

SPORT

BPL 3 after T20 World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

There will be a number of issues that the members of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) ad-hoc committee will discuss at the board meeting scheduled to take place at Mirpur this afternoon. Planning the country's domestic schedule, fixing the dates for the BCB elections and preparation for the Twenty20 World Cup venues are the main issues on the agenda.

The BCB's cricket operations committee prepared a draft for next season's domestic events yesterday which awaits the approval of the ad-hoc committee. According to the draft the third season of the Bangladesh Premier League is likely to take place after the ICC Twenty20 World Cup.

"I personally don't think there is any room for the BPL to take place before March. It will be difficult because we have so many international and domestic events lined up," said Naimur Rahman, head of BCB's tournament committee.

When asked if the third edition of the BPL can actually take place following non-payment and match fixing controversies, he replied: "The tournament committee's job is to keep the slots open. Whether it will take place or not depends on many factors."

He further stated that the National Cricket League is scheduled to begin after the end of the Dhaka Premier League in November. The DPL, which is expected to begin in the first week of September, will have its Super League round in November after Bangladesh's series against New Zealand.

The newly formed longer version tournament, Bangladesh Cricket League, which took place last year, is scheduled to take place in December after the end of the NCL.

While Naimur did admit the fact that they had already lost valuable time due to the indecision surrounding the start of the DPL, he was confident that the schedule would be adjusted.

Apart from planning out the domestic calendar the ad-hoc committee will also ask the National Sports Council to begin the board's election process. The BCB election is expected to take place within September.

Discussions on the rate of progress in venue preparation for the T20 world cup will be the other vital issue. Officials of the International Cricket Council are expected to arrive in the country on August 7 and visit the venues. Things seem to be falling in place at Cox's Bazar with the army having joined in the construction work. The stadium in Sylhet however will be the main point of discussion. The alternate venue for Sylhet, Fatullah is facing drainage issues, an aspect that will need to be rectified.



PHOTO: AFP
Vintage Sri Lankan duo of Kumar Sangakkara (R) and Tillakaratne Dilshan stroll for a single during their superb 184-run stand for the second wicket in their fourth ODI against South Africa at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

U-16s debacle irks BFF boss

SPORTS REPORTER

The dismal performance of the U-16 national team in Nepal has forced the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to contemplate whether to send the side to the qualifying round of the AFC U-16 Championship which will be held in Kyrgyzstan in September.

The U-16 side suffered a humiliating 5-1 defeat to their Nepalese counterparts in the semifinal which might prompt the game's governing body to rethink sending the side to the AFC meet where they are to meet stronger opponents such as Oman,

Qatar and hosts Kyrgyzstan.

In the wake of the debacle, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin has talked with the technical director of BFF and instructed him to find out reasons for the debacle. It has been learnt that the BFF boss is prepared to bear fines for not participating in the AFC tournament rather than see any such debacle in future. Salahuddin also expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the local coaches of the federation who are paid highly.

Ilias Hossain, the team leader of the U-16 team and BFF executive member, tried to defend his side by saying, "Though we protested ver-

bally, Nepal had fielded over-aged player and five of our key players could not recover well after falling sick after their arrival in Nepal."

Whatever Ilias brings as excuse, there is no denying the fact that the U-16 team did not have enough time to be prepared and the side even had lack of quality booters due to faulty selection procedure.

The U-16 side were given only one month's training which was not even intensive. They did not get to play any warm-up matches. The accommodation for the booters was frequently changed and there was no guaranteed practice ground for them. They had to wait for the start

of their training until the other sides had left the field.

More importantly the game's governing body seemingly has no plans with the age-group teams as they assemble the squad ahead of any championship to provide one or two months of training but there is hardly any follow-up afterwards. Besides no specific style of play is groomed among the age-group sides in Bangladesh though neighbouring India and Nepal have been developing their sides with a long-term plan by setting up football academies which are run by the respective federations.

SL secure series

AFP, Pallekele

Tillakaratne Dilshan and Kumar Sangakkara pulverised South Africa's bowling as Sri Lanka took a decisive 3-1 lead in the one-day series with an eight-wicket victory in Pallekele on Sunday.

Dilshan returned unbeaten on 115 and Sangakkara made 91 during a record partnership of 184 runs to steer the hosts past South Africa's 238 all out in the 44th over of the day-night match.

Dilshan's 17th one-day century and the second against South Africa was studded with 16 boundaries. Sangakkara kept pace with his partner with eight fours and two sixes.

The pair put on Sri Lanka's highest one-day stand for any wicket against the Proteas after opener Mahela Jayawardene had been removed for 12 in the 10th over.

Left-handed Sangakkara missed his second hundred in the series when he holed out in the deep off Morne Morkel when just 10 more were needed for victory.

The emphatic victory by the hosts reduced Wednesday's fifth and final match in Colombo to a formality.

Earlier, JP Duminy hit 97 and a fit-again Hashim Amla made 77 to lift South Africa to 238 after the tourists won the toss and elected to bat.

Duminy lashed seven boundaries and two sixes before he was last man out in the 49th over.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA: 238 all out in 48.4 overs (Amla 77, Duminy 97, Du Plessis 23; Malinga 3-52, Mendis 4-51, Dilshan 2-40)

SRI LANKA: 239-2 in 44 overs (Dilshan 115 not out, Sangakkara 91, Mahela 12)
Result: Sri Lanka won by 8 wickets, lead five-match series 3-1

Player-of-the-match: Dilshan

Anik 61st

SPORTS REPORTER

Swimmer Anik Islam finished 61st among 78 competitors in the World Swimming Championship as the Bangladesh Navy swimmer took 26.69 seconds to finish his 50m butterfly event in Barcelona, Spain yesterday. Anik could not maintain get close to the timing he set during the Bangladesh Games where he had clocked 26.01 seconds. However, he might feel content as he put behind three other swimmers from the sub-continent. Mahfizur Rahman Shagor will take to the pool on Friday in the 50m freestyle event while Mahfuza Akhter Shila will compete in the 50m breaststroke on Saturday.



(From L) Toklish, Wahed, Zahid, Emily and Rony – the five forwards – stand at the BFF House with the team manager Iqbal Hossain (R) on the eve of the national football team's departure for Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Booters in Bangkok

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh National Football team reached Bangkok yesterday to play two practice matches during their eight-day tour as part of preparation for the SAFF Championship to be held in Nepal from September 1-11.

Before leaving here for Thailand, Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruijff trained his charges for almost four week at home soil to select 24 probable players but De Kruijff's intention of touring Thailand is to have a good isolated camp where he can test their improvement as well as inject new things the team will follow in future.

"The national team is supposed to play two practice matches against Thailand during the tour and the dates of the two matches will be finalised after discussion between the two coaches tomorrow (Monday)," said Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

On the eve of departure, De Kruijff said that he could not deny that everybody wants to win but at the moment the most important thing is to experiment, make improvements and prepare the side for the challenge in September.

The booters, who spent their time at the hotel swimming pool after their arrival in Bangkok, are scheduled to practise two sessions today.

Shakib stars in flawless win

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace allrounder Shakib Al Hasan posted impressive figures of 2 for 26 in 3.2 overs as Leicestershire raced to a 10-wicket win at Grace Road over Yorkshire in the Friends Life T20 yesterday. Shakib got the wickets of Rich Pyrah and Moin Ashraf as he hit the timber twice. His teammate Joshua Cobb (3 for 9) bowled brilliantly as well as Yorkshire were bundled out for just 105 after they decided to bat first.

In reply, Leicestershire raced to their target in just 12.1 overs. Shakib did not get a chance to bat as openers Cobb (52 off 44) and Greg Smith (39 off 30) finished the game in style. The win took Leicestershire to fourth place in the North Division table.

Dream debut for Babar

AFP, Kingstown



Zulfiqar Babar completed a dream debut by striking the final ball of the match for six to give Pakistan a two-wicket victory over the West Indies in the first Twenty20 International at the Amos Vale Stadium here on Saturday.

Having taken three wickets for 23 runs with his left-arm spinners in helping to restrict the world champions to 152 for seven, the 34-year-old newcomer then made the winning hit off Marlon Samuels with the scores level to hand the home side their first defeat in this form of the game since they lifted the world title last October in Sri Lanka.

Pakistan have the chance to displace the West Indies in second spot in the international rankings with a win in the second and final match at the same venue on Sunday.

Shahid Afridi, who became the first player to hit 400 sixes in an international career during his innings, was named man of the match for his 46 off 27 balls, but even he conceded that Zulfiqar was the man of the moment.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 152 for 7 in 20 overs (Samuels 25, Bravo 25, Pollard 49 not out, Sammy 30; Hafeez 2-4, Babar 3-23)

PAKISTAN: 158 for 8 in 20 overs (Hafeez 13, Amin 47, Afridi 46, Babar 13 not out; Gabriel 3-44)

Result: Pakistan won by 2 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.

Zia leads rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman took solo lead at the close of fifth round of the Bishal Trade & Rupahali Sarees International Rating Chess Tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Zia beat FM Rezaul Haque to secure maximum five points from as many matches while IM Abu Sufian Shakil, Siddiqur Rahman and Anisuzzaman Jewel shared the second position with 4.5 points each. Eleven players were in joint the third position.

Team BJMC win

SPORTS REPORTER

Team BJMC kept their hopes of reaching the semifinals of the Kings' Cup alive as they notched an emphatic 3-0 win over United Sikkim FC of India in their second group match in Changlimithang, Bhutan yesterday.

Team BJMC had suffered a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Thimphu City FC in their opening match of the tournament.

India win big again

AFP, Harare



India wrapped up their one-day series against Zimbabwe at the first opportunity on Sunday, as they beat the hosts by seven wickets in the third ODI at Harare Sports Club.

After bowling Zimbabwe out for 183, with leg-spinner Amit Mishra claiming figures of 4 for 47, India needed just 35.3 overs to pass their target as captain Virat Kohli's half-century saw them home.

Kohli finished unbeaten on 68, having adapted perfectly to the slower pace of the wicket in a measured 88-ball innings. Although Zimbabwe dismissed opener Rohit Sharma cheaply for the third time in the series, Shikhar Dhawan struck 35 from 32 balls to provide India with a solid base.

After Dhawan fell to Tendai Chatara, Kohli constructed a patient 64-run stand with Ambati Rayudu that made the outcome of both the game and the series clear.

While Rayudu was unable to see the job through, falling caught and bowled to Brian Vitori for 33, Kohli added the remaining 53 runs required with Suresh Raina, who finished on 28 not out.

Sean Williams's 45 was the highest score in a tame batting display by Zimbabwe, who lost both of their openers in the first seven deliveries of the innings and were bowled out in 46 overs.

Although Hamilton Masakadza and Brendan Taylor put on 65 for the third wicket, there were no other partnerships to speak of as the Zimbabweans put in another tame showing.

Taylor was out for 23 when he chipped Jaydev Unadkat to mid-off, while Amit Mishra picked up Masakadza, who made 38, and Malcolm Waller with successive deliveries.

Williams did his best to revive the innings with a fluid 53-ball knock, but then ran himself out as he attempted an unlikely second run.

The final two matches of the series will be played in Bulawayo on August 1 and 3.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: 183 all out in 46 overs (Masakadza 38, Taylor 23, Williams 45, Chatara 23, Vitori 17; Shami 2-25, Mishra 4-47)

INDIA: 187 for 3 in 35.3 overs (Dhawan 35, Kohli 68 not out, Rayudu 33, Raina 28 not out; Vitori 1-53, Chinouya 1-36)

Result: India won by 7 wickets and lead the five-match series 3-0.
Player-of-the-match: Amit Mishra.