

# SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Evergreen Giggs to keep playing

Manchester United icon Ryan Giggs has confirmed he plans to extend his career by another season next year. The 37-year-old Welsh winger, who recently clocked up his 600th league match for United, has played on a season-to-season basis in recent years, usually leaving a decision about his future until the end of the season. But with Giggs enjoying his football as much as ever, the veteran midfielder says he is keen to keep on playing until 2012. "I am quite happy still playing at the moment," he told Manchester United's official website on Friday.



## WC opening ceremony tickets from early Feb

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
The tickets for the opening ceremony of the ICC World Cup will go on sale on the first week of February.

The opening ceremony for the 14-nation grand tournament will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 17.

BCB's ticket and seating committee chairman GS Hasan Tamim informed yesterday that the 7000-plus tickets will be available for public consumption of the 24,000-capacity Big Bowl.

"The tickets will be sold through a bank but it is yet to be decided which bank will get the rights. The maximum number of tickets will be distributed to the dignitaries," said Tamim.

The ticket rates for the different seating areas are: Gallery Tk 1000.00, Grandstand Tk 10,000.00 and Grandstand (lower) Tk 20,000.00.

On the other hand, BCB CEO Manzur Ahmed said that they are yet to get the details from KyaZoonga about the ticket selling of the matches.

"Hopefully within two days we will get the details from KyaZoonga," said Manzur.

He also informed that BCB in its Thursday's meeting has decided to send injured fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to Sri Lanka for checkup.

Mashrafe will leave for Colombo today to meet with surgeon Dr David Young tomorrow.

## Club Cup cricket from today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The 2nd Inter-District Club Cup Cricket Championship will start today at different venues across the country.

A total of 45 districts out of 64 are taking part in the competition. Twelve teams will move into the second round.

The champions will receive one lac taka as prize money while the runners-up will get Tk 50,000.

The highest run-scorer and wicket-taker will get Tk 10,000 each and the man-of-the-tournament will receive Tk 15,000.



Abahani striker Shakhawat Hossain Rony celebrates one of his two strikes during their 4-1 win over Rahmatganj MFS in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Abahani dispatch Rahmatganj

**SPORTS REPORTER**

A brace from Shakhawat Hossain Rony powered Abahani to an emphatic 4-1 win over giant-killers Rahmatganj MFS in their Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Apart from Rony's double, Ghanaian recruit Twum Frank and Awudu Ibrahim struck one goal each for the Sky Blues while Nigerian Paulmcjames pulled one goal back for the old Dhaka outfit.

The three wins in five matches means Abahani join Sheikh Russel KC on the top with 10 points while Rahmatganj stick to their previous seven from five outings to stay at fifth place in the 12-team table.

Rahmatganj MFS on the back of a stunning 2-0 win over giants Mohammedan SC adopted a defensive strategy to hold defending champions Abahani till the first-half, which was insipid as Abahani looked disorganized in midfield and purposeless going forward.

After the resumption, Abahani sent on left-back Linkon in place of Arup that virtually handed the momentum of the game as the left-back started to penetrate the opponents with his well-judged runs and crossing ability.

And Abahani got the dividends from the substitution five minutes into the second half.

Linkon played Ibrahim in down the right flank and the Ghanaian marksman chipped

the ball for his compatriot Frank, who saw his first effort cleared by a Rahmatganj defender before burying the rebound to give the Dhanmondi-based outfit the lead.

Gradually Abahani established their control in the midfield and doubled the margin in comical circumstances. Awudu chipped the ball for Shakhawat Hossain Rony but the ball found the back of the Rahmatganj net after bouncing in front of the goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Himel, who was seemingly trying to restrict Rony.

Abahani looked a bit relaxed after two strikes and Rahmatganj bit back in the 69th minute as Idris Karisya played a square pass to Paul, whose shot found the far post after taking a deflection from Abahani defender Samad Yousuf.

But, Abahani again upped the tempo and scored two more goals inside six minutes. First, Awudu and Siraji played one-two to go down the right before Siraji whipped in a brilliant cross for Rony, who flicked a header past substitute goalkeeper Iran Sheikh.

And just a few minutes later, the new goalkeeper once again failed to stop the same hitman, who put the ball in after dodging past two defenders.

It was Rony's third goal in only his second match.

After taking a comfortable lead, Abahani brought two more chances with striker Mohammad Robin coming on for his debut after joining the Sky Blues last season. Robin missed the whole of last season and the Federation Cup of the current season due to persistent knee injuries.

## ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP TALK

### 'World Cup was a lot of fun'

Shahadat Hossain played only one game in Bangladesh's successful 2007 World Cup campaign. The match against Ireland was not that successful as the Tigers lost to the minnows and Shahadat gave away 51 runs from nine overs. Yet, it was a great time for the paceman from Narayanganj. The Daily Star Sport caught up with him for a chat on the mega event.

**Daily Star Sport (DSS):** How did it feel when you heard that you would play the 2007 World Cup?

**Shahadat Hossain (SH):** To play a World Cup is a dream come true for anyone. I was very excited when I heard that I am in the squad, but I was also kind of expecting it.

**DSS:** How confident were you in the camp?

**SH:** I had a good season in the domestic league and I was confident to play the World Cup.

**DSS:** You played only one game in the World Cup. How frustrating was it?

**SH:** As a pace bowler it's always frustrating to sit out of the team. I was very disappointed at that time.

The only match I played was for an injury that (Syed) Raseel suffered. He (Syed Raseel)



SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

fell down by the ropes and hurt his ankle. I was informed five minutes before the toss that I would be playing that match. To be honest I wasn't mentally prepared.

