

Star SPORT

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'Goal-line tech here to stay'

After unsuccessful tests of goal-line technology in 2005 and 2007, FIFA promised on Saturday that future World Cups would be free of any more shocking Frank Lampard moments. FIFA are using two systems, Hawk-Eye and GoalRef, at the Club World Cup in Japan, with one of them to be used at next year's Confederations Cup. "One of these two systems - we are not going to take both - will be used at Confederations Cup and at the 2014 World Cup," Blatter told reporters in Tokyo.

- REUTERS

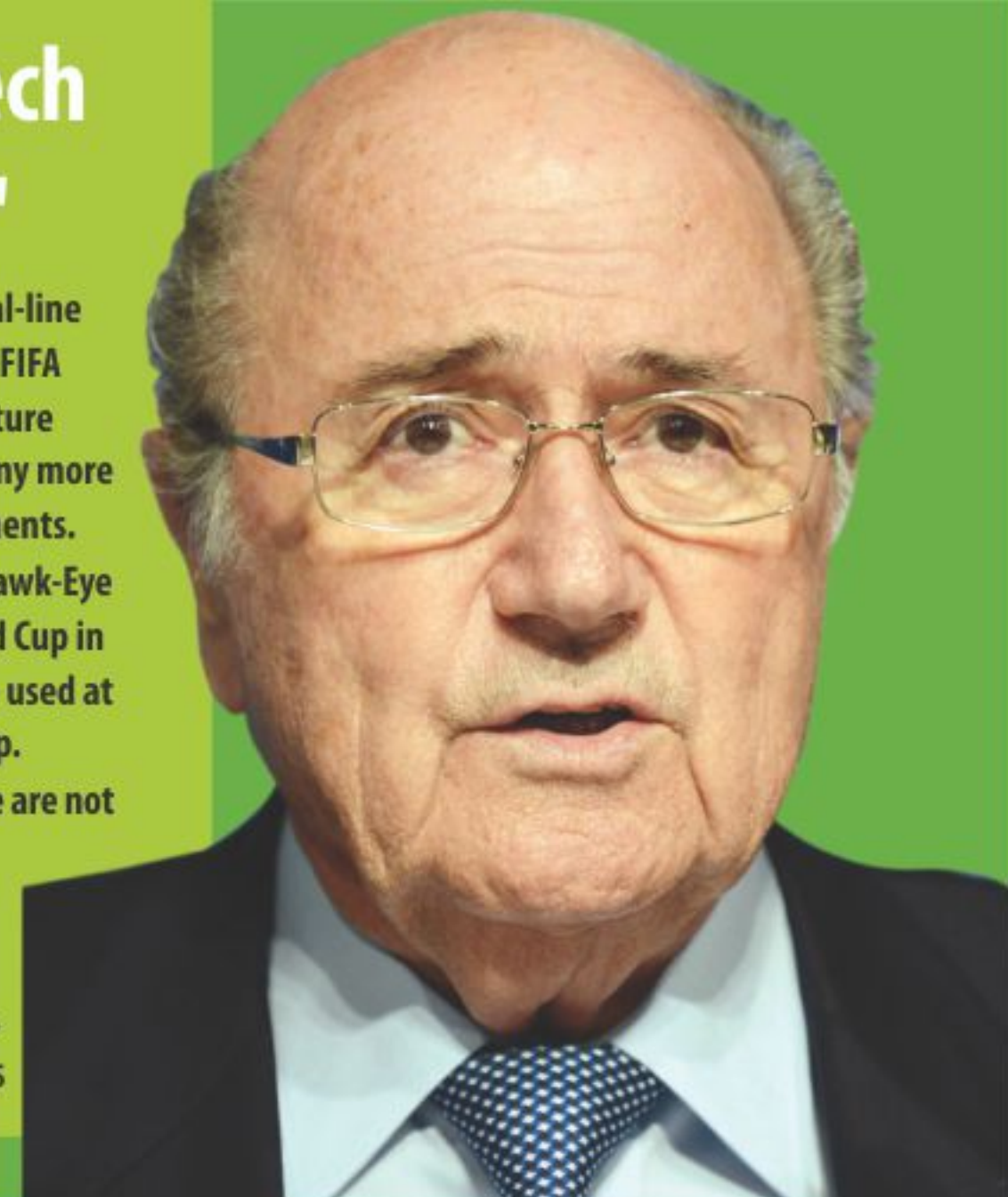


PHOTO: CRICINFO

Virat Kohli watches the ball after playing the square cut during his hundred against England on the third day of the fourth and final Test in Nagpur yesterday.

Rangpur 7th BPL team

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Riders became the latest addition to the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 as the entity's rights were sold by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for Tk 8.5 crores (1.01 million dollars) to I Sports Limited at an auction conducted by event management company Game On Sports at the Dhaka Club yesterday.

Besides I Sports Limited, two other buyers took part in the auction -- ASN Sports and Haque Brothers. ASN Sports was disqualified while Haque Brothers lost out in the bidding to I Sports.

Rangpur's inclusion in this year's BPL will make it the seventh team participating in the league. Barisal Burners, Chittagong Kings, Dhaka Gladiators, Duranta Rajshahi, Khulna Royals Bengals and Sylhet Royals were the teams that participated in the first edition of the competition.

The second edition of the BPL, which is scheduled to have its opening ceremony on January 17, will have the players' auctions on December 20. While the complete fixtures of the competition are yet to be announced, the matches are scheduled to take place in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna.

Unlike the previous edition of the competition, employees of the BCB will not be allowed to be a part of any of the participating teams. According to Afzal Rahman Sinha, chairman of the BPL's governing council, the franchisees will be signing written agreements with the franchisees by December 20, the lack of which caused several non-payment issues in the previous

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Kohli, Dhoni claw India back

Cricket

AGENCIES, Nagpur

Virat Kohli slammed a patient century while captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni missed it by just one run as the duo showed admirable tenacity under pressure to lead a remarkable Indian fightback which has restored the balance in the fourth and final cricket Test against England at Nagpur on Saturday.

Resuming at a precarious 87 for 4 in response to England's first innings total of 330, Kohli (103) and Dhoni (99) played with great discipline and curbed their natural strokeplay on a slow track as the hosts reached 297 for eight at close on the third day which was dominated by the home team.

R Ashwin was batting on seven when play was called off after Piyush Chawla's dismissal, with India still trailing by 33 runs.

The young Kohli, who has been woefully out of form in the series, notched his third Test century while Dhoni also silenced his detractors as the pair added 198 runs for the fifth wicket to bring India back into the game.

The Indians, who desperately need to win the match to level the four-match series 2-2, put up a good fightback through Dhoni and Kohli in a partnership which lasted for 84.3 overs. Both of them played their longest Test match knock in terms of balls faced.

It was an uncharacteristically subdued knock by Dhoni who consumed as many as 246 balls before being tragically run out for 99 much to the dismay of the vociferous crowd at the VCA stadium.

Dhoni has been under tremendous pressure after the back-to-back defeats in Mumbai and Kolkata and he showed great character to rise to the occasion with his resolute effort in difficult batting conditions

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

2nd 4-day league set for Dec 24

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The inaugural edition of the franchise-based four-day tournament, the second longer-version competition in the country after the National Cricket League (NCL), is likely to start from December 24.

Four franchises will represent four zones in the competition and three companies have already bought the rights of the three franchises, while the fourth one will be run by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) if ultimately no one comes forward to buy it.

"We will not wait to sell the fourth one, instead the board has decided to start the league from December 24 and BCB will run the fourth franchise if it is ultimately not bought by a company," informed BCB's ad-hoc committee member and media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

The tournament will be played on a single-leagues basis, and the matches will be staged in two venues -- probably at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. "The Sylhet venue is also under consideration but Dhaka

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Dutch coach for national team?

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is mulling bringing in a high-profile coach from the Netherlands to take over the national team, said the game's governing body's head Kazi Salahuddin yesterday. The BFF boss informed reporters at his office that they have a shortlist of four coaches to choose from -- former national team coach Djanan Djordjevic, a Turkish coach, and two Dutch coaches -- but the final negotiation might be done during his visit to the Netherlands on January 4 and 5. The BFF boss stopped short of saying any names, but said the coach will likely be a former Dutch international who is a recognised name in football.

"We will get a coach by January, that is confirmed. The coach will be a known figure, a former player who is recognised

by everyone," said Salahuddin, who has always iterated high regard for Dutch coaches and the Dutch system which produces young talented players.

"It will be expensive as the remuneration could be around 3 lakh euros a year plus other benefits. But we will have to do this, and do this urgently as the national team has important fixtures coming in the next three months including the AFC Challenge Cup in March," Salahuddin informed.

To generate this large amount, Salahuddin plans to incorporate more sponsors as well as bestow membership on wealthy individuals.

Salahuddin said he wants to give the coach enough time to know the players and give them at least 15 days' time to prepare for the AFC Challenge Cup. Bangladesh will face Palestine, Nepal and Northern Mariana Islands in the AFC

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Siddikur makes the cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman managed to make the cut in the Iskandar Johor Open as he negotiated the last five holes of the second round on Sunday on par. Siddikur was on one-under-par overnight after thirteen holes of the second round, and he came back to finish the last five holes without a birdie or a bogey which slated him at joint 59th on one-under-par 143.

Sweden's Daniel Chopra posted a six-under-par 66 to take the lead at the weather-interrupted 2 million dollar event.

Now that the event has been curtailed to a 54-stroke event due to inclement weather, today's third round will be the final round. A total of 73 golfers made it to the last round.

Lochte shatters own record

Swimming

AFP, Istanbul

Ryan Lochte shattered his own world record in winning the 200m individual medley at the world short course championships on Friday and celebrated by tossing his gold medal away.

The 28-year-old New Yorker, an 11-time Olympic medalist, finished in 1 minute, 49.63 seconds en route to a fourth consecutive gold medal at Sinan Erdem Arena.

His previous record had been 1:50.08 set in December, 2010, in Dubai.

Japan's Daiya Seto clocked 1:52.80 to add the silver medal to the gold he won in the 400m individual medley, and Laszlo Cseh of Hungary won bronze in 1:52.89.

It had already been a stellar meeting for Lochte after he had won gold in the 200m freestyle, 4x100m and 4x200m freestyle relays.

But he stunned the crowd by handing his gold medal to a 10-year-old boy who had been patiently waiting for the American's autograph.

"I give them all away. One of the main reasons for racing is because of my fans, so I always want to give something back," said Lochte, who now has 27 short course medals including 18 gold.

"If I took the medal it would end up in a sock drawer, if I give it to a fan they're going to treasure it. It will make their day or even their life."



Ryan Lochte of USA celebrates his gold medal in the men's 200m individual medley at FINA World Short Course Swimming Championships in Istanbul on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP