

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Ottmar gives ref the stinkefinger

Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld is facing disciplinary action from FIFA after making an insulting gesture to the referee after his side's World Cup qualifier against Norway. The former Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich coach was captured by television cameras sticking his middle finger - known in German as the "Stinkefinger" - at the referee David Fernandez at the end of Friday's 1-1 draw. The usually unflappable Hitzfeld only raised his finger for a split second and the referee did not appear to see the incident, but it has become a big talking



Players of Mohammedan Sporting Club set off to celebrate their tie-break win against Team BJMC in the second quarterfinal of the Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

'We have to shun internal politics'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal came to his BCB headquarters office for the first time yesterday since becoming the vice-president of the International Cricket Council (ICC). He had an open discussion with the media regarding various issues. The following is an excerpt of his freewheeling discussion with the press.

THE THREE YEARS SPENT AS BCB PRESIDENT

I think the ICC vice-presidency is a great achievement. I feel I have achieved everything in life. I don't have any more 'wants' in life. I can't do everything in the span of three years. But I have managed to give my ideas to the board, partially at least. Cox's Bazaar stadium is one thing that I want to start working for. Also there is some work left involving the cricket structure and the creation of a TV channel.

Conducting the BPL (Bangladesh Premier League T20) and organising a franchise-based first-class competition were some of the immediate concerns that I wanted to address and they have been started somewhat. The Cox's Bazaar stadium and making

Zimbabwe also want to go to Pakistan now. I want to go first. This isn't a must. But I gave them my word and I want to keep it. They believed in us. Many thought that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) wouldn't support me because I couldn't send the team, but they supported me throughout (for the ICC vice-presidency).

REGARDING RICHARD PYBUS

Regarding the coach we'll take a decision on the 18th (of October). There was a misunderstanding between the coach and us. We negotiated with him, we told him that he could come here and stay if he liked the environment. He liked it but his family didn't and therefore a problem regarding his leave came about.

We will request him to come and coach the team for the upcoming West Indies series in November.

CRITICISM OF GAZI ASHRAF HOSSAIN FOR BPL-RELATED PROBLEMS

We will sit regarding the BPL issues. I don't understand why these problems are occurring. The fact that some players still haven't received their money is a shame for the BPL's governing committee. How can the players not get paid? Lipu bhui (Gazi Ashraf Hossain, BPL governing council chairman) needs to work harder.

I didn't allow a signature with the franchisees because I want them to finish their payments. I don't understand why these things need to come on paper. These matters need to be solved in the upcoming board meeting (October 18).

BCB'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS

Many people in the board didn't support the franchise system (for first-class cricket). There is a lot of politics involved here, mainly from the divisions. There's also a voting factor in the divisions. But we have to move away from this. Many opposed the BPL as well, but we made it happen.

PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

We don't have our own grounds. These facilities are hard to get. People who work for the government won't get any praise if we prosper, that's why they don't help. They are not driven by patriotic zeal. There are a lot of problems. I have to do a lot of things and every problem cannot be taken to the Prime Minister.

ON REGIONAL CRICKET

We need to start first-class cricket and play it on two platforms - one franchise-based and the other divisional. At some point in the future we will have to depend on the regions for players. But right now we need to raise their standards. So we have to let them do things and encourage them to work under BCB's guidance. They have to work hard to get our help. Regional cricket will improve gradually. We have to give them responsibility so that they can learn how to handle the affairs. We have emphasised on regional cricket associations in the amended constitution.

ASIA CUP BCB names women's squad

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced its women's squad for the Twenty20 Asia Cup to be held in Guangzhou, China this month. The Bangladeshi players who almost beat South Africa in a T20 series at home last month, have been placed in Group B along with hosts China, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The team is expected to reach China by October 22 and is scheduled to play their first game against China on October 24. The group stages will be followed by a knockout round where the winners of Group A face the runners-up of group B and vice-versa. The finals will take place on October 31.

SQUAD

Salma Khatun (captain), Ayesha Rahman (vice-captain), Sharmin Akter, Rumana Ahmed, Fargana Hoque, Jahana Alam, Lata Mondol, Nuzhat Tasnim, Khadijatul Kubra, Ritu Moni, Sanjida Islam, Lily Rani, Tajia Akter, Panna Ghosh, Shamima Sultana.

BD-WI SERIES Channel 9 wins TV rights

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal has said that local media conglomerate Virgo Media Ltd, which owns Channel 9, has bought the worldwide broadcasting rights for Bangladesh's upcoming series against the West Indies.

"Channel 9 will handle the production and the board will be paid 50,000 dollars for the sale of the rights," said Kamal during a press conference at the BCB headquarters. "We received a few other offers but this seemed like the most profitable deal," he added.

The president further stated that the BCB would be

Sk Russel, MSC pass tricky tests

SPORTS REPORTER



Big-budgeted Sheikh Russel and ten-time champions Mohammedan SC moved into the semifinals of the Grameenphone Federation Cup beating their respective rivals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

While the Mohammedan-Team BJMC match was an exciting one between two equal sides as expected, the first match of the day threw up a surprise as Sheikh Russel were expected to dominate their lesser opponents, but instead Feni made last season's semi-finalists fight tooth and nail for their win.

Sheikh Russel recorded a lone-goal win over Feni Soccer Club after extra-time, thanks to a fortunate 112th minute goal from defender Ashraf Mahmud Linkon. And in the day's second game Mohammedan saw off runners-up Team BJMC 3-0 in the shootout, in a riveting game that ended in a 2-2 draw after extra-time under the floodlights.

