

HP lose final in Australia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh High Performance (HP) finished runners-up in the Top End T20 Series following a 32-run defeat against Adelaide Strikers in the final at the DXC Arena in Darwin yesterday.

Chasing a target of 170 runs, Bangladesh batters let their side down as they could not get enough momentum during the chase. Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby made 35 and 21 runs respectively but it could hardly help the side as they were bundled out for 137 runs in 19.5 overs.

Jordan Buckingham, Liam Scott, Tim Oakley, Noah McFadyen and Lloyd Pope took two wickets each.

Earlier, Tom O'Connell struck a 33-ball 53 while Ryan King and Liam made 35 and 30 runs respectively which propelled the Strikers to 169-7.

Pacer Ripon Mondol, who finished the tournament as the highest wicket-taker with 15 scalps, took two wickets in the final.

Earlier in the day, Bangladesh HP beat Northern Territory Strike by 21 runs in the second semifinal to book a berth in the final.



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and head coach Chandika Hathurusingha inspect the pitch at the Rawalpindi Stadium during a training session yesterday ahead of the first Test against Pakistan, starting on August 21. The venue will also host the second and final match of the series which was initially going to take place in Karachi. The Pakistan Cricket Board announced yesterday that the match will be moved from the National Bank Stadium in Karachi to Rawalpindi due to ongoing renovation works.

Bangladesh set to play against Bhutan next month

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team are set to play two friendly matches against Bhutan in FIFA September window, Bangladesh Football Federation's general secretary Emran Hossain Tushar said yesterday.

"We were hopeful about hosting Bhutan in the September window but the opponents have a concern regarding the current situation in Bangladesh. They are supposed to inform us about their decision on Monday. If they don't want to come here, then we will go to Bhutan to play the matches," said Emran.

The BFF general secretary said they picked Bhutan as opponents mainly with the aim of increasing FIFA ranking, with a target of securing Pot-3 instead of Pot-4 in the upcoming draw for the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Meanwhile, Emran revealed that FIFA recently imposed a fine of 15,000 Swiss Francs [equivalent to Tk 20 lakh] on the BFF over security lapse during Bangladesh's World Cup qualifying match against Australia at the Bashundara Kings Arena on June 6.

Bangladesh were previously fined twice by FIFA – 11,250 Swiss Francs and 1400 Swiss Francs – during matches against Lebanon and Maldives on Nov 21, 2023 and October 17, 202, both in World Cup qualifying matches at Bashundara Kings Arena.

The BFF general secretary, therefore, requested football fans to enjoy international matches by obeying all rules and regulations.

Bangladesh Sports Institute will be a blessing: Sports adviser

SPORTS REPORTER

Adviser to the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the interim government Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan on Sunday announced his plans of creating Bangladesh Sports Institute – a first-of-its-kind institution in the country which will work to take Bangladesh sports to the next level.

Asif made the announcement during a press conference at the Secretariat on the 11th day after the current interim government headed by Prof. Muhammad Yunus took oath on August 8. Secretary of the youth and sports ministry Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed was also present at the event.

"In order to produce international quality sportspersons in Bangladesh and to achieve greater success globally, Bangladesh Sports Institute will collaborate with national and international sports organisations and will deliver specialised and infrastructural assistance to the athletes," Asif told reporters during the press meet.

"Countries like the UK, the USA, China and France have achieved immense successes by linking sports and science together. Bangladesh also wants to reach to such levels through the Bangladesh Sports Institute," he added.

However, the adviser did not provide any specifics about the estimated cost for the institute nor when it could be launched in his press conference.

"To achieve the ultimate target and get quality service, experts from both home and abroad will be involved in Bangladesh Sports Institute. The ministry



is determined to complete the project in the shortest possible time. I hope it will be a blessing for the sports fraternity," he said.

The adviser added that the new institute will be an independent organisation and will work to accommodate the sportspersons who come out of BKSP.

"Many athletes come into sports through BKSP. There, they receive training and an education side-by-side till the Higher Secondary Certificate exam. But there is no specific organisation they can go to after that. That's why this project has been undertaken.

"This won't be run by the BKSP. It will be an independent organisation. We will check whether we can accommodate this in our existing infrastructure. Otherwise, we will start it through building new infrastructure," he said.

Several board directors of the

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) including president Nazmul Hasan Papon have gone into hiding since the Awami League government fell through a student uprising on August 5.

Some recent media reports have claimed that the BCB president expressed his willingness to resign from his position to few of the other board directors.

Asif, however, said that he is yet to receive a letter of resignation from any of the BCB directors.

"I have seen it in the media that the BCB president and board directors want to resign. But I'm yet to receive anything related to that directly. We are now discussing the matter with different stakeholders and former cricketers to solve the issue," he said.

The adviser also said that they are in discussion with the International Cricket Council (ICC) regarding hosting the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in October.

Asif also said that the ministry will be working to ensure that the constitutions of all sports federations are more democratic and also unearth the corruptions that have taken place in different sports bodies in the last few years.

"We speak about a reformation in the system, not a change in individual. The ones who corrupted the system will definitely be removed. But those who come into the [cricket] board or are handed the responsibility have to make the constitution more democratic. Along with that, the irregularities and corruption that have happened before must come to light. We have the same plan for other federations as well."

Govt has no problem with names of Sk Jamal and Sk Russel: BFF GS

SPORTS REPORTER

With the withdrawal of sponsors following the recent political turmoil in the country, clubs like Sheikh Jamal DC and Sheikh Russel KC are struggling to form squads for the upcoming football season, with the latter having already informed the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) about their inability to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League.

The interim government, however, has no problem with the names of Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, two sporting outfits named after two sons of Bagabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and younger brothers of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We have come to know from media and players that three clubs – Sheikh Jamal, Sheikh Russel and Chittagong Abahani – will not participate in the upcoming league. Sheikh Russel officially informed us about it yesterday [Saturday]. In this situation, the players sat with the president [Kazi Salahuddin], who requested the clubs to take part in the league.

"I have informed the Youth and Sports Adviser about the developments, and he said as sponsorship is a matter of clubs, the clubs should manage these things. They [govt] don't have any problem with names of Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel. They [govt] will provide necessary security to the clubs if needed," BFF's general secretary Emran Hossain told reporters yesterday after a meeting with adviser Asif Mahmud at the ministry.

SHORT CORNER

Melbourne match in 2027 to celebrate 150th anniversary of first ever Test

Cricket Australia (CA) plan to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first ever Test match, played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in 1877, with an Australia vs England Test at the same venue in March 2027, the governing body said yesterday. Australia won the single-innings timeless match played between March 15 and 19 by 45 runs, before England won the second match at the same venue to tie the series 1-1.

Al Hilal crush Ronaldo's Al Nassr 4-1 to clinch Saudi Super Cup

Al Hilal clinched the Saudi Super Cup trophy by coming from a goal down to crush Al Nassr 4-1 on Saturday, with all four of their goals coming in a dominant second half. Cristiano Ronaldo scored Al Nassr's only goal a minute before the end of the first half.

Lewandowski hails Barca youngsters after comeback win at Valencia

Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski said he was proud of his team's performance in a 2-1 comeback win at Valencia in their LaLiga season opener on Saturday. With Gundogan, Pedri, Gavi, Araujo and De Jong all out, new manager Hansi Flick gave 20-year-old academy midfielder Marc Casado his senior debut, playing alongside three 17-year-olds in Lamine Yamal, Pau Cubarsi and Marc Bernal.

**Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.

Alvarez fits perfectly with Atleti DNA: Simeone

REUTERS, Madrid

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone heaped praise on his new signing Julian Alvarez and expects great things from the 24-year-old Argentine forward.

Alvarez only joined Atletico last week after they paid Manchester City a deal reported by British media to be worth around 75 million euros (\$82.7 million), Simeone said he could be available for Monday's LaLiga opener at Villarreal.

"Julian (Alvarez) is a player we are all looking forward to seeing and who will help us to be better. It was all very sudden, so quick. He just arrived a little while ago, has been training for four days but has been adapting fast," Simeone told a press conference on Sunday.

"But I see him with a lot of enthusiasm, knowing where he is coming from and understanding where he is heading towards. His characteristics fit to the Atleti DNA."

After spending over 150 million euros on

Alvarez, Spain Euro 2024-winning defender Robin Le Normand and last season's LaLiga top scorer Alexander Sorloth, Simeone played down title expectations.

With negotiations to sign Chelsea midfielder Conor Gallagher lingering, Simeone said they still need to add more players to be competitive against a Real Madrid side who won the Champions League and LaLiga double last season before recruiting France captain Kylian Mbappe.

"Real Madrid start the season as the best team and will have to prove it with the wonderful players they have while all the rest of us will be behind to compete against them," Simeone said.

"We haven't closed the squad yet, apart from not closing it yet, we need to focus on tomorrow's game and see game by game how the team progresses."

"Barcelona continue to have a very good team, Real continue to grow with players who are phenomenal but it's clear for me that we have to think about ourselves."



Ten-man Bayer Leverkusen, whom never-say-die attitude earned them the nickname 'Neverlusen' in the last season, beat Stuttgart 4-3 on penalties in the season-opening German Super Cup on Saturday, winning the trophy for the first time. The season curtain-raiser, which puts the Bundesliga champions up against the Cup winners or league runners-up, was the first not to feature either Bayern Munich or Borussia Dortmund since 1993.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK