

Keeper charged with murder

Bruno Souza, a Brazilian star goalkeeper suspected of having his ex-girlfriend killed, was on Friday formally charged with her murder, officials said.

The footballer, who played for Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo team, was also charged with kidnapping, hiding a body, forming a criminal gang and corrupting minors, police in the state of Minas Gerais told a media conference.

Even though the body of the alleged victim, 25-year-old Eliza Samudio, has not been found, police wrapping up an initial phase of their probe on Thursday determined that Souza



Baki 32nd in 10m air rifle

SPORTS REPORTER

Shooter Abdullah Hel Baki finished 32nd in the men's 10m air rifle competition of the 50th ISSF World Championships in Munich yesterday.

His 593 points was two better than Asif Hossain Khan, who was 48th. Toufiq Shahrir Chandan scored 579 points to end at 108th position.

All three gained the minimum qualification points while Ishtiaque Ahmed's 570 points was not good enough.

22-year-old Italian Niccolò Campriani, who won the event, became the first qualified athlete for the London 2012 Olympic Games among all sport events.

According to the ISSF website, Campriani won the medal in front hundreds of spectators, that included his parents and teammates.

Kashem Smriti lift Kabaddi title

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Kashem Smriti Sangsad emerged champions after defeating Janaprio XI 14-6 in the second phase of Kabaddi Mela held at the district stadium yesterday.

They earned only one lona in the final match.

The daylong fair in Rajshahi was second in the country as the nationwide tournament began in Tangail last week and is likely to end in Feni.

Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation assisted by Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited (BEOL) organised the tournament with an aim for reviving the national game what they say is on verge of extinction due to lack of patronisation.

BCCI rejects Delhi plea

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs on Saturday turned down a request from beleaguered Commonwealth Games organisers for a grant of one billion rupees (22 million dollars).

Games organiser Suresh Kalmadi earlier this month asked the cash-rich Indian cricket board (BCCI) for financial assistance as costs escalated for the Games to be held in New Delhi from October 3-14.

The BCCI's decision-making working committee, which met in Mumbai on Saturday, decided to turn down Kalmadi's request.

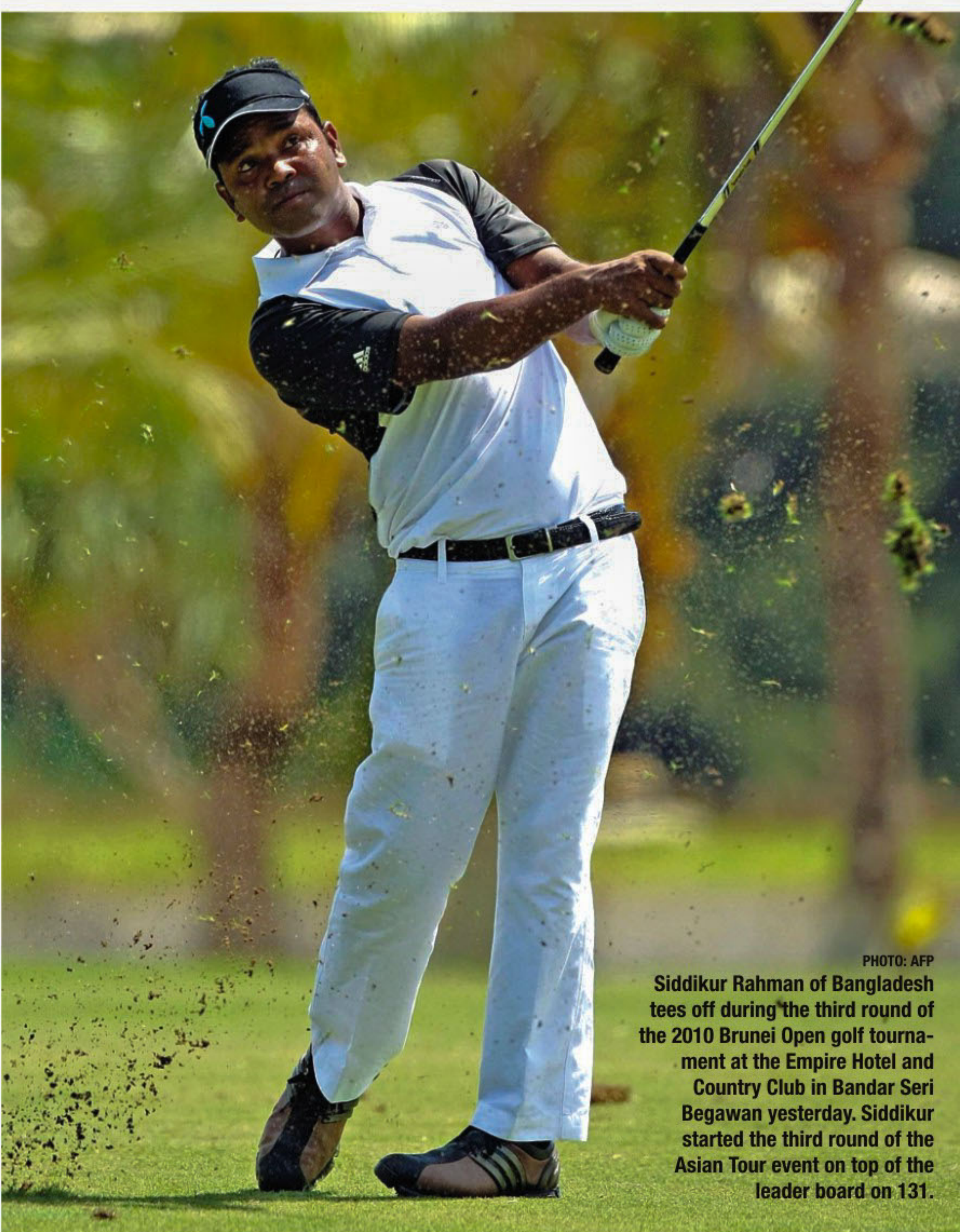


PHOTO: AFP

Siddikur Rahman of Bangladesh tees off during the third round of the 2010 Brunei Open golf tournament at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Bandar Seri Begawan yesterday. Siddikur started the third round of the Asian Tour event on top of the leader board on 131.

Siddikur eyes history

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi golfer Siddikur Rahman is on the verge of a unique feat as he maintained the third-round lead at the Brunei Open in Bandar Seri Begawan yesterday.

The 25-year-old Siddikur, who became a professional golfer in April 2008 after playing the qualifying phase in India in February of the same year, will create a history if he maintain the lead in today's 18-hole final round.

"It's a unique achievement what Siddikur have already done in the competition. He started as a ball boy but then achieved marks one after another," said a delighted Maj (ret'd) Anis-ul-Islam, member of operations of the Bangladesh Golf Federation.

Siddikur was the only golfer who won all the amateur circuit in the region as an amateur golfer and he also won four major tournaments in the India circuit in 2008 but his performance in the qualifying phase of the Asian tour was ordinary.

He however returned with a bang last month when he finished sixth in the Kings Cup in Thailand.

Siddikur took a step closer to becoming the first Bangladeshi to win on the Asian Tour. He rued a cold putter but is determined to bounce back and secure a historic victory.

"It was disappointing to bogey the last hole or I might have taken a one-stroke lead. Overall, I'm still happy to be in contention and looking forward to make a title push," said Siddikur.

AFP adds: Malaysia's Ben Leong returned to his best form to take a share of the third-round lead with overnight leader Siddikur.

Leong put himself in contention for a second Asian Tour title with a four-under-par 67 while Siddikur bogeyed the last hole for a 70.

The joint leaders are tied with a three-day total of 12-under-par 201 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Former Brunei Open champion Lin

Wen-tang of Chinese Taipei battled to a 66 to lie in tied third position with South Africa's Jbe Kruger and Australian Adam Blyth on a 202 total in the 300,000-dollar tournament.

English duo Simon Griffiths and Nick Redfern, runner-up at the King's Cup in Thailand last year, are a stroke back with India's Anirban Lahiri on 203.

Leong got off to a bright start with five birdies in his opening six holes followed by a bogey on eight to make the turn in 31 before adding a bogey and a birdie on the back nine.

The Malaysian, who endured a poor run after his victory at the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters in 2008, credited his recent surge to form after seeing his coach David Milne last week.

"I putted amazingly on the front nine but the conditions started to get really hot and the wind was blowing strongly," said the 24-year-old.

"I have been seeing my coach a lot this

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In the dark for 7 years

Cricket

MAZHAR UDDIN

Fourteen-year-old Belal walks all the way from Asad Gate to practice cricket on weekends at the Abahani ground. Away from the grind of daily life, the young boy looks forward to these few hours that let him play his favourite game.

But it wasn't to be this weekend.

The grass in the cricket field is too tall for anyone to run on and the heavy overnight rain prevents any chance of net practice as the run-ups were muddy. Belal and the rest of the boys who practice in the academies based at the Abahani ground had to make do with some slip catches.

For the past seven years this has been the case everyday.

Because since 2003, the indoor facility in Abahani ground has been of no use since it is without any electricity. The local power authority switched off the lights because of unpaid bills back then and it has remained that way.

After several years, sometimes in 2008, the interior of the indoor was renovated with work done on the walls and better toilets were built. The exterior of the building sport fresh paint but the basic use of the indoors -- putting bat to ball in net practice -- has permanently stopped.

The National Sports Council (NSC) did the renovation work and while the new-look indoor looks inviting, it remains dark inside, robbing the future of hundreds of cricketers.

According to NSC director Abdur Rahman, the governing body has looked

after the indoor after it was shut down due to the unpaid bills but now it is under the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

"After that (it was shut down due to electricity bills) it was under construction and lots of work have been done but the lights were never turned on for practice. The NSC finished all their work and it is now BCB who is taking care of the indoor," said Rahman.

But this is where the story gets tricky.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has categorically said that the NSC never officially handed over the indoor and it is not under their custody at the moment.

"NSC is developing the indoor. It is not under us at the moment," said BCB acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury who added that while it was talked about in a high-level meeting, the handover was never made.

This to and fro by the two parties have left cricket all the poorer.

While budding youngsters are denied proper cricket practice all through the monsoon season, the frustration for serious, professional cricketers who are eager to hit the nets in the off-season, boils over as it is the only 'public' indoor facility in the country, since the Mirpur and BKSP indoors are limited to national players and those of the sports institute respectively.

While some locals say that the senior coaches could have had a voice in the matter but a lack of coordination between them is holding them back.

In the end though, NSC's rigidity is the main reason behind this impasse.

But as it stands now, this is not helping anyone concerned.

Gul makes heroic effort

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Umar Gul starred with both bat and ball but England still built a lead of nearly 300 runs against Pakistan at tea on the third day of the third Test at Trent Bridge here on Saturday.

Gul, who ensured Pakistan avoided the follow-on with a Test-best 65 not out, took three wickets for seven runs in 21 balls on his way to impressive tea figures of three for 20 in 10 overs.

However, England in their second innings were 120 for six, a lead of 292.

Matt Prior was 13 not out and Graeme Swann 14 not out.

Given how Pakistan had been dismissed for 182 in their first innings on Saturday, it appeared England already had

enough runs on the board.

But a longer-term concern for England ahead of their Ashes defence in Australia later this year was Kevin Pietersen's dismissal for 22 - the 21st Test innings in a row where the star batsman had failed to score a century.

England, 49 for two at lunch, were 66 for four soon afterwards.

Pietersen, who looked ready to tough it out in difficult, overcast conditions, got an inside edge off seamer Gul and wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal, who had a poor first innings behind the stumps, held a superb one-handed catch after diving to his left.

However, next ball Paul Collingwood cut flat-footedly and Kamran Akmal dropped a catch that would not have carried to first slip despite getting both gloves on the ball.

Jonathan Trott, like Pietersen born in South Africa, fell next when he was bowled for 26 by a Gul delivery that kept low.

In the first innings, Kamran Akmal had missed a chance to stump Collingwood on 48.

Collingwood went on to make 82 and share an England fifth-wicket record stand against Pakistan of 219 with Eoin Morgan.

But that Kamran Akmal's luck was turning was clear when Gul had Collingwood lbw for one to leave England 72 for five.

Although the Umpire's Decision Review System (UDRS) was in operation for the first time in a Test in England, Collingwood opted against a referral and replays backed up New Zealand umpire Tony Hill's verdict.

Morgan's first innings 130, his maiden Test century, put England in a strong position, but the left-hander was run out for 17 second time around after a mix-up with Prior.

Before lunch, England lost captain Andrew Strauss and fellow left-handed opener Alastair Cook to be 18 for two.

Strauss exited in bizarre fashion for a third ball nought. He edged left-arm quick Mohammad Aamer to second slip where Umar Akmal fumbled the chance and then, flailing away, knocked the ball up and Umar's brother Kamran reacted well to complete a diving catch.

Gul's spirited innings, which saw him score 30 runs off Steven Finn's only two overs on Saturday, ensured England would have to bat again.

Pakistan resumed on 147 for nine, 207 behind but only eight short of avoiding the follow-on, with Gul 30 not out and Asif unbeaten on nought.

Gul clipped Saturday's first ball, from James Anderson, for four.

And next over No 9 Gul's backfoot cover-driven four off Finn meant Pakistan had avoided the follow-on.

Gul's pulled boundary off

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Inzy's offer for batsmen

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has offered his services as a batting coach for a national side struggling to score runs in England.

"The team definitely needs a full-time batting coach and if any offer is made to me for this position, I will definitely give it serious consideration," Inzamam told Reuters on Saturday.

Pakistan's batting lineup has struggled in English conditions and on Friday, the tourists were reduced to 147 for nine in reply to England's 358 in the first test at Nottingham.

In the two-test 'home' series played in England against Australia earlier this month, Pakistan were unable to score more than 250 runs in any innings, although they won the second test at Leeds after bowling Australia out for 88 on the first day.

Pakistan also suffered when selectors overlooked former captains and experienced batsmen Younus Khan and Muhammad Yousuf for the tour despite public pressure to include them.

Inzamam, Pakistan's most capped player with 120 test and 378 one-day international appearances, said that the present team was not equipped technically to handle test matches.

"They need a batting coach to guide them and it is a responsibility I would look at accepting because Pakistan cricket has given me a lot," he added.

"The batsmen are not playing with the required technique

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Pakistan paceman Umar Gul successfully appeals for a leg-before against Paul Collingwood of England on the third day of the first Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday. Gul, who picked up three key wickets, also saved Pakistan from the follow-on with an unbeaten 65.

PHOTO: AFP

SPORTS POLL

Do you think Sachin Tendulkar can reach 100 international centuries?

Yes 56.9%
No 43.1%

TOTAL VOTES: 72

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should the selectors be given a longer reign before the World Cup?

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