

IPL ousts Deccan

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Premier League (IPL) side Deccan Chargers has been expelled from the tournament, the cricket board said on Saturday, despite a last-ditch effort by the team owners to pull it back from the brink.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said the termination of the franchise stands after Deccan Chronicle Holdings, owners of the team, failed to meet a Friday deadline to submit 19 million dollars as guarantee money.

The BCCI now is free to decide whether to float a new tender to replace the IPL franchise belonging to the financially strapped Deccan Chronicle, a media company, unless the team's owners opt to take the case to a higher court.

The BCCI, which owns the popular IPL tournament, had terminated the Chargers last month over a series of violations including non-payment of player's fees, but the decision was challenged by the team owners in the Bombay High Court.

The court appointed an arbitrator to hear the dispute and also asked the owners to pay up the guarantee money as a precondition of remaining in the tournament.

NCL's U-turn

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interest between the divisions and the franchisees regarding the authority over the teams," explained Ashraf.

According to BCB officials, Prime Bank Foundation and Walton Hi-tech Ltd, two organisations that had earlier received the franchise rights for two NCL teams, will now be given the choice to own two teams in the newly planned franchise-based tournament.

"There are still a lot of decisions to be made regarding the tournament. The four teams might represent four different zones of the country. The competition will also have a special focus on players of 25 years or less, since we want them to be groomed properly," said Ashraf.

Meanwhile, the NCL has gone back to square one and will be based on last year's rules and regulations. It'll take place with eight teams and the divisional players will be selected based on a pool of cricketers presented by the national selectors. The league, however, will only go through one round, i.e. each team will play seven matches and will face each other for only one four-day match.

The single-round league will also witness a change in the points system with the number of bonus points expected to be reduced as compared to last year. "Since the league will be played for a single round, we want to put more weight on victories rather than the bonus points. Last year many teams took false advantage of the bonus point system and we don't want a repeat of that," said Hafiz Joardar, member and organising secretary of BCB's tournament committee. The players' match fee will be Tk 20,000, which is a slight increase as compared to last year's 'first-round' fee of Tk 15,000.

The BCB's decision to conduct the NCL without any franchises has also put paid to the possibility of hosting day-night matches in the league. The board had earlier decided to conduct two day-night games -- the first match and the finals of the league.

The national players are expected to play at least two games in the league before they get busy with the series against the West Indies, as the second four-day game is scheduled to take place between Nov 2 to Nov 5. However, certain players have already asked for special permission from the BCB physio to not participate in the league. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who is still gradually recovering from the various operations that he has had, according to sources, is one of the players asking to be excused.



PHOTO: AFP

Scottish world No 3 Andy Murray winds up to unleash a backhand return during his Shanghai Masters semifinal victory over Swiss world No 1 Roger Federer in Shanghai yesterday.

Andy-Novak encore

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Andy Murray heaped the misery on Roger Federer on Saturday, taking advantage of an astonishing service meltdown by the Swiss great to set up a mouthwatering final against Novak Djokovic.

The US Open champion, who has never been beaten at the Chinese tournament, won 6-4, 6-4, repeating his victory in the Olympic final that came after the searing pain of defeat to Federer just weeks earlier at Wimbledon.

The pair swapped breaks at the start of the match but the first set hinged on an incredible fifth game when 17-time Grand Slam champion Federer was broken to love after the normally ice-cool Swiss double-faulted three times in a row.

Third seed Murray, who won the Shanghai Masters in 2010 and 2011, immediately put the world number one under the cosh at the start of the second set but the Swiss dug deep to save seven break points and edge ahead.

But Federer, 31, continued to struggle and it was the fifth game of the second set that again proved pivotal, with the 25-year-old Scot sealing a break against the Swiss, who had led 40-0, with a devastating forehand return winner.

Murray faced an agonising wait of more than half an hour to serve for the match as the roof was closed at the Qi Zhong Stadium after it started raining and an army of people descended on the court to dry the playing surface.

The players left the court and had to knock up again but Murray kept his nerve to serve out for victory, sealing the match when

Federer netted.

Earlier, in-form Djokovic accelerated his push for the year-end number one ranking, dismissing the challenge of fourth seed Tomas Berdych in a one-sided match.

The Serbian second seed came into the clash with an impressive 9-1 lead against the Czech player in head-to-head match-ups and immediately took charge, dominating the contest to win 6-3, 6-4.

"Tomas is in great form in the last couple of months. He's always a difficult player to play against on any surface because he has a very powerful serve and great forehand," said Djokovic.

"I played tactically right," the 25-year-old added. "I was putting a lot of returns into the court, making a lot of pressure on his serve. On the other hand, I was serving well when I needed to."

Yet to drop a set in Shanghai, the Australian Open champion was ruthless, breaking at the first opportunity and repeating the feat as he threatened to run away with the opening set.

Berdych, 27, bidding to reach the elite ATP World Tour Finals in London, slowed Djokovic's charge but could not prevent him from sealing the set, with a single break enough for the five-time Grand Slam champion in the second set.

