

# Only five companies meet BPL deadline

**SPORTS REPORTER**

**BPL 120**

Five organisations have almost confirmed their participation in the third edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) after they provided the required financial documents to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Yesterday was the deadline for the interested companies to meet the BCB's financial demands with regards to the BPL. DBL Group, Dhaka Dynamics (representing Beximco), Axiom Technologies, ISports Limited and Royal Sporting Limited are the companies which submitted required financial documents.

Of the five companies, ISports Limited and Royal Sporting Limited had participated in the last BPL as well when they ran the franchises representing Rangpur and Sylhet respectively.

These documents will now be analysed by the BPL governing council before the companies can be confirmed of their participation in the league.

The board, however, is likely to continue accepting the financial documents from companies this week since they failed to attract seven companies; which is their current target.

"Since we want to host a seven-team tournament and we are currently two teams short, if the companies decide to send in their submissions this week, the board may accept it," said Nizamuddin Chowdhury, BCB CEO, yesterday.

"I won't say we are disappointed. There is still time. There are a number of other companies who are in touch with us. They really want to stay with us and are discussing various issues. They probably require a bit more time to study the financial requirements.

"We are being a little flexible here because we want the BPL to be a grand tournament. That is our number one priority. There is no particular deadline for the others to send in their submissions. However, I think a final decision will be taken regarding the matter during the BPL board meeting next week," he added.

Earlier, 12 companies had expressed their interest to participate in the third edition of the BPL scheduled to begin in November this year.

On August 19, the companies were given specific financial guidelines by the BCB. According to sources, each of the companies was asked to pay a sum of TK 5.5 crore by August 30. Apart from the payment, the board will analyse the companies on various other factors as well.



The Bangladesh football team arrive at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Perth, Australia yesterday. Bangladesh will take on the Socceroos in a World Cup/Asian Cup Qualifier in Perth's NIB Stadium on September 3.

PHOTO: BFF

## ICRC INT'L T20 England team already here

**SPORTS REPORTER**

British High Commissioner to Dhaka Robert W Gibson CMG accorded a reception to the England Disability cricket team at his residence on Sunday. The team arrived in Bangladesh on August 28 to participate in the first multinational ICRC International T20 cricket tournament, which will take place in between September 2 to 10.

"I am delighted to have the England Disability cricket team here in Dhaka, their first official visit to Bangladesh. People with disabilities face challenges every day, but through sport one can collectively address and overcome obstacles and show the world that disability is not a barrier to achieving dreams.

"The teams competing over the next two weeks will be like any other -- passionate, committed and determined to win. This cricket tournament is another big step towards, I hope, Bangladeshi Paralympic athletes competing on the world stage in Rio 2016."

The opening match between Bangladesh and England and the opening ceremony will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on September 2 and the remaining matches and the closing ceremony will be held at BKSP in Savar. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the tournament.

Afghanistan, India and Pakistan are the other teams in the five-nation tournament.

## Bowlers rule third day

**AFP, Colombo**

The decisive third and final Test between India and Sri Lanka hung on a knife edge after 15 wickets fell during a dramatic third day's play in Colombo on Sunday.

Play ended with India on 21 for 3 in their second innings, an overall lead of 132 with seven wickets in hand on a seaming pitch at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

With the series locked at 1-1 and bowlers from both sides trying to press home the advantage, a fine rearguard action by Sri Lanka's lower order stood out.

India's makeshift opener Cheteshwar Pujara carried his bat through his side's innings to anchor his team to a competitive 312 before their first innings ended 25 minutes after the start of the day's play.

The hosts slipped to 47-6 in reply and were in danger of being asked to follow on before the last four wickets added 154 runs in a remarkable revival that helped them to 201 soon after tea.

India seamer Ishant Sharma picked up five wickets, but Sri Lanka were saved by a defiant 79-run partnership between debutant wicketkeeper Kusal Perera and tail-ender Rangana Herath.

The pair joined hands with the hosts still 66 away from avoiding the follow-on and with Dhammika Prasad having retired hurt after being hit on the hand by a rising ball from Sharma.

Left-handed Perera, making his Test debut after playing 48 one-day internationals and 20 Twenty20 games, smashed the Indian bowlers for 55 off 56 balls with the help of nine boundaries.

Perera was dismissed by Sharma, top-edging a pull to mid-off, but 37-year-old veteran Herath made 49 and Prasad, who returned to bat after being treated in the dressing room, chipped in with 27.

Pujara, who marked his recall to the Indian Test side with an unbeaten 145 in the first innings, was bowled by Dhammika Prasad for a second-ball duck in the second knock.

Seamer Nuwan Pradeep then bowled Lokesh Rahul and trapped Ajinkya Rahane leg-before to leave India on 7-3. Skipper Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma played out time before heavy rain ended play 35 minutes early.

