

Fixing proved

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) proved on Saturday that the match between Farashganj and Wari Club in the Bangladesh Championship League (BCL) on May 21 was fixed, as alleged.

BFF's professional league committee will decide the punishment for the offence in their next meeting, scheduled to be held on August 24.

Farashganj, who eventually finished second in the BCL, managed a 3-2 win over Wari in their second-leg match after Wari took a 2-0 lead in the first half. Farashganj then struck three goals in the last half hour, leading the others clubs to allege that the match was fixed by the clubs. The BFF then referred the matter to the match-fixing findings committee.

"After receiving the recommendation from the committee, we also found some abnormality after observing the match's video footage," said BFF's senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshed on Saturday.

"The culprits will get the highest punishment according to our bylaws," he added.

Meanwhile, the match-fixing findings committee did not find any abnormality in the match between Agrani Bank and Badda Jagarani Sangshad on May 20.

Two-legged BPL again

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The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) in a meeting at the BFF House on Saturday decided to revert to their previous format of holding the Bangladesh Premier League in two legs instead of three.

The BFF decided to organise the seventh edition in three legs before the 2013-14 season to give more playing space for the teams. But before ending the season, BFF changed their stand at the request of participating clubs.

BFF's senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshed justified the decision by saying it was taken in the clubs' interests. "Our clubs are financially struggling to run their year-wise programmes and they face many obstacle to nurturing more than one sports teams so we have to consider their difficulty also."

Meanwhile, the BFF decided to start the Super Cup at the end of the season, likely in November.

# First taste of the Caribbean

## Tigers kick off their tour with a one-dayer today

SPORTS REPORTER

 Bangladesh begin their tour of the West Indies with a 50-over game against Grenada at the Progress Park today.

"They generally allow 13 players to play in a practice match. We will use that option if it is allowed. We want our players to get as much practice as possible," team manager Habibul Bashar told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

The Grenada Cricket Association on Friday had announced a 16-man squad, to be led by 26-year-old West Indian opening batsman Andre Fletcher, for the match. It also includes West Indian players Devon Smith and Nelson Pascal.

For the Tigers, who have been training at the outer ground of the National Stadium -- where the first two ODIs are scheduled to take place -- the one-day match will be their first opportunity to adjust to the conditions.

The first objective for the batsmen will be to adjust to the bouncy condition, an aspect which a strong Bangladesh A team failed at doing earlier in the year during their series against the West Indian High Performance Unit.

The Tigers will also be keen to see how their pacers perform in foreign conditions, which according to Bashar is 'hot and humid' with rain. Bangladesh have four pacers in the side -- Al-Amin Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Rubel Hossain and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza -- and it won't be a surprise if

all of them feature in the game.

Despite the absence of Shakib Al Hasan, who is serving a suspension, spin will remain Bangladesh's strong point. From the current squad, Abdur Razzak, Mahmudullah Riyad and Shohag Gazi have the highest West Indian scalps. Razzak has 18 off 13 ODIs, Riyad has 11 off 8 while Gazi took nine wickets in the five-match series at home back in 2012.

It's an aspect that the West Indians are aware of and are looking to counter. 22-year-old West Indian batsman Kraigg Brathwaite, who has been in stunning form, that he and the other batsmen are doing a 'lot of work' against spinners in order to be 'more confident'.

Bangladesh will also have to work on setting their batting-order. With openers Anamul Haque and

Tamim Iqbal expected to start the proceedings, the number three position will see a three-way battle among Mominul Haque, Mithun Ali and Imrul Kayes. With no Shakib at four, one of these three players is also expected to play at that position. Kayes, with his good run both at home and away, seemingly holds the edge.

While the tour began on a rough note for the Tigers -- they reached Grenada without 12 pieces of luggage -- everything seems to be back in order according to Bashar.

"Honestly speaking, it was not much of a bother. We just had to make do for a day. The luggage did arrive eventually and everything is smooth now. We are hoping for the best," said Bashar.

The first two ODIs will take place on August 20 and 22.



Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath (L) celebrates taking yet another Pakistan wicket with captain Angelo Mathews during the third day's play of the second Test in Colombo on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Herath-hits Pakistan

AFP, Colombo

 Mahela Jayawardene scored an unbeaten 49 in his last Test innings as Sri Lanka took charge of the second and final match against Pakistan in Colombo on Saturday.

The hosts, who trailed by 12 runs on the first innings, put on a strong batting performance to move to 177-2 in their second innings by stumps on the third day at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

Jayawardene and his close friend and long-time teammate Kumar Sangakkara batted together for the last time in a Test match to put on 98 for the unbroken third wicket.

Jayawardene, who was warmly applauded to the crease by Pakistani fielders and some 4,000 home fans, played fluently to strike seven boundaries.

Left-handed Sangakkara was unbeaten on 54, with Sri Lanka 165 runs ahead with eight

wickets in hand on a wearing pitch expected to assist spinners on the last two days.

Sri Lanka, who won the first Test in Galle by seven wickets, are hoping to sweep the short

SCOREBOARD			
SRI LANKA: First innings 320 (Tharanga 92, Silva 41; Junaid 5-87, Riaz 3-88)	4-131, 5-140, 6-233, 7-273, 8-301, 9-315		
PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 244-6)	Bowler	O	M
Manzoor c Dickwella b Herath 23	Prasad	16	4
Shehzad c Dickwella b Perera 58	Weledegar 18	2	65
Azhar c Mathews b Herath 32	Herath 33.1	3	127
Younis c Dickwella b Herath 13	Mathews 9	1	21
Misbah c Dickwella b Herath 5	Perera 17	1	63
Shafiq b Herath 42			1
Sarfraz c Dickwella b Herath 103	Silva c Junaid b Herath 17		
Rehman c Jayawardene b Herath 16	Sangakkara not out 54		
Riaz c Weledegar b Herath 17	Jayawardene not out 49		
Ajmal b Herath 4	Extras: (b-9, lb-1, w-1, nb-1) 12		
Junaid not out 13	Total: (For 2 wkt in 63 overs) 177		
Extras: (lb-3, nb-3) 6	Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-79		
Total: (All out in 93.1 overs) 332	Bowler	O	M
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-110, 3-122	Riaz	14	1
	Rehman	24	3
		65	2

wickets in hand on a wearing pitch expected to assist spinners on the last two days.

Sri Lanka, who won the first Test in Galle by seven wickets, are hoping to sweep the short

series to give Jayawardene, their former captain, a winning farewell.

Upul Tharanga made 45 in an opening stand of 54 with Kaushal Silva before both batsmen were dismissed by left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman in the post-lunch session.

Pakistan seamer Junaid Khan did not take the field in the second innings as he was taken to hospital and kept under observation after complaining of giddiness.

Junaid, who took five wickets in the first innings, had been hit on the helmet by a rising ball from Dhammika Prasad in the morning session.

Earlier, Pakistan's wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed smashed a maiden Test century and Sri Lanka's spinner Rangana Herath became the first left-arm bowler in history to take nine wickets in an innings.

Sarfraz hit a gutsy 103 as Pakistan carried their overnight score of 244-6 to 332 before they were all out at the stroke of lunch in reply to Sri Lanka's 320.

# Booters for Asia Cup named

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced a 20-member UI-23 national team, for next month's Asian Games, including seven defenders, six midfielders, five forwards and two goalkeepers.

Head coach Lodewijk de Kruif kept national team's skipper Mamunul Islam, midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan and defender Atiqur Rahman Meshu as the three senior players eligible for the side.

Veteran strikers Zahid Hasan Emily and Mithun Chowdhury were earlier withdrawn from the 30-member camp due to injuries while seven more players were omitted from the final squad. The ones to be left out in the final reckoning are: Shahedul Alam Shahed, Osman Gani, Rubel Mia, Nahidul Islam, Emon Babu, Abdul Malek, Mezbah Uddin and Mohammad Sujon.

Six players -- Aminur Rahman Shajib, Rasel Mahmud Liton, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Yousuf Sifat, Atiqur Rahman Farhad and Jewel Rana -- have been called up for national duties for the first time.

The U-23 national team has been in a training camp at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan (BKSP) in Savar for the last 12 days and have already played two practice matches against local teams. The national U-23 team are scheduled to play two friendly matches at home against Nepal national team on August 25 and 28. The team is expected to leave for Incheon, Korea on September 12 for the Asian Games football event which will begin on September 16.

