

SPORT

Scheduling problems for Super Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



The staging of the Super Cup, domestic football's season-ending tournament, seemingly hangs in the balance following the decision to allow enough preparation time for the national team ahead of September's Asian Games in South Korea.

The emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) executive committee yesterday decided to stage the lucrative Super Cup but could not confirm the starting date of the fourth edition the tournament, which garnered a lot of attention from football fans in its first edition in 2009.

The Super Cup is supposed to take place soon after the completion of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League which will end on July 26 but the football governing body is thinking to hold it sometime in October as the national football team will go through a month-long preparation in August before taking part in the football event of the Asian Games starting in September 12, seven days before the opening ceremony of the Asian Games.

"Although we have little time in hand, we want to complete our yearly calendar. The national team will be busy in preparation in August and take part in the Asian Games in September. The Bangabandhu Gold Cup is also scheduled to take place in October and we are also thinking of holding the Super Cup in October after changing the schedule a little bit," said BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy after the meeting.

Murshedy hinted that if the BFF holds both tournaments in October, the players' transfer window for the next season might be deferred but the season is likely to start in late November like the previous season.

Though Bangladesh Dutch coaches Lodewijk De Kruijf and Rene Koster have been on a prolonged vacation back in the Netherlands because of unpaid wages, the football federation has already sent the names of the 30-member preliminary squad to the Asian Games Committee.

"We have made the preliminary list with the consent of foreign and local coaches," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, adding that they have already cleared some unpaid wages to Kruijf and Rene.

Kruijf and Rene are expected to arrive in Bangladesh by August 5 to start the residential camp of the national team which had a miserable campaign in the SAFF Championship to finish seventh out of eight participating teams.

Recently, assistant coach Rene Koster spent some time in Bangladesh to watch the professional football league and requested the BFF to bring two changes in the preliminary squad -- striker Mithun Chowdhury and winger Yousuf Sifat to be brought in place of defender Atiqur Rahman Meshu and midfielder Toklish Ahmed -- but the BFF asked Rene to make changes based on position and not individuals.



Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (R) is in conversation with new coach Chandika Hathurusingha during their pre-series training camp, ahead of next month's tour of West Indies, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday

PHOTO: STAR

India in trouble early

AFP, London



England's pacemen upped their game on a seaming pitch to leave India in trouble at 140 for six at tea on the first day of the second Test at

Lord's on Thursday.

After England captain Alastair Cook won the toss on a light-green pitch, his attack generally bowled too short, although they weren't helped by wicketkeeper Matt Prior dropping two catches, as India reached lunch on 73 for two.

But the second session saw England's pace quartet duly rewarded for pitching-up more often as four wickets fell for 67 runs in 28 overs after several India batsmen made starts but

could not press on.

Ajinkya Rahane was 26 not out and Stuart Binny one not out.

Virat Kohli, dropped off the last ball before lunch by Prior, had only added five runs to his interval score of 20 when he was drawn forward by James Anderson.

This time Prior, diving to his right, held the catch as Anderson took his 70th Test wicket at Lord's, a new ground record that surpassed the mark he had shared with England great Ian Botham.

All-rounder Ben Stokes then produced an excellent off-cutter to bowl Cheteshwar Pujara (28).

Before this match, India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni had spoken of wanting his side -- without an away win in 15 Tests -- to be exposed to typically English conditions.

But he was unable to pass his own 'exam' when, to a full-length delivery from Broad, he got an edge through to opposing 'keeper Prior.

Dhoni was out for one, with Broad now having taken his 250th Test wicket.

New batsman Ravindra Jadeja was, unusually for a crowd at Lord's, booed as he walked out to the middle.

That reflected the all-rounder's role in an alleged confrontation with Anderson during last week's drawn first Test at Trent Bridge that led India to charge the Lancashire seamer under the International Cricket Council's code of conduct.

Wednesday saw England retaliate with a charge against Jadeja and now both players could be banned from matches during the remainder of this five-Test series.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings			
Vijay c Ballance b Plunkett	24		
Dhawan c Ballance b Anderson	7		
Pujara b Stokes	28		
Kohli c Prior b Anderson	25		
Rahane not out	26		
Dhoni c Prior b Broad	1		
Jadeja lbw b Ali	3		
Binny not out	6		
Extras: (b-9, lb-10, nb-1)	20		
Total: (For 6 wickets in 55 overs)	140		
To bat: Kumar, Sharma, Shami			
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-48, 3-86, 4-113, 5-123, 6-128			
Bowler			
	O	M	R W
Anderson	14	7	19 2
Broad	14	5	35 1
Plunkett	10	4	26 1
Stokes	10	2	24 1
Ali	7	2	17 1
ENGLAND: Cook, Robson, Ballance, Bell, Root, Ali, Prior, Stokes, Broad, Plunkett, Anderson			
Toss: England			
Umpires: Kumar Dharmasena (Sri Lanka) and Bruce Oxenford (Australia)			

Serena tops US Open field

REUTERS, New York

World number one Serena Williams, coming off a surprise third round loss at Wimbledon, heads the women's field for the US Open, which starts in New York in late August.

Players from 36 countries are represented, the US Tennis Association announced on Wednesday, with two-time defending champion Williams heading an 11-strong American contingent for the August 25-September 8 event.

Williams has five US Open crowns, just one shy of the modern era record held by compatriot Chris Evert.

Joining Williams in the top four are Li Na of China, Simona Halep of Romania and this month's Wimbledon champion, Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic.

The field also includes French Open champion Maria Sharapova, two-time US Open champion Venus Williams and former US Open champions Samantha Stosur and Svetlana Kuznetsova.

