

## Carbonero an Atletico fan

The girlfriend of Real Madrid keeper Iker Casillas, Sara Carbonero, revealed on Tuesday that she is a lifelong supporter of the Spanish giants' cross-town rivals Atletico Madrid.

"I have been an Atletico supporter all my life, it is the team we watched at home since I was little although I also like the Spanish national team," Carbonero, a sports journalist, told popular daytime chat show "Ana Rosa" on Telecinco, the private television station she works for.

Carbonero, 25, shot to international fame during the World Cup when her reports on the Spain squad for Telecinco on live television from behind the net sparked accusations that she was distracting Casillas.



## BKSP to have more disciplines

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) has decided to introduce six more disciplines to the existing 10 at its three regional centres in Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal.

The disciplines are wushu, karate and taekwondo for Chittagong, table tennis and badminton for Khulna and volleyball for Barisal.

The decision was taken at the 23rd board of governors' meeting of BKSP at the youth and sports ministry with State Minister Ahad Ali Sarker in the chair, said a press release yesterday.

The meeting also decided to begin honours courses in Bangla, English and Mathematics under the national university curriculum. The meeting also decided to lease the Sylhet centre to Bangladesh Football Federation for five years on conditions.



Abahani captain Pranotosh (L) and his Nigerian teammate Twum Prank celebrate their first goal against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in their 23rd Grameenphone Federation Cup match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. Abahani won 2-0.

PHOTO: STAR

## Abahani win easy

### Sheikh Jamal drop points

SPORTS REPORTER



Title aspirants Abahani put up an improved performance as they blanked Rahmatganj MFS 2-0 in their second match of the Grameenphone Federation Cup at Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Captain Pranotosh Kumar gave the Sky Blues a first-half lead before substitute Habibur Rahman Shohag sealed the fate of the match from a set-piece in the second half to take them atop Group A with four points from two matches.

Meanwhile, star-studded Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Sheikh Russel KC stay in joint second position with two points each after they played out a goalless draw in the day's first match. Rahmatganj are at the bottom with a single point.

Under the floodlights, the Sky Blues dominated from the outset as they looked more organised compared to their 1-1 draw against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the first match.

The margin could have been even bigger had Ghanaian striking duo of Awudu Ibrahim and Twum Prank not squandered a few scoring chances. Abahani's Iranian coach Ali Akbar was not happy with the performance of the duo.

Awudu, Abahani's long-serving foreign recruit, missed a one-

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## Priority should be domestic cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

It has taken Bangladesh most part of a decade to remove question marks about their ability in the international cricket arena. During this time, they have shown glimpses of brilliance, some of which promised more than the others but ultimately it remained a glimpse.

Through the one-day series win over New Zealand, some of those stinging questions have been answered and that has only happened through hard work. When everyone wondered how a 4-0 whitewash against the Kiwis became possible, the coaches, board officials and the media have pointed out the players' hard work ahead of the series. With every net session during that month-long camp, the chance of doing well against New Zealand increased.

Hardly anybody would want this success to be a one-off or only limited to the one-day format, more accurately people should be looking for ways to sustain this level of success in one-day, five-day and Twenty20 cricket.

So it is high time for Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to take the 'hard work' route in a bid to restructure domestic cricket once and for all.

Beginning from the standard, pay structure and right down to the culture attached to the game, it is blemished.

When the national cricketers miss Premier League matches or National Cricket League (NCL), the standard goes down a few notches. And it's not just the standard of cricket that is poor but grounds, pitches, dressing-rooms, etc

leave a lot to be desired.

From the regional schools competition to the country's lone first-class tournament, domestic cricket has fewer things to be proud of.

But just a glance at the squad that played against New Zealand would tell you that the flawed system has managed to churn some good talents.

Players like Abdur Razzak, Imrul Kayes, Jahurul Islam, Junaed Siddiqui, Mahmudullah Riyad, Naeem Islam, Rokibul Hasan, Rubel Hossain and Shafiqul Islam are direct entrants into the national team due to their domestic runs and wickets. While Riyad, Naeem and Rokibul have played for the Under-19 team, Imrul, Junaed and Shafiqul have become part of the Tigers through domestic cricket.

Naeem, part of the plate-winning Under-19 World Cup side of 2004, veered off for a few years until two good seasons in limited overs and first-class cricket did it for him. Junaed spent years in the backwaters of the Dhaka leagues only to be selected for the national team on the back of some good performances.

Despite such an imperfect structure, Imrul, Riyad, and co has made it into the biggest stage.

The recent 4-0 whitewash will work as the perfect catalyst for the board to rethink the domestic game.

First on the agenda should be to make the four-day competition a more important part of Bangladesh cricket' philosophy. The NCL first-class competition has long been called a picnic

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## Korea Cup teakwondo from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Korea Cup teakwondo competition gets underway today at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium with some 450 participants, including 150 women, taking part in the two-day meet.

Disciplines will include as many as 27 weight categories - 13 for seniors and 14 for juniors, informed speakers at a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Army Chief and Bangladesh Olympic Association president General Abdul Mubeen will declare the meet open while

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GP Federation Cup  
Soccer Club v Muktijoddha  
Time: 3:00pm  
Mohammedan v Brothers Union  
Time: 5:30pm  
Venue: Kamalapur Stadium

## Clarke, White lift Aus

Cricket

AFP, Visakhapatnam

Michael Clarke cracked a solid century as Australia recovered from a poor start to post 289-3 in the second one-day international against India on Wednesday.



PHOTO: AFP

HERE GOES ANOTHER ONE: Australia's hard-hitting batsman Cameron White flays one of his six sixes during his blazing knock of 89 off 49 balls in the second one-day international against India at the YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday.

Australia were struggling at 16-2 after being put in to bat in the day-night match, before skipper Clarke (111 not out) and Mike Hussey (69) bolstered the innings with a 114-run stand for the third wicket.

The Australian captain completed his fifth one-day hundred in the 46th over, hitting pace-man Vinay Kumar for two successive fours and then turning the next ball to mid-wicket for a single.

Hussey was trapped leg-before by off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in the 37th over after hitting seven fours in his 78-ball knock, but not before setting the stage for a closing-overs onslaught.

Australia plundered 84 runs in the last five overs as Cameron White (89 not out) raced to his half-century with a straight six off seamer Praveen Kumar, the ball hitting a spectator who needed medical assistance.

White, who added 129 runs in 13 overs and three balls for the unfinished fourth wicket with his captain, hammered six sixes and as many fours in a 49-ball blitz, his 11th half-century in one-dayers.

Left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra did the early damage when he dismissed openers Shaun Marsh and Tim Paine in his opening four overs.

India had to work hard for their next success as Clarke and Hussey paced their innings remarkably well, taking no risks and relying more on singles and twos to keep the scoreboard moving.

Clarke cracked one six and seven fours in his 138-ball knock.

Fast bowler Mitchell Starc and all-rounder John Hastings made one-day debuts for Australia. India also named two newcomers in their playing XI -- batsmen Shikhar Dhawan

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### SPORTS POLL

Has Real Madrid improved under Jose Mourinho?

Yes 69.3%  
No 30.7%

TOTAL VOTES: 114

**TODAY'S QUESTION**  
Do you think the rewards given to the Tigers are over the top?

Visit the sports page of [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to cast vote

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### TEN Sports

Europa League  
Dortmund v PSG  
Live from 11:00pm  
Atletico Madrid v Roseborg  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

### TEN Action

Europa League  
Napoli v Liverpool  
Live from 11:00pm  
Man City v Lech Poznan  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

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