

Kamal's replacement within two weeks

 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

With the speculation getting rife about the replacement of AHM Mustafa Kamal as president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), the incumbent BCB chief said that it would take not more than two weeks.

"This is obviously a very important issue and the transition period will take a maximum of two weeks," Kamal told The Daily Star in a telephonic conversation yesterday.

Kamal, who has recently been nominated as the International Cricket Council (ICC) vice-president, also said that he is waiting for a new president to take over at the BCB helm so that he could focus on his 'dream' ICC post as the first Bangladeshi.

Kamal can take over the ICC vice-presidency only after he resigns from his present post as BCB president. And it was

learnt that he will submit his resignation to the National Sports Council, which holds the authority to appoint a BCB chief, this week.

And as per the norms, the NSC will appoint a new BCB president through a circular. Although there were discussions in the cricket circle about the possibility of making the senior BCB vice-president as BCB president for the interim period with the elections in the board a month away, Kamal ruled it out.

"I don't think there'll be an acting president to hold the reins till the elections," added Kamal.

The BCB chief said that he is going to convene a board meeting in the next couple of days to discuss some burning issues like the future of national team's head coach Richard Pybus, and formation of a committee over fixing allegations.

"When we initially contacted him, we assumed that Pybus could convince his

WIHP spinner gets senior call-up

Bangladesh tour team announced

AFP, St John's

Guyana left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul was called into the West Indies squad for the first time on Saturday, for the tour of Bangladesh.

Permaul, 23, has played 45 first-class matches since his debut five years ago, taking 152 wickets at 24.59 apiece.

He has just returned from a tour of Bangladesh with the West Indies High Performance Centre, where he collected 21 wickets across the three formats of the game.

Permaul also skipped the West Indies A team earlier this year when they

Siddikur surges to third

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh golf sensation Siddikur Rahman overcame an ordinary third round to card a superb five-under-par 66 in the fourth and finish in joint third position at the Venetian Macau Open in Macau yesterday. But it was the consistently brilliant Gaganjeet Bhullar of India who maintained his tournament-long pole position to round off a clinical victory with a final round of three-under-par at the Macau Golf and Country Club.

Bhullar rode on an astonishing first round eight-under-par 63 which shot him ahead of the chasing pack and subsequently consolidated with solid rounds of 68, 69 and 68 in the second, third and

fourth rounds, which saw him notch a cumulative score of 16-under-par-268. Siddikur's title aspirations, meanwhile, were dealt a severe blow by his ordinary third round of one-over-par



Ace Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman chips from the bunker during the fourth round of the Venetian Macau Open at the Macau Golf and Country Club yesterday. PHOTO: ASIANTOUR.COM

72. His first two rounds of five-under-par 66 and three-under-par 68 meant that he was keeping pace with Bhullar, finishing both the days in joint fourth position. The poor third round however left him with too much to do on the final day, when even a better performance than the champion did not suffice.

Siddikur started with a bogey on the first hole but soon found his way back with birdies on the second, third and seventh holes. On the back nine too he was impressive, trading birdies on the 13th, 15th, 16th and 18th holes for a bogey on the 17th. It was a measure of how well he played that he shot up to joint third after starting the day in tenth position, ending the tournament four shots behind Bhullar with a cumulative 12-under-par 272.

BU stun Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union finished the group phase as champions of Group C after stunning Abahani 1-0 in their last group match of the Grameenphone Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian hitman Olalekan Joshua's strike separated both the sides in the 78th minute.

Brothers went into the game needing at least a point against Abahani to confirm their last eight berth. The equation had become such after Rahmatganj MFS thrashed Jessore DFA 6-1 in the day's first match to level points and go ahead of Brothers on better goal difference. But the Gopibagh-based outfit, Brothers, rose the occasion and achieved more than their expectation.

Brothers Union will now not only avoid holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in

the quarterfinal but will face a depleted Muktijoddha Sangsad for a chance to further progress in the season's curtain-raising tournament.

"The Ghanaian trio [Awudu Ibrahim, Yoko Samnick and Samad Yossif] were not fit for the game as they arrived here on Friday but we fielded them because of their experience in the Dhaka league," Abahani coach Amalesh Sen said afterwards. "The pitch was not good while the boys also did not play well," he admitted saying that a loss was never on his mind.

An even first half was characterised by some strong Brothers Union pressing which still failed to yield any scoring chances. In fact, Abahani was unlucky to not go into half-time in the lead after Ibrahim spurned a good opportunity inside the six-yard box.

The second half saw Abahani ring the changes with Shakhawat Hossain Rony and

BCB yet to find a TV

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to sign a deal with a media company regarding its television rights for the upcoming series against the West Indies in November. The BCB, which had received offers from three media companies in reply to its tender, is reportedly not satisfied with any of them. MediaCom and World Sports are among the interested companies.

The point of conflict, according to officials, came about in the production aspect of the series. The

NCL fitness camp on

 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A 21-member fitness-camp organised by the tournament committee of the National Cricket League (NCL), kicked-off at the Mirpur Indoor Cricket Stadium yesterday as players began warming up for the beginning of their domestic season.

The camp, which includes the likes of Aftab Ahmed and Nazimuddin, consists of cricketers who might have an outside chance of entering the national side for the series against the West Indies in November. The players are scheduled to go through a series of gruelling training sessions until the beginning of the league.