SQUAD

Shahidul Alam Sohel (GK), Rasel Mahmud Liton (GK); Atiqur Rahman Meshu, Raihan Hasan, Tapu Barman, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Yeamin Munna, Kesto Kumar, Yesin Khan; Atiqur Rahman Farhad, Sohel Rana, Mamunul Islam, Omar Faruque Babu, Jamal Bhuiyan, Yousuf Sifat; Wahed Ahmed, Toklish Ahmed, Hemanta Vincent Biswas, Jewel Rana, Aminur Rahman Shajib.

## No surprise in hockey squad

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) on Saturday announced a 16-member national team for September's Asian Games, leaving out veteran midfielders Sheikh Mohammad Nannu and Sabir Hossain along with goalkeeper Rafiqul Islam, defender Belal Hossain and Ratul Ahmed from the 21-member squad which has been training in the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan for the last two and a half months.

Nannu himself wanted to be left out to sit for his honours exams while Sabir was ruled out due to a shoulder injury he suffered during the first match of the three-match friendly series against India earlier this month.

The team features, among others, two fresh faces in Milon Hossain, who is replacement for Nannu and goalkeeper Abu Sayeed Nippon, both of whom played in the friendly matches against India.

"Milon has been taken in Nannu's position, who can play either as a midfielder or a defender. The team has few players who can play in various positions," said Rafiqul Islam Kamal, selector of the national team, when contacted over phone yesterday.

Nannu and Sabir's absence is likely to be a cause for concern for coach Naveed Alam, as both the midfielders were key to his plans, and are seen as blows to the team, which looked vulnerable in midfield and defence during the matches against India.

SQUAD

Asim Gop, Abu Sayeed Nippon, Mamanur Rahman Chayan, Khorshedur Rahman, Rokonuzzaman Shohag, Farhad Ahmed Shitul, Sarwar Hossain, Krishna Kumar, Hasan Jubayer Niloy, Pushkor Khisha Mimo, Mainul Islam Koushik, Tapash Barman, Irfanul Haque, Milon Hossain, Rabbi Salehin Rocky, Salman Sadique.

## Sk Russel splash the cash

SPORTS REPORTER

 Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra are back in business as the treble-winning club of the 2012-2013 season are looking to form a big-budget, star-studded side for the next season.

After a barren and frustrating season where they finished seventh in the Bangladesh Premier League and failed to reach the semifinals of either the Federation Cup or the Independence Cup, the club officials are breaking the bank to lure national stars from other clubs.

Amidst all the doom and gloom, the new leviathans of Bangladesh football had a rare moment of success as they reached the AFC President's Cup's final round, which will be held in September in Sri Lanka. And that tournament is believed to be one reason why the club officials are making the early move to lure the star players to their tent.

According to sources inside the club, at least 10 national players of different clubs, a majority of whom are from Abahani and Mohammedan, have already agreed to join Sheikh Russel partici-

pating in the finals of the AFC President's Cup, it is Bangladesh who we will be represented. Keeping that in mind we are forming our squad with the inclusion of 10 to 12 national players. Everything will be settled very soon and we will meet the commitments we have made to the players," said Selim.

Selim informed that Tk 35 lakh will be paid to one or more of the marquee players while none of the players will receive less than Tk 20 lakh.

Mithun, Emily and Zahid are thought to be the top-paid players, even though Selim declined to name any names in this regard.

Selim also informed that former Team BJMC coach Zakaria Babu is going to take charge as the head coach for the AFC President's Cup campaign, the preparation camp for which will start on August 20 at the BUET ground. Sk Russel, pitted in Group B, will begin their AFC President's Cup campaign with a match against Mongolia's Erchim FC on September 20 and will play their group's last match on September 24 against South Korea's Rimyongsu FC. The leaders of this group will play in the final against the winners of Group A on September 26.

"Even though it is Sk Russel partici-

## Bolt to run until 2017

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Sprint superstar Usain Bolt revealed Friday that he will put back his planned retirement until 2017 at the request of his sponsors.

The six-time Olympic gold medallist and 100m and 200m world record holder had intended to retire from the track after the 2016 Rio Olympics, but he told a news conference Friday that he will compete for a further extra year.

"I think I'm going to do another year. My sponsors asked me to do one more year, so I will compete until 2017," said the 27-year-old Jamaican.

If he sticks to his plan then Bolt's last competition is likely to be the 2017 world championships in London.

John Edrich scored fifties in all six-matches of England's Ashes-winning series against Australia in 1970/71.

## England take control

AFP, London

Joe Root continued his personal run-fest against India as England maintained their grip on the fifth Test at The Oval on Saturday.