

Star SPORT

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Piatti breaks his arm

Valencia's attacking midfielder Pablo Piatti will be out of action for eight to 10 weeks after breaking his right arm in training, the Spanish soccer club said on Friday.

The 23-year-old Argentine was taken to hospital and would remain there for 48 hours, the club said.

Valencia have made a slow start to the campaign under new coach Mauricio Pellegrino and lie 17th in La Liga with two points from three games.

They have been drawn in Champions League Group F along with Lille, BATE Borisov and last year's finalists Bayern Munich.



Kamal wants BCB polls on time

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal said yesterday that he would prefer to see the board elections taking place on time.

"I want the elections to be held on time and I hope it will take place on time," the BCB boss told the Daily Star Sport over telephone yesterday.

But the present situation hardly suggests anything positive about the holding of the elections on time because the amended board constitution is still sitting with the National Sports Council (NSC) for approval, the sports regulatory body in the country.

But Kamal was hardly bothered with it; rather he was optimistic about holding the election before the expiry of the current committee's tenure.

"The election will be held under existing constitution if the new one does not see the light of day. But it is true that the decision should be taken within a very short time if we want to hold the elections on time," he added.

The current committee took charge on November 28 in 2008, so their tenure will expire by November 28 this year, in which case the authorities have little time to start the process.

If the elections take place under the existing constitution then the president will be nominated by the government as the existing constitution stated but if the elections are held under the new constitution the post of president will also be democratically contested in line with the recommendation of ICC (International Cricket Council) as radical changes had been brought to the constitution in the last Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the BCB last March.

The changes, especially the abolishment of the clauses which gave 15 former cricketers councillorship in the board, generated widespread condemnation in the cricket arena which is the reason the board held onto the amended constitution for long time, only sending it to the NSC for approval a few days ago.

As per the amended constitution, the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) turns into Chief Operating Officer (COO); a glorified clerk indeed.

The BCB boss recently wrote a letter to the NSC to retain the councillorship of 15 cricketers in a special quota and many say that if his recommendation is taken into consideration it will only delay the process when the amended constitution needs to be approved immediately by the NSC if they want to hold the elections under the new constitution.



WELCOME BACK, YUVI: Former India cricketer Ravi Shastri (L) welcomes Yuvraj Singh to the cricket field before the start of the 1st T20I against New Zealand in Vishakhapatnam yesterday. Yuvraj's return to cricket after recovering from cancer was however put back by rain as the match was washed out.

PHOTO: AFP



Siddikur's late surge

Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman finished joint third in the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters which concluded in the Shah Alam province of Malaysia yesterday. After making the halfway cut right on the number, Bangladesh's first winner on the Asian Tour capped a memorable comeback with two successive 66s to finish joint third.

Like in the previous round, Siddikur was the best performer of the day along with India's Gaganjeet Bhullar with a six-under-par round, but the first two indifferent rounds meant he had too much ground to make up. In the end, Siddikur finished with

12-under-par (279), four shots off winner Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand and a shot behind Gaganjeet Bhullar of India.

Siddikur had a near-perfect day as he traded seven birdies for just a single bogey, and missed a couple of birdies by inches. What was more pleasing for him though was that he capped it off with a brilliant 10-yard birdie.

"It was a great round for me," Siddikur told Asiantour.com. "I was very tired on the first two days as I was a little bit jetlagged (from playing in Switzerland last week). My putting was really good in the last two days."

Siddikur's exploits at the Kota Permai Golf & Country Club earned him a purse of 19,278 dollars and pushed him up to seventh position in the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

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Super over Pakistan's

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan won the second Twenty20 against Australia in a thrilling Super Over finish at the Dubai Stadium here on Friday, taking a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

With both tied on 151 runs at the end of 40 fascinating overs in the match, a Super over round was played for the result.

Pakistan paceman Umar Gul restricted Australian batsmen David Warner, Shane Watson and George Bailey to 11-1 before Umar Akmal and Abdul Razzaq hit the required runs, the winner coming off the last delivery.

The third and last match will be played here on Monday. The match provided complete entertainment to a 25,000 sell-out holiday crowd, who were left on the edges of their seat as both the teams tussled for victory in the 40 overs.

Pakistan had made 151-4 with Mohammad Hafeez (45), Nasir Jamshed (45) and Kamran Akmal (43 not out) contributing with the bat.

George Bailey led the Australian run chase with a solid 42. Australia needed 21 off the last two overs as Bailey hit two leg-side boundaries off Gul but his dismissal, with his team needing 10 off the final over it looked Pakistan were favourites.

Pat Cummins hit Abdul Razzaq over long-on to tie the score but off the last ball the Australian batsman was caught, making it the sixth tied match in all Twenty20 cricket.

David Warner started Australia's run chase with a brilliant

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Women play decider today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team take on their South African counterparts today in the series-deciding third and final one-day international.

The match starts at 9.30am at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and will be telecast live on ATN Bangla.

The series is tied at 1-1 after the visitors bounced back in the second game with a four-wicket victory to make the third one a decider. The home team won the low-scoring first game by two wickets at the same venue.

It is an opportunity for Bangladesh to make history by winning their first series since their elevation to ODI status in November last year, but they will face a stiff challenge from the South Africans, who according to

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Tigers notch second win

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim's men continued their winning spree as they cruised to an eight-wicket victory over Afghanistan in their second match of the Trinidad Quadrangular T20 competition at the Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain on Friday night.

It was another rain-interrupted match after they won the first game against Barbados by seven wickets in an 8-over-a-side affair. Friday's match was reduced to a 15-over-a-side affair following inclement weather.

The Tigers, who are playing the tournament under the banner of BCB XI, were scheduled to play their third and final match against Trinidad & Tobago at the same venue on Saturday night. They will head directly for Sri Lanka today to take part in the ICC World Twenty20 starting from September 18.

In the second match, the Bangladesh spinners did the damage first and then a 76-run opening partnership between Tamim Iqbal and Mohammad Ashraful helped BCB XI to sail to an easy victory as they posted 100 for two with four balls to spare in reply to Afghanistan's 99 for five.

Tamim was dismissed for a 33-ball 37 that contained two fours and three sixes while Ashraful was undefeated with 47 off 44 balls with the help of four boundaries and a six.

Man-of-the-match Mohammad Nabi grabbed both



Australia's Dan Christian celebrates after clinging on to a magnificent catch against Pakistan at Dubai on Friday. Although his effort did not win Aussies the dramatic T20 match, it has been regarded as one of the finest catches in the history of the game. Dan ran about 12 yards behind his shoulders before plucking the ball out of thin air with his stretched left hand and rolled over perfectly despite falling awkwardly on his back.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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