

## Paul set for Spain?

Paul the Psychic Octopus is destined for Madrid's Zoo Aquarium, according to AS. A zoo spokesperson stated that bosses are willing to "meet whatever demands" are set by Paul's current owners, the Oberhausen Sea Life Centre in Germany, in order to secure the signature of the eight-armed clairvoyant. With the zoo eager to satisfy the demands of Spaniards who saw Paul foretell their national team's first ever World Cup triumph, the transfer may be completed in an "incredibly short" period of time, added the spokesman.



Left-hander Junaed Siddiqui lifts his bat after reaching his maiden one-day century against Ireland in Belfast yesterday. But William Porterfield overshadowed his effort with a century of his own that won Ireland the match.

## Porterfield smacks Tigers

**Cricket**

CRICINFO

Captain William Porterfield led from the front with a century as Ireland outplayed Bangladesh by seven wickets in the first one-dayer of the two-match series at Stormont in Belfast yesterday.

The left-hander struck 108 off 116 balls with seven boundaries and three sixes as Ireland reached 235 runs with five overs to spare, as they beat Bangladesh for the second time in three years.

It was a second successive heavy defeat for the Tigers after they crashed to a 144-run loss to England in the third and final one-dayer in Birmingham.

Porterfield shared 118 runs with Paul Stirling (52) for the first wicket and another 100 for the second wicket with Alex Cusack (45\*).

Earlier, Junaed Siddiqui combined with Shakib Al Hasan to help Bangladesh overcome a poor start and post a competitive total. The hosts, led by their seamers, bowled determinedly in an attempt to build on their success in the World Cricket League Division One, giving their batsmen a realistic chance of securing a 1-0 lead.

Trent Johnston and Boyd Rankin did the early damage, snaring the openers within the first three overs. Imrul Kayes spooned a catch back to Johnston, and the in-form Tamim Iqbal nicked a wishy Rankin delivery to slip. The

temptation to poke proved costly for Jahurul Islam as well, who was snapped up in the cordon to make it 28 for 3

Siddiqui, however, appeared confident from the outset. He opened his account with a straight drive off Johnston and followed it up by easing Rankin elegantly through the covers. There were occasional moments of uncertainty, with him edging to the slips on the bounce, but he saw off a tense phase following the early dismissals with patience.

Siddiqui ended a period of quiet with a lofted drive off Kevin O'Brien, and Shakib got moving with a slashed boundary off Alex Cusack. Though the fours were few and far between, the pair

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## AFC women's qualifiers in Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will host the Group B matches of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualifiers over September 20-24 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh have been drawn in the group along with India, Jordan and Iran while Group A features Myanmar, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan and hosts Philippines as all of the eight teams are bottom ranked.

Only the top teams from each group will advance to

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## Nazma, Jewel set 6 records

SPORTS REPORTER

Three records each from Jewel Ahmed and Nazma Khatun of Bangladesh Ansar headed the opening day of the BRB Cables 26th National Age-Group Swimming Championship to set eight national records at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Apart from the Ansar duo's six records, Palash Chowdhury and Khadiza Akter, students of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP), set the other two records.

Despite the dazzling performance from Jewel and Nazma, Bangladesh Ansar were dominated by BKSP, who topped the medal table with 19 gold, 19 silver and nine bronze while Ansar were well behind with 14 gold, nine silver and six bronze.

Jewel Ahmed made records in the 100m freestyle (58.93 seconds), 200m individual medley (2:23.02 minutes) and 400m freestyle (4:38.17 minutes) in the 15-17 age-group while his teammate Nazma Khatun created records in 100m backstrokes (1:20.77 minutes), 200m freestyle (2:32.13 minutes) and 200m individual medley (2:55.24 minutes) in the 13-14 age-group.

Palash eclipsed the previous timing of 1:14.28 minutes to set record in 15-17 age group's 100m breaststroke

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## Navy overrun Matuail

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy destroyed Matuail Milon Smriti Sangsad with a victory margin of 80-17 in the Pubali Bank Premier League Kabaddi at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka Wanderers Club beat Bangladesh Air Force 17-6 in the second match.

In the last match of the day, Shaheed Muzaffar Smriti Sangsad beat Jurain Janata Club 53-50.

## Bumper round draw today

SPORTS REPORTER

The bumper round draw of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup quiz will be held at the National Press Club auditorium today.

The programme, to be graced by footballers past and present and other luminaries, starts at 4:00pm.

The participants of the past five draws that took place in Barisal, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet will be eligible for the Dhaka round.

The lucky first prize winner will get a 32" Toshiba LCD TV.

The raffle draw for the audience with five prizes up for grabs, will also be held after the main quiz draw.

In 2006, Mohammad Liton of Mirpur was the lucky winner of the LCD TV.

## 'Super Cup will be held regularly'

**Football**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin has assured that Taka 1-crore Super Cup will be held regularly as long as he is at the helm.

"I assure you that Super Cup will be held every year as long as I am in the office and I am always in touch with the sponsors," Salahuddin told The Daily Star yesterday.

The second edition of the Super Cup came into jeopardy following reported loss of interest of the sponsors Citycell that left footballing circle in anxiety as the inaugural Super Cup brought huge enthusiasm among the organisers, players and supporters and showed signs of the game's return to its glory days.

The BFF boss said he asked the Bangladesh League committee to fix a date for the Super Cup as well as finalise the domestic calendar.

"After the approval of the Super Cup date and calendar by the BFF executive committee, the Super Cup will get underway," Salahudin informed. "It depends on the committee whether it will be held after or before the players' transfers."

## Nadimul first day's hero

SPORTS REPORTER

Nadimul Islam of Savar Sena Shooting Club picked up two gold medals in the opening day of the 3rd National Air Gun Championship at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

With 651.9 points, Nadim picked up gold in the men's air pistol. Selim Ahmed of Army Shooting Association (651.2) and Ershad Hossain (643.2) were silver and bronze winners respectively.

In the team event of the men's air pistol, Nadim and Iqbal Hossain won gold with 1109 points, followed by Army Shooting Association and BKSP.

In the women's air pistol, Armin Asha of Narayanganj Rifles Club won gold while Miti Dewan (Rajshahi Rifles Club)

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**What to WATCH**  
TEN Sports & SuperSport5  
Pakistan v Australia  
First Test, Day Four  
Live from 3:30pm

**DAY'S EVENT**  
Premier Div Super League Hockey  
Abahani v Mariner Youngs  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium



Dhaka Rifles Club's Farhana Akhtar Rony (R) takes aim during the women's air pistol team event in the 3rd National Air Gun Championships at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.



BKSP's Khadiza Akhtar swims ahead in the 400m freestyle competition of the BRB Cables 26th National Age-Group Swimming Championships at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## New 4-year deal for Maradona

**Football**

SOCCERNET

Diego Maradona will be offered a new four-year contract to stay on as Argentina coach, the Argentinian Football Association has announced.

AFA president Julio Grondona will meet with Maradona next week to offer him the chance to guide his nation to the Brazil 2014 World Cup after the AFA executive committee determined he remains the right man to command the

national team after a respectable showing at the World Cup in South Africa.

Maradona had little coaching experience before taking Argentina on a roller-

coaster ride to World Cup qualification. Few gave him any chance of turning his undoubtedly high-quality squad into World Cup contenders but they impressed on their way to the quarterfinals before being humbled 4-0 by Germany.

Grondona intends to meet with Maradona no later than next Wednesday to discuss the contract extension. Maradona said after his side's exit that he would consult his family and the Argentina players before deciding whether he intended to stay on.



DIEGO MARADONA



Iker Casillas & co might have lifted the trophy on July 11  
But what will you lift today?

THE BUMPER ROUND DRAW OF  
The Daily Star - **RANGS TOSHIBA**  
WORLD CUP QUIZ WILL BE HELD TODAY.

The programme starts at 4:00pm.  
Venue: National Press Club auditorium, Dhaka.  
The lucky first prize winner will get a 32" Toshiba LCD TV  
Plus, there's a raffle draw for the audience with five prizes up for grabs, so come to the Press Club in numbers.



**WORLD CUP POLL**  
Should Howard Webb be happy with his refereeing in the final?  
Yes 54.5%  
No 45.5%  
TOTAL VOTES: 44  
TODAY'S POLL  
What will be your lasting memory of this World Cup?  
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote  
Follow The Daily Star Sport on  
**twitter**  
www.twitter.com/dssport