

# OPEN TV RIGHTS BIDDING TODAY

## BCB fixes floor price at \$20m

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has set a floor price of 20 million dollars for its worldwide media rights over the period from May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2020. Three companies are expected to take part in an open bidding to be held at a city hotel today. The auction process will be followed by a board meeting of the BCB.

Mediacom, which owns Maasranga Television, Virgo Media, which owns Channel 9, and Gazi TV put forward offers from the local market while from the international market Sporty Solutionz -- which owns Star Sports -- had submitted technical offers. But according to sources, Virgo Media was disqualified because they failed to show their company's net-worth when the offers were verified at a BCB meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

To evaluate the market value of the media rights property, the BCB appointed an Australian company named Futures Sports and Entertainment, and as per their calculations, for the 88 international matches to be played in the country over the six-year period, the value should be

around 50 million dollars.

Many experts believe that the value of the three-match ODI series against India next month and a Test and ODI series the next year against this country will itself be close to the floor price, and despite this fact, whisperings are there of a non-participation in the open bidding and in that event the BCB may go for negotiations with the bidders. But a board director, on condition of anonymity, said that they would not compromise with their floor price and rather go for re-tendering if the target was not fulfilled.

Since elevation to the Test arena, BCB struck their first five-year TV deal with WorldTel which was finally taken over by ESPN-STAR for 11.75 million dollars and then the second and last long-term deal was made with Nimbus by a groundbreaking deal of 56.88 million dollars, but the board had bitter experience with the deals.

Still the question remained whether the board justified their property's value by setting this floor price, although they improved their value from the earlier projection of 14 million dollars, when their nominated company evaluated much more. In 50 million dollars the production and other costs are involved, but many still believe that the value should not be less



PHOTO: STAR  
Bangladesh's leading pace bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has resumed his battle for a comeback from injury. Here the Narail Express is seen following through on a delivery during practice session at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

# SIDDIKUR

## on fire in Manila

AGENCIES, Undated



Ace Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman turned his form around emphatically as he shared the opening round lead with Chan Kim of the USA in the ICTSI Philippine Open at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Manila yesterday.

The 29-year-old Bangladeshi, who endured a torrid few weeks having missed two consecutive cuts in the CIMB Niaga Indonesian Masters and then in The Championship in Singapore, played a sublime round of six-under-par 66 to end with the joint lead on a challenging course.

Siddikur, the first Bangladeshi to play and win on the Asian Tour, birdied the last hole from five feet to cap his best effort at the course where his previous low round was a 71 at the 2011 Philippine Open. Yesterday he traded nine birdies against three bogeys to finish on top of the pile.

He was delighted to rediscover his deft putting touch as he negotiated the tricky Wack Wack greens in 26 putts.

"I was confident that my putting touch will come back. In golf sometimes you enjoy a good run of form and sometimes you don't. I sank about 80% of my putts which reflected in my score on this golf course," Siddikur told Asiantour.com.

"This is not an easy course. It is a tight and narrow course with small greens. Every shot counts here. I was not disappointed with my form before today because my stats were still good except putting," added Siddikur, a two-time Asian Tour winner.

Kim, winner of the 2013 Asian Tour Qualifying School, took advantage of a small change in his swing tempo to share the lead with Siddikur after trading seven birdies against one bogey.

The two were three strokes ahead of the nearest competitors, Rolando Marabe of the Philippines and Chawalit Plaphol of Thailand in joint-third position with rounds of three-under-par 69.

# Six Indo-Pak series on FTP

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan confirmed on Wednesday it had agreed to play six full series of cricket against India with official backing, the first since the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks suspended play between the teams.

Pakistan is expected to host four of the matches over the next eight years, after its cricket board said it had signed a memorandum of understanding with India on the issue, and pending a legal agreement.

"The Future Tours Programme [FTP] for Pakistan between 2015 and 2023 will have six tours with India, four of which will be hosted by Pakistan," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief operating officer Subhan

Ahmed told AFP.

Reports had been circulating since last month that a full series would be played between the two nations as early as next year after the PCB conditionally agreed to a reorganisation of the game's administration, the International Cricket Council (ICC), which will give India a bigger say in its governance.

India suspended all bilateral series with Pakistan in the wake of the 2008 attacks, which New Delhi blamed on militants based across the border.

The Pakistan team did tour India for a short limited-over series in December 2012-January 2013 but a full series was not agreed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Ahmad said the six tours would involve "14 Tests, 30 one-days and 12 T20s". The PCB expected the tours to be written into legally binding agree-

ments "as soon as possible," he added.

The PCB wanted the first of the series to be played on home ground but if the security situation was not conducive to it the match will be played in the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan have not hosted any international cricket since terrorist attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in March 2009.

If the series goes ahead it will mark the biggest success for Pakistan in recent years after a prolonged isolation at the international level due to security fears.

Pakistan last played a full series in India in 2007 while India last toured Pakistan in 2006.

The cricket matches between Pakistan and India are widely seen as the most sought after in cricket globally, with billions watching them

# Naveed deal set to be extended

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is set to hand at least a three-month contract extension to Pakistani coach Naveed Alam ahead of the Asian Games to be held in Korea from September 19 to October 4.

Naveed's one-year deal will expire on June 30 and the Pakistani will be given further responsibility to guide the national hockey team in the Asian Games, informed BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah yesterday.

Naveed, who guided Bangladesh to victory in the Asian Games Qualifiers, returned to Bangladesh on Wednesday after enjoying a month-long vacation. The BHF general secretary yesterday had a discussion with him

on starting the hockey camp for the Asian Games.

"The national camp will start from June 1 at the BKSP with 35 players and it will continue till the Asian Games," said Rahmatullah, adding that Naveed will work with selected school players this month.

BHF also confirmed a 10-day training camp for the national team under IFH specialist Belgian coach Mike Keenan from June 19 to 29 as the high profile coach had immense impact on the improvement of the national hockey team during last year's World Hockey League (Round-2).

Keenan may also have one more short stint before the World Hockey League (Round-1) to be held in Bangladesh from September 5-7 with the participation of hosts Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka

# Badda hold Armabagh

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagarani Sangsad, currently in danger of being relegated, held Arambagh KS to a 1-1 draw in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shipon provided a 42-minute lead for Badda Jagarani only to be cancelled by Rokonuzzaman Kanchan in the 69th minute.

Arambagh are at fourth place with 17 points while Badda at the bottom four points from 13 matches.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants set their sights on the target on the first day of the inaugural Archery Club Championships at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

# Club archery underway

SPORTS REPORTER

The final lineups of both men's and women's bamboo divisions of the Cute Inaugural Archery Club Championships were completed on the first day of the two-day meet at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

Omar Faruque of Dhaka Army Archery Club is set to face Shakil of Mahasthan Archery Club in the gold-deciding match while Nandini Khan Swapna of Dhaka Army Archery Club will play against teammate Ishrat Jahan in the gold-deciding matches today.

# VINCENT REVELATION

## NZC isn't surprised

AFP, Wellington



Former New Zealand cricketer Lou Vincent has opened up to investigators about widespread match-fixing in several countries, the country's cricket boss confirmed Thursday.

David White's comments came after the London Telegraph reported Vincent had provided the International Cricket Council (ICC) anti-corruption unit "with a treasure trove of information about matches that were targeted for spot-fixing and the names of players" involved.

The former international "has agreed a plea bargain in the hope of avoiding a criminal prosecution for his involvement in and knowledge of spot-fixing in five or more

countries" between 2008-2012, the report said.

White, New Zealand Cricket's (NZC's) chief executive, said the revelations contained in the newspaper were well known to officials.

"We have been informed of a lot of the information over some period of time [by the ICC] so it doesn't come as a surprise to us," he said.

Although no current New Zealand players nor any games involving the Black Caps were being investigated "we have been informed by the ICC that some Auckland Aces matches in the Champions League in South Africa in 2012 are being investigated," White said.

Vincent, who played for the Aces in New Zealand's domestic competition, was revealed last December to have been under investigation along with fellow New Zealanders Chris Cairns and Daryl Tuffey

# CHILE 1962

## Brazil stamp authority

After two World Cup championships in Europe, FIFA decided that South America would be the host continent, and it was a straight shoot-out between Chile and Argentina.

When Chile was wracked by earthquakes that killed thousands in 1960, Argentina looked favourites. But an impassioned call by President Dittborn won the day and the country's regeneration was led by the building of new stadiums in time for the tournament.

Brazil, with almost the same squad as four years before, were undoubtedly favourites. Pele, still only 21, had become the complete forward and Garrincha's development trajectory had been similar.

Brazil eased out of their group, but not without cost. Pele, who had been in shining form in the 2-0 opening win over Mexico, ripped a thigh muscle in the 0-0 draw with Czechoslovakia. He was to play no further part in the finals. Amarildo, however, was a decent replacement and became known as the 'White Pele' for his efforts during the tournament. Garrincha and Vava were also there to take up the goal-scoring burden.

The Chilean World Cup is now recognised as being one of the poorest tournaments in terms of football, a legacy in which no small a part was played by the disgraceful scenes that took place in Santiago when Chile met Italy. The game erupted into a flurry of kicks and punches and, though two Italians were sent off, it should have been many more. 'The Battle of Santiago' ended in a 2-0 victory for the hosts



PHOTO: DAILY STAR ARCHIVE

Brazil skipper Mauro Ramos holds aloft the Jules Rimet trophy after beating Czechoslovakia 3-1 in the 1962 final in Santiago.

and a police escort for the players as they left the field prematurely.

England met their nemesis in Garrincha in the quarterfinals. West Germany lost to Yugoslavia in revenge for successive quarterfinal defeats in the last two tournaments as Sekularac pulled the strings. The Czechs, marshalled by left-half and captain Josef Masopust, squeezed past the Hungarians. In another surprise result for the hosts, they managed to beat highly-fancied Soviet Union.

But there was to be no fairytale story in the semifinal as the tried and tested combination of Garrincha and Vava scored two goals each against them.

The Czechs were their final opponents, having beaten Yugoslavia in the semifinal with a late surge in the last 10 minutes. And a shock looked on the cards when Masopust made a burst past

his attackers to put his team ahead on 15 minutes. It was not for long, though, as Amarildo rose to the occasion to score from a seemingly impossible angle.

Czechoslovakia held on gamely and it would take a fantastic move started and finished by Zito in the 68th minute to break them. Vava then became the first person to score in two finals when he capitalised on a goalkeeping mistake from Schrojf. The cup was Brazil's again. They had become only the second team to retain the trophy and it had largely been achieved without Pele.

FACTS & FIGURES	
Winners:	Brazil
Runners-up:	Czechoslovakia
Leading Scorers:	Garrincha, Vava, Sanchez, Jerkovic, Albert, Ivanov -4
Teams:	16
Matches:	32
Goals:	89