

Former Sweden striker Tomas Brodin has said he is still bitter over the way he was treated in England, where he saw his previously sparkling career disintegrate before coming to an end at the age of 29. Brodin, who helped Sweden to reach the semifinals at the 1994 World Cup, told Reuters that he still had not regained his interest in football following the episode. "When I finished playing I was pretty sick of the whole football establishment, and the desire hasn't come back yet," he said at the Swedish Football Association's Christmas lunch.

- REUTERS



# SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 16, 2010, E-MAIL: [news@thedailystar.net](mailto:news@thedailystar.net)

## Goal rain on Day 4

Bangladesh score 9, India 7

ATIQUA ANAM from Cox's Bazar

Two games, sixteen goals, nine of which was scored by the home team, a bright winter's sun and a full house of enthusiastic fans rocking the stadium; there was hardly a better place to be yesterday than at the Cox's Bazar Zilla Stadium in this seaside town on the fourth day of the SAFF Women's Football Championship.

Bangladesh were imperious in their 9-0 triumph, India dismissive in their 7-0 victory as both sides eased into the semifinals, even before what is now an academic group clash on Friday.

For Bangladesh, striker Aungma Ching Marma struck a hatrick while Sabina Khatun, Farhana Khatun and Suinu Pru Marma scored two each as the hosts dispatched Bhutan by a 9-0 scoreline.

A beaming Aungma Ching spoke of her delight at scoring her first hatrick:

"Being a striker, I wanted to score in this match since I missed out in the first match," said the teenager.

And score she did. Bangladesh never looked like scoring the eighteen that India blasted past the hapless Bhutanese but there were still goals aplenty. But even as the strikers scored almost at will, the player who caught the eye most was defender Farhana Khatun.

Tall and well-built, Khatun not only held the fort strong at the back, but also managed to pop in with two goals, the first of which was an absolute blinder.

Bringing the ball out from the back, Khatun unleashed a 30 yard rocket that thundered into the back of the net courtesy of the lightest possible touch off the underside of the bar.

But goals are supposedly a liquid currency for Khatun. The Bangladesh coach confirmed that Khatun had played in midfield at the SA Games earlier this year and she had looked likely to get a goal and come very close in the match against Pakistan.

But even as the hosts celebrated a thumping victory, there was already one eye on India, as the neighbors too, looked a class apart in their 7-0 win

over Sri Lanka earlier in the day.

Sasmita Mallik struck a hatrick in a little under sixty minutes to take her tournament tally to ten, while Bala Devi, Pinky Bompal and Manpreet Kaur chipped in with a goal apiece.

Despite being taken off by the coach after completing her hatrick, the 21-year old Orissa striker was not complaining.

"I am happy. The others needed to get some game time. So I don't have any complaint at being substituted," expressed Sasmita.

Coach Shahid Jabbar was not fully satisfied though with the team's performance:

"I rested a few of the girls for this match but even then I expected better from the reserves," said Jabbar.

"Next up are hosts Bangladesh who have improved a lot since the last time we played. I have respect for them, but we are thinking of nothing but a win," warned the coach.

## The brave face of Afghan football

SPORTS REPORTER from Cox's Bazar

She plays football for the national team, she has a job in the women's football committee, she is also a university student and a vocal advocate of human rights.

Don't be mistaken, this is not a run-of-the-mill story about a modern day woman of the developed world. It's the story of a young girl of a war-torn nation who is defying the odds, along with her teammates, to take the future into her own hands and portray a positive picture of her country to the rest of the world.

The woman is Khalida Popal, the longest serving member of the Afghan national women's team and an inspiration for her teammates who are sensing their first taste of international football after a long struggle.

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HATRICK HERO: Bangladesh striker Aungma Ching Marma (L) celebrates one of her three goals during her side's 9-0 thrashing of Bhutan in the SAFF Women's Football Championship at the Cox's Bazar Zilla Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## BCB names 30-man squad

No int'l series before WC

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 30-member preliminary squad yesterday for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011.

The Rafiqul Alam-led three-member selection panel picked mostly from the players who were under consideration for the last two years and also included promising players like all-rounder Shabbir Rahman, Shuvogoto Hom, Mohammad Mithun and Nasir Hossain in the long list.

The team was announced after discussion in the technical committee meeting held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The committee also discussed on the preparation plan of the national team for the showcase event, to be co-hosted by Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

"This time it would not be possible to manage the central wicket practice at Mirpur and that's why we have decided to conduct the training camp at the Academy ground," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus, also a member of the technical committee.

Yunus also informed that it would not be possible for them to arrange an international series for the Tigers before the World Cup as desired by coach Jamie Siddons.

"Practically it's not possible to get any top team before the World Cup and what we think is that there is no point to play a series against Canada. We have the domestic competition and we believe it will be helpful for the players," he added.

Yunus said that the technical committee has decided to host New Zealand only for two Tests in May next year. "It's not possible to accommodate two Tests and five one-day internationals."

He also informed that the captaincy issue is likely to be resolved in the next board meeting to be held on December 20.

**PRELIMINARY SQUAD**  
Shakib Al Hasan, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Mohammad Ashraful, Imrul Kayes, Junaid Siddiqui, Rokibul Hassan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nazmul Hossain, Naeem Islam, Rubel Hossain, Shaiful Islam, Abdur Razzak, Sohrwardi Shuvo, Shahrar Nafees, Nazimuddin, Shamsur Rahman, Jahurul Islam, Sahagir Hossain, Syed Rassel, Shahadat Hossain, Mahubul Alam, Dollar Mahmud, Mohammad Mithun, Nasir Hossain, Shuvogoto Hom, Shabbir Rahman, Alok Kapali and Enamul Haque.

