

# SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Kaiser's faith in FIFA lost

Franz Beckenbauer, a member of FIFA's executive committee, said Tuesday he has lost some confidence in football's governing body after Russia and Qatar were awarded the 2018 and 2022 World Cups respectively.

Russia beat England, Spain-Portugal and Netherlands-Belgium to win a ballot of FIFA's 22-strong executive members in Zurich for the rights to host the 2018 World Cup.

Qatar then saw off bids from South Korea, Japan, Australia and the United States for the 2022 tournament, but Beckenbauer says he was disturbed after details of the voting were later leaked.

"I have less confidence in FIFA," the German legend told daily Bild.



## Hosts take on Bhutan today

SPORTS REPORTER from Cox's Bazar

Hosts Bangladesh will meet minnows Bhutan in their second match of the SAFF Women's Football Championship at the Cox's Bazar Zilla Stadium today.

Having beaten Sri Lanka 2-0 in their opening match, Bangladesh will breathe easy about a semifinal berth if they beat Bhutan today. The odds are highly in favour of the hosts after they beat the same team by 7-0 in a warm-up match in Dhaka last week.

However, Bangladesh are not complacent and looking to extending their goal difference in the game. Head coach Golam Rabbani Choton wants to make sure of the semis with a high goal advantage going into the match against India. "Goal difference might come handy, so we are looking for a big win. But first we need to make sure that we win," said Choton.

"Our captain Trishna Chakma has a bit of an injury, but she is expected to recover in time for the match."

The Bhutanese, on the other hand, would want to leave behind the memory of the 18-0 drubbing by India, and look to put up a creditable performance.

In the other match of the day, at the same venue, favourites India will take on Sri Lanka.

## Victory Day cricket teams announced

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced the teams for the traditional Victory Day cricket match to be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium tomorrow.

The traditional cricket match was first organised in 1972 in memory of the Liberation War martyrs Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel and Shaheed Mushtaq Ahmed.

Left-handed opener Shahriar Nafees will lead the Shaheed Mushtaq XI while wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Mithun will lead Shaheed Jewel XI in a 40-overs-a-side match which will be virtually a battle between the Bangladesh A and Academy teams.

Shaheed Jewel was an attacking right-handed opening batsman for Azad Boys Club and he was one of the first active cricketers of erstwhile East Pakistan to take up arms and join the fight for freedom. After a heroic nine months on the battlefields he was captured by the Pakistani army towards the end of the war and was killed days before Bangladesh became independent.

On the other hand, a devout cricket organiser Shaheed



A Pakistani defender (R) attempts to intercept a Sri Lankan attack during her side's 2-1 victory in the SAFF Women's Football Championship at the Cox's Bazar Zilla Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Nepal slam 13

### Pakistan's edgy win

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Cox's Bazar



Pakistan got their campaign off on the right foot while Nepal went goal crazy against Afghanistan on the third day of the SAFF Women's Football Championship in this seaside town yesterday.

Pakistan sneaked to a 2-1 win over Maldives courtesy of a late penalty while in the day's other match Nepalese forwards Anu Lama and Jamuna Gurang bagged four apiece in a 13-0 demolition of Afghanistan at the Cox's Bazar Zilla Stadium.

At one stage Nepal looked like overhauling India's mark of 18 scored yesterday against Bhutan, but the woodwork denied the Himalayan nation four times to put paid to that hope.

Pakistan, though, found goalscoring much harder in their game against the Maldives.

Maldives, whose men are veritable powerhouse in the

region, looked likely to bounce back strongly after an opening match defeat and they took the lead early in the match.

Aishath Fazla's firm drive from the edge of the area crashed into the back of the net to give the islanders the early advantage.

However, Pakistan's greater physical strength came to the fore as the match wore on, and their forwards started to get into the game more and more.

They duly found the equaliser just before half-time when Mehwish Khan headed in a Malika Noor corner.

The goal gave Pakistan a psychological advantage and they turned the screw in the second half. They were denied a second goal by a goalline clearance from Maldives captain Fadhua Zahir just after the hour mark but as the game progressed, a Pakistani winner looked more and more likely.

The inevitable winner came about just before the end of the game and heartbreakingly for Maldives it was defender Nashima Ibrahim

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Cox's Bazar stirred up

SPORTS REPORTER from Cox's Bazar



In a city renowned for its leisurely activities, sport is hardly the most visible pastime. Even local sports are an irregular phenomenon and national sports are thought to be a far cry.

Hence, when a tournament of regional magnitude comes to town, the interest amongst the locals is almost palpable.

One senses the absolute excitement as soon as he steps near the half-constructed Cox's Bazar Zilla Stadium that is hosting this inaugural SAFF Women's Football Championship; the biggest sporting event in the history of the seaside town.

The ground staging the event has been

developed recently by the Bangladesh Football Federation to come close to the standards of an international event. The VIP box and the adjacent press facility, the press conference room, the change rooms for the players belie a modern-day sporting arena.

The concrete structures for the seating spectators and the vacant areas for those standing have been hastily improved by the District Sports Association, so that they can somehow accommodate the five thousand spectators that were expected. The reality however is that many more crowd around the stadium since morning for a chance to get a glimpse of the action. Many leave disappointed.

One lucky spectator yesterday was Rasul Hayat, a trader from Inani, a few miles from

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## BCB sits to fix WC plan today



SPORTS REPORTER

The technical committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will sit today to discuss on the preparation plan of the national team for the 2011 World Cup, to be co-hosted by Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

"We will discuss about the preparation plan for the World Cup as well as team management. We will also discuss on the 30-member probable list for the event," informed Jalal Yunus, one of the technical committee members and chairman of BCB's media committee.

"We are also trying to arrange an international series before the World Cup as desired by our coach [Jamie Siddons]," he added.

It was learnt the BCB is trying hard to bring Sri Lanka to play a few matches before the showcase event starts on February 19 next year.

Coach Siddons, who was scheduled to leave last night for Australia to spend Christmas and New Year with his family, already gave his plan to the board.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## Premier League from Dec 18



SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Division Cricket League will now start from December 18 across the country.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) has fixed the new schedule after discussion with the participating clubs' representatives yesterday.

"Everybody was desperate to start the league and that's why we have decided to arrange the matches outside Dhaka. The first two rounds will take place at BKSP and the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and in Bogra and Rajshahi. After that we may get the Dhaka venues ready," informed GS Hasan Tamim, chairman of CCDM, yesterday.

The league was scheduled to start on Monday, but was been delayed due to ground problems.

Tamim informed that they were thinking of arranging some vital matches under lights, as the Tigers have to play day-night matches in next year's World Cup.

The national players, who are on a break after the Zimbabwe

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



WILL WARNE PLAY FOR 'LOSERS' AUSTRALIA? Haydn Lane from sportsbet.com.au displays the odds on the Ashes series and cricketing great Shane Warne's chances of returning to the Australia side on a Melbourne street on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

## ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

### Zulu rules in rookies' Cup

The 1999 World Cup was a tournament for the newer faces in world cricket, with the bowling and batting charts headed by players in their first World Cup.

Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar, who broke into the national team two years earlier, terrorised batsmen with his extreme pace, and presented the world with a spectacle that it had not seen since Allan Donald's heyday. He was so quick that in their opening match against the West Indies, when opener Sherwin Campbell fended at a ball that pitched just short of a good length, the missile took the edge of the bat and flew over first slip's head and landed a few rows back in the stands. He finished with sixteen wickets from ten matches.

India introduced the world to Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid. Dravid was the highest scorer of the tournament with 461 runs, and Ganguly was the third highest. The two combined to post 318 for the second wicket against Sri Lanka at Taunton, the highest partnership in one-day cricket at the time, and still the highest in World Cups. Ganguly made the highest score of the Cup by bludgeoning his way to 183, while Dravid was all class in his 145. This after Dravid had put on an unbeaten 237 for the third wicket with Sachin Tendulkar against Kenya at Bristol just three days earlier.

In that match, Dravid scored an unbeaten 104, and three days later became only the second batsman after Australia's Mark Waugh to score two consecutive World Cup hundreds.

However, the player who stole the show was Man-of-the-Tournament Lance 'Zulu' Klusener, another Cup debutant.

The South African allrounder played nine matches, was dismissed only twice from a total of eight outings with the bat, and scored 281 runs in the tournament off 230 balls. He usually

SEE PAGE 18 COL



Bangladesh women footballers are out for a jog by the breathtaking Bay of Bengal in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday, ahead of today's SAFF Women's Football Championship match against Bhutan. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**SPORTS POLL**  
WEEKLY QUESTION  
Do you think the Tigers should play another series before the World Cup?  
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote  
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**twitter**  
www.twitter.com/dssport

**DAY'S EVENT**  
SAFF Women's Football Championship  
India v Sri Lanka  
Time: 11:05am  
Bangladesh v Bhutan  
Time: 2:30pm  
Venue: Cox's Bazar Stadium