April 30 meeting between the governing council and the franchise officials, chaired by BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal, where the board outlined a process to make the payments timely.

"We put together a process for everyone to follow and those who have, it will help them make payments as quickly as possible," said Ashraf.

Payment has been an issue in the international media after some UK newspapers reported the arrears to the English cricketers. On an April 5 report in the Daily Telegraph, a news item appeared stating that "English county cricketers are

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Canada's yes on Pak tour?

AFP, Karachi

Canadian cricket chiefs want to send their national side to tour Pakistan, Pakistani officials said Wednesday, more than three years after international matches were halted in the troubled country.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said the tour was expected to go ahead after September this year and voiced hope the visit would help re-establish the country as a safe venue for sport.

A deadly militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus during the Lahore Test in March 2009 made Pakistan a no-go zone for international teams, but the PCB has been trying to entice sides back to the cricket-mad but unstable country.

"PCB has thanked Cricket Canada for their interest in sending their national team to Pakistan. PCB believes in strengthening the relationship further between the two boards," said a PCB statement.

Efforts to restart international cricket in Pakistan were hit last month when Bangladesh postponed an agreed tour over security fears.

Canada is an associate member of the International Cricket Council, not a full Test-playing nation, but took part in the 2011 World Cup and lost to Pakistan in the group stage.

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