



Sheikh Russel players limber up at the BUET ground yesterday, ahead of their Federation Cup quarterfinal clash against Feni Soccer Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

PHOTO: STAR

Won't say no, says McInnes

SPORTS REPORTER

Richard McInnes, the head coach of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) Cricket Academy stated that he 'wouldn't say no to a national job' if he is given the opportunity to become the head coach of the Bangladesh cricket team. The Academy coach's statement has come at a time when the BCB is trying to negotiate terms and conditions with Richard Pybus, the current national coach, who is reportedly 'on leave'.

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal had earlier said that the board was going to take a decision regarding Pybus's future with the BCB in the coming days. He also referred to McInnes as a suitable replacement, if things do not work out with the present national coach.

McInnes however has said that he would have his own set of conditions if offered the job. "The board is obviously trying to sort things out regarding Pybus and his demands. If I am offered the position of the head coach, I'll have certain conditions as well. It depends on a number of factors," said McInnes.

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Sk Russel, MSC eye semifinals

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC are looking forward to ensuring their second semifinal berth in successive seasons when they take on the 2009 semifinalist Feni Soccer Club in the first quarterfinal of the Grameenphone Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The game will start at 3:30pm.

Ten-time Federation Cup champions Mohammedan will also be hoping to reach the last four after two successive seasons when they square off against last season's finalists Team BJMC under the floodlight at 6:30pm.

The big-budgeted Sheikh Russel, comprising of nine national players and three quality foreign recruits, are definitely much ahead of Feni Soccer in both paper and performance. The Blue & White outfit stormed into the quarterfinals with three successive victories having striking 13 goals, ten of which have come from the trio of Zahid Hasan Emily, Zahid Hossain and the Haitian Sony Norde.

Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque seems upbeat about the victory as he may rest playmaker Mamunul Islam and Moroccan striker Aboukacem, who have one booking, in a bid to ensure them for the semifinal clash.

"Yes, it is an easy match but anything can happen if we take it lightly," Maruf said. "The important thing is that the boys played

accordingly in the last three games and I am hopeful they will also play in right way tomorrow (Tuesday)."

Maruful's counterpart Feni Soccer's coach Mahmudul Haque was not too confident about overcoming Sheikh Russel and was already thinking of a respectable exit from the tournament.

"Sheikh Russel are a far better side than us and reaching the quarterfinal is also an achievement for us. But we will try our best in the quarterfinal and may adopt a counter-attacking game."

Shrugging off the failure of the last two seasons where they even failed to cross the group-stage, traditional giants Mohammedan showed plenty of signs of improvement before being defeated by the star-studded Sheikh Russel in their last group match.

Instead of being downbeat, Mohammedan coach Saiful Bari Titu believes the defeat against Sheikh Russel will help them against Team BJMC and they will rectify the mistakes they made against Sheikh Russel.

"Mohammedan and BJMC are almost equal in strength but the spirit and eagerness to do well among the players is the key strength of my squad," said Titu adding that he was going to miss the services of two-goal hero Shohel Rana and might replace him with the Ghanaian recruit Mostafa.

BJMC coach Jakaria Babu is also optimistic about a victory over Mohammedan, who could not beat them last season after BJMC's appearance in top-level football after 27 years.

BCB forms committee to probe umps

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has formed a three-member committee to formally investigate the allegations of corrupt conduct by umpires under its jurisdiction, who were recently named in a sting operation conducted by India TV, a private Indian television channel.

India TV journalists had conducted a sting operation by posing as members of a sports management company that was hiring umpires. The channel, which aired the video footage last week, claimed that six umpires from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were willing to give doctored decisions during a game in lieu of money.

According to the footage, which was reportedly shot on July 25 in Delhi, Shah was supposed to come to an agreement with the supposed 'Sports Management Group' in order to officiate in matches in the Sri Lankan Premier League (SLPL).

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Kamal requests NSC to appoint successor

Clubs want Nazmul Hasan Papon as BCB boss



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal, who has recently been nominated as the International Cricket Council (ICC) vice-president, gave a letter to the chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC) requesting the appointment of a new president so that he can hand over his responsibilities.

"Yes, I gave a letter to the NSC chairman today requesting him to appoint a new board president so that I can hand over the charges. It will take time to complete all the formalities," Kamal told the Daily Star Sport over telephone yesterday.

Kamal can assume the post of ICC vice-president only after he resigns from his present post as BCB president.

Meanwhile it was learnt that the Premier Division Cricket League clubs requested Nazmul Hasan Papon, the ruling party parliament member and son of President Zillur

Rahman, to run for the president's post and he also gave his consent.