"There are a few automatic choices for the national team. The rest of the spots will be decided based on the two rounds of NCL matches that'll take place before the beginning of the West Indies series," said chief selector Akram Khan.

Khan, who along with his team of selectors will have to name a 15-man squad early next month, believed that a timely start to the NCL could have helped the selectors' cause. "It obviously would have been better if the league started earlier.



Brothers Union's Nigerian recruit Olalekan Joshua celebrates after his goal secured a 1-0 victory over Abahani in their Grameenphone Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

NOVAK Masters Andy

AP, Shanghai

Novak Djokovic saved five match points in the second set before outlasting two-time defending champion Andy Murray 5-7, 7-6 (11), 6-3 on Sunday in the Shanghai Masters final.

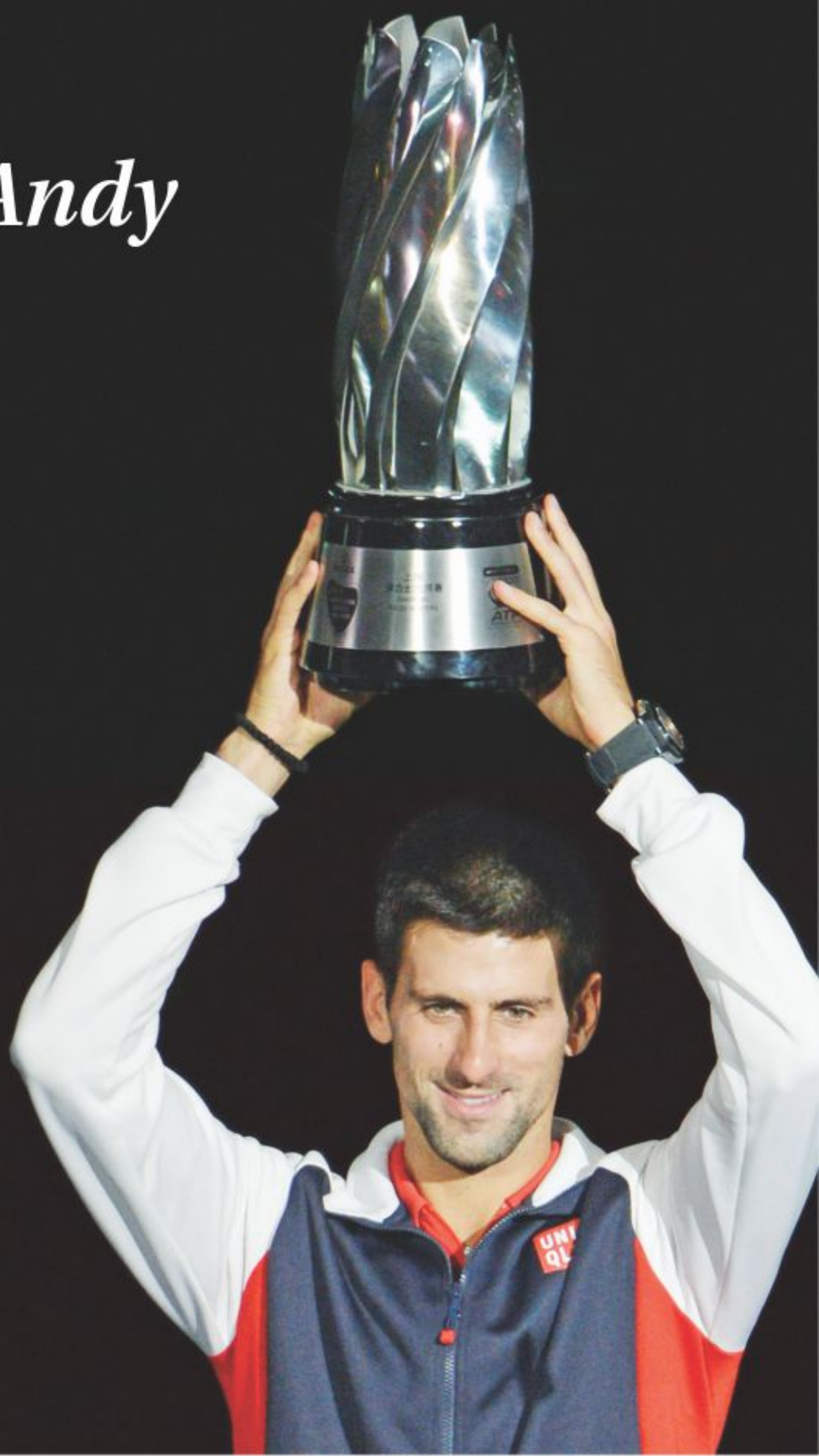
In another entertaining matchup between the two US Open finalists, Djokovic seemed headed for defeat when Murray was serving for the match at 5-4 in the second set.

But the second-ranked Serb saved one match point in that game before breaking back for 5-5. He then saved four more in a tense tiebreaker and carried his momentum into the deciding set, breaking the Briton twice to earn his fifth title of the year.

It was Murray's first loss in Shanghai in 13 matches.

Murray, who beat Djokovic in five sets at Flushing Meadows for his first Grand Slam title, saved two match points in the final game, but sent a backhand long on the third.

In a matchup of two of the game's best returners, both players struggled to hold serve early, trading breaks three times, and were tied 4-4 in the first set.



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