

## Arsene punished for spat

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has been fined 8,000 pounds and given a one-match ban following his spat with a match official at the end of his team's draw with Sunderland, the Football Association said Tuesday. It follows an incident at the Stadium of Light on Saturday when a furious Wenger remonstrated with fourth official Martin Atkinson after Sunderland had equalised in the fifth minute of injury time. Wenger appeared to gently push Atkinson on the back after Darren Bent had scored 15 seconds after the end of the allotted four minutes of stoppage time.

- AFP



## Bad news for cricket fans

Only 6,000-7,000 seats on offer during NZ series

Renovation work is going on in full swing at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur these days. Here workers are seen carrying a pillar to be used for the construction of a Lord's-modelled 'Space Ship' press box next to the existing one at the venue for the 2011 Cricket World Cup. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

### BISHWAJIT ROY

If you are planning to go to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur next month to watch the one-day series between Bangladesh and New Zealand, you better book your tickets early. It is very apparent now that a very small number of spectators can watch the matches from the stands during the five-match series, as the Mirpur venue cannot hold even half of its 26,000-capacity.

The "Home of Cricket" is now under construction for the 2011 World Cup as six out of eight matches including two quarterfinals will be take place at this venue.

The pace of the work has caused the seating arrangement to be incomplete, forcing the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to print a maximum of 10,000 tickets for each match, of which almost two to three thousand will be complimentary tickets, leaving at best 6,000-7,000 seats for the general public.

New Zealand will arrive in Dhaka on September 28 to play five one-day internationals against the Tigers at Mirpur. The first match will be held on October 5 while the subsequent matches are scheduled for October 8, 11, 14 and 17 respectively.

"For the greater interest, we have to accept some difficulties for the coming series. Within a very short time we will get a guideline from the local organising committee (LOC) about the capacity for the series," said BCB's director and tour organising secretary Gazi Ashraf Hossain.

"But the number will not be more than 10,000. From them we are not sure how much we can offer for sale as we have to print an estimated number of complementary tickets also," said Ashraf, adding that BCB's ticket and seating committee will make the deal for the ticket sponsor within 2-3 days.

The board has to use the manual scoreboard as there is no chance for the electronic one to be installed by the time of the series, while there is hardly any chance to see the giant screen also being set up.

Sources have said that the progress of the renovation work was not satisfactory and it will be further delayed as Gazi Ashraf informed that the development work will be stopped on match days.

"We should stop the development work on match days and there is no other choice," said Ashraf.

Though the tour organising secretary said that they were waiting for guidelines from the LOC, the host tournament director Ali Ahsan Babu could not give a clear picture of the progress of the development work.

"It's very difficult to say right now about the percentage of work that has been completed so far," said Babu.

"For the New Zealand series, the capacity will be more or less 10,000 but it is not confirmed yet. As far as I know, everything is going according to plan. We are hopeful that the floodlights will be installed by next month and all the other things will be also done according to the schedule," said Babu.

## No headway in BOA charter dispute

SPORTS REPORTER

Sports minister Ahad Ali Sarker yesterday sat with the high-ups of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and the representatives of 17 national federations to solve the constitutional dispute over the BOA councillorship, but the meeting ended without any solution.

General secretaries of different national federations, most of whom were appointed through the ad-hoc committees, have been demanding the reconstruction of the BOA executive committee, of which most federations have no official representatives after the ad-hoc committees changed their councilors.

Of the 37-member BOA executive committee, 34 were elected for a four-year stint in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## Pakistan draw level Series decider at Rose Bowl today

Cricket

AFP, London

Pakistan beat England by 38 runs to level their one-day international series at 2-2 at Lord's here on Monday in a match the hosts had thought about giving up on as the 'fixing' row escalated.

The fifth and series-deciding match between the sides will be held at the Rose Bowl in Southampton today.

England captain Andrew Strauss, in a statement issued shortly before the toss, expressed his side's "outrage and dismay" at comments from Pakistan cricket chief Ijaz Butt that England had received "enormous sums of money" to deliberately lose last week's third ODI at The Oval.

An angry Strauss said England had decided to play Monday's match and Wednesday's fifth and final one-day international at Hampshire's Rose Bowl despite their "strong misgivings" because of their "responsibilities to the game of cricket".

The opening batsman's mood would not have been improved by the way England, chasing 266, to win, lost a trio of wickets for 14 runs to slump from the commanding position of 113 without loss to 127 for three.

Fast bowler Umar Gul, one of the world's best under floodlights, took four for 32 in 8.1 overs

after Saeed Ajmal again tormented England, the off-spinner finishing with two for 31.

Express quick Shoaib Akhtar weighed in with three for 59.

That Pakistan, who have fought back to level the series from 2-0 down, made 265 for seven was thanks mainly to Abdul Razzaq's rapid unbeaten 44.

Pakistan had been 155 for five, with off-spinner Graeme Swann taking four for 37.

But Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi made 37 and the big-hitting Razzaq's runs came in just 20 balls.

Mohammad Hafeez top-scored with 64. Opens Strauss and Steven Davies stroked boundaries all round Lord's before wicketkeeper Davies was bowled off an inside edged drive off Ajmal for 49.

Jonathan Trott, involved in a pre-match altercation with Pakistan's Wahab Riaz, played on to Ajmal for four as he pushed forward defensively.

Left-hander Strauss, who made 126 in England's four-wicket second ODI win at Headingley, was in fine touch as he made 68 off 72 balls with eight boundaries.

But he fell when he cut Akhtar and Fawad Alam at backward point held a sharp catch.

Gul knocked back Paul Collingwood's off-stump and when he bowled Tim Bresnan with a superb swinging delivery, England were 205 for seven.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Hosts to look to contain

SPORTS REPORTER

Smarting from their humiliating 6-1 drubbing at the hands of Jordan, the under-19 girls of Bangladesh are hoping to put up a better show against favourites Iran when they meet in the second match of the AFC Under-19 Women's qualifiers under the floodlights of Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur today.

Iran who in their first match defeated India 4-2 have shown their superior skill and fitness, should be handful for the hosts. Bangladesh coach Mahmud Alam Babu knows the task against the Iranians would be a huge one, and therefore set a modest target for his charges.

"Our target will be to keep the margin of defeat to as low as possible. The mistakes that we made in the last match should not be repeated. The girls were a little too excited in the first match, which I think they will be able to overcome in this match," said Babu as she watched his charges practice

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3

## Imran complains of 'double standards'

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani sporting hero Imran Khan brushed aside calls to ban his nation from international cricket until corruption allegations are investigated, saying a country cannot be punished collectively.

Former England captains Ian Botham and Michael Vaughan have demanded Pakistan are kicked out of international cricket until a probe into their cricketers has been completed.

Their calls follow allegations of spot-fixing against Pakistani cricketers during their ongoing tour of England, which triggered a war of words between cricket officials from the two countries.

Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran said a country cannot be thrown out on the basis of allegations.

"In any form of illegal activity you cannot give collective punishment to a country and deprive millions of fans, more so because these are still allegations yet to be proven," Imran told AFP.

Pakistani cricket has been embroiled in the spot-fixing scandal since last month's News of the World report in which the British newspaper claimed several players took money to underperform during the Lord's Test

against England.

Test captain Salman Butt and bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer were provisionally suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC) earlier this month as British police interviewed the players.

The police completed an initial report and prosecutors are deciding whether to press charges.

Imran said the only evidence comes from a newspaper report and its footage.

"The only evidence is that of News of the World footage showing someone [alleged bookie Mazhar Majed] with money to be given to the players, and on that basis you cannot punish a country," said Imran, who played 88 Tests and 175 one-day matches for Pakistan.

He said the whole issue should be handled with common sense and urged all parties to refrain from making "inappropriate statements", referring to comments made by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt.

Butt accused England players of match-fixing in the third one-dayer across London at The Oval on Friday.

"Butt was wrong in levelling allegations," said Imran, who now heads his own political party -- Tehrik-e-Insaf [Movement for Justice]. "Even if any other team is involved that does

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

## Badminton meet now elsewhere

Gym still in the dark

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Badminton Federation were forced to shift its Summer Open tournament to the Mirpur Indoor Stadium from the newly-build Wooden Floor Gymnasium, which is in dark for two-and-a-half months following the disconnection of electricity.

The National Sports Council (NSC) had earlier promised the badminton and table tennis federations to re-establish the power before the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays, but the fact is that the sports regulatory body is yet to make anything of it. The electricity was taken away by DESA for unpaid bills worth Tk 4.69 lakh.

The offices of both federations are being operated by the temporary electricity line brought from the volleyball stadium adjacent to the gymnasium.

"The authorities have been saying time and again that it will be reconnected immediately, but at the moment I have nothing to say about it," said BBF joint secretary Jahidul Haq Kochi, adding that they took the Summer Open to the Sohrwardi Indoor Stadium and it will get underway on September 28.

He also informed that they also have plans to shift the Second Division League to another venue.

However, the table tennis federation is going to arrange the Dhaka Metropolitan Table Tennis League from October 2 at the gymnasium and it will cost them an extra Tk 60,000 for renting the bulbs, light-stands and wire.

"We first wanted the allotment of the venue at Physical College but they did not respond to our appeal. We have been

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Iran under-19 women footballers stretch prior to a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. They take on hosts Bangladesh in a Group B match of the AFC U-19 Women's Football Championship Qualifiers at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur today. PHOTO: STAR

## Redbacks remain unbeaten

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

Unbeaten Southern Redbacks, who have already qualified for the semifinals, beat Guyana by 15 runs in the Champions League Twenty20 encounter here yesterday.

South Australia had already strolled into the last four and seemingly had little to gain against the also-rans from Guyana in their final league match, but still benefited as their largely untested middle-order got a thorough and much-needed workout in Johannesburg.

The Guyanese dug-out is disappointed. But it has been a brave fight from them. After going for 191, not many would have predicted them to reach 176, but they have done so and can be proud of themselves.

After Dowlin's early dismissal, the top order did well, keeping their team in the hunt with useful knocks. Sarwan led from the front with a classy 70 from 46 balls, putting notions

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

### SPORTS POLL

Do you think Shahriar Nafees can cement a place in the national team?

Yes 53.0%

No 47.0%

TOTAL VOTES: 785

### TODAY'S QUESTION

What should Khaled Mahmud do?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on

Twitter

www.twitter.com/dsport

### What to WATCH

#### STAR Cricket

Champions League T20 Wayamba v Central Stags

Live from 5:20pm

Warriors v Chennai Super Kings

Live from 9:20pm

#### ESPN

England v Pakistan

Fifth ODI

Live from 7:30pm

#### ZEE Sports

Primera Liga

Barcelona v Sporting

Live from 11:00pm