Substitute striker Mohammad Robin converted the fourth shot to ensure Mohammedan's semifinal berth after two seasons. Mohammedan goalkeeper Mamun Khan stopped two shots from BJMC's Eteki Kingsley and Henry Chindo while Ajagun Abdul Rasheed sent his kick wide in the nerve-wracking shootout.

Mohammedan's Kali Osman and Imtiaz

Sultan Jitu found the back of the BJMC net from the shootout before Maruf Ahmed squandered his opportunity.

Sheikh Russel and Mohammedan will now play each other in the first semifinal on Friday. Shrugging off their poor performance against Sheikh Russel in the group-stage match, Mohammedan, inspired by four foreign players took an early lead as Olalekan tapped in a square pass from Ghanaian Osai Morison. Olalekan struck his second goal soon after, converting a spot-kick after BJMC goalkeeper Aminul Haque bought down Morison inside the box.

But Mohammedan failed to hold their two-goal lead as BJMC fought back strongly in the second half to equal the margin. Rasheed, who hit the post from the spot in the 56th minute, pulled one goal back with a placing shot in the 60th minute while substitute Kingsley silenced the Mohammedan gallery with a brilliant long-range shot in injury time to take the game into extra-time and then penalties.

In the first match, assuming an easy triumph over minnows Feni Soccer Club, Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque kept playmaker Mamunul Islam and Moroccan forward Aboukacem out of the starting eleven and fielded Haitian attacking midfielder Sony Norde as holding midfielder with Mithun Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain pairing up front.

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Investigators meet today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director and disciplinary committee chairman Sirajuddin Md. Alamgir said yesterday that the three-member committee formed to investigate the allegations of corrupt conduct by the board's umpires will have its first meeting today. Alamgir, who is also the convener of the committee, stated that they'll be building a framework based on which they'll move ahead with their investigation.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) has set guidelines regarding these matters and we'll take every step accordingly. We'll make a list of people who'll be interviewed in view of this case," he said. Alamgir also stated that the committee has asked the ICC to send them the unedited versions of the umpires' footages, aired by India TV, a private Indian channel last week.

Meanwhile the Bangladeshi umpire around whom the most controversy has been generated, Nadir Shah, returned to Bangladesh

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Sk Jamal meet Abahani in qtrs

SPORTS REPORTER



Today's third quarterfinal of the Grameenphone Federation Cup has turned into a Dhanmondi derby with holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and giants Abahani due to face off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 3:30pm.

Defending champions Sheikh Jamal will be hoping for a repeat of their 2011 quarterfinal, when they saw off eight-time champions Abahani in the tiebreaker after regulation time ended in a 2-2 draw.

Sheikh Jamal, who stormed into the last eight with two successive victories, put in brilliant performances against Noakhali Football Academy and Muktiyoddha Sangsad, outings in which they scored seven goals with Nigerian hitman Sunday Chizoba getting his name on the board on both occasions. The club management will certainly be hoping for a similarly scintillating show from the former Muktiyoddha Sangsad striker today.

Abahani, who were stunned 1-0 by Brothers to set up an early clash with the holders, have the quality to turn the tables, but they must improve their performance as they did not look organised in the three group matches they played so far.

The team management will be hoping for a better

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Shameful invasion from Joy

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive members of the Bangladesh Football Federation are not allowed to stay with their respective teams during the match of any league or tournament. But yesterday, the BFF vice-president and director of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Arif Khan Joy was seen to enter the field to threaten the referees during the break of a Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Joy, carrying a fire-arm with his trouser's pocket, was seen threatening the referees for approximately five minutes before turning to his Team BJMC's players for a brief. At that stage, Team BJMC were trailing 2-0

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Tendulkar given Order of Australia honour

Cricket

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar will become the fourth non-Australian cricketer to receive an Order of Australia honour. The Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, made the announcement while visiting a cricket clinic in Delhi and she said Tendulkar, who is currently in South Africa for the Champions League Twenty20, would receive the honour from Cabinet Minister Simon Crean, who is due to visit India soon.

"I'm very pleased we're going to confer on Sachin Tendulkar membership of the Order of Australia, an AM," Gillard told reporters in Delhi. "This is a very special honour, very rarely awarded to someone who is not an Australian citizen or an Australian national."

"He is away playing cricket -- surprise, surprise -- but the award will be conferred on him by minister Crean when [he] visits India. So a very special honour and a very special recognition of such a great batsman."

No cricketer has played more matches against Australia than Tendulkar, who has played against them 106 times across Tests, ODIs and Twenty20 internationals. He has toured Australia five times for Test series, from 1991 to 2011, and only Jack Hobbs has scored more Test runs against the Australians.

Tendulkar will be the first non-Australian cricketer to be made an honorary member of the Order of Australia since Brian Lara, who was given the award in 2009. Lara was given the title "for service to Australia-Caribbean relations, by promoting goodwill, friendship and sportsmanship through the sport of cricket".

In 1985, the former West

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Some Aussies upset over award

IANS, New Delhi

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard Tuesday announced that Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar would be conferred with a membership of the Order of Australia for his contribution to the sport.

However, Gillard's announcement didn't go down well with some Australians who feel Tendulkar didn't deserve the honour, particularly for his involvement in the racism controversy in 2007-08.

Some of them tweeted their displeasure on Tuesday. Journalist Malcolm Conn (@malcolmconn) said, "How can PM Julia Gillard award Tendulkar an Order of Australia after his central role in the Monkeygate

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SACHIN TENDULKAR