Sri Lanka won the opening Test in Galle by 63 runs but India drew level with a 278-run win in the second match at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo on Monday.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**INDIA:** First innings 312 (Pujara 145 not out, Kohli 18, Sharma 26, Ojha 21, Mishra 59; Prasad 4-100, Herath 3-84)

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 201 (Chandimal 23, Perera 55, Prasad 27, Herath 49; Sharma 5-54, Binny 2-24, Mishra 2-25)

**INDIA:** Second innings 21 for 3 (Rahane 4, R Sharma 14 not out; Prasad 1-8, Pradeep 2-6)

## Booters in Perth

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Malaysians.

Goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel, the man who played the key role in staving off the Malaysian challenge, credited the work done by goalkeeping coach Christian Schweichler for his improved performance.

"Our goalkeeper coach (Schweichler) worked hard with all the goalkeepers and my performance was the outcome of that hard work," Sohel told reporters on the eve of the team's departure for Perth yesterday morning.

"We know Australia are a much stronger team (than Malaysia), so we will have to do even better and give our hundred per cent against them in Perth," added Sohel.

While Sohel was arguably the best player on the pitch, the defence line was also pretty compact and thwarted a number of attacks from the Malaysians.

Right-back Nasirul Islam feels the Malaysia friendly will give them enough confidence.

"The match against Malaysia was challenging and our target was not to concede defeat. We tried to produce a good result, which we achieved and hopefully that will help us perform even better against Australia," said Nasirul.

Midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan felt the match gave the team the opportunity to gel as a unit as some of the players had been out of action for a few months.

"Some of our players hadn't played for two or three months. So it was good to get to improve the understanding before the match against Australia. We played well but we know Australia are a much stronger side, so we will have to be prepared to face them," said Jamal.

Bangladesh team had a light warm-up session at the Langley Park after being accorded a reception at the airport by the Bangladesh Welfare Association of Perth.

Meanwhile, the Socceroos boss Ange Postecoglou has been forced to reshuffle his pack after three key players -- skipper Mile Jedinak, Tomi Juric and Robbie Kruse -- withdrew through injury. The trio have been replaced by young Lazio attacker Chris Ikonomidis, Heidenheim striker Ben Halloran and Brisbane Roar midfielder Luke Brattan.

After the September 3 fixture, Bangladesh team will return home and entertain Jordan on September 8 while the Socceroos will take on Tajikistan on the same day.

## Clemon Cricket from Tuesday

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Former Bangladesh players Akram Khan, Khaled Mashud and Athar Ali Khan will be back with the third edition of their Clemon Indoor Uni Cricket, which will begin at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow and continue throughout the week.

Thirty-two universities will fight for the prize of five lakh taka in the meet.

"We received great response from the universities and the students in the last two tournaments and that has encouraged us to continue," Akram told reporters at a press conference yesterday.

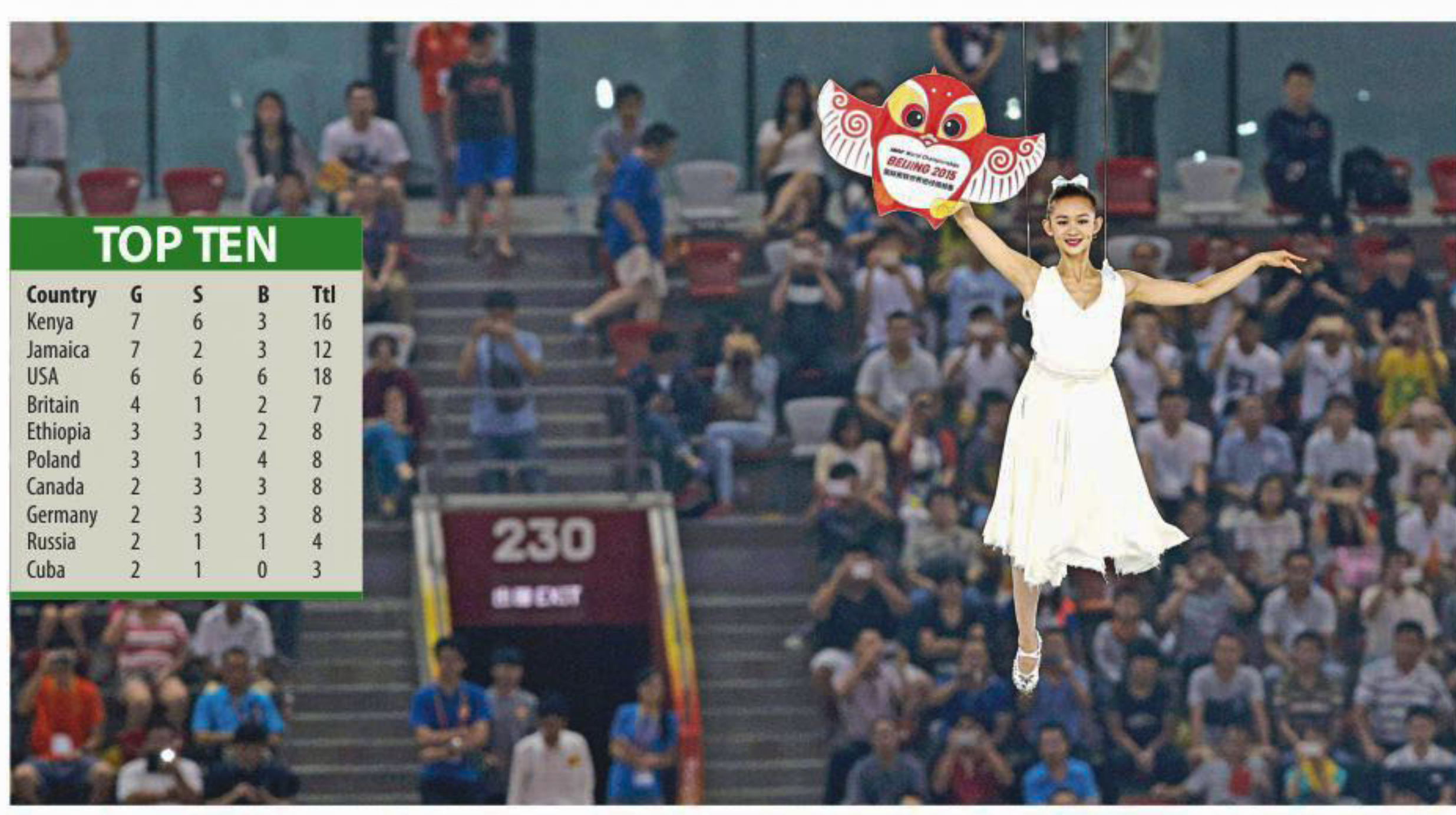
The trio also has plans of hosting the tournament outdoors in the next edition.

## FIR against Vinod, wife

**PTI, Mumbai**

Former India cricketer Vinod Kambli and his wife Andrea Hewitt have been booked for allegedly assaulting and wrongfully confining their domestic help for nearly three days, the Bandra police claimed on Sunday.

According to the police, Soni Nafesinh Sarsal (30) approached them Saturday alleging ill-treatment by her employers. Police sources said Soni, who had been working as a domestic help with the family for two years, was beaten up by the cricketer and his fashion model wife, and had been locked up in a room for three days after she asked for payment of her salary.



A dancer performs with the Games mascot during the closing ceremony of the IAAF World Championships at the Bird's Nest in Beijing yesterday. The 9-day meet will be best remembered for Usain Bolt's magnificent treble and Mo Farah's fabulous double.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Bolt's Jamaica usurps USA

**AFP, Beijing**

Even without Usain Bolt, Jamaica finished the world championships with a bang on Sunday, storming to the women's 4x400m relay title to match Kenya's gold tally at the top of the medals table.

Anchor leg Novlene Williams-Mills pulled out an eye-popping last 50m to catch Francena McCorory as the Jamaicans clocked this year's best time of three minutes, 19.13 seconds to pip the United States on the line in Beijing.

"I came out here with a Jamaican ruff neck," said third leg Stephenie Ann McPherson, using Jamaican slang for 'street thug', adding: "My team-mates did a great job."

The Americans hit back to take the men's 4x400m, veteran LaShawn Merritt passing Carl Lewis as his country's most decorated male world champion's athlete with 11 medals.

But they will leave China with a sense of foreboding before next year's Rio Olympics after playing second fiddle to the Jamaicans, who won seven gold medals -- three of them, inevitably, Bolt's.

Kenya also finished with seven golds plus six silvers and three bronzes, an overall tally which edged them ahead of Jamaica on the final standings.

But their success was tempered after two of their athletes, Joyce Zakary and Koki Manunga, failed pre-competition drugs tests. Hosts China placed 11th with one gold, seven silvers and one bronze.

American star Allyson Felix looked to have dug the Olympic champions out of an early hole with a blistering third leg to give McCorory a lead into the last lap, until Williams-Mills kicked coming into the home straight to win it for Jamaica.

Kenya's demonstrated their mid-distance brilliance again when Asbel Kiprop completed a world title hat-trick in the men's 1,500m to add to the 800m gold won by David Rudisha earlier in the competition.

Kiprop, who also won gold at the Bird's Nest in 2008, surged home in 3:34.40 in an electrifying finish, just edging out his countryman Elija Manangoi. Morocco's Abdalaati Iguidier darted past Algeria's Olympic champion Taoufik Makhloufi to take bronze.

Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana upset countrywoman Genzebe Dibaba in the women's 5,000m, denying her a golden double following her victory in the 1,500m.

In the final field events, Canada's Derek Drouin claimed the men's high jump world title in a cliff-hanging contest.

Meanwhile, Germany's Kathrina Molitor broke Chinese hearts by winning her first major javelin title at the age of 31, with Lyu Huihui taking silver.



The England Disability cricket team enjoyed a day away from training yesterday when they were welcomed by the British High Commissioner at his residence in Dhaka. The English will take on their Bangladeshi counterparts on September 2.

PHOTO: COURTESY