

Brothers' fate in BCB's hands

SPORTS REPORTER



The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), organisers of the Dhaka Premier League, has asked the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) disciplinary committee to take a decision with regards to Brothers Union's fate in the Dhaka Premier League by Thursday.

Brothers had fielded a suspended player - Sohrwardi Shuvo -- in their must-win encounter against Sheikh Jamal on November 9. Shuvo was suspended and fined Tk 20,000 after the match referee had reported him to have shown dissent to umpires in their previous match against Abahani on November 7.

Brothers, however, denied getting any official letter from the CCDM.

"In the hearing yesterday we told the CCDM that we did not know about the suspension. The player list circulated before the match even had Shuvo's name on it, and the match referee did not say anything, how would we know that he was suspended for the match?" said Brothers Union manager Amin Khan.

With regards to the hearing CCDM's

member-secretary Rakib Hyder said, "This is a special case since there is nothing specific written about it in the by-laws, so we had a hearing and sent our observations to the board."

Brothers Union's opponents on November 9, Sheikh Jamal -- who had lost the match -- had written a petition to the CCDM asking them to strip Brothers of the two winning points. If Brothers do lose the points, they will not qualify for the Super League, played between the top six teams of the competition. In that case, Sheikh Jamal will go through.

While the by-laws empower the CCDM to take a decision on the matter, it was learnt that the organisation preferred that the BCB's disciplinary committee take the final call in order to prevent any controversies.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, Gazi Tank Cricketers, Prime Doleshwar, Kalabagan Cricket Academy and Prime Bank Cricket Club have already qualified for the Super League and if the BCB's decision deems no change in the points, Brothers will follow suit.

The last match of the league was played on November 9 before a string of hartals temporarily disrupted the tournament. It is likely to restart on Thursday, depending on



PHOTO: STAR

American Luciana Rabines, ranked 813 on the ITF Junior circuit, takes part in a practice session at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Sk Russel, MSC share 'disputed' players

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Last season's treble winning side Sheikh Russel KC and Super Cup champions Mohammedan SC have reached an agreement regarding four 'disputed' players, who took money from both outfits before the inter-club players' transfer window opened.

Both Sheikh Russel and Mohammedan have not yet completed their players' registration formalities with only three days left to the closure of the window and they are seemingly desperate to solve the crisis and concentrate on

training ahead of the season's curtain-raiser Federation Cup, which is supposed to get underway by November 20.

Wingers Zahid Hossain and Shakil Ahmed, left-back Nahidul Islam and stopper-back Mamun Mia had initially decided to join Mohammedan and took a portion of advance payment but later decided to join Sheikh Russel as Mohammedan failed to clear the remaining amount of the payment. The Motijheel-based outfit then lodged complaints with the Bangladesh Football Federation against those four players but withdrew the complaint yesterday, after the agreement was reached.

"Sheikh Russel has agreed to solve the issue regarding the four players. As a guardian of players, we organisers don't want them to face suspension. That's why we decide to release Zahid and Nahidul while keeping Shakil and Mamun," said Sheikh Russel president Nurul Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

However, Sheikh Russel's treble winning coach Maruful Haq wants a solution in line with the rules and regulations and wants to see all four players in either Sheikh Russel or Mohammedan. He even believes such an agreement to share players will help a certain club in the season leaving other title contenders weaker.

CHENNAI WGM CHESS

Zakia earns 5.5 points

SPORTS REPORTER

WFM Zakia Sultana topped the list of the Bangladeshi participants in the Indian Women's Grandmasters Chess Tournament, securing 5.5 points after the 9th round matches in Chennai yesterday.

WIM Rani Hamid earned 5 points, Masuda Begum 4 while Mahmuda Hoque Chowdhury Molly and Jahanara Haque Runu 3.5 earned points each.

In the day's matches, Zakia beat Pushpalata Mangal of India, Rani Hamid beat Saughanthika of India, Masuda drew with Harivardhini of India, Runu drew with Kowshika of India while Molly lost against Harshini of India.



Sheikh Russel's Jamaican import Ricardo Cousins practises at the BUET ground yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

SAF JR ATHLETICS C'SHIP

BD win 3 bronze

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh won three bronze medals in the SAF Junior Athletics Championship which is being held in Jharkhand, India.

All the three bronze medals came in the relays yesterday - girls' 4X100m, girls' 4X400m and boys' 4X400m. Bangladesh girls' relay team consisted of Zakira Sultana, Irin Akter, Shirin Sultana and Bonna while the boys' relay team comprised Roman, Saiful, Sajib and Abdullah.

India established their supremacy after winning all three gold medals in relays while Sri Lanka had to be content with three bronze medals.

Cousins talks cricket & Bolt

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC have flown in a Jamaican footballer for their pre-season trials who, although yet to prove his worth to the club management, has already made a few friends among local journalists by proving his knowledge of cricket and offering a phone call with Usain Bolt. Former Jamaican national midfielder Ricardo Cousins arrived in Dhaka a week ago, and is with four Moroccan players who are going through the trials as Sheikh Russel seek to make up for the loss of inspirational forward Sony Norde to rivals Sheikh Jamal DC.

The 26-year-old Cousins has played for Swedish Division 1 side AFC United from August 2012 to February 2013. He played

eight matches for AFC United, finding the back of the net four times. Cousins has also played in Brazil, Germany and USA previously and represented the Jamaican national team in eight international fixtures, as claimed by the midfielder.

Cousins led the Jamaican U-20 side in the 2007 to a runners-up finish in the Pan Am Games before he made his senior international debut against Trinidad and Tobago in 2008.

However, the Jamaican impressed everyone when he said that he knows quite a bit about Bangladesh cricket, a game which he loves. Even though he chose to build his career in football, which is the number one game in Jamaica, he also follows track and field and claimed that he has quite a few friends among Jamaican cricketers and athletes. The Jamaican midfielder even proposed to make a phone call to Usain Bolt, if the local

journalists were interested.

About his chances of being retained in Sheikh Russel, the midfielder said he would try to make the side a better one if given a chance. "The training is going on well as I have good teammates and the environment is good as well," said Cousins. "The club will decide about me but I want to deliver better results than what Sheikh Russel did last season."

"It's not time yet to make any comments about the foreign players on trial but we will sign seven foreign players on the condition that they will play the professional football league on the basis of their Federation Cup performance," said Sheikh Russel KC president Nurul Alam Chowdhury.

However, the coaching staff and some senior players hinted that Cousins and Moroccan midfielder Khairallah Abdel Kabir are likely to be signed.

Brother looks to post-Sachin days

IANs, Mumbai



Sachin Tendulkar's brother Ajit on Tuesday paid tribute to the batting maestro and said the family is looking forward to seeing him play in his farewell Test at Wankhede Stadium.

Ajit reflected on Sachin's life post the India-West Indies Test beginning here from Thursday.

"One thing after November 18 is sure that Sachin won't be wearing India cap again. It will be a big change for him. He has been wearing that India cap for last 24 years. He stepped on the field and people expected him to score 100 every time.

"Pressure is not going to be there further. He

can eat as many butter chickens as he wants with no further media scrutiny," said Ajit in a conclave organised by India Today Group.

Surprisingly, for someone who moulded Sachin's illustrious career and guided him in his formative years, Ajit has himself never seen Sachin play on field.

On the entire family watching him play at home, Ajit said: "They are happy. Mother has never seen him play. This will be the first time. Also, it will be a very emotional moment."

Ajit also had his fears during Sachin's growing up years, especially his love for fast cars.

"I never doubted his ability. He was a fast learner but a few things scared us. Like [Raj Singh] Dungarpur Sir called my father that

Novak keeps Finals title

AFP, London



Novak Djokovic reigned supreme at the ATP World Tour Finals yet again as the defending champion crushed world number one Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-4 in Monday's final.

