

## Women's football league starting with CONCERNS OVER COMPETITIVENESS

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a 16-month hiatus, the UCB Women's Football League is set to get underway today at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium with hopes of a competitive tournament, a prospect that seems challenging nonetheless.

None of the outfits from the top-flight Bangladesh Premier League are taking part in the sixth edition of the league, raising concerns about its competitiveness.

Facing little to no challenge on the field, star-studded Bashundhara Kings completed a three-peat in the previous three editions. However, they withdrew from the competition this time around following 'unrealistic payment demand' from national players.

Meanwhile, Nasrin Sports Academy, a familiar face in the women's football league, roped in most of the former Kings' players



Sabina Khatun, captain of Bangladesh women's football team and Nasrin Sports Academy, captures as selfies with the captains of the other teams following a press conference at the BFF House yesterday ahead of UCB Women's Football league, kicking off today. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

last moment to form a strong squad who are expected to go all the way without facing many challenges from the participating teams including two-time runners up Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan College Sporting Club.

However, Bangladesh Army SC Ltd, who made a last-moment entry under the tutelage of former successful women's national coach, Golam Rabbani Choton, will be in the focus in the nine-round league that will kick off with the match between Army and ARBC SC.

Even with the inclusion of Army SC, the sixth edition of the league will see only nine outfits, three less than the previous edition, competing in a single league format amid the heatwave across the country.

Despite concerns over the league's competitiveness, players remain optimistic about putting on a good show.

"We will play keeping our honour intact," said Sabina Khatun, skipper of Nasrin SA and Bangladesh national team, during media interaction of the nine captains on the eve of the tournament opener.

"We are going to play against players who are familiar to us. A number of players who once regularly represented the national team will be playing for Army SC. So, I think the league is going to be competitive rather than a one-way competition because everyone has formed good teams," Sabina added.

Surovi Akter Ety, captain of Uttara FC, said: "All players wait for the women's football league every year and they are happy to take part."

Army SC captain Mehenur Akter Mim said they are ready to give everyone a run for their money.

"Army formed a team for the first time in the women's league and

we really toiled hard under Golam Rabbani Choton sir after skipping the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation. So, we will be trying to extract the best out of our hard work and give all the teams a good fight," Mim said.

Meanwhile, players of Nasrin SA and ARB CSC will be staying put at the BFF dormitory instead of joining camps of their respective teams like the other outfits.

"Bangladesh women's football team are going to play two FIFA friendly matches against Chinese Taipei on May 30 and June 3, so, we have decided to continue the training of the national team players, most of whom are playing for Nasrin SA and ARB CSC from the BFF dormitory. However, both clubs will bear the cost of food and accommodation of their respective players during the tournament, said BFF general secretary Emran Hossain.

## Tigresses' focus only on cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Both Bangladesh and India women's cricket teams are training through the intense heat wave sweeping across the country in preparation for their five-match Twenty20 series, beginning in Sylhet on Sunday.

The two teams last faced off in a bilateral series in Bangladesh in 2023 and it ended in controversial manner with India captain Harmanpreet Kaur accusing the local umpires of making biased decisions after the Tigresses drew the ODI series 1-1 with a nail-biting tie in the third ODI.

Tigresses' star off-spinner Nahida Akter Said that the team was not focusing on controversy.

"We are not thinking of those [incidents]. All we are thinking of is how to play good cricket and win," Nahida said.

Although the heat in the Sylhet region has been less brutal compared to other parts of the country, still the weather poses a challenge for both teams.

Nahida, however, said that they are not concerned with the heat and are trying adjust to the conditions.

"Obviously everyone is suffering in the heat but as professional players, we can't focus on that. What I would say is that since coming here [in Sylhet] from Dhaka, we have been trying to adjust and that's what we have to do. We are not concerned about it and our focus is on the game," Nahida said.

The Tigresses' last series against Australia did not go according to plan and now the team wants to regain their groove with an eye on the upcoming Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

"We are preparing well going into the series. Yesterday [Thursday] and today [Friday] our batters prepared well and the bowlers too did their sessions."



## 'Umpiring didn't cause any controversy'

Former Bangladesh women's team cricketer Shathira Jakir Jessy, who is part of the ICC development panel of umpires, became the first female on-field umpire in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) on Thursday when she officiated the match between Mohammedan and Prime Bank in Mirpur. The match got heated surrounding the controversial dismissal of Prime Bank's Mushfiqur Rahim, who was given out caught but the fielder's foot had seemingly touched the boundary ropes while completing the catch. Jessy shared her experience of officiating that game and spoke about her upcoming assignments in an interview with **The Daily Star's Abdullah Al Mehdi**.

**The Daily Star (DS):** How was the experience of officiating in a first-class men's game?

**Shathira Jakir Jessy (SJJ):** It was a huge thing. I have done international matches before but doing a men's List A match was something different. At times it was definitely more difficult than officiating in international games. There were many national team players, so there was pressure. Their appeals were also quite loud and turning them down confidently was difficult. But thankfully, I completed my task well. I also didn't know how the guys would accept me but everyone accepted me very well. Seniors like Mushfiqur [Rahim] bhai and [Mahmudullah] Riyad bhai were there and I am acquainted with them, so that helped.

**DS:** How did you handle the controversy surrounding Mushfiqur's dismissal?

**SJJ:** When Tamim [Iqbal] bhai and Mushfiqur bhai were talking, they were doing it very politely. And the law plainly states that the umpires have to believe what the fielder says if he or she has not seen the incident with his or her own eyes.

**DS:** Experiencing such a heated match in your first

DPL game, what was that like?

**SJJ:** It was great. Truth be told, the more pressure situations you face the more you learn about your capabilities. We have to make decisions in a very short time and keeping up with these challenges, this heat and giving good decisions makes me feel that I've made a great start. Although a dismissal is being talked about, I'm relieved the umpiring itself did not cause any controversy. The match referee was happy and both teams appreciated me. That's a big achievement.

**DS:** What was it like umpiring in such heat?

**SJJ:** It was obviously difficult. But we don't keep these things in mind when we go onto the field. I have played in similar weather. At Chandigarh, I officiated a game in 42 degrees. But that was a T20. This was the first time that I officiated under intense temperatures in a one-day game.

**DS:** Your thoughts on the upcoming Women's Asia Cup where you are set to officiate?

**SJJ:** After the ACC Premier Cup they told me that I am in the panel. They also told BCB. It will most likely happen in July but official documents have not arrived yet.

**DS:** And what about the Bangladesh-India WT20I series?

**SJJ:** The DPL game was great preparation for me before the India series. Whatever happens, I won't be under this much pressure officiating in that series.

**DS:** Do you think your success has inspired others to take up umpiring?

**SJJ:** Actually right now many girls are very interested. There was an umpiring exam recently and 30-35 girls took the exam, which included many ex-Bangladesh players and even ex-captains. Most of the players want to take up umpiring and if they come, the standard would definitely improve further.



## Man City in title groove as Arsenal face Spurs test

AFP, London

Phil Foden issued a warning to Manchester City's title rivals after the champions' "frightening" attack inspired a vital 4-0 demolition of Brighton.

Pep Guardiola's side could not afford to slip up at the Amex Stadium on Thursday as they try to overhaul Arsenal in the title race.

And City rose to the challenge as Kevin De Bruyne's header put them in front before Foden netted twice in the first half.

Julian Alvarez added the fourth after the break to end his goal drought as second placed City climbed within one point of Arsenal.

City have a game in hand over both Arsenal and third placed Liverpool, who are two points adrift of Guardiola's men after their damaging loss at Everton on Wednesday.

The Etihad Stadium club will be champions yet again if they win their last five games, starting at Nottingham Forest on Sunday.

"In the first half it was frightening the way we attacked," said Foden, while De Bruyne added: "I trust my team obviously, all respect to Arsenal and Liverpool because they are amazing."

Arsenal must win at bitter rivals Tottenham for a second consecutive season to keep City at bay, while Liverpool take their spluttering challenge to West Ham. **Villa aim to cement top four place**

With Tottenham facing a tricky task against Arsenal, Aston Villa have a golden opportunity to cement their grip on fourth place when they host troubled Chelsea.



Villa are six points clear of fifth placed Tottenham, who have two games in hand in the battle to qualify for next season's Champions League.

A win for Unai Emery's men on Saturday evening and a loss for Tottenham would take Villa within touching distance of a first European Cup campaign since 1982-83.

The prospect of plundering a Chelsea defence breached five times by Arsenal on Tuesday will be all the incentive Villa striker Ollie Watkins needs to extend his hot streak.

Watkins has 19 league goals this term and is also the top-flight's leading assist provider with 12.

"I appreciate him and his progress. His commitment to do the work we always need has been fantastic, more than scoring goals, more than assists," Emery said. **Blades face the chop**

Sheffield United travel to Newcastle with the grim prospect of relegation hanging over them after a disastrous season.

With just three league victories, Chris Wilder's bottom of the table team are 10 points from safety with four games left. They are almost certain to return to the Championship just 12 months after winning promotion, with their crumbling defence at the root of their impending demise.

Beaten 4-2 at Manchester United on Wednesday, the Blades have conceded 92 goals in 34 league games, surpassing Derby's previous record of 89 in a 38-game top-flight season.

Their fate will be sealed if they lose at Newcastle on Saturday or if fourth bottom Nottingham Forest match their result against Manchester City on Sunday.

## Heatwave defers DPL schedule

SPORTS REPORTER

The third round of the Super League phase of the Dhaka Premier League was pushed back by two days due to the severe heatwave that has been sweeping across the country.

The second round was completed on Thursday and the next round was slated to begin on Sunday but a Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan official told **The Daily Star** yesterday that it will now be played on Tuesday instead.

"All the clubs wanted rest, so we decided to start our next phase from April 30," the CCDM official said.

Meanwhile, in the Relegation League, City Club's fate was sealed yesterday when they lost by 87 runs against Rugganj Tigers Cricket Club at the BKSP Ground-3. City Club also lost their first match against Gazi Tyres Cricket Academy on Tuesday and two losses in the three-team league saw them drop to the first division.

Shamsur Rahman scored a 115 ball 103 that helped Rugganj post 257. In reply, City Club were bundled out for 170 in 41.1 overs.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Health Services Division  
Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD)  
Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
2	Agency	Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Director, CMSD and Line Director, Procurement, Storage & Supplies Management of Health Services (PSSM-HS)			
4	Invitation for	Procurement of Insecticide (Non-Pyrethroid)			
5	Invitation Ref No. and Date	CMSD/G-2321/ICT/2023-24/Proc-D-4/28 Date: 25/04/2024			
6	Procurement Method	OTM (IC1)			
7	Budget and Source of Funds	RPA (GOB)			
8	Project Name	4 <sup>th</sup> Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Program (4 <sup>th</sup> HPNSP)			
9	Tender Package No.	G-2321			
10	Tender Package Name	Procurement of insecticide (Non-Pyrethroid)			
11	Tender Publication Date	28/04/2024			
12	Tender Last Selling Date	09/05/2024 Up to 4:00 pm			
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	10/05/2024 11:30 A.M			
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	10/05/2024 11:30 A.M			
15	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed, Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208			
16	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka (Conference Room, Room No-115) Date 07/05/2024, Time: 11:30 A.M			
17	Receiving and Opening Tender Document	Central Medical Stores Depot, Conference Room-115.30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed, Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208			
18	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per tender document.			
19	Brief Description of goods	Mentioned in schedule of requirement.			
20	Price of Tender Document	BDT 4,000/- (Bangladeshi Taka Four thousand) or US\$ 50 (fifty) only. The method of payment will be in pay order from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh.			
21	Package No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender security Amount	Completion Time in Weeks /Months
22	G-2321	Procurement of Insecticide (Non-Pyrethroid)	Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka	BDT 3,50,000.00 or USD 3,000.00	To be delivered within 12 weeks from the date of contract signature, or the date of opening the letter of credit (L/C)
23	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Hasan Arif			
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, CMSD and Line Director, Procurement, Storage & Supplies Management of Health Services (PSSM-HS)			
25	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208			
26	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No:88-02-48115486		e-mail: cmsd@cmsd.gov.bd Web: www.cmsd.gov.bd	

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings

-SD-  
Mohammad Hasan Arif  
Director, CMSD and Line Director, Procurement, Storage & Supplies Management of Health Services (PSSM-HS)

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