**DSS:** How was the atmosphere during the tour?

**SH:** The atmosphere was great! I had good times with my teammates, especially Rajin bhai. I can't recall any particular incident, but we had a lot of fun in West Indies.

**DSS:** World Cup 2011 is coming up. Where do you see yourself, in terms of getting called up?

**SH:** I didn't get a chance to play in the recent one-day internationals, but I have done well in the Premier League.

In fact, I am doing better than a lot of the other pace bowlers in the league.

## Super League from Jan 25

**SPORTS REPORTER**

League leaders Abahani take on Bangladesh Biman in one of three Super League matches of the Premier Cricket League on January 25 at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, who are three points adrift of Abahani with 17 points, face Cricket Coaching School (CCS) at the BKSP while surprise package Old DOHS are up against Gazi Tankin Rajshahi.

The national cricketers selected for the World Cup are unlikely to take part in the Super League.

The six-team competition will determine the winners of this year's Premier League and with Abahani sitting on top with 20 points, the Sky Blues have an added advantage.

Meanwhile, the relegation play-offs between Orient Sporting Club, BKSP and Prime Doleshwar will begin on January 24 with BKSP taking on the old Dhaka outfit at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

## Street cricket takes off

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Polar Ice-cream Street Cricket tournament began yesterday at the Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club ground.

Nearly 700 players of one-hundred teams were present during the opening ceremony of the event, jointly organised by Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh and Spellbound.

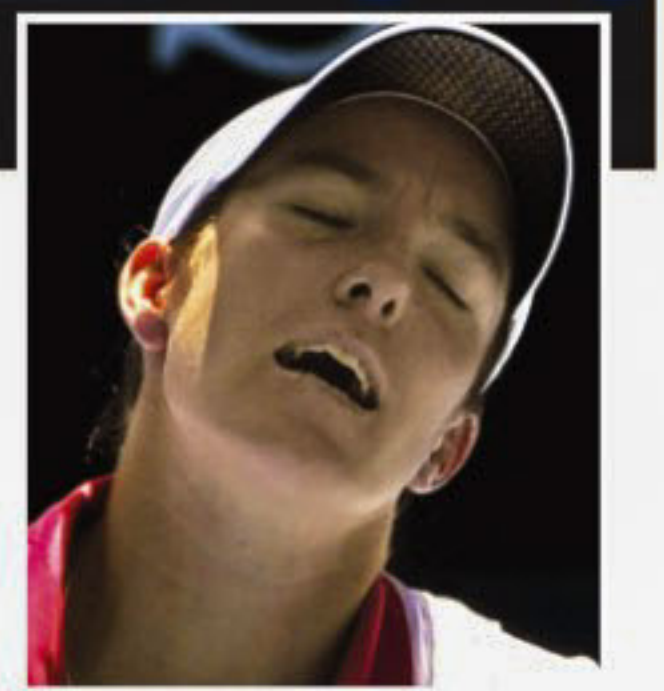
Former national captains Shafiqul Huq and Naimur Rahman (also CWAB president), former players Athar Ali Khan and Tanjib Ahasan Saad and current stars Tushar Imran, Sanwar Hossain and Jahurul Islam were present

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



PHOTOS: AFP

Swiss master Roger Federer plays a forehand shot during his third round match against Xavier Malisse of Belgium on the fifth day of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. Federer won the match 6-3, 6-3, 6-1. (Inset) Belgium's Justine Henin dejects her loss against Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia.



## Federer sets record as Henin crashes

AFP, Melbourne

Defending champion Roger Federer enjoyed a record 57th win at the Australian Open Friday as former winner Justine Henin was condemned to her worst Grand Slam in five years.

Men's third seed Novak Djokovic, women's number one Caroline Wozniacki and Russian Maria Sharapova also reached the last 16 as temperatures soared at Melbourne Park.

Federer, recovered from his five-set thriller against Gilles Simon, handed out a 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 beating to ponytailed Belgian Xavier Malisse, whom he has known since his junior days.

In the process he broke Stefan Edberg's record for the most Australian Open victories in the Open Era and took an important step towards a fifth title -- and the chance to deny Rafael Nadal a sweep of the Grand Slam crowns.

"It's very nice to take the record but Edberg still stays my idol," Federer told the crowd on Rod Laver Arena.

As temperatures rose past 32 deg C (90 F) on the tournament's hottest day, 2004 winner Henin was floored by Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova, who held her nerve in a grip-

ping tiebreak to win 6-4, 7-6 (10/8).

The seven-time Grand Slam champion, 28, has been struggling with an elbow injury after ending a brief retirement last year, and has not performed so badly at a major since Wimbledon 2006.

"I decided to play not being 100 per cent. It's been difficult in the last three days on my elbow and I just did everything that I could to make it okay, but it wasn't enough," Henin said.

Earlier Djokovic's quest to upset Nadal and Federer's Grand Slam stranglehold received a helping hand when fellow Serb Viktor Troicki retired hurt after going a set down.

After Juan Martin del Potro's demise late Thursday, third seed Djokovic is the only player left in Melbourne, other than Nadal and Federer, to have won a Grand Slam since 2006. He said he was not sorry to play a short match.

"I think I had enough tennis already in the last couple of weeks. It's good that you don't spend that much time on the court, maybe save some energy," Djokovic said. "But I'm going to be ready for the next match."

Meanwhile, Wozniacki took sweet revenge on Slovakian pocket rocket Dominika Cibulkova, whose shock victory at

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Youngsters line up with their respective team names during the opening ceremony of the Polar Ice-cream Street Cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi ground yesterday.