Djokovic faded towards the end of a stellar 2011 but looks fresh as he hunts down Federer at the top of the rankings. He is looking to add the Shanghai Masters title to the China Open crown he won last weekend.

Because of his limp end to last season, Djokovic has relatively few points to defend in the rolling 12-month rankings whereas Federer has more to lose after a successful spell towards the end of 2011.

No spot-fixing

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as revealed by the sting. The BCB has not even take steps to collect the uncut footage of the video that has revealed that six umpires, including Nadir Shah, were willing to give wrong decisions during a game in lieu of money.

"We are going through a transitional period after our board president (AHM Mustafa Kamal) became the ICC vice-president. That is why it's taking some time. Our president wants to clear some issues before calling a meeting. Hopefully within a very short time the board meeting will take place where all the issues will be discussed and accordingly decisions will

be taken," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

Kamal will have to stand down as the president of BCB but it is still not clear when he will resign. Everybody is curious to know who will take his place at the helm of the country's richest sports body.

According to article 14.2.2 in the constitution, if the president's post is suddenly vacated or the president is incapable of discharging his duties, the senior vice-president will perform the duties of president until the new president is nominated or the president resumes his position again.

Same old

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charges in the longer version. But the head coach still has not laid out his plans about team preparation, although the home series against the Caribbean is knocking at the door. West Indies will arrive in Dhaka on November 5 to play two Tests, five ODIs and one T20 besides a three-day and two limited-over practice matches against the BCB selections.

The Tigers however are fortunate enough as they will be able to play two rounds of four-day matches in the National Cricket League, which will kick off from October 20, before the first Test which will start from October 13 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. And that seems to be reason enough for the BCB cricket operations committee to be relaxed and content before the important series.

Magical Messi

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matches, one ahead of Colombia and Ecuador who both also won on Friday.

Colombia, coached by veteran Argentine Jose Pekerman, moved to 16 points with a 2-0 home win over Paraguay in Barranquilla with both goals coming from prolific Atletico Madrid striker Radamel Falcao.

He opened the scoring after 52 minutes and closed out a memorable performance with a second, two minutes from time. Colombia have now won their last three qualifiers -- beating Uruguay 4-0 and Chile 3-1 before Friday's triumph.

Paraguay's fifth successive defeat left them firmly

rooted to the foot of the table. Ecuador also stayed on course for the finals with a 3-1 win over Chile who finished with nine men in Quito.

Felipe Caicedo scored twice for Ecuador with a 33rd-minute opener followed by a 56th-minute penalty while Segundo Castillo added the third in stoppage time as Ecuador claimed a fifth successive home win.

Chile, who have never won in the Ecuador capital, had taken the lead through a Juan Carlos Paredes own-goal in the 25th minute.

Their miserable night was completed by having Pablo Contreras and Arturo Vidal

red-carded. In La Paz, Bolivia and Peru fought out a 1-1 draw which did neither side any favours in their faltering campaigns.

The top four teams in the South American qualifying tournament will be guaranteed spots in the 2014 finals with the fifth-placed team playing off against the fifth-best side in Asia.

RESULTS

Bolivia 1 (Chumacero 51) Peru 1 (Marinos 21) Colombia 2 (Falcao 52, 90) Paraguay 0 Ecuador 3 (Caicedo 33, 56, Castillo 90+3) Chile 1 (Paredes 25-og) Argentina 3 (Messi 65, 80, Aguero 75) Uruguay 0

Sk Jamal

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Muktijoddha Sangsad coach Shafiqul Islam Manik however rested six key players -- Yousuf, Emmanuel, Prodip, Shaymal, Biddut and Kanchan -- in a bid to avoid injuries as well as bookings on the poor pitch before their quarterfinal clash. But Sheikh Jamal fielded a full-strength side and dominated the last season's semifinalists.

Sheikh Jamal pressed hard from the beginning and went ahead in the eighth minute with a Sunday strike when winger Shakil Ahmed whipped a well-judged cross from the left flank and the former Muktijoddha Sangsad striker made space on his left side to drive a grounder past Muktijoddha Sangsad goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman.

With the booters toiling hard to control the ball on the muddy pitch, Sheikh Jamal doubled the margin in the 36th minute through Mike Otejerari, who did not hesitate to tap in after an Alamgir Kabir Rana shot was parried by goalkeeper Zia.

Otejerari struck his second and wrapped up the victory in the 68th minute with a brilliant low shot to the near post from almost a zero angle as goalkeeper Zia assumed Otejerari was going to send the ball to the far post.

Last season's runners-up Team BJMC also became Group D champions with seven points after playing out a goalless draw against Arambagh KS while Feni Soccer Club finished runners-up from the same group with six points after beating Khulna Abahani 1-0 with Akbar Hossain Ridon scoring the all-important goal.

Team BJMC will now face Mohammedan SC while Feni Soccer Club will play against the big-budget Sheikh Russel KC in the quarterfinals on Monday.

Delhi trounce KKR

PTI, Centurion



Delhi Daredevils produced a superb bowling show as they crushed Kolkata Knight Riders by 52 runs in their opening Champions League Twenty20 match at Centurion yesterday.