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## Aussies may go all-pace

Third England Test starts today

Cricket

APP, Perth

Australia are considering an all-pace bowling attack for the crucial third Ashes Test, but skipper Ricky Ponting admitted Wednesday he was still unsure of his best starting line-up.

With less than 24 hours to go, Ponting said he wanted more time before naming his side for the Test at the WACA ground in Perth, which Australia must win to have a chance of regaining the Ashes.

England arrived in Perth on Monday 1-0 up in the five-match series saying they knew their best 11, but Australia are still wavering over who to play on what is expected to be a lively pitch.

Little-known left-arm spinner Michael Beer was picked for the Australian squad and looked likely to make his debut, but Ponting seemed to be having doubts at his pre-match press conference.

"We haven't got a team yet, we've had a good look at the wicket this afternoon, it's changed a little bit since we've been here today so we want to just want to have a

closer look at it again tomorrow before we finalise what our 11 will be," Ponting said.

Ben Hilfenhaus and Ryan Harris had been expected to lead the Australian attack with either struggling Mitchell Johnson or first Test hatrick hero Peter Siddle as third seamer and Beer lining up as specialist spinner.

But after talking to the WACA head groundsman, Ponting said he wanted to delay his final call.

"It's different grass than there's been on the wicket before, so we've got a lot of things that we've got to think about yet before we finalise it," he said.

"It's important to actually get a good feel of it tomorrow morning and just see how hard it is on the surface and if there's any moisture left in the surface before we make a decision."

Leg-spinning all-rounder Steve Smith will bat at six, Ponting said, and the home side also have all-rounder and opening batsman Shane Watson as a seam bowling option.

The last time Australia went into a Test without a specialist spinner was at the WACA in 2008, when they lost to India by 72 runs, but Ponting said his four seamers all had something to offer.

However, his predecessor as Australian captain, Steve Waugh, said he wanted to see Beer play.

"There is no point picking the guy if he's not going to play," Waugh said.

"As a captain you need the balance in the side and you've got enough quick bowlers in the side, Shane Watson is the fourth quick bowler.

"I can't see why he wouldn't play having been picked in the squad."

England go into the Test in buoyant mood after their crushing win at Adelaide, but Ponting questioned how the visitors would cope with WACA conditions.

"The last couple of results haven't been brilliant for us here but I honestly feel the pitch conditions here are as foreign to English players as probably anywhere else in the world and hopefully we can exploit that this week," he said.

The tourists have won just one of 11 Tests at the WACA, but captain Andrew Strauss said they were fortunate to have spent 10 days here at the start of the tour.

Strauss said England were determined to continue their form from Adelaide, where they crushed the hosts by an innings and 71 runs.

## ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

### Another SA heartbreak

South Africa and Australia faced off in the 1999 World Cup semifinal at Edgbaston on June 17 for what, according to many, was the best one-day match of all time. It was a match coloured by what had gone before and one that was full of drama.

South Africa won the toss and chose to bowl on a pitch expected to provide assistance to their arsenal of quicks. Shaun Pollock got rid of in-form Mark Waugh off the fifth ball of the match, after which Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting played steady cricket to put on 51 for the second wicket. Then Ponting, Gilchrist and Darren Lehmann departed within fourteen runs of each other. From 68 for four, captain Steve Waugh Michael Bevan put on 90, before Steve Waugh became Pollock's second victim, caught behind by Mark Boucher.

Tom Moody was out to the second ball he faced, and then Bevan, with the help of Shane Warne put on a run-a-ball 49. Warne's dismissal at 207 precipitated another collapse, with Bevan being Pollock's fifth victim for a valuable 65, ending the innings at 213.

The game was South Africa's to win, but Australia's penchant for a fight and their strong

bowling meant the game was far from over. The result was a riveting three hours of fluctuating fortunes and the highest standard of play, especially from Shane Warne. The South Africans got off to a fantastic start, with Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs putting on 48 runs for the first wicket in twelve overs. Then Warne struck, removing both openers in successive overs. Skipper Hansie Cronje followed a run later, caught by Mark Waugh at first slip off the spin legend, and Daryll Cullinan was soon run out by Bevan to leave the South Africans teetering at 61 for four. The stately Kallis and the busy Jonty Rhodes then built an 84 run partnership for the fifth wicket. At 145, Reiffel dismissed Rhodes for 43, with South Africa needing 69 off 57. Kallis was out thirty runs later, caught by Steve Waugh at cover for 53 to give Warne his fourth.

Lusty hits from Pollock and Man-of-the-Tournament Klusener brought the target down to nine off the last over with Klusener facing and last man Donald at the non-striker's end.

Klusener smashed the first two balls from Damien Fleming for boundaries through the off side. The match was tied with four balls to

## Rubic picks twenty-six

SPORTS REPORTER

Croat coach Robert Rubic yesterday announced a 26-member preliminary squad for home and away matches of the pre-Olympic qualifying round.

Bangladesh will play the away match against Kuwait on February 25 and then host the same opponents on March 9 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Only seven players, who have experience to play international matches for the national or Under-23 sides, have been included for the Olympic squad though most of the selected players have experience to play international matches for Under-16 and Under-19 sides.

Before the start of the Bangladesh League from December 27, Rubic will conduct a four-day training camp starting from December 20 at the BKSP and the players have been asked to report to him on December 19 at the BFF House.



PHOTO: AFP

A MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB: Australia captain Ricky Ponting (C), Mitchell Johnson (L) and Michael Hussey discuss during a practice session on Wednesday at the WACA in Perth, ahead of today's third Test of the Ashes series against England, which Australia trail 1-0.

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**unipay2u Bangladesh Ltd.**

Motaleb Tower (5th Floor) Room # S-C, 8/2 Paribagh Hatirpul, Shahbagh, Dhaka.