

SPORT

Players threaten league boycott

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In a sudden development yesterday, cricketers of all levels decided against participating in the Dhaka Premier League, scheduled to start on July 3. The decision, made a week before the players' transfer adds to the woes of the league which has already seen repeated delays this year.

The Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) stated that the players wanted to revert to the older form of payment in this year's league as opposed to the 'gradation system' expected to be introduced this year. According to the new system the players would be graded as per fixed values. The older form of payment did not have any payment ceilings.

They were also against the 'rotational policy', according to which each club would get a turn to buy a player. Payment of dues from the first and second editions of the Bangladesh Premier League is another issue that was raised by CWAB.

"The new systems will not only affect the players financially but will also not allow the players to play for the team of their choice," said former national captain Rajin Saleh at a press conference in Mirpur.

CITYCELL B'BALL
Old DOHS
win first
match

SPORTS REPORTER

Promotees Old DOHS made a winning start in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League which kicked off at the Dhamondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The defeated Rangers Club by 63-55 points in the keenly contested match of the day. The first half of the match was tied at 29-29. Rahat scored highest 18 points for the winners while Nahid recorded highest 14 points for Rangers.

Earlier, Taslim Islam, head of corporate communications of Citycell, inaugurated the meet as the chief guest where general secretary of Bangladesh Basketball Federation and South Asian Basketball Association AK Sarker was present among others.

De Kruif knows his players now

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team coaches Lodewijk de Kruif and Rene Koster will leave Dhaka tonight, before taking on the job permanently from July 1, after having a close look at the available players and a better understanding of the team composition.

Head coach de Kruif, who watched eight matches of the Super Cup in the last four days, felt it gave them a good understanding of all the available players as they would pick the final squad for the national camp ahead of September's SAFF Championship.

"The Super Cup gave us a good chance to evaluate the players before deciding on the final squad which might be between 30 to 35 players. BFF [Bangladesh Football Federation] has provided us with a list of 33 players, but we will make some adjustments on the list," de Kruif told reporters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

However the coach is still concerned about the fitness of some of the players as he was before the tour of Nepal in March for the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers. It was learnt that a few of the players on the BFF-provided list might not make the final squad due to injury as the coach had already expressed his tough stance on the fitness issue.

"Fitness is a concern as you saw [during the Super Cup matches] players had to limp off with cramps. Fitness needs to be improved and I have had a positive discussion with [Kazi] Salahuddin about hiring a trainer," informed de Kruif.

The Dutchman was however happy to see some new strikers evolving during this tournament as it gave him more options to choose from up front.

Sri Lanka through to semis

AFP, London

Sri Lanka barged into the Champions Trophy semi-finals with a 20-run victory over holders Australia in the last league match at the Oval in London on Monday.

The Islanders, who needed a win to remain in the competition, rode on aggressive half-centuries from Mahela Jayawardene and Lahiru Thirimanne to score 253-8 after being sent in to bat.

Seamer Nuwan Kulasekara then picked up three wickets, effected a run-out and took a catch as the Australians were bowled out for 233 in 42.3 overs.

Sri Lanka and England finished level with four points each, but the hosts topped the group due to a superior net run-rate and will meet group B runners-up South Africa in Wednesday's semi-final at the Oval.

Sri Lanka will clash with group B winners India in the second semi-final in Cardiff on Thursday in a repeat of the 2011 World Cup final in Mumbai which the Indians won.

The final is scheduled to be played at Edgbaston, Birmingham on Sunday.

Jayawardene, who became the eighth batsman to complete 11,000 one-day runs when he reached 62, anchored the middle-order with an unbeaten 84 off 81 balls.

Australia, who needed to win in 29.1 overs to qualify, made a brave bid to force their first victory in the tournament with belligerent batting led by Adam Voges' top score of 49.

The Aussies were 192-9 when the last-wicket pair of Clint McKay and Xavier Doherty gave Sri Lanka a fright by adding 41 amid mounting tension.

Tillakaratne Dilshan ended the drama with a spectacular return catch to dismiss McKay, who made a career-best 30. Doherty



Sri Lanka batsman Mahela Jayawardene jumps to negotiate a rising delivery on way to an unbeaten 84.

remained unbeaten on 15.

The fightback would have been followed keenly by New Zealand, who would have joined England in the semi-finals if the last pair had scored the remaining runs.

In the end, the Black Caps were stranded on three points, one behind both England and Sri Lanka. Australia finished with just one point through a rain-affected game.

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SL-AUS SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Peralarwala	Johnson	4
Dilshan	Watson b Doherty	34
Sangakkara c Maxwell b McKay	3	
Thirimanne c Watson b Johnson	57	
Jayawardene not out	84	
Mathews b Faulkner	12	
Chandimal c Hughes b Johnson	31	
Kulasekara run out	6	
Herath run out	2	
Malinga not out	2	
Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-4, nb-2)	18	
Total (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	253	
Did not bat: Eranga		

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-20, 3-92, 4-

128, 5-159, 6-224, 7-233, 8-244.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Johnson	10	0	48	3
McKay	10	1	51	1
Faulkner	9	0	60	1
Watson	4	0	14	0
Doherty	10	1	30	1
Marsh	2	0	12	0
Mathews	5	0	26	0

Did not bat: Eranga

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-20, 3-92, 4-

128, 5-159, 6-224, 7-233, 8-244.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Eranga	8	1	40	1
Kulasekara	9	0	42	3
Hughes c Sangakkara b Herath	17			
Johnson c Kulasekara b Eranga	4			
McKay c b Dilshan	30			
Doherty not out	15			
Total (all out; 42.3 overs)	233			

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-45, 3-59, 4-69, 5-

6-127, 7-163, 8-168, 9-192, 10-233.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Wade c Dilshan b Kulasekara	31			
Faulkner c Sangakkara b Herath	17			
Johnson c Kulasekara b Eranga	4			
McKay c b Dilshan	30			
Doherty not out	15			
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