

SPORT



American Sam Querrey ended Novak Djokovic's remarkable Grand Slam winning run, downing the defending champion 7-6, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 during their third round Wimbledon match yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Gopalganj named 7th venue for BPL

SPORTS REPORTER
Gopalganj Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium has been included as the seventh venue for the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League, said officials of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday. Earlier the BFF had decided to hold the ninth edition of the professional league in six venues - Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Barisal - starting from July 24. "We decided to include Gopalganj Stadium after joint inspection team comprising representatives of BFF, National Sports Council and marketing rights holders Saif Global Sports Limited visited the venue on Wednesday," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said after a professional football league committee meeting yesterday. "The first leg of the league will start in Chittagong on July 24 and the opening ceremony will be held on July 20," Shohag added. A total of 12 teams will be taking part in the league where a total of 22 round matches, split into two legs, will be played. The clubs will first travel to Chittagong to play in the opening round of the first leg before moving to Sylhet, Barisal, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Gopalganj and Dhaka for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th rounds respectively. Out of the 22 rounds, 16 will be played in four venues - Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka, Rajshahi - while the remaining six rounds will be held in Mymensingh, Barisal and Gopalganj.

Spectacular Novak fall

AFP, London



Two-time defending champion Novak Djokovic was sent crashing out of Wimbledon by big-serving Sam Querrey on Saturday, shattering his dreams of securing the first calendar Grand Slam in 47 years. The world number one, bidding for a fourth Wimbledon title and 13th major, suffered his earliest loss at a Slam since the 2009 French Open. The 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5) third round defeat also ended Djokovic's Open era record run of 30 successive wins at the majors and his streak of having reached 28 consecutive Grand Slam quarter-finals. "Sam played a great match. His game was brutal and I was overpow-

ered today," said the Serb, who added that he "wasn't 100 percent healthy". "But this is not the place or time to talk about it." Djokovic added that he would not be playing in the Davis Cup quarter-final against Andy Murray's Great Britain in Belgrade in two weeks' time. Djokovic's defeat was good news for second seed Andy Murray who lost to his long-time rival in the Australian and French Open finals this year. The 2013 champion responded by making the last-16 with a 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Australia's John Millman under the Centre Court roof. "What Novak's done in the last 18 months, I don't think we'll see again for a long time. The level of consistency he's had is amazing, but it's impossible to win every match," said Murray. Murray will play Australian 15th

seed Nick Kyrgios or Spain's Feliciano Lopez for a place in the quarter-finals. Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori beat Andrey Kuznetsov 7-5, 6-3, 7-5 to set up a last-16 clash with Marin Cilic, the Croatian ninth seed who eased past Lukas Lacko of Slovakia 6-3, 6-3, 6-4. That will be a repeat of the 2014 US Open final won by Cilic. Three more hours were lost to rain on Saturday, justifying further the tournament's decision to stage play on the middle Sunday for the first time since 2004. Due to the rain-hit first week, two-time champion Petra Kvitova only finished her second round match at 5:30pm (1630 GMT) while others were already safely into the last 16. But the Czech 10th seed, with 43 unforced errors, lost 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) to Russia's Ekaterina Makarova.

Two-tier agenda still not over

ICC meeting ends without major decisions

SPORTS REPORTER



The International Cricket Council (ICC) Annual Conference concluded in Edinburgh on Saturday without any significant headway towards a radical change to its governance and cricket structure, saving Bangladesh and other lower-ranked teams from being relegated to a lower tier for the time being. But ICC's first independent chairman Shashank Manohar, who is heading a five-member team to review the controversial 2014 resolutions that empowered the 'Big Three' to call all the shots, said after the week-long meeting that they had made significant progress in presenting a 'fair and transparent' ICC in its next board meeting in October. "The board noted with satisfaction that significant and positive progress had been made by the working group established to oversee a complete review of the 2014 resolutions and constitutional changes. The board was informed that a draft of a new constitution will be prepared in the coming weeks for consideration by the board at its October meetings," read an ICC press release issued yesterday. "We have undertaken the responsibility of reviewing the 2014 resolutions and constitutional changes in their entirety as we are committed to following best practice principles of good governance to build, improve and enhance the image and reputation of the ICC by putting in place systems and processes which are fair, transparent and merit-based", read the press release quoting Manohar. "I am pleased with the work that has been done to date during this set of meetings and we are looking forward to presenting the amended constitution to the board for its consideration at the next meeting," added the new ICC chairman. Meanwhile, ICC chief-executive David Richardson, who spoke for two-tier Test structure before the meeting, creating an uproar in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, acknowledged after the meeting that it was a 'complex issue' but was 'happy' with the

significant progress which was made in the direction of a 'merit and performance based cricket structure.' "This is an unprecedented opportunity for our sport to introduce a package of bilateral international cricket structures, which are merit and performance based, have context, enhance the value of bilateral international cricket and create a highly competitive environment for cricketers so they can provide more entertainment to spectators," Richardson was quoted in the ICC release. "The Member countries acknowledge and recognise the importance of international cricket across all its three formats and are committed to ensuring that it continues to grow in relevance and value for cricket fans around the world. "This is a complex issue on many levels but I am heartened by the progress that has been made to date and during these meetings and look forward to the next meeting in Dubai," he added. The ICC release also added that a workshop be scheduled in early September in Dubai to facilitate discussion between Members on this project, and to work through some of the details. Meanwhile, the ICC has taken a strategic decision to support the inclusion of women's cricket in the 2022 Commonwealth Games as it will enhance the profile of the sport and create additional exposure and experiences for female cricketers, as well as opportunities to engage with the Commonwealth Games on important social justice issues and initiatives. There will be further discussions on cricket's potential participation in the Olympic Games following further meetings with the International Olympic Committee later in the year. Besides, the board has decided to tweak the Decision Review System (DRS). The size of the zone inside which half the ball needs to hit for a 'Not Out' decision to be reversed to 'Out' will increase, changing to a zone bordered by the outside of off and leg stumps, and the bottom of the bails (formerly the centre of off and leg stumps, and the bottom of the bails). This amendment will come into effect from October 1 or any series starting just prior to this date.

Eng reconsider Bangladesh tour

AFP, Cardiff



England cricket chiefs indicated Saturday they were prepared to cancel a tour of Bangladesh after an attack saw 20 foreigners killed in the country. England are due to arrive in Bangladesh on September 30 for a month-long tour including three one-day internationals and two Test matches. But an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokesman made it clear that they were prepared to abandon the tour if they or the British government deemed the security situation in Bangladesh unsafe come the squad's scheduled departure date. "The safety and security of our players and management is always of paramount importance to ECB and this applies to all teams representing England on overseas tours," said the spokesman. "We will continue to monitor and assess the situation in Bangladesh over the coming weeks and months and will undertake a thoroughgoing and robust pre-tour inspection of planned security arrangements for the England team. He added: "We will also continue to work closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and should our director of security, Reg Dickason, or the FCO, advise that the environment is not acceptably safe or the right measures not in place, we would take the appropriate steps."

Siddikur moves up one spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman moved up a single spot, to 56th, at the end of the third round of the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship in Taipei yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner traded three bogeys for two birdies at the Linkou International Golf and Country Club on Saturday for an aggregate of even-par (216). Siddikur was 13 shots off the pace, with Australia's Scott Barr leading the pack at 13-under-par (203).

Amla, Bravo in record fifth wicket stand

AFP, Port of Spain

South Africa's Hashim Amla and Dwayne Bravo of the West Indies set a new world record for a fifth-wicket stand in Twenty 20 cricket of 150 in the Caribbean Premier League on Friday. The pair put on their match-winning partnership in 92 balls for the Trinbago Knight Riders against the Barbados Tridents at Queen's Park Oval. Amla went on to score 81 from 54 balls having brought up his half century from 42 balls. Bravo made an undefeated 66 with both men hitting four sixes. They took their side from what looked like certain defeat to victory in 15.2 overs. The previous record for a fifth-wicket partnership in T20 cricket was 149 set by Yogesh Takawale and Sairaj Bahutule in the Indian Premier League in 2007.



Usain Bolt did not race at the Jamaica trials yesterday as he is nursing a mildly torn left hamstring, which has cast some doubt over his participation in Rio.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Jimmy hopes to be fit for Pakistan series

AGENCIES, London

England fast bowler James Anderson is "optimistic" he will be fit to play in the first Test against Pakistan after taking tentative steps in his recovery from a rare shoulder injury. Anderson pulled up sore after bowling in the third Test against Sri Lanka, and later had a CT scan following the match, which revealed a stress fracture in his right shoulder. It is such a rare injury amongst cricketers, the England medical team are said to believe there has only been one other reported case. Anderson did the damage with his final ball of the Test match, initially thinking he had pulled a muscle. "It was only discovered when I had a scan to look at some muscle damage in my right

shoulder," Anderson told The Telegraph UK. "I'd been aware of that for a little while but I felt it most when I sent down my final delivery of the Lord's Test against Sri Lanka. Anderson is not going to play any competitive cricket before the first Test against Pakistan begins on July 14, having already been ruled out of Lancashire's next two County Championship matches. He bowled "gently" in the nets this week, and has been able to complete gym work without issue, raising the 33-year-old's hopes of being fit. "I'm not playing against (Nottinghamshire) but I'll be at Trent Bridge and will do some more work on my bowling," Anderson said. "Gently to begin with, let's see how it goes. I've been doing some weights and gym sessions with no problems. So I'm optimistic that I'll be okay for Lord's."

Bolt in race to be fit

AFP, Kingston



Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt is facing a race against time to be fit in his bid for an unprecedented third treble Olympic gold with the Rio Games just five weeks away. Bolt withdrew from the 100m final of the Jamaican Olympic Trials on Friday with what the reigning Olympic champion described as a mildly torn left hamstring. The prospect of the 29-year-old 100 and 200m world record holder, seeking his third consecutive Olympic titles in the 100, 200 and 4x100m relay, missing the Games will rightly give organisers and fans palpitations. Bolt enjoys near-mythical status in athletics, his track performances making the six-time Olympic gold medal-

list one of global sport's most recognizable faces, a surefire crowd draw. Unlike the United States, where only the top three finishers in any event are selected, Jamaica employs a more flexible rule whereby athletes can still be chosen if they meet certain criteria. To fall into that category, the athlete must be top ranking, produce a medical exemption and be able to prove fitness before the Games. "Athletes who are ranked/listed in the top three in the world for their event who are ill or injured at the time of the National Championships and are granted an exemption from competing at the Championships may still be considered for selection provided that they are able to prove their world ranking form prior to the final submission of the entries for the competition," state the Jamaican athletics federation's rules. Bolt clocked 9.88 seconds over 100m at a meeting in Kingston on

June 11, the second-fastest time in the world this year. But it is less than clear in the 200m, Bolt not having raced his self-professed favoured event this season, so not figuring in the top three in the world. The Jamaican likely must now prove his fitness over 200m at the Diamond League meet July 22 in London to have a hope of running the event in Rio. That means a tight 20-day recovery period, something not lost on Bolt. "Starting the recovery process right away," the sprinter tweeted Saturday. Bolt had explained that he had felt "discomfort in my hamstring after the first round last night and then again in the semi-final tonight. I was examined by the Chief Doctor of the National Championships and diagnosed with a Grade 1 tear. "I have submitted a medical exemption to be excused from the 100m final and the remainder of the National Championships."