

IPL loses title sponsor

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian Premier League has lost its title sponsor after real estate giant DLF declined to renew its five-year deal, a company spokesman said on Tuesday.

"We have just stepped off the IPL," DLF group executive director Rajeev Talwar told the Press Trust of India.

"Sponsoring the IPL over the last five years was a strategic decision wherein we wanted to establish our brand presence across India as the leading real estate player.

"We believe that we have been able to achieve the desired objectives to a great extent."

DLF reportedly paid \$50 million to be the title sponsor of the glitzy Twenty20 league for the first five years, a deal which ended with the 2012 edition in March-April.

The last date for renewal of the contract was July 28, Talwar added.

There was no immediate comment from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which owns the IPL.

Men breeze

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Niaz Murshed won their respective boards while GM Abdullah Al Rakib's match with his opponent was in progress. GM Reefat Bin Sattar was given a break in this round, said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday.

A landmark

FROM PAGE 16

Kazi Kamrul Islam, Raihanuddin Arafat and Rezaul Karim (Grade-B), Sadid Hossain, Mahbubul Karim, Mominul Haque, Iqbal Hossain and Noor Hossain (Grade-C).

RAJSHAH: Mushfiqur Rahim, Jahurul Islam and Shafiul Islam (national players), Anisur Rahman (Grade-A), Mohammad Shahajada, Farhad Hossain, Junaed Siddiqui, Forhad Reza, Saqlain Sajib and Delwar Hossain (Grade-B), Jubaier Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman, Sabbir Rahman, Mukter Ali and Sanjamul Islam (Grade-C).

KHULNA: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Abdur Razzak, Imrul Kayes and Rubel Hossain (national players), Tushar Imran (Grade-A), Nazmus Sadat, Sahagir Hossain, Ziaur Rahman, Nizamuddin (Grade-B), Dollar Mahmud, Taposh Ghosh, Murad Khan, Mohammad Mithun and Anamul Haque (Grade-C).

BARISAL: Shaheen Hossain (Grade-A), Syed Rasel, Nasiruddin Faruque, Shafaq Al Jabir, Monir Hossain, Abul Bashar, Iftekhar Nayeem and Shahriar Nafees (Grade-B), Ishraq Sonnet, Tariqul Islam, Fazle Mahmud, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Bikash Sharma, Mohammad Sajib and Sohag Gazi (Grade-C).

DHAKA METRO: Mahmudullah Riyad and Elias Sunny (national players), Mohammad Ashraful, Tareq Aziz Khan, Arafat Sunny, Arafat Salahuddin, Nadif Chowdhury, Mehrob Hossain, Talha Jubaier Shamsur Rahman, Marshal Ayub, Arman Hossain and Sharifullah (Grade-B), Asif Ahmed and Tasamul Haque (Grade-C).

RANGPUR: Nasir Hossain (national player), Naeem Islam, Dhiman Ghosh, Sajidul Islam and Sohrwardi Shuvo (Grade-B), Ariful Haque, Shuvashish Roy, Mahmudul Hasan, Tarique Ahmed, Tanveer Haider, Alauddin Babu, Saymon Ahmed, Nayeem Islam Jr, AR Rahman Rony and Liton Das (Grade-C).

SYLHET: Nazmul Hossain (national player), Rajin Saleh and Imtiaz Hossain (Grade-A), Ezaz Ahmed, Tapash Baishya, Alok Kapali, Enamul Haque, Nabil Samad Golam Rahman, Golam Mabud and Robiul Islam (Grade-B), Abul Hasan, Sayem Alam, Abu Jayed and Shaker Ahmed (Grade-C).



Stylish South Africa batsman Hashim Amla evades a bouncer during the second one-day international against England at the Ageas Bowl cricket ground in Southampton yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

New tech to scrutinise bowlers

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Cricket's governing body on Monday announced plans to introduce wearable technology usually found in iPads to scrutinise bowlers with suspect bowling actions.

The initiative would see "inertial sensors" attached to the bowler's arm to assess the legality of his action.

The actions of several current and recently retired bowlers have come into question after the International Cricket Council (ICC) allowed a tolerance limit of 15 degrees' bend to the bowling arm -- a relaxation questioned in some quarters.

The ICC has announced that it is willing to invest in bowling action technology.

"The ICC has entered the second phase of an agreement with a consortium of high-profile Australian cricket, sports science and sports engineering institutions to develop a wearable technology to assess the legality of bowling actions in match and training conditions," an ICC statement read.

Retired pacemen Brett Lee of Australia and Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar, as well as Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, have all had their actions questioned but were cleared on the basis of tolerance limit or existing arm-

joint deformity.

India's Harbhajan Singh and Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal are two high-profile current bowlers whose actions have come under scrutiny on several occasions.

The ICC said it was working to address the problem.

"The ICC is now working with

"It is planned the technology will be light, cost-effective and wearable on the bowler's arm and will not hinder performance, while still allowing information about the throw-like features of an illegal action to be assessed in near real-time in both match and training environments."

experts to produce a process capable of measuring bowlers' actions in a match environment," it said.

"Known as inertial sensors, they employ similar technology to that used in iPads, mobile phones and car crash impact detection systems.

"It is planned the technology will be light, cost-effective and wearable on

Amla's 150 puts SA on top

AFP, Southampton

Hashim Amla inflicted another record-breaking hundred upon England with a majestic innings of 150 in the second one-day international in Southampton on Tuesday.

Amla's 150, the highest individual score in one-day matches between the two countries, was the cornerstone of South Africa's 287 for five.

His tenth hundred at this level surpassed team-mate Graeme Smith's 141 in Centurion three years ago as the largest solo effort in South Africa-England one-dayers and was also Amla's personal best, overtaking the 140 he made against Bangladesh in Benoni in 2008.

England's attack must be sick of the sight of Amla, who made a South Africa record 311 not out in the first Test at The Oval last month and another hundred as the Proteas sealed the three-match series 2-0 with victory at Lord's just over a week ago.

Opener Amla was in sight of the rare distinction of carrying his bat in a one-day match when, two balls before the end of the innings, he uppercut fast bowler Steven Finn to Tim Bresnan.

The ball before the stylish Amla gave himself room to work the ball down to third man for a four that took him to 150.

Amla faced 124 balls with 16 boundaries but was missed on 92 when wicket-keeper Craig Kieswetter failed to hold a difficult but catchable legside chance off Finn.

Bangladesh set for Caribbean sojourn

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team will leave for Trinidad on Friday to take part in a four-nation T20 tournament but the players are still not fully aware about who their opponents in the competition will be.

"We don't know about our opponents except that Afghanistan is one of the teams in the tournament. But we are taking good preparations as we already played some matches," said batsman Jahurul Islam after the practice match at the National Cricket Academy ground yesterday. "But what we learnt that the condition is more or less like Sri Lanka as the conditions will help the spinners. We had a practice in match environment today which helped us to understand what we actually learnt from the practice in last couple of days," he added.

In the match, national players who played under the banner of BCB Red suffered a five-wicket defeat against BCB Green. Out-of-favour Rokibul Hasan once again took the advantage of the small ground hitting five sixes and two fours during his 36-ball 50 as BCB Green posted 103 for five in 13.5 overs in reply to Red's

101 all out.

Besides Bangladesh, who will play the tournament under the banner of BCB XI, Afghanistan, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago are the other teams in the competition.

The squad will depart from Trinidad on September 9 and head straight to Sri Lanka for the ICC World Twenty20.

Jahurul however was hopeful about Bangladesh's chances in the World Cup which will start from September 18. "I think we go to the World Cup with a good preparation as we have got enough opportunity of playing T20 matches before the big tournament and we have also two warm-up matches in Sri Lanka before the tournament proper," said Jahurul. Bangladesh will play two warm-up matches -- against Zimbabwe on September 15 at the Colts Cricket ground in Colombo and against Ireland on September 17 at the Moors Cricket ground in Colombo -- in Sri Lanka before the tournament proper. The Tigers have been placed in Group D along with New Zealand and Pakistan. Bangladesh will take on New Zealand on September 21 before meeting Pakistan on September 25. Both matches will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

Hockey team leave for Singapore

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national hockey team leave here for Singapore this morning to take part in the Hockey World League (Round 1) with the target of emerging champions and qualifying for the next round.

Bangladesh have been pitted with hosts Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand and only the top finisher will get the ticket for Round 2. The Round 2 will be a single-league format featuring 24 teams split into four groups.

Bangladesh will start their campaign with the game against Hong Kong on Friday and will have to play three matches on consecutive days as the International Hockey Federation (IHF) has designed a hectic schedule for the tournament in order to reduce the expenditure of the participating teams. That means the players will have no time at all to recover from match-stress or injuries, and keeping that in mind, the organisers have allowed each of the teams a maximum of 18 players in the squad.

But Bangladesh have only included 16 players in the squad instead of 18, citing 'financial constraint' as the reason, even though five officials have been included in the 21-member contingent, including an assistant coach and an assistant manager in

a bid to reducing the work-load on the head coach and the manager.

"The manager has to spend busy time with different affairs during the tour. Suppose if a player gets injured, the manager has the responsibility of managing a doctor or sending him to the hospital. That is why we have included an assistant manager in the contingent to ease his work-load," said Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah at a press conference at the NSC Tower yesterday.

However, coach Mahbub Haroon felt that inclusion of two more players might have been much better for his side as he could have partially rested key players before an important game.

"We could not draft in the maximum allowable players in the squad due to financial problem as we only managed a sponsor at the last moment," said Rahmatullah adding that a total of 31 lakh taka would be spent for the tour to Singapore.

United Commercial Bank is providing Tk 15 lakh and the bank's managing director Shahidul Islam handed over the jersey to the team's captain Mamunur Rahman Chayan on the occasion.

BHF's new president and Navy chief Air Marshall Enamul Bari was also present at the press conference.

Sharapova squashes rumours

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Sharapova broke twice to win the first set and reeled off the last three games to set up a clash with Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain in the second round.

"I was just happy to be back playing a competitive match," she said.

"It's been a few weeks. It was a nice break in a way but after so many weeks of practising, you're just eager

to get back on the court.

The 25-year-old is chasing her second grand slam title of the year, having won the French Open in June to complete a career set of all four grand slam titles.

Top guns cruise

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last week.

"It was good considering I played a very talented player who I didn't know much about and never played against," said Federer. "First round of the US Open can always bring a lot of pressure with it.

"It was very windy out there and extremely humid. I'm just happy I was able to weather the conditions and a dangerous opponent. Overall I'm extremely happy."

Clijsters, who will retire after the tournament, said she was not scared that her match against Duval under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium could be her last.

"I didn't really think about that," said the 29-year-old Belgian. "I was just excited to be out there and to have the opportunity to play in this kind of condition, prime time."

"A night match, it's always a very special occasion. The energy, when you step out on court also after the opening show, the stadium was almost full.

"So it was a lot of fun to go out there. But still a bit

nervous, too."

Stosur said it was "fantastic" to take the court in defense of her title.

"It was great to get out there again," said the Australian seventh seed. "I felt like I was ready to go. First match up, first day, was a good start, so I certainly won't complain about being out there."

Stosur lost in the first round of the Australian Open and the Olympics and was beaten in round two at Wimbledon but her rout of Martic suggested she will not relinquish her US Open crown without a fight.

She won the first 19 points of the match before giving Martic a gift and ending the prospect of a 'golden set'.

"I hadn't missed a point and the match had been going pretty quick and obviously in my favor," said Stosur, who blasted 10 aces in the victory. "(The idea of a golden set) did pop into my head for a split second but then I hit the double fault and it was erased and I was quickly on with the next point."

Shortly after the 28-year-

old Stosur left the court, fans scrambled for cover as heavy rain pelted the National Tennis Centre grounds at Flushing Meadows.

The rain caused a two and a half hour delay and threatened to wreak havoc on the schedule but the sun reappeared to create steamy conditions and play resumed.

Third seed Sharapova enjoyed a 24-8 advantage in winners and lost her serve to Czink only once in swirling wind to set up a second-round match against Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain.

"I haven't been far here, past the first week, in a long time," said Sharapova, playing her first match since winning a silver medal at the Olympics. "I would love to get that back. I haven't played at a level that I wanted to play here."

"There shouldn't be any reason why I can't, having the success that I had for a few years, winning it in '06. That's certainly something that I'm looking to get back."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actor Cobb

5 One

9 Upper limit

12 City of India

13 Forbidden act

14 In vitro cells

15 Standard

16 Solidarity symbol

17 Archaeological site

18 Being, to Brutus

19 Illustrations

20 Green stone

21 Tackle moguls

23 Ostrich's cousin

25 Woodsy shout

28 1983 Michener bestseller

32 The sort who'll court

33 Leg bone

34 Ahead

36 Swell

37 Catcher's place?

38 List-ending abbr.

39 Play area

42 Meadow

44 "Phooey!"

48 Praise in verse

49 Boring

50 Capri, e.g.

51 Tri-umphed

52 Malaria symptom

53 Deposited

54 "Acid"

55 Pinochle play

56 Pairs

DOWN

1 Highway division

Solution time: 27 mins.

LOSUSAFURGE
AFTNODEPAUL
PARALYZEKILL
ARIABELLS
JANETEEPEE
EGGSPARAPETS
EREERRORNIP
PARASOLSAVER
LADYLEERY
SNAFUCOOL
POURPARANOID
OGRESCOTPLY
TOADITCHEKE

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CRYPTOQUIP

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C Z Q Z H A N P N P S X W A D F Q Q .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY CAN

ENABLE IMPRISONED SCAPEGOATS TO BE

RELEASED, THEN HE SHOULD SPRING FALL GUYS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T