The latest WTA rankings were used to determine the main draw entry list for the final Grand Slam event of 2014 but seeds will be announced closer to the event.

McEnroe's son caught with cocaine

AP, New York

The son of former tennis great John McEnroe and actress Tatum O'Neal has been charged with drug possession.

Authorities say Kevin McEnroe and another man were arrested Tuesday night during "a narcotics transaction" in New York's East Village.

McEnroe didn't enter a plea at his arraignment Wednesday and was released on his own recognisance.

Police say the 27-year-old McEnroe was in possession of cocaine and prescription medication. He was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance.

McEnroe's lawyer tells the Wall Street Journal that there was "nothing remarkable" about the amount of drugs found on her client. She declined further comment.

WOMEN'S CRICKET Rookie Beams could be in for Aus

CRICINFO, Melbourne

Leg-spinner Kristen Beams will be hoping to make her one-day international debut after being named in Australia's squad to take on Pakistan next month. Australia are hosting Pakistan for four ODIs and four Twenty20 Internationals in Brisbane and the Gold Coast from August 21, and 13-player squads for the two series have now been named.

Beams was the leading wicket-taker in last summer's Women's National Cricket League with 14 victims at 13.21 and also impressed the selectors during tour matches against England last season.

The only inclusion from outside the T20 squad from the group that took out the World T20 title in Bangladesh in April was seamer Megan Schutt to replace Holly Ferling, who is recovering from a back injury. Nicole Bolton and Beth Mooney, who were in the World T20 squad, missed out on selection.

"This series against Pakistan will be a great challenge for our players and an opportunity to perform strongly in front of our home crowds which continue to support the development of the women's game," Julie Savage, the women's national selection panel chair, said.



South Africa's JP Duminy raises his bat and helmet in celebration after scoring a century on the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ballance let off

AFP, London



England batsman Gary Ballance will not face any formal punishment by officials after being pictured shirtless in a Nottingham bar following last week's drawn first Test against India.

However, England coach Peter Moores has reminded his squad to "uphold the best possible image for England cricket".

Yorkshire batsman Ballance, who made 71 in the match, went out with several teammates following the end of the series and was photographed by members of the public enjoying himself in a Nottingham bar in the early hours.

Although in the middle of back-to-back Tests, with the second Test at Lord's starting on Thursday, Moores had given the England

squad permission to go out ahead of a rest day on Monday.

But the images of Ballance were not ones the England and Wales Cricket Board would like to see repeated.

Moores said: "I am aware that some of the England players were caught on camera relaxing after the conclusion of the recent Trent Bridge Test match.

"As the players had been released at the end of the first Test and were not due to meet up to begin preparations for the second Test until Monday evening, and there were no suggestions of impropriety, there is no need for any disciplinary action.

"I will, however, be reminding all players of their responsibilities to uphold the best possible image for England cricket."

Ballance was included in an unchanged England side for the second Test of this five-match series.

Zia shares 2nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman maintained the second position in Group A of the XVI Obert International Sant Marti 2014 at the close of the fourth round held in Barcelona, Spain on Wednesday.

Zia beat Russian Kholopov Alexander in his fourth round match.

The win pushed him to raise his point tally to three from four outings to share the second place, said a press release from Bangladesh Chess Federation yesterday.

JP powers Proteas

AFP, Galle



Jean-Paul Duminy hit a superb unbeaten century to put South Africa in a position of strength on the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

The left-hander came in to bat with South Africa placed at a shaky 331-7 but he batted sensibly under pressure to help his side declare their first innings at 455-9.

In reply, Sri Lanka were 30-0 when stumps were drawn for the day with Kaushal Silva batting on eight and Upul Tharanga on 20.

Tharanga, playing his first Test in six years, showed little signs of nervousness, hitting four boundaries in his 40-ball innings so far.

The Sri Lankan bowlers were made to toil in hot and humid conditions by the gritty rival batsmen who dug in to ensure their team did not lose the advantage of winning the toss and batting first on a placid track at the Galle International Stadium.

It was Duminy (100 not out) who stole the show with a superb rearguard action after opener Dean Elgar had laid the foundation for a good total with a 103-run knock on day one.

Duminy, 30, frustrated the bowlers to take South Africa past the 400-run mark. His 206-ball effort contained 10 hits to the boundary including an exquisite cover drive off skipper Angelo Mathews.

Mathews had to give himself the ball in the absence of pace spearhead Shaminda Eranga who remained off the field with a split webbing in his bowling hand.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 268-5)			
Petersen lbw b Perera	34		
Elgar c Chandimal b Lakmal	103		
Du Plessis c Silva b Perera	80		
Amla c Perera b Herath	11		
De Villiers b Lakmal	21		
De Kock c Jayawardene b Perera	51		
Steyn b Lakmal	3		
Duminy not out	100		
Philander lbw b Mathews	27		
Morkel b Perera	22		
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1)	3		
Total: (For 9 wickets in 166.2 overs) 455			
Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-195, 3-220, 4-246, 5-266, 6-290, 7-314, 8-389, 9-455			
Did not bat: Tahir			
Bowler			
	O	M	R W
Lakmal	33	12	75 3
Eranga	9	4	32 0
Herath	60	12	148 1
Mathews	11	1	36 1
Perera	53.2	8	162 4
SRI LANKA: First innings			
Silva not out	8		
Tharanga not out	20		
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1)	2		
Total: (For no loss in 12 overs) 30			
To bat: Mathews, Thirimanne, Sangakkara, Jayawardene, Chandimal, Herath, Perera, Lakmal, Eranga			
Bowler			
	O	M	R W
Steyn	4	1	4 0
Philander	3	1	9 0
Morkel	3	2	4 0
Tahir	2	0	12 0