"The leading premier division club officials have been discussing for the last few days the matter of Papon bhai's (Nazmul Hasan) selection and he gave his consent yesterday. We will form a panel under Nazmul Hasan Papon if elections take place for the post of BCB president. If elections don't take place then we will request the Prime Minister to nominate him as BCB's president," said joint-secretary of Abahani's cricket committee Dr. Mallick, who also informed that they will call a press conference after Nazmul Hasan returns from Kuwait on October 18.

It was also learnt that former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury expressed his desire to run for the post.

It is however still not clear whether there will be any election for the post vacated by Kamal as the amended constitution, which states that the post of president will also be democratically contested, is yet to be vetted by the NSC. Radical changes had been brought to the

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Felix Baumgartner jumping into the unknown from the capsule during the final manned flight for Red Bull Stratos on Sunday.

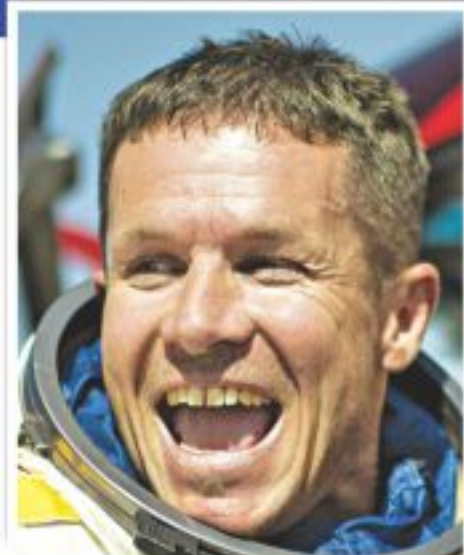


PHOTO: AFP

FELIX alights from the heavens

AFP, Los Angeles

Austrian daredevil Felix Baumgartner celebrated his unprecedented feat Monday after becoming the first man to break the sound barrier in a record-shattering, death-defying freefall jump from the edge of space.

The 43-year-old leapt from a capsule more than 24 miles (39 kilometers) above the Earth Sunday, reaching a top speed of 833.9 miles (1,342 kilometers) per hour, or 1.24 times the speed of sound, according to organizers.

The veteran skydiver was in freefall for four minutes and 20 seconds before opening his red and white parachute and floating down to the desert in the US state of New Mexico, said Red Bull Stratos mission record keeper Brian Utley.

Mission control erupted in cheers as Baumgartner sprang from the capsule hoisted aloft by a giant helium-filled balloon to an altitude of 128,097 feet (39,044 meters), even higher than expected.

"I think 20 tons have fallen from my shoulders. I prepared for this for seven years," he told German language ServusTV in Austria in his first interview after the leap.

Referring to a helmet problem that

nearly forced him to abort at the last minute, Baumgartner said: "Even on a day like this when you start so well, then there's a little glitch. But I finally decided to jump."

"It was the right decision," added the Austrian, who broke three records: the highest freefall jump, the fastest freefall speed and the highest balloon flight by a human. He failed to make the longest freefall jump.

Shortly before leaping, in footage beamed live around the world on a crackly radio link recalling Neil Armstrong's first

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Teams complete transfer dealings



SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union, Team BJMC and Arambagh KS completed their players' registration formalities of the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League in the last day of the two-month long players' window at the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

Six teams of the nine-team professional football league had earlier completed their registration formalities as Cox City Football Club pulled out of the Bangladesh Premier League.

The Gopibagh-based outfit Brothers, who finished seventh in the 11-team professional football league, retained the services of nine players from last season's squad and signed up 14 players from Team BJMC, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Arambagh KS, Feni Soccer and Farashganj SC.

BJMC, who finished fourth in the league last season, also signed 25 local players and are set to rope in five foreigners.

Of them, ten players including Shuvro, Johnny, Abul, Saiful, Ramjan, Toklish have been retained while goalkeepers Zia, Arif, defenders Kesto, Razib, Shakil, Obaidur, Arafat and forwards Rony Islam and Mehdi Hasan Tapu have been roped in from different clubs.

Arambagh KS, who finished eighth, signed up 19 players.



Abahani's Soma serves against Destiny's Rumi during the women's singles final of the Federation Cup Table Tennis Tournament at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Soma's double

SPORTS REPORTER

It was double delight for Soma when she clinched the women's singles title in the Baizid Steel Federation Cup Open Table Tennis Tournament with a 4-1 win over Rumi in the final at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Soma, who had earlier won the women's doubles title pairing with Sinthia, defeated Rumi of Destiny by 2-11, 11-2, 13-11, 11-6 and 11-3 points in the final.

Hridoy emerged champion in the boy's singles event after registering a hard-fought 4-3 win over Javed.

Hridoy of Arunima got off to a flying start after handing Javed a 11-9, 25-23 defeat but then faced tough challenge to go down next two sets 9-11, 10-12. Hridoy bounced back to take a 3-2 lead before the

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