Sent in to bat, Delhi posted a competitive 160 for eight and then restricted Kolkata to 108 for seven on a Centurion pitch which assisted pace bowling.

Kolkata, the reigning IPL champions, made a mess of their run chase with three wickets falling in seven balls. KKR captain Gautam Gambhir continued his poor form as he was the first one to go for a golden duck off the third ball of the innings, holing out to mid-on after failing to negotiate an inswinging delivery from Irfan Pathan, who then trapped Manvinder Bisla in front off the last ball. Brendon McCullum was then dismissed by Morne Morkel off the first ball of the second over, and two balls later Jacques Kallis was forced to retire hurt after being hit on the fingers by a rising delivery. Kolkata were then effectively four for four, and could not recover after that.

Manoj Tiwary (33) and Rajat Bhatia (22) then took the score past 100. Pathan, Morkel and Umesh Yadav took two wickets each.

Earlier, after a good start provided by openers Virender Sehwag and Mahela Jayawardene, Unmukt Chand produced the highest score for Delhi, hitting a quickfire 40, which together with Ross Taylor's 36 propelled Delhi to a good score on a seamer's wicket.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 160 for 8 (Chand 40, Taylor 36, Sehwag 22; Narine 3-21, Balaji 2-61)

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 108 for 7 (Tiwary 33, Bhatia 22; Yadav 2-13, Pathan 2-19, Morkel 2-25)

Result: Delhi Daredevils won by 52 runs

Man-of-the-match: Irfan Pathan

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Maruf struck twice as Shantinagar recorded a 3-1 win against Dhaka Young Star in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Nasir netted the other goal for the winners while Aminul scored the consolation goal for Dhaka Young. Raktim Sangha and Tejgaon Agragami played out a goalless draw in the day's second match.

Inter-Club Tennis

Gulshan Youth Club registered a 2-0 win over Manikganj Tennis Club in the First Inter-Club Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. Magura Tennis Club defeated Jhalakhati Tennis Club 2-1 in the day's other match.

Premier Div Handball

Narinda Progati Boys Club launched their title defence of the Cute Premier Division Handball League with a 48-8 win over Bhratiya Samaj Kalyan Sangha at the Shaheed (captain) M Mansur Ali Handball Stadium yesterday. In the day's other match, Old Ideals defeated Victoria SC 25-14 after leading the first half 13-9.

AFC 'C' license course

The AFC C Coaching Certificates Course organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) in support with the Asian Football Confederation ended at the BFF House yesterday.

25 persons including former national players Jewel Rana, Abu Faisal, Nizam Majumder and Julfikur Mahmud Mintu took part in the 13-day course, conducted by Iranian instructor Ardeshir Pournemat Novdehi. Bangladeshi BA Jubair Nipu and Saiful Bari Titu assisted the Iranian instructor.

Junior Chess

Sub-Junior champion Ikramul Haque Siam maintained his solo lead in the 33rd Junior Chess Championship at the close of the eighth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hallroom yesterday.

Siam beat Fahad Rahman to secure seven points from eight outings.

Holder Abdullah Al Saif and Sagar shared the second position with 6.5 points each while Fahad and Zoar Haque Pradhan were jointly in the third position

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Too 5 Legisla- 8 Use 12 Picnic 13 Raw rock 14 Mexican 15 Water 17 Micro- 18 Classify 19 Mock 21 Med. 22 Un- 23 \$ 26 Calendar 28 Once 31 Child of the streets 33 Name 35 Sicilian spouter 36 Praise 38 Conger or moray 40 Early bird? 41 Eye part 43 Deterio- 45 Official emissary 47 Puts on a pedestal 51 Vacation- 52 Go to court 54 Apportion (out) 55 One of the Stooges 56 Chills and fever 57 Raised 58 Moreover 59 Put into words DOWN 1 Met 11 Corn recipe 16 Puzzle diagram 20 Greek H 23 Shock and 24 Tariff 25 Ease 27 Prompt stand 29 Gerund suffix 30 Complain con- 32 Made an incursion 34 Scolded 37 Eng. class 39 California city 42 Alabama city 44 Frat party garb 45 Mary's follower 46 Basin accessory 48 Indian style of music 49 Needle case 50 Origin 53 Electrical particle

Solution time: 21 mins.

Grid for crossword solution: A M O S C H O A C H E P U M A H O W F R A T E L E C T I O N F A I T D E N I N K Z E B R A D N A B I C O R B I T C A P T A I N R O A R D O G I N T O B E N E L U X R O A S T C O O S O N P A S T Y A P T S P A U G L I E J E C T I O N S H O O L A C O G L E H A W N M R S T H A W

11x11 grid for Cryptquip puzzle.

CRYPTOQUIP

T I X J E I X E T R M R L G J S J E C S L V M R Q S E E K X Q F Q S J U G J U I R C J V E I X F S K T S F V D V X E I X Q D E E G J U U C X X J

Yesterday's Cryptquip: HAVING BECOME COMPLETELY UNPRODUCTIVE IN LIFE, I GUESS YOU'D SAY THE THIEF IS A BARREN ROBBER. Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals U