



Mohammedan and Abahani players are all 'up in sticks' as they charge Indian umpire Milind during their ill-tempered encounter at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

FPWA wants 3 foreigners allowed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Football Players Welfare Association (FPWA) has submitted a memorandum to the Bangladesh Football Federation urging the authority concerned to reduce the quota of foreign players in the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League.

The organisation of the former and current players has urged the league committee to allow only three foreign players for each club in a match instead of four.

The BFF professional football league committee recently decided to keep the foreign players' quota unchanged despite criticism from the stakeholders of the game including players, media and fans.

Approximately fifty players including nine of the current national team were present during the letter submission to the professional league committee chairman Salam Murshedy who assured that they would consider the players' request with seriously.

Maria

FROM PAGE 16
thing. "You have the tradition of Wimbledon where everyone wears white, so you know what to expect. This is completely different. I mean, the streets are like one way all of a sudden, there are barricades, more security."

The living arrangements too are very different and more to her liking, especially as she is often fighting and winning the battle to stay on top of the food line.

"All of us, the Russian team, get together at the official Russian house, and we have dinners together. We have a few cooks that have come from Ukraine, which has been the best part," she said. Then looking sheepish, she continued: "I'm the first one in line for the food all the time (smiling). I get it when it's warm. That's been great."

Sharapova is more serious when asked about how she felt while bearing her country's flag during the opening ceremony. Her relationship with Russia has not always been the best in the past. But when she answers you can see that being chosen to be flag-bearer is something that meant a lot to her.

"It was lighter than I thought," she said smiling. "The ceremony is something I'll cherish for the rest of my life. Growing up, I was watching the opening ceremony and I loved the hats and the berets they wore. I don't remember who was carrying the flag then but I thought it was so cool. I thought, hey maybe one day I could do that." And now she has.

U-19s start

FROM PAGE 16
2011, smote four boundaries during his 138-ball 99 while Sunil added 41 off 55 balls with the help of four boundaries and a six.

Taskin Ahmed, Dewan Sabbir and Nur Hossain Munna took two wickets each.

Bangladesh Under-19s are expected to play their second unofficial practice match against Papua New Guinea tomorrow.

Biggies 'fight' to a draw

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Mohammedan SC were held to a 1-1 draw by joint-champions Abahani in their crucial Super League match of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League Super at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

This was the first time in the league that Mohammedan dropped points in their after posting 12 straight victories. However, with a game in hand, Mohammedan 37 points from 13 matches) still have four-point lead over second-placed Usha and a nine-point lead over third-placed Abahani. Usha and Abahani, though, played a match each less.

However, the highlights of yesterday's game between the two perennial foes were poor umpiring, unsportsmanlike attitude of the players and the reluctance of officials which kept the game halted for 55 minutes -- 25 minutes in the first half and 30 minutes in the second - following two decision by the Indian umpires. The first meeting between the two clubs was also suspended for 22 meetings for the same reason.

The game got underway smoothly as both sides put on attacking display with Mohammedan looking to get close to the title while Abahani's bid was to return to the title race with a victory after their, 4-3 defeat reversal in the first leg.

Mohammedan played comparatively

better and applied pressure before going ahead in the seventh minute when Rasel Mahmud Jimmy pushed in a cut-back from Istiaque Ahmed before Pushkor Khisha Mimo cancelled the lead.

Everything looked fine till 26th minute when both sides refrained from playing following a revised decision by umpire Thambu Raj, who was pushed by both Mohammedan and Abahani players. The umpire, though, did not take any action and both teams agreed to resume after 25 minutes.

The game again was halted six minutes into the second half and this time umpire Milind came under fire from Mohammedan players when Abahani's Pakistani player Mohammad Modassar hit Mohammedan's Malaysian striker Tunku Ahmed Tajuddin on his shien-guard.

Jimmy reacted angrily as he pushed the umpire arguing for a red card before goal-keeper Mahbubullah Shakil joined in and the situation worsened as the umpires delayed taking their decision.

Both umpires and members of technical committee were seen talking to both captains several times but failed in their effort and play remained suspended another 30 minutes.

The match was finally on again with Modassar and Shakil receiving yellow cards. Modassar however returned to action after but Shakil sat out the rest of the match as the 70-minute match took two hours and forty five minutes to finish.

The fast life of Oscar Pistorius

FROM PAGE 16

"I have deep respect for Michael Johnson and we have often spoken. I think his fear is what technology could do, as opposed to whether it gives me an advantage. As for the IAAF, I now have an excellent relationship with them," says Pistorius.

The idea of Pistorius gaining an advantage is tantalising but also rubbish really. This is a man who does not have legs. What kind of a disadvantage does that put him in to start with? Think of it in this context. Lionel Messi was a promising player in Argentina. But he was always small. When he moved to Barcelona at the age of 13, the club paid for his treatment to address a growth-hormone deficiency.

Perhaps, without those enhancements Messi might just have ended up another average football player? So does Pistorius's legs give him an advantage? "If they do, then why aren't every other Paralympic runner wearing them clock the speeds I do?" he challenges. The truth is that like all elite athletes Pistorius

possess the drive, ambition and the sheer single-mindedness that is necessary to be successful. As he himself says it best. "Any advantage I have comes from years of hard work and sacrifice. All the confidence that I have in the starting blocks comes from knowing that I have done the right thing, day in and day out."

Oscar Pistorius truly is an example of indomitable spirit.

Shakib's SLPL in doubt

FROM PAGE 16

physio (Vibhav Singh) and head coach (Richard Pybus)."

National skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, all-rounder Nasir Hossain, left-arm spinner Elias Sunny and dashing opener Tamim Iqbal were the other players selected for the competition.

The cricket operations committee also discussed the domestic calendar and new pool system for the national players. "We found no logic this time to make a pool because the national players will be busy with national duties during the domestic competition. So there is every chance that this time we will not make any list of pool players," informed Yunus.

He also said that the next season will kick off with the longer-version games of the National Cricket League (NCL) from the first week of October this year and it will continue until the second edition of the BPL, which is expected to start from the second week of January and finish in the second week of February.

It is expected that the Premier Division Cricket League will start from the third week of February.

"These are all proposals which will be approved by the board. We also discussed the tour of Sri Lanka in February-March next year, where we will play two Tests and three ODIs and a tour of Zimbabwe in April. We are trying to convince our Zimbabwean counterparts to arrange three Tests, three ODIs and two T20Is

MATCH-FIXING Probe report submitted

SPORTS REPORTER

The probe report on the suspicious Bangladesh Premier League encounter between Brothers Union and Rahmatganj MFS has finally been submitted to the professional football league committee yesterday after two and a half months of investigation.

The report was submitted to the league committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy by a bearer of the Fixed-match Identification Committee which is headed by Bangladesh Rural Development Board chairman Humayun Khalid.

Murshedy said that they called an emergency meeting of the league committee today (Thursday) to go through the probe report which also includes expert opinions.

But the BFF's senior vice president did not clarify when they would make the probe report public and gave no indication when the second probe report on the suspicious match between Sheikh Jamal and Brothers Union would be made public.

Squad named for WHL

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday announced a 20-member national squad for the World Hockey League round-1 which will be held in Singapore from August 31 to September 2.

The round-1 includes Bangladesh, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand and the top team of the round-robin basis tournament will advance to round-2.

Five officials including coach Mahbub Harun will accompany the national team who will play their first match against Hong Kong on August 31 followed by matches against Singapore on September 1 and Thailand September 2.

Starry-eyed

FROM PAGE 16

"I took a picture with Novak Djokovic and with Kobe Bryant," said Shagor. However, although he has met the great Michael Phelps a number of times, the US swimmer has steadfastly refused to pose for a photo.

"Phelps said that he does not take pictures while he is competing. I asked him a number of times, but he always declined politely. "I have spoken to him a few times though and meet him often in practice."

Shagor has also managed to meet Usain Bolt as the Jamaican was flag-bearer for his country, like Shagor for Bangladesh.

"He was surrounded by security, but I still managed to get a shot with him," said Shagor.

Perhaps the experience of being around so many world-class athletes would rub off on Shagor. The swimmer certainly hopes so.

"Meeting the stars, seeing how they train and their routine you understand just how far away from them we are. We are as different as day and night," admitted Shagor.

All about the gold

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London



The fastest man of 2012, Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake

talks about his friendship and rivalry with world-famous sprinter and countryman Usain Bolt, and above all his tunnel vision focussed on winning gold at the London 2012 Olympics.

On how he prepares for competition:

"I don't really think about the competition. I spend my time watching cricket during these Olympics. And only when I'm on the track I'm on the track."

On his pre-race rituals:

"I just go to the line and I try to do something that makes me feel comfortable. I don't need to scare anyone anymore."

On being nicknamed 'The Beast' by his teammate and training partner Usain Bolt (JAM):

"The beast is something

that developed over years and in training because when I'm training I'm training like a beast. That's why Usain gave me that name."

On whether his lack of Olympic experience could be a disadvantage:

"Everyone is talking about experience. For me experience doesn't work. For me it's all about going out there, keeping focused and getting the job done. It's not about beating Usain."

On whether tension has risen between him and Bolt in

the lead-up to London 2012: "We are keeping a good chemistry. We are joking in training, having fun. On race day it's business but outside we are still friends."

I'm not really focusing on Usain. I'm just focusing on the race day now. My philosophy is, 'The sky is the limit', just work hard, which is what I'm doing at the moment and of the day you'll see what happens."

On what time will be needed to win the 100m:

"People want to see world records but for me it's just about executing. When you have fast guys running the 100m, Usain, Tyson (Gay, USA), myself, (Justin) Gatlin (USA) and Asafa (Powell, JAM), great things can be expected because these guys are really fast. But we are not looking at times, we are looking at the gold medal."

On whether he feels any pressure being the fastest man in the world in 2012:

"There is no pressure. The coaching work over the years has really paid off. Yes, I'm the fastest man in the world, the man to beat. But when you're on the line it's different. You'll see on the day what happens."

On whether the men's 100m will live up to expectations:

"It's going to be great. In every race you always have surprises. Everybody is waiting for this moment for four years, so I think it's going to live up to its expectations."

On whether he prefers the 100m or the 200m sprint:

"I'm not really sure. I'm not sure (laughing)."

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Shihab

FROM PAGE 16

Kumar Roy, who heads the team formed by NBR to collect the BPL taxes.

Roy said Shihab Trading was supposed to pay Tk 2.25 crore in taxes, but Shihab Trading claims that the amount is Tk 2.16 crore.

"Even after insisting to its own estimate, Shihab Trading did not pay any taxes. That's why we have asked banks to freeze all accounts," said Roy, also the director general at the Directorate of Inspection (Taxes).

The NBR action came as payment of taxes by stakeholders of BPL, including its six franchisees, stands much less than its estimate of nearly Tk 20 crore from transactions under the BPL tournament.

So far, six franchisees and other firms involved in the tournament paid only Tk 3 crore as taxes, insiders said.

The NBR formed the team in early February to monitor all financial transactions -- thought to be hundreds of crores of taka -- to ensure that all taxes were going to the state coffers.

As per rule, each franchisee was supposed to deduct 25 per cent tax against payment to foreign players and 10 per cent in case of local cricketers. Some five per cent tax on the value of each bid auction was also supposed to come.

Shihab Trading bought the rights to sell tickets from GOSM for Tk 45 crore.

LONDONdiary
1 August, 2012

SPORTS REPORTER from London

South African lightweight rower Sizwe (better known as Lawrence) Ndlovu is looking forward to the day when he can start eating again and not have to worry about keeping his weight down to a modest 70kg.

The rower is so keen to feast again that he has generously offered to host a barbecue for all his competitors should South Africa win a medal in Thursday's final.

Guest of honour would be Olympian weight watcher Eskild Ebbesen, revered by the lightweight rowing community after winning three Olympic gold and one bronze medal in previous games.

The beer-holder

After losing her second-round singles match to Sabine Lisicki at Wimbledon on Tuesday, Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova was called in for a doping test.

But the tired player was unable to provide the obligatory urine sample after fighting through three sets, winning the first set 6-4 before conceding the next two 6-3 and 7-5 to the German.

Thirsty after a match in which she served three aces and six double faults, the Kazakh player decided to quench her thirst and help to produce the required sample by drinking some beer, before tweeting the fact to her fans worldwide.

William makes waves

Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, attended the water polo on Tuesday night and witnessed Great Britain lead world cup champions Serbia 4-3 early in the second quarter before going down 21-7.

The water polo player from his university days in Scotland sat in the spectator seats with some Great Britain athletes, wearing a red cap, but acknowledging the parochial crowd when introduced.

Unsuspecting spectators made him stand as they took their seats in the same row.

After the match, asked whether he was aware that the Duke of Cambridge was in the crowd, Serbian head coach Dejan Udovicic had some words of advice for the heir to the throne.

"No, I didn't know, but this is an opportunity for him to do more for water polo in this country. I think that water polo should come before football, because England hasn't won anything in football for 50 years. We need England in water polo."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Existed
4 Rx watch-dog org.
7 Type measures
12 "Wha'd'ja say?"
13 Bobby of hockey
14 Ballery terminal
15 401(k) alternative
16 Net game
18 Distat
19 Soup eater's need
20 Buy, fix and resell quickly
22 Baseball stat
23 Scored 100 on
27 "Monty Python" opener
29 Wisconsin, the --- State
31 Cheer up
34 Quotidian
35 "Saturday Night Fever" director John

DOWN

1 Slight inhalation
2 Of hearing
3 Lewis who worked with Lamb Chop
4 Watch chains
5 Curtains
6 Fervor
7 Analgesic target
8 Hostel
9 Barracks bed
10 Too much trouble
11 Yen fraction
17 Biblical kingdom
21 Concise and substantive
23 Second president
24 Hollywood trickery, for short
25 Moray, e.g.
26 Parched affair
28 Afternoon city
29 Recede
32 "7 Faces of Dr. ---"
30 Oklahoma city
31 Recede
32 "7 Faces of Dr. ---"
33 Toss in
36 Apollo's destination
37 Groups of species
40 Started dining
42 Dino sang about it
43 It's mostly discretion
44 Presbyter
45 Lake Wobegon's st.
46 Low card
48 Clear the tables
49 Pismire
50 Conk out
51 "What ---?"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

K R V T W R F R F P V R V - F W E X S
K X J F C H B X S W F W W E , V P N N H L
N J X , C H J T H J M F T P M M X S P X
P B J N N H L P V P M C K R K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ISLAND COUNTRY WHOSE CITIZENS ALWAYS HAVE A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF FRESH FERWOR: NEW ZEAL-LAND.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals D