

## Match for visually impaired on Dec 4

## SPORTS REPORTER

National Association of Sports for the Persons with Disability (NASPD) have organised a friendly cricket match at the Dhanmondi Club ground on December 4.

Visually impaired players will take part in the match, to be held with assistance by ActionAid Bangladesh.

Ad hoc committee member of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and former national player Ishitaque Ahmed will attend the match as chief guest while former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud will speak on the occasion. Special guest will be National Sports Council (NSC) secretary Aminul Islam and Impact Foundation Bangladesh director and trustee Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury and ActionAid Bangladesh country director Farah Kabir will be present.

NASPD chairman Khandakar Jahurul Alam will chair the programme, which will also have a seminar at 3pm after the completion of the match.

## 5 to take part in C'wealth chess

## SPORTS REPORTER

Five Bangladeshi players will take part in the Commonwealth Chess Championship that begins in New Delhi on Monday.

Grand Masters Niaz Morshed, Reefat Bin Sattar and Abdullah Al Rakib and FIDE Master Aminul Islam and International Woman Master Rani Hamid are the players who will play in the 10-round Swiss League system tournament.

## KP loses \$1,000

## AFP, Colombo

England batsman Kevin Pietersen has reported losing 1,000 dollars in cash while the team was based at a plush hotel in the Sri Lankan capital, police said on Saturday.

Pietersen, 27, had left the money in his hotel room in Colombo, police officer PT Sisira said.

"The money was in his bag at the time it was reported missing," Sisira told AFP. "Investigations are ongoing and we have recorded statements from the hotel employees."

## Mohammedan

FROM PAGE 17 and Major Gen AKM Mujahid Uddin, GOC of Ghatal Cantonment, witnessed the 70-minute game.

## TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Aminul, Kaisar Hamid (captain), Arif, Biplob, Kamal, Ripon Khan, Sharif, Mintu, Arman, Aziz, Farhad, and Afaz.

TANGAIL XI: Mohammad Ali, Govinda, Yousuf, Liton, Olmra, Kabir, Saiful (captain), Tutul (Liton, Bormon) Sabuj, Aurun, and Dilu Hassan.

## Siddons debuts

FROM PAGE 17 the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL).

Siddons however was not worried with it as he is looking forward to capitalise the opportunities to the maximum.

"I'm not worried because we have twenty days and four or five build-up games in our hand before the start of the series. I think everything will be okay," said a confident Siddons who expressed his unwillingness to talk on the tour right now.

Since he has arrived in the capital few days back, the eighth foreign coach of the cricket team watched two days of NCL action in Khulna and Fatullah.

"So far I have not seen all the players and only watched some of the guys in a match. I am very happy with the progress of the boys who has been selected for the one-day team because some of the batsmen have scored runs and bowlers took wickets which is good," he added.

"Overall, the infrastructure is also fantastic and I am really looking forward to seeing the players get the most out of the facilities available here," he said by praising the pitch at Fatullah.

## CL Format

## FROM PAGE 20 agreed on.

Instead there will be a two-round preliminary phase compromising 15 clubs fighting for five group berths.

Platini said the new plans would mean countries such as Romania or Albania would be able to benefit from money from Champions League television rights meaning they could hang on to their best players.

"Certain people have said allowing smaller nations in would weaken the competition," Platini added. "Perhaps that will be so in the early years but after that the difference will be less and less."

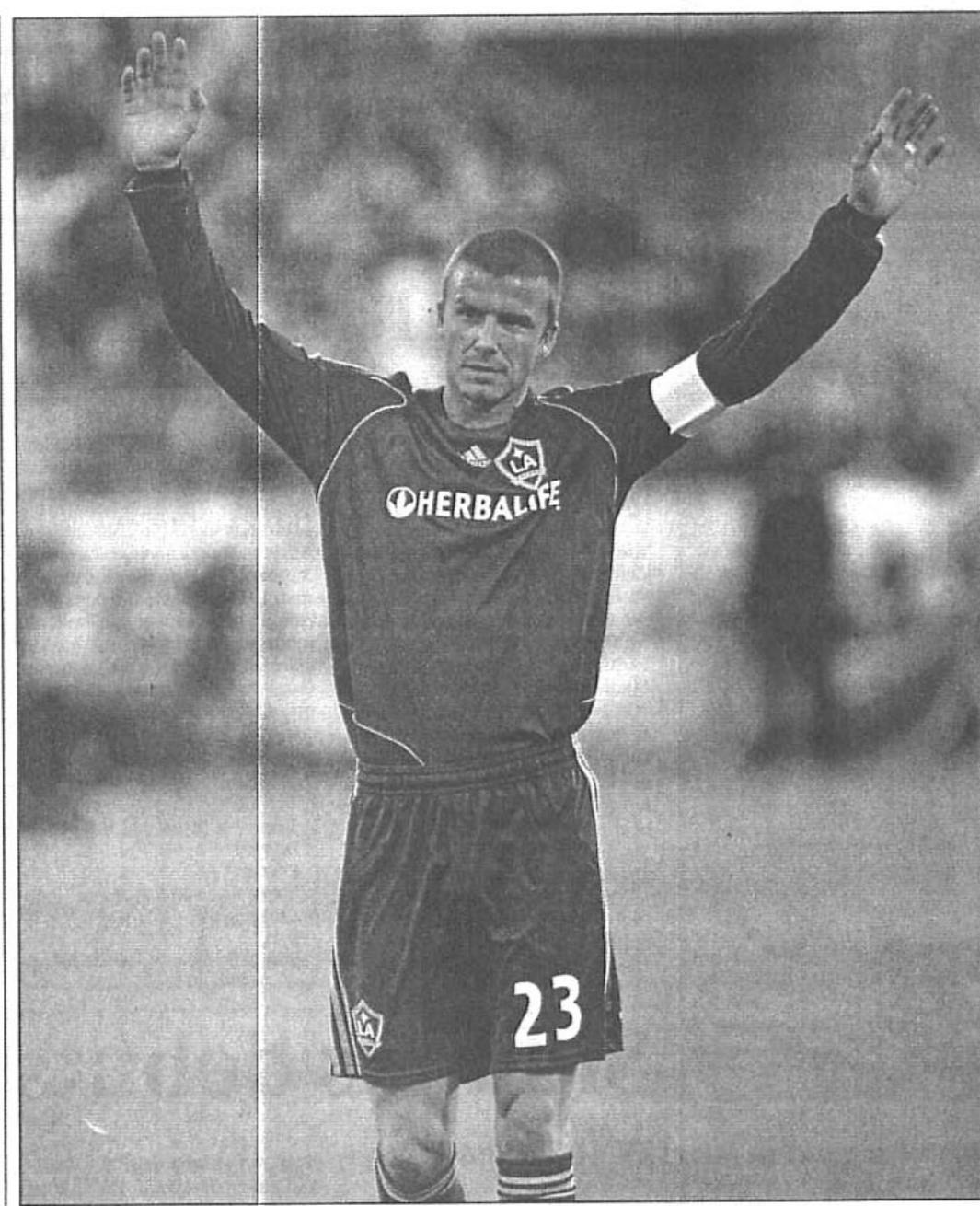


PHOTO: AFP

LA Galaxy star David Beckham laps up the crowd applause after a vintage performance in their victory over Wellington Phoenix at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington on Saturday.

## Kiwis dance to Becks tune

## Football

## AFP, Wellington

tour Down Under on a winning note, following a 5-3 loss to Sydney on Tuesday.

"We played the ball around well and enjoyed it," he said.

But the result did not mean much to the crowd, who just wanted to be able to say they saw their hero in the flesh.

The decibel level rose every time the 32-year-old England star touched the ball, even though the bulk of the 31,853 crowd -- a New Zealand record for a football match -- were nominally supporting the home team.

A penalty awarded when a Phoenix defender allegedly chopped down a Galaxy player in the box was questionable and a howl went up from the crowd when it was given.

But the jeers turned to cheers when Beckham stepped up and blasted the spot kick high into the net for the Galaxy's final goal.

"I was surprised. I'm not the penalty taker but (striker) Landon (Donovan) told me to have it and I was happy to," he said later. "I struck it pretty well."

Beckham said it was good for the Galaxy to end their two-match

point long balls, showing vision and composure others on the field could not match.

The Phoenix were outclassed in the end, despite opening the scoring with a goal by Aloisi in the 12th minute.

The Galaxy hit back within five minutes thanks to Clint Mathis and Donovan ensured a 2-1 half-time advantage for the US team with a goal a minute from the break.

Carlos Pavon extended the lead seven minutes into the second spell, leaving Beckham to complete the scoring.

Beckham leaves New Zealand Sunday, having achieved his goal of lifting the profile of football in the rugby stronghold of New Zealand, home of the All Blacks.

He was greeted by around 1,000 fans at Wellington airport on Thursday and about 15,000 screaming school children -- and a large number of mothers and a few grandmothers -- turned up at the stadium the following day to watch him train.

## Hoggard wrecks havoc

## FROM PAGE 17

About 3,000 English supporters, who almost outnumbered local fans, saw 30-year-old Hoggard slice through the batting in the morning session, with three of his victims falling to catches by wicket-keeper Matthew Prior.

Left-handed Sanath Jayasuriya, who is reportedly considering retiring from test cricket before the series is over, hit two superb cover drives in the first two overs, but did not last long.

The 38-year-old perished in the third over when he drove Ryan Sidebottom uppishly to the cover region, where Kevin Pietersen lunged to his right to take a good catch with both hands.

Michael Vandort fell in the 10th over when he mistimed a flick off Hoggard on the slow pitch and offered Vaughan an easy catch at mid-on.

England struck immediately after the first drinks interval when Hoggard forced Sri Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardene (one) to edge an out-swinger to Prior.

Extras: (lb-8, nb-2) 10

Total (All out in 59.4 overs) 188

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-29, 3-40, 4-

42, 5-42, 6-148, 7-180, 8-182, 9-186

Bowler O M R W

Sidebottom 15 1 58 1

Hoggard 14 3 29 4

Anderson 15.4 3 39 1

Bopara 1 0 8 0

Panesar 14 4 46 3

ENGLAND: First innings

Cook lbw Vaas 0

Vaas not out 13

Bell not out 36

Total: (For one wicket in 17 overs) 49

Fall of wicket: 1-0

To bat: Pietersen, Collingwood, Bopara, Prior, Sidebottom, Hoggard, Anderson, Panesar

Bowler O M R W

Mahela c Prior b Hoggard 1

C. Silvach b Hoggard 2

Mubarak c Prior b Hoggard 0

Muralidaran c Cook b Panesar 51

Fernando c Vaughan b Panesar 0

Malinga not out 12

Jayasuriya 2 0 9 0

Toss: Sri Lanka

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Asad Rauf.

## Rajshahi widen gap

## FROM PAGE 17

In reply, Rajshahi lost their opener Jafurul Islam cheaply but Farhad Hossain and Rabiu Karim shared 90 for the second wicket to give the foundation for an easy win.

Rabiu contributed 54 off 90 balls that featured four boundaries while Nayeem Islam struck unbeaten 52 off 49 balls with the help of four boundaries as well.

Alok took two wickets for 36.

**BARISAL-CHITTAGONG**

Despite Nazimuddin's blazing knock, Barisal defended their huge total of 289-5, built around four half centuries from Imran Ahmed (50), Rokibul Hasan (56), Kamru Islam (78) and Arifur Salahuddin (68), who smashed five sixes and two fours.

The game was all but over when Chittagong lost four wickets for 50 but Nazimuddin and captain

Hassan (Barisal) SYLHET: 206 all out in 49.3 overs (Alok 69, Rajin 31, Mabud 26, Ezaz 24; Farhad Hossain 5-16, Delwar 2-23, Mahbubul 2-27)

**RAJSHAHI:** 209 for four in 46.5 overs (Rajibul 54, Farhad Hossain 41, Naeem 52 not out, Moshinur Rahman 40 not out; Alok 2-36)

Result: Rajshahi won by six wickets

Man-of-the-match: Farhad Hossain (Rajshahi)

**KHULNA:** 125 all out in 37.2 overs (Rajibul 39, Mostafizur 17; Robin 4-34, Niaz 2-39)

**CHITTAGONG:** 274 all out in 47.5 overs (Nazimuddin 84, Ehsanul 57, Farid Hossain 45; Talha 2-73, Sajidul 3-52, Tariqul 3-38)

Result: Dhaka won by eight wickets

Man-of-the-match: Mahbubul Alam (Dhaka)

## Coach defends Akhtar

## CRICINFO, undated

Sourav Ganguly and Geoff Lawson, the Pakistan coach, in different ways defended the decision to play Shoaib Akhtar during the press conferences at the end of the second one-day international.

When a reporter put it to Lawson that Shoaib was bowling at about 70 mph, Lawson reacted sharply. "That's his slower ball. Excuse me, do you watch the game? He bowled at 130 kmph. The guy is ill. We had a tough choice to make yesterday with the replacement (Yasir Arafat) not at the ground yet and we had to make that decision in five minutes. We decided to go with Shoaib and he was keen to play. We got 24 overs out of him," said Lawson.

"Of course we'd have liked him fully fit. But how do you think he'd have gone (fully fit) on that bat? That's his slower ball. Excuse me, do you watch the game? He bowled at 130 kmph. The guy is ill. We had a tough choice to make yesterday with the replacement (Yasir Arafat) not at the ground yet and we had to make that decision in five minutes. We decided to go with Shoaib and he was keen to play. We got 24 overs out of him," said Lawson.

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Ganguly, for his part, said, "On Friday he was unwell but today (Saturday) I thought he bowled quick. You have to give it to him. He's been in hospital for two days and wasn't very well but he stood up for the country and turned out to play. He could have easily said 'I'm not playing' but that would have made the attack even weaker. He's Pakistan's best bowler."

Ganguly, for his part, said, "On

## NZ win at last

## Cricket

## AFP, Port Elizabeth

## South Africa

South Africa after Smith left the field with a hand injury suffered while fielding, said his team had no excuses: "We were behind the eight ball from the first over Friday."

New Zealand lost Lou Vincent to a run-out with only nine runs scored but McCullum and How made the target look easy. They shared the man-of-the-match award.

McCullum was in particularly good form as he hammered 81 off 85 balls with nine fours and a six before being run out by a good throw from deep cover by substitute fielder Dale Steyn while attempting a second run.

McCullum was aggressive from the start of his innings and How was the ideal foil, playing solidly but picking off loose deliveries to make his runs off 106 balls with 11 boundaries. It was the second successive impressive knock by How, who made a career-best 90 in the first match in Durban.

New Zealand produced their best bowling and fielding performance of a disappointing tour before Pollock (52) and Boucher (48) rebuilt the innings, starting their stand slowly but increasing the scoring rate after they played themselves in.

Tail-ender Andre Nel, who scored nine runs off the last three balls of the match as South Africa squeezed a two-wicket win in Durban, gave the innings late impetus when he hit a six and two fours off the 49th over, bowled by Mills.

**SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard of the second one-day international between South Africa and New Zealand at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Friday.

**SOUTHAFRICA**

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