

Franchised 1st-class cricket from Oct 14

SPORTS REPORTER

As promised the BCB is going to model the country's lone first-class competition -- the National Cricket League (NCL) -- on a franchise-based system. The fourteenth version of the tournament will start from October 14 at four different venues across the country, said BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal after the board's emergency meeting yesterday.

"We want to start it. It may happen that of the eight franchises only two or three can get sponsors. In that case the rest will play under their respective division's banner. We should start it to introduce real competitiveness in the first-class competition," said Kamal.

"As you saw, there were some teething problems in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 because we started in a hurry. Here too, there may be some teething problems, but it is important to get it off the ground," he added.

He also informed that it will be a single-league-based tournament where the two top finishers will play the final. The board also decided that it will introduce day-night matches during this tournament, for which the pink ball being trialled worldwide will be used.

"The opening and final matches will be day-night affairs which will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur," he added.

BCB took the decision to arrange day-night longer version matches in line with ICC's efforts to introduce day-night Tests.

BCB RELAXES CLAUSE TO ATTRACT BIDDERS

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) brought some leniency to one clause to attract more bidders to their international tender for worldwide media rights.

The amendment was made to the pre-requisites for prospective bidders during the board's marathon emergency meeting and accordingly, a tender will be accepted if one among the marketing agent and the broadcaster has five years' experience in a related field.

The previous clause which stated that only companies with five years of experience can buy the bid papers rendered several prominent companies ineligible to participate in the bidding.

Kamal will head a new committee to approve the successful bidders alongside BCB directors Ahmed Iqbal Hassan (finance committee chairman), Jalal Yunus (media chairman) and Mirza Salman Ispahani (tender and purchase committee chairman).

"We made the amendment following a poor response from the companies. We are expecting a much better response now before the end of the new deadline. We took a tough stance regarding the TV deal this time because of our previous bitter experience," said Kamal.

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PHOTO: STAR

South Africa women's team captain (R) Mignon du Preez checks out a brochure at the city's Sonargaon Hotel along with a teammate after their arrival yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

Andy Murray of Great Britain celebrates after defeating Milos Raonic of Canada in the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Monday.

Murray rolls on

AFP, New York



Olympic champion Andy Murray advanced to the last eight at the US Open while World No. 1 Roger Federer reached his 34th consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal on Monday without touching a racquet.

British third seed Murray, seeking his first Grand Slam title after four runner-up finishes, defeated Canadian 15th seed Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in a night match at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The 25-year-old Scotsman, who reached his eighth Grand Slam quarterfinal in a row, will play for a semifinal berth against Croatian 12th seed Marin Cilic, who beat Slovakian Martin Klizan 7-5, 6-4, 6-0.

Murray is 6-1 lifetime against Cilic but the only loss came in the fourth round of the 2009 US Open.

"Tough match. He's a tough player,"

Murray said. "He works extremely hard. He has a solid game. I will have to work extremely hard to beat him."

Top seed Federer, seeking an unprecedented 18th Grand Slam title and record sixth US Open crown, advanced by walkover when American Mardy Fish withdrew from their match over health concerns.

"I am really sorry for Mardy," Federer said. "I just want to wish him a speedy recovery. We all want to see him back on tour soon."

The 31-year-old Swiss star reached a last-eight matchup with Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych, who dispatched Spanish 11th seed Nicolas Almagro 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1. Berdych has lost 11 of 15 career meetings to top seed Federer.

Murray broke Raonic with a drop volley winner for a 5-4 lead and held to take the first set after 36 minutes. In the second set, Murray broke for a 3-2 edge when Raonic netted a forehand and held serve from there

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SA women touch down

SPORTS REPORTER

The South Africa women's cricket team arrived in Dhaka yesterday to play three one-day internationals and as many T20 internationals against their Bangladesh counterparts.

All the matches will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur where cricket returns for the first time since the planting of the new grass.

South Africa will play the matches as part of their preparation for the ICC Women's World Twenty20 to

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Selangor Masters tees off today

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman will be looking to bounce back from a disastrous Omega Masters performance when he takes the field for the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters which starts today. The 27-year old golfer, who had enjoyed an otherwise consistent season, missed his first cut of the season in Switzerland last week as he bowed out midway through with a 4-over par score.

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Pressure up front

 Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Forwards in the national booters' training camp are seemingly under pressure to ensure their places in the national squad after coach Shaiful Bari Titu hinted that he might chose a single striker in the two exhibition matches against Nepal.

Titu revealed during the practice matches of the national squads yesterday that he was thinking of opting for a 4-2-3-1 formation for the exhibition matches against Nepal, a decision which might have arisen after watching the poor form and fitness of the recognised strikers. Whatever, the reason, the revelation has certainly put the strikers under pressure to perform to find a place in

the starting eleven.

National striking duo Mithun Chowdhury and Zahid Hasan Emily had been inconsistent performers in last season's professional football league and did not set the world on fire at the international level either. Their performance in the Pre-World Cup Qualifiers against Pakistan and Lebanon was commendable, but they flopped completely in the SAFF Football Championship.

"To be frank, I feel pressure to retain my place in the national squad after the coach said that he would play a single striker in the exhibition matches. However, I am confident I will be in the reckoning if I prove myself in the practice matches," said Mithun Chowdhury adding that he would work harder to improve his performance.

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'Pistorius is wrong'

THE GUARDIAN



Guardian sportblog.

Talk about irony. Within minutes of being upset by Oliveira in the final of the men's T44 200m, the South African claimed that he was "not running a fair race". The crux of his argument, which he also stated before even losing the final, is that his rivals were artificially extending the length of their legs: "It's very clear that the guys have got very long strides".

To add to that case, he was quoted after the final as saying: "I can't compete with Alan's stride length."

Now, let me (the blogger) start by saying there is a lot more to running than stride length. If all it took was big strides, then the running world would be dominated by the tallest men, and shorter runners like Tyson Gay would stand no chance.

What matters is not just stride length, or height, but rather the length of the leg relative to height, and the ground contact length, which is a function of the leg length (partly). Plus there is force applied to the ground, leg turnover rates and all those things, but let's take one component at a time here.

So, since Pistorius has made a point to

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Fantastic 5 for Freney

AFP, London

Australia's Jacqueline Freney on Monday won her fifth gold of the Games in the stand-out performance of the day, after a row involving sprinter Oscar Pistorius overshadowed the sporting action.

World record holder Freney, who has cerebral palsy, took gold in a new Paralympic best of 1min 9.39sec in the S7 100m freestyle to add to her titles in the S7 50m butterfly, S7 100m backstroke and SM7 200m individual medley.

Then with teammates Ellie Cole, Madison Elliott and Katherine Downey, the

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Australia's Jacqueline Freney competes in the women's 200m individual medley SM7 during the London Paralympics at the Aquatics Centre in East London on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

MATCH-FIXING SCANDAL Shariful banned

SPORTS REPORTER

Shariful Haque Plabon has been banned for an indefinite period of time after spot-fixing allegations against the former national cricketer were substantiated.



The decision was taken during the emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday. It marks the first time that the BCB has taken such a decision against match-fixing.

Shariful played one one-day international cricket for Bangladesh against India in 1998 and had unofficially retired from the game.

"The board discussed the inquiry committee report on an anti-corruption issue raised during the inaugural edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). As per the recommendation of

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