World number two Djokovic has now won the prestigious season-ending event three times and is the eighth player to successfully defend the Tour Finals title.

The 26-year-old has also equalled Nadal for the longest winning streak of 2013 after claiming his 22nd successive victory since losing to the Spaniard in the US Open final.

Djokovic's seventh title of 2013 went some way to avenging that painful loss in New York and eased the frustration of surrendering his place at the top of the world rankings to Nadal.

He has now beaten Nadal 10 times in 19 finals, while extending his winning run at London's O2 Arena to 10 matches since losing to Janko Tipsarevic two years ago.

Djokovic paid tribute to his coaching team, saying: "You may see us playing alone on the court but the big success comes from these guys behind us."

For Nadal, this was his second defeat in

the final of the Tour Finals after a 2010 loss to Roger Federer and the wait goes on for his first title at the tournament.

While it brought a frustrating end to Nadal's campaign, nothing could detract from his superb return from a career-threatening knee injury to win 10 titles, including the French and US Opens, over the last 10 months.

"I want to say congratulations to Novak. You are a super player and you deserve it," Nadal said.

"This is still one of the best seasons of my career and playing this match in this stadium is just fantastic for me. See you next year."

It was fitting that the final of the season's last singles competition should feature the top two in the world rankings, but it was Djokovic who stole the show and laid down a marker for 2014.

Although Nadal went into the final with a 22-16 edge over Djokovic in their 38 meetings, the Serb had won 12 of their previous 19 clashes on hard courts and his extra quality on the surface shone through again.

Nadal had swept through to the final for the loss of just one set in his four victories, but Djokovic had matched him win for win and could also take heart from his triumph in their last meeting in the



PHOTO: AFP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the trophy after beating Spain's Rafael Nadal in the ATP World Tour Finals in London on Monday.

INT'L JUNIOR TENNIS

Six move into main round

SPORTS REPORTER

Six players advanced to the main round of the boys' singles of the 27th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Tournament at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

In the day's qualifying round matches, Aditya Anant Gokhale of India beat Yoga Argi Syahputra of Indonesia by 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; Tsubasa Kato of Japan defeated Nyles Moisson of Canada 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, Tin-Yu Wang of Chinese Taipei beat Anshuman Gulia of India 6-3, 6-3; Run Jia Fang of China beat Arif Hossain of Bangladesh 6-0, 6-0; Saitejas Mopuri of India defeated his compatriot Jaffer Javed 7-5, 6-3 while Yang Liu of Chinese Taipei beat Siddharth Anand of India 6-2, 6-4.

A total of 94 players including 30 girls from 22 countries are taking part in the meet.

The main draw of the boys' and girls' singles will begin on Wednesday.

Kiwis win a thriller

AFP, Hambantota

New Zealand defeated Sri Lanka by four wickets in a rain-hit but thrilling one-day international in Hambantota on Tuesday.

The Black Caps, set a revised Duckworth-Lewis target of 198 runs in 23 overs, replied with 203-6 as Nathan McCullum smashed 22 runs off the last four balls by Rangana Herath.

Earlier, Sri Lanka made 138-1 in their 23 overs as bad weather reduced play by more than four hours.

Tillakaratne Dilshan made 55 not out and Kumar Sangakkara an unbeaten 71 off 59 balls as the duo put on 126 for the unbroken second wicket, after opener Dimuth Karunaratne was dismissed by Kyle Mills for four.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 138 for 1 in 23 overs (Dilshan 55 not out, Sangakkara 71 not out) NEW ZEALAND: 203 for 6 in 23 overs (Latham 86, Munro 15, Ronchi 49, N McCullum 32 not out; Kulasekara 4-34, Senanayake 2-31) Result: New Zealand won by 4 wickets (D/L method). Player-of-the-match